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The Suffield Observer

Vol XXVIII, No. 9

A Watchful Messenger

November 2026

The Storied History of Mapleton Avenue

By Jackie Hemond,
Suffield Historical Society

Will maple trees still be on Mapleton Avenue in 30 years? The Tree Committee hopes so and is encouraging Mapleton residents to welcome free maple trees which will be planted in the State and Town Right of Way strip in front of their properties. Learn the legacy of the Mapleton maple trees in this history of the road.

In the 1600s, Mapleton Avenue was called Springfield Road, a path, wide enough for a man or a horse, which wound through the wilderness.

Its crooked course was dictated by the contours of the terrain. It included our Main Street and converged with Northampton Road, today's Hill Street and Remington Road, on what is now South Street, and continued to Windsor. Around 1664, the Hampshire County Court designated the Springfield Road a public highway. Those who settled Suffield surely traveled on it.

Even though the town records indicated that the original lots on Springfield Road had straight borders, in actual fact, they curved like the road. Concerned

that future generations would argue about the shape of the lots, the land-owners signed an agreement on April 19, 1697, specifying that "all the lots should run with an elbow, or crook as it now does" and "continue from one generation to another forever."

Gradually Springfield Road became Crooked Lane. The local folklore is that an old and bent-over man named Lane, who actually lived on the road, gave his name to it. However, in 1684, the original lots were recorded as Crooked Lane plots, and that is how the name came into being. By 1710, Crooked Lane was written in town records for the road's name and Springfield records followed suit in 1740.

Supposedly, George Washington traveled on Crooked Lane to reach Springfield. A farmer was told to move back as Washington approached, to which the farmer replied, "I'll give him half the road and that's all, even if



Mapleton Avenue today

he is president." Washington agreed and said, "He's right."

In another story, John Adams, when he was president, called upon the Adams family who lived on the road and claimed kinship with them.

In the mid-1800s, the Crooked Lane neighborhood organized "progressive" cultural activities. They formed a Farmers club, prayer meetings, a "Lyceum," and later a Grange and a Reading Club. When the weekly entertainments and lectures outgrew their district

school, the neighborhood funded and built the Central Hall of Crooked Lane. The building is now known as Mapleton Hall, the home of the Suffield Players.

Included in the program for the dedication of the Hall was a tribute to the neighborhood from the Stubberts, who had lived on Crooked Lane for eight years. "Scarcely ever do you observe in a rural district, so much harmony, unanimity and brotherly love as is noticeable here. Whatever may be for the benefit of the community is mutu-

Continued on Page 4



CROOKED LANE, SUFFIELD, CONN.
From homestead of Samuel ye 1st.

Celebrating 60 Years of Agricultural Education

By Laura LaFlamme
Suffield Agriscience Director

Sixty years ago, a seed was planted in Suffield. What began in 1966 with just 52 students and a single classroom led by instructor Frederick Clark and founding director Allen Frazier has blossomed into a cornerstone of our town's identity and educational excellence. Last May, that six-decade legacy came full circle as over 250 alumni, family members, educators and community members gathered for an unforgettable 60th Anniversary celebration of Agriculture Education in Suffield.

Prior to the formal ceremony, guests gathered to explore six decades of history through an extensive display of chap-

ter scrapbooks, plaques and memorabilia. Once inside the auditorium, the stage featured a wall of Connecticut and Suffield Regional FFA jackets—ranging from a vintage 1946 coat to those worn by state officers, alumni-turned-teachers and current student officers.

The celebration officially opened with traditional FFA ceremonies, led by an officer team composed of Suffield Agriscience graduates who have since returned as agricultural education teachers themselves. Standing at the Advisor's station by the owl was Mr. Fred Clark, guiding the chapter just as he did when the program first opened its doors 60 years ago.

To witness generations of

former students, parents, educators and neighbors browsing these archives—and to watch so many take the stage to share cherished memories of their experiences in the program—spoke volumes about Suffield's deep and enduring connection to this program.

At its core, the Suffield Regional Agriscience program delivers on the classic three-circle model of agricultural education: classroom instruction, supervised agricultural experiences and FFA leadership development. Through hands-on, project-based learning, students don't just read about agriculture, science, business and the environment—they live it.

Today, the program thrives



Photo provided by the author

Suffield FFA student leaders who organize the program, Sacha Nelson, Erika Lavery, Anna Griffin and Simone Sheltas gather with current director, Dr. Laura LaFlamme in front of the historic FFA jacket display in the high school auditorium.

with 177 students supported by five dedicated teachers, an administrative assistant, and a community whose backing is beyond measure. Our student body reflects both the deep legacy and the expand-

ing reach of our 60-year history. Many are generational students following in the footsteps of parents, grandparents or extended family members. Others are first-generation

Continued on Page 4

See Special Section 4 for PBC Update on Town Building Proposals

The
Suffield Observer

Editorial

Op-Ed

Considered Opinions
on Significant Issues

A Case for Term Limits in Congress

In 1978, the spring of my freshman year of college, I took a Political Science course as an elective. I wrote a paper entitled “A case for Term Limits”. My theme was that the primary motivation of a congressman was to be reelected every two years. How do you motivate the electorate to vote for you? You please as many people as you possibly can. How do you please as many people as you can, you give them stuff. In 1978, Net Interest on our debt was 7.1% of our total federal budget, or ~ 31% of our Defense budget. In 2026, it is 15.0% of our total federal budget or ~ 115% of our Defense budget. (Source: U.S. Treasury Fiscal Data) How did we get here?

As of this writing the national debt is \$40.26 trillion dollars. Our annual GDP is \$6.2 trillion. Our nation is running the hundred-yard dash into a building 50 yards away. Our federal spending will drastically need to be reduced.

Why do we keep sending politicians to Washington who don’t have a grasp of third grade math? I have an undergrad in accounting and an MBA in Finance, but it doesn’t take a genius to understand this level of debt and overspending is unsustainable.

In this election, promises abound, free healthcare, free childcare, free public bus transportation and government subsidized grocery stores. Well, anyone with an ounce of common sense knows “free” is eventually paid for by the givers and received by the takers. As Margaret Thatcher famously stated, “The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.” What is happening in France right now is America’s canary in the coal mine.

With every additional government program, or expansion of existing government programs, we eat away at individual accountability and responsibility, and a sense of entitlement is engrained into the social psyche. With every government program, the certainty of waste, fraud abuse follows. According to the GAO, estimated federal losses from fraud alone are equivalent to about 3%–7% of federal spending during fiscal years 2018–2022. That amounts to approximately \$233 billion to \$521 billion per year. Although you won’t read/see this on legacy news media, the

current administration is doing something about it.

As of October 11, 2026, the White House’s official Fraud Ledger reports the following totals since January 2025. Estimated fraud identified – \$260.7 billion. Fraud payments stopped - \$72 billion. Fraud enforced by indictments, settlements and civil penalties - \$58.9 billion.

Social Security accounts for ~ 22.5% of the federal budget. This particular slice of the federal budget was paid for by U.S. citizens over their working life time. Social Security is projected to run out the fourth quarter of 2032. Funding sources and qualifications to receive Social Security will have to change. One, a combination, or all of the following can save social security, but no politician has the guts to implement these measures. Why? Because doing so would risk their perennial career reelections. It is considered the so-called third rail in politics. 1. Remove the cap on wages subject to social security tax. 2. Increase the percentage of wages subject to social security. 3. Raise the age in which a person qualifies to receive Social Security wages. The age that qualifies to receive social security was established in 1961. The average life expectancy then was 70.2 years. Today the average is 79.0 years.

Ultimately, term limits are not a cure-all for the problems facing American government. They will not automatically eliminate partisanship, corruption or political gridlock. But they can address one important problem: the tendency for elected positions to become entrenched, people pleasing careers. Government works best when elected officials remain accountable to the citizens rather than becoming permanent fixtures of the political system driven by power and greed.

I’m blessed by having been raised in this fine town, but I wasn’t born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I started working at age eleven and many times held two jobs in my teens. I put myself through college and had an employer who paid for my graduate degree. Our country’s founders believed freedom and opportunity were enough for a person to thrive in our great country. Believe me, we need safety nets but our nets have grown exponentially over the years by politicians eager to please and buy votes from people who put money in their own pockets. My kids and grandkids are now burdened by our huge national debt by stupid politicians. When will reducing the national debt become a priority? I’ll be 67 in November. Sadly, I may never find out.

Ray A. Dalrymple
Editor of the Month

Do Not Let AI
Decide Your Vote

Recently, a good friend of mine sent me an NBC Connecticut story about a Greenwich teen who created an AI powered website that helps voters figure out more about candidates and endeavors to match candidates to voters’ beliefs. While I think it’s great that a young person is trying to increase our citizens’ confidence in their voting decisions, I want to caution against relying too much on AI when making voting decisions.

As someone who works in the data science and AI field professionally, I have a deep understanding of what this technology is best suited for and what it is not. In short, the technology lacks native reasoning, so the “garbage in, garbage out” principle applies. And as someone who has spent nearly two decades working on political campaigns, I understand that politics naturally creates a lot of “garbage.” Therefore, the use of AI in this context makes it very susceptible to flawed decision making.

AI in its current state is not well suited to making decisions about candidates. Consider that AI is unable to easily discern a claim from a candidate versus their past actions. Instead of searching for information on a candidate’s website and then verifying their claims using other sources, AI will instead take the candidate’s website’s information at face value and use it to answer your questions. Candidates are trying to sell you something, so it is unwise to believe what they say without doing your own due diligence.

So, in this age of seemingly endless information to sort

Continued on Page 4

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With all our love,
Mom, Dad and Kyle

Index

Section 1 -Town

Editorial 2

Commission Meetings 3

Police and Fire 1,5

Memoriam 11

100 Years Ago 13

Suffield Community Aid 16

Section 2 - Schools, Library

Schools 18

Library 22-23

Section 3 - Organizations

Parks & Rec 26

Senior Center 27

Look No Further 30

Section 4- Town/PBC

PBC Update 33-36

TOWN GOVERNMENT

November Commission Meetings

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

Conservation Comm. Tues., Nov. 10 7 p.m., Town Hall	Perm. Bldg. Comm. Thu., Nov. 19 6 p.m., Town Hall
Economic Dev. Comm. Thur., Nov. 19 8:30 a.m., Town Hall	P&Z Commission Mon., Nov. 16 7 p.m. <i>Location changed to SMS Auditorium</i>
Education, Board of Mon., Nov. 2 & 16 6:30 p.m., SHS	Police Commission Wed., Nov. 18 6 p.m., SPD
Finance, Board of Tue., Nov. 9 7 p.m., Town Hall	Selectmen, Board of Wed., Nov. 4 & 18 7 p.m., Town Hall
Fire Commission Tues., Nov. 10 6:30 p.m. <i>Location change: SPD</i>	Sustainable Suffield Tues., Nov. 10 7:30 p.m. Zoom only
Historic District Comm. Mon., Nov. 2 7:30 p.m. <i>Location change: SPD</i>	WPCA Tues., Nov. 10 7 p.m. 844 East St. South
KML Commission Tues., Nov. 10 7 p.m., Town Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals Tues., Nov. 24 7 p.m. Town Hall
Parks & Rec. Comm. Tues., Nov. 10 7 p.m., Town Hall	

First Selectman's Update



Colin Moll

Facilities Master Plan Update

On October 15, the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Permanent Building Commission (PBC) held a Tri-Board meeting to review the PBC's recommendations for the Town's Facilities Master Plan. Details can be found on pages 33-36 of this paper.

The Board of Selectmen will spend the next several months evaluating the recommendations, considering the financial feasibility of the projects, and exploring opportunities to reduce costs. During the Tri-Board meeting, an initial review by Board of Finance members indicated that the projects, as currently proposed, could have a significant impact on property taxes. However, additional savings may be possible for the Middle School project through legislative requests and participation in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA), potentially providing another \$16 million in savings. Earlier this spring, the Board of Selectmen applied for the Town to join the CMDA, which supports the creation of affordable housing zones and provides financial assistance for qualifying projects of this nature.

Over the coming months, the Board of Selectmen will likely meet with the Board of Education and Fire Commission to gain a better understanding of the community's needs and explore potential cost savings through adjustments to the proposed plans. These discussions will take place during regular meetings and may include joint meetings with the respective boards. Residents are encouraged to follow the Agendas section of the Town's website for meeting schedules and opportunities to stay informed as the process moves forward.

Other Projects in Town

Unfortunately, both culverts on Suffield Street and Copper Hill Road have completely failed to the point of road closure. Both projects will be going out to bid in early November with finalized engineering designs. Work is expected to begin in January, with a hopeful completion date in mid-to-late spring.

A few residents have asked why the projects take so long, why the closures happened so suddenly, or why the work was not completed sooner. Here is an overview of the process:

- **Engineering Study:** An engineering study of the Town's culverts and bridges was completed approximately two years ago. No previous comprehensive study was known to exist.
- **Structural Failures Identified:** Critical structural failures were found at several culverts.

Around the same time, the Suffield Street and Copper Hill Road structures were plated to allow continued vehicular use.

- **Planning and Funding:** Engineering plans and designs, bonding, and grant applications were prepared through late 2025.
 - **Bonding Approval:** Bonding was approved at Town Meeting in February 2026.
 - **Grant Awards:** The State awarded grant funding for the Hickory Street and Copper Hill Road projects in summer 2026.
 - **Environmental Permits:** Projects involving waterways require approvals from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which can extend the timeline.
 - **Bidding and Construction:** Both culvert projects are expected to go out to bid in early November, with construction anticipated to begin in January and completion targeted for mid-to-late spring.
 - **Public Information Session:** A public information session is required as part of the grant awards. The Town anticipates holding one in early November, with the exact date to be determined.
 - **Mapleton Sidewalk:** Excavation is scheduled to begin in early November.
- Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the remainder of the fall, and as always, my door is always open at Town Hall.



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Mapleton Trees

Continued from page 1

ally and heartily undertaken by all.”

Still the question remains. Why was the road changed from the memorable Crooked Lane to Mapleton Avenue?

When Arthur Sikes, a distant long-ago cousin of Arthur Sikes, who is a current Suffield resident, received approval to operate a post office from his house on Crooked Lane, he ran into trouble. Postal authorities refused to accept Crooked Lane as a proper branch name. A new name was needed. The maple trees growing along the road may have provided the inspiration.

David Sikes, a Revolutionary War soldier and veteran of the Siege of Boston, planted maple trees on his Crooked Lane property. Nathan Clark, also fond of maple trees, traveled to the woods north of Westfield for maple trees, which he planted on the road. Other neighbors followed their examples and the road became lined with maple trees.

There are many old maple trees still remaining on Mapleton Avenue. It is possible that the early residents of Crooked Lane planted them. However, the lifetime

of a maple tree is between 150 and 300 years. The trees they planted would be very old. The Tree Committee is concerned that Mapleton Avenue won’t live up to its name in 30 years unless more maple trees are planted. Help honor the community spirit of Crooked Lane and its love of maples. Ask for a tree by emailing TreesforSuffield@gmail.com or use the following QR code.



- Sources:
1. Mrs. John Henshaw in a paper read before the Mapleton Reading Club on March 14, 1945 (Kent Memorial Library archives).
 2. Hezekiah S. Sheldon’s A Documentary History of Suffield: in the Colony and Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, 1660-1749. Springfield, Mass.: C.W. Bryan Co., 1879-1888.
 3. Dedication of the Central Hall of Crooked Lane, Suffield Conn., and the Reunion Exercises held on Jan 24, and Feb. 3, 1883 (Kent Memorial archives). ☿

60 Years

Continued from page 1

agriscience students discovering a new passion for agriculture, environmental stewardship and leadership. Together with our regional partners, they form a dynamic, growing community of active learners and future leaders. Regardless of whether our graduates pursue direct careers in agriculture or enter other fields, they leave our program as educated consumers, confident public speakers, effective community leaders, and invested citizens.

The evening concluded with the unveiling of a heartwarming documentary detailing the 60-year history of the program. Created with love by Pearl Video Production, program graduate Julie Simmons Harrison and me, the film brought the past to life using hundreds of archival photographs, historical news articles and moving interviews with former and current graduates, staff and community supporters.

As we celebrate 60 years of agricultural education through the Suffield Regional Agriscience program, we look back with immense gratitude for where we were, pride in where we are and boundless optimism for where we are going. Here’s to six decades of growing leaders, building community and honoring the belief in the future of agriculture. ☿

Op~Ed: Do Not Let AI Decide Your Vote

Continued from page 2

through, how can you manage to do your due diligence in an efficient manner? The answer is to find out what each candidate claims and then verify it with reputable sources. The most easily accessible reputable sources are nonprofit independent journalism outlets such as Connecticut Public Broadcasting or the CT Mirror. These types of sources provide in depth reporting on many political claims.

What happens if there is an issue or claim that concerns you, but it’s not something that is reported on by a reputable news source? You can look up the issue directly either at the municipal, state legislative, or congressional level. Most towns in Connecticut post minutes from board and commission meetings online for your review. The CT state legislature has a search tool that can help you find information at this address: <https://search.cga.state.ct.us/r/adv/> Congress has a similar tool that can be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record>

AI will continue to evolve and will undoubtedly automate certain parts of our lives. However, your vote is something that must always be a totally human decision because it is simply too important to delegate to a machine.

Tim Casey works at MassMutual in their Data Science and AI Engineering department, holds a Master of Science in Business Analytics and Project Management from the UConn School of Business, and is the Chair of the Suffield Democratic Town Committee. This article does not necessarily reflect the views of any of these institutions.

Tim Casey



Photo provided by the author

Original Suffield FFA advisor Mr. Fred Clark joins graduate and agriscience educator Vicki Christian Zielinski to lead opening ceremonies alongside other alumni who are also agriculture educators.

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Captain's Corner

Holiday Cooking Safety
*By Suffield Fire Department
Captain Ron Carlson*

Cooking can bring family and friends together, provide an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day and the upcoming Holiday Season when there can be a lot of activity and people at home. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? And, the leading cause of kitchen fires is unattended cooking!

- Consider the following safety tips:**
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
 - If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in your home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire (oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains, etc.) away from your stovetop.

Rain Barrel Fever Strikes Again

*By Tony Peterson,
Sustainable Suffield Co-chair*

When Sustainable Suffield decided to build and sell premium rain barrels at the low, subsidized price of \$35, the response was overwhelming. We built 40 in August and sold out, so we created a waitlist, then had to pause list registration when demand skyrocketed.

In mid-October, we received more used food-grade drums but decided to delay building new rain barrels until spring.

If you are on the waitlist, we'll notify you in the spring

when we complete building the rain barrels. Sunrise Park Superintendent Chad Kuzontkoski is allowing us to use space in the park barn to store the drums.

Rain barrels equivalent to our \$35 offering cost about \$150 from established manufacturers. We build ours with non-rusting stainless steel and aluminum parts, so they should last for years with proper care. We're using a generous grant from the Suffield Woman's Club to subsidize part of the cost, and the labor to build them is

- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around your stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- To prevent child burns and injuries, be sure that electric cords from coffee makers, plate warmers, electric knives, or mixers do not dangle off the counter within reach of a child.
- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stove-top.
- Keep the floor in your cooking area clear of obstructions like children, pets, toys, bags, pocketbooks, etc.
- If you are using an outside charcoal or gas grill, follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- **Treat a Burn Right Away!** Cool the burn with cool water for 3 – 5 minutes. Cover it with a clean, dry dressing (cloth). And get medical help if needed. ☹

SUFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT LOG SEPTEMBER 2026

PRIMARY INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENTS
Accidental alarm	8
CO alarm	2
Citizen assist/service call	4
Fire/smoke alarm	10
Fuel spill/fuel odor	2
Gas leak/gas odor	4
Intentional false alarm	2
Law enforcement support	1
Lift assist	2
Malfunctioning alarm	4
Motor vehicle collision	5
Odor investigation	3
Person in distress	1
Room and contents fire	1
Vegetation/grass fire	1
Vehicle fire - passenger	1
Grand Total	51

SUFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026

REASONS	# OF CALLS
911 Hang-Up	25
Abandoned Vehicle	1
Animal Complaint	55
Animal Impound	1
Arson	0
Assault/Fight	0
Assist Citizen	28
Assist Motorist	24
Background Investigation	0
Breach of Peace	0
Burglar Alarm	14
Burglary	0
Car Seat	1
Cell Block Check	2
Civil Matter	3
Community Policing - School	21
Community Policing Contact	45
CVS Drop Box	3
Death Investigation	3
Directed Patrol	604
Disorderly	0
Domestic Disturbance	2
Drone Use	3
DUI/Erratic Operation	21
Escort Transport	1
Fingerprints	22
Fire Dept. Box/Hazmat/ Still/Confirmed/Structure	27
Firearms Surrender	2
Follow Up	2
Fraud	3
General Information	21
Harassment	1
Hazardous Condition	24
Identity Theft	0
Intoxicated Person	0
Juvenile Matters	14
Larceny	4
Lost/Found Property	4
M/V Accident No Injury/Injury/ Evading	28
Medical	113
Mentally Disturbed Person	4
Missing Person/Runaway	2
Motor Vehicle Lockout	1
Motor Vehicle Pursuit	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Motor Vehicle Violation	94
Narcotics Violation	0
Noise Complaint	1
Notification	0
Occupational Accident	0
Outside Assist	16
Overdose	0
Parking Violation	1
Property Check	503
Pursuit Review	2
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	0
Subpoena Service	0
Suicide Attempt	0
Suspicious Activity	24
Suspicious Person	9
Suspicious Vehicle	21
Threatening	0
Town Ordinance	0
Traffic Control/School Traffic	151
Training	18
Trespassing	2
Use of Force - Admin	0
Vandalism	0
Warrant Service	1
Welfare Check	14
TOTAL:	1,990

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Community Calendar

November 2026

- Sat, Oct 31

Halloween Candy Give-Away - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. On the King House porch, with the Suffield Historical Society. (pg 13)
- Sundays, Nov 1,8,15,22

Fall Turkey Shoots - 10 a.m. Sundays through Nov 22. At the Suffield Sportsman's Association property, 2900 Phelps Road, West Suffield. Public welcome.
- Mon, Nov 2

The Secret Lives of Owls by Mary Beth Kaeser - Noon, in the Fellowship Hall at Second Baptist Church. Hosted by the Suffield Garden Club. (pg 31)
- Tue, Nov 3

ELECTION DAY! 6 a.m. thru 8 p.m. - in the gym at Suffield Middle School. See the voters guide on page 9. *Please bring a donation for the SCA food drive!* (pg 8)
- Tue, Nov 3

SCA Food Drive (people and pets!) - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Middle School. (pg 16)
- Wed, Nov 4

Suffield Polish Heritage Society meeting - 10 a.m. at the Suffield Ambulance Center. The topic will be Polish traditions of All Saints' and All Souls' Days. (pg 13)
- Fri, Nov 6

First Selectman Coffee Hour - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Fri, Nov 6

Coffee Hour with the Library Director - 10 a.m., Drop in at KML to discuss all things library, Coffee and a light snack. (pg 23)
- Fri, Nov 6

Poker Night - Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 7 p.m., at the VFW hall on Sheldon Street. \$40 buy in. w/Suffield KofC and the VFW. 50/50 Raffle.
- Sat, Nov 7

Veterans Breakfast - 9 to 11 a.m. All Veterans and family members are welcome. At the VFW Hall, 972 Sheldon St., West Suffield.
- Sat, Nov 7

Book Collection for the Annual Library Book Sale - 9:30 to noon. Drive up to the Mary Anne Zak entrance where volunteers will help you.
- Sat & Sun, Nov 7 & 8

Warm Coat Drive - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off donations at Suffield Village Market parking lot. Sponsored by the Suffield Lions Club. (pg 24)
- Sat, Nov 7

Christmas in Suffield (see map on the right of this page)
Third Baptist Church - 12:30 to 6:00 p.m., Chicken dinners, sweet potato pie, shop for small gifts, including jewelry, ornaments and more. 188 Kent Ave. (pg 11)
Making a List, Checking it Twice - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., make & take ornament, secret Santa shoppe for kids, bake sale. **Second Baptist Church**, 100 N. Main St. (pg 11)
First Church - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., artists and crafters, attic treasures, produce, meats and jams, bake sale and basket raffle. 81 High St. (pg 12)
Harvest Craft Fair - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., art work, crafts, preserves and baked goods. **Suffield Fire House**, 73 Mountain Rd.
Second Chance Shop - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 116 Mountain Road. Offering 25% off all collectibles, including Christmas items.
Christmas Fair - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artisans and crafters, food, entertainment, raffles and possibly a visit from Santa. **Sacred Heart Church**, 446 Mountain Rd. (pg 10)
Holiday Bazaar - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., soup, baked goods, baskets of goodies and more. **West Suffield Congregational Church**, 1408 Mountain Rd. (pg 10)
- Sat, Nov 7

US Marine Corps Birthday Dinner, Cocktail Hour 5 p.m., Dinner and Ceremony at 6 p.m. Tickets \$25 available at VFW Post 995 or suffieldvfw9544@gmail.com.
- Sat, Nov 7

Comedy Night at VFW Post 9954. Doors open at 6 p.m., raffles at 7 p.m., comedy show at 8 p.m. Snacks available and cash bar. Tickets \$20.
- Sun, Nov 8

Sew a holiday "Joy" ornament, Embroiderers Guild of America - 1 to 4 p.m. at Academy Hall, 1499 Mountain Rd. \$25 pp. RSVP at rsvphistory@gmail.com (pg 13)
- Sun, Nov 8

Land Conservancy annual meeting, presentation on projects for the outdoor education preserve by Joe Grimard - 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. (pg 29)
- Wed, Nov 11

VFW Veterans Day Ceremony - 11:00 AM, Veterans Memorial Park
- Mon, Nov 16

Rise to the Challenge Book Group - 6:30 p.m., *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins At Kent Memorial Library. Diverse opinions are welcome. (pg 22)
- Tues, Nov 17

Rabble Readers - 7 p.m., *Dorothy Must Die* by Danielle Paige. An Escapist Lit book club at Kent Memorial Library for adults. (pg 22)
- Thur, Nov 19, to Sat, Nov 21

The Crucible - 6:30 p.m., SHS auditorium by the SHS Drama Club. Each night, a donation will be collected to benefit Suffield Community Aid (pg 19)
- Fri, Nov 20

First Selectman Coffee Hour - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Sat, Nov 21

Reading 9-5: Dolly Parton Book Club - 1:30 p.m., *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas. At Kent Memorial Library. (pg 22)
- Sat, Nov 21

Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - 5 p.m. at Crestview Country Club. Tickets at sahof.org/induction-ceremony. (pg 12)
- Sat, Nov 21

SVAA 50th Anniversary Gala at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott. For ticket information and sponsorship opportunities e-mail SVAA@Suffielddems.org. (pg 6)
- Tues, Nov 24

Lions Club Blood Drive – noon-5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Second Baptist Church. Visit redcrossblood.org for an appointment. (pg 24)
- Sat, Nov 28

DEADLINE to register for visits the 1st weekend of December. **Santa comes to Suffield** (Santa home visits) - www.SuffieldOnTheGreen.org/Santa. (pg 29)
- Sat, Nov 28 to Sat, Dec 12

Small Business Passport Program - Pick up your passport at participating Suffield Businesses. Details on the town website at SuffieldCT.gov. (pg 21)
- Wed, Dec 2 to Fri Dec 4

FFA Holiday Sale - 8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wed & Thur, 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri. Suffield High School Large Animal Facility. Wreaths, poinsettias, kissing balls. (pg 20)
- Wed, Dec 2 to Thur, Dec 3

FFA Holiday Shop MAKE & TAKE NIGHT - 6 to 8 p.m., Suffield High School Large Animal Facility. Make your own wreath! (pg 20)
- Thur, Dec 3

Sundaes with Santa! - 5 to 7:30 p.m. At the Suffield Senior Center. Family dinner with Santa and a sweet treat! \$5 per person, age 2 and under, free. (pg 26, 27)
- Fri, Dec 4 to Sun, Dec 6

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins with Happy Hollandaise! - 8 p.m., except 2 p.m. matinee Dec 6. At Mapleton Hall. Purchase tickets at www.SuffieldPlayers.org.
- Sat, Dec 5

Winter Farmers Market - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the large animal facility at Suffield High School, 1060 Sheldon St. (pg 15)
- Sat & Sun, Dec 5 & 6

Holidayfest at The King House - Noon to 4 p.m. Theme is miniatures. If you have miniatures to share please email sufielddhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. (pg 13)
- Sat, Dec 12

Suffield Alight & Holiday Market - 3 to 7 p.m., Center green. Tree lighting, concert, DJ, caroling, visit with Santa, food trucks, trolley rides, crafts & more. (pg 26)
- Sat, Dec 12

DEADLINE to register for visits the 3rd weekend of December. **Santa comes to Suffield** (Santa home visits) - www.SuffieldOnTheGreen.org/Santa. (pg 29)
- Fri, Dec 18

VFW Post 9544 Christmas Party - 6 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 972 Sheldon St., West Suffield. Food and live music. All veterans are welcome.

New Neighbor Helps SVAA Celebrate 50 Years

By Chief John Spencer
As the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association prepares to celebrate 50 years of service to the community, the milestone is also creating opportunities to recognize the businesses and organizations helping make the celebration possible.

Among them is Sync Biotech, a Connecticut-based medical technology company and the Welcome Reception Sponsor for SVAA's 50th Anniversary Gala.

Based just next door in Enfield, Sync Biotech works with physicians, medical device companies, healthcare organizations and other industry partners. Its work includes medical device development and commercialization, physician collaboration, professional training and operational support.

The company is also expanding its presence in the region through a new Enfield facility that includes a dedicated bio skills and surgical training center, classroom and meeting spaces, event areas, and infrastructure for medical device

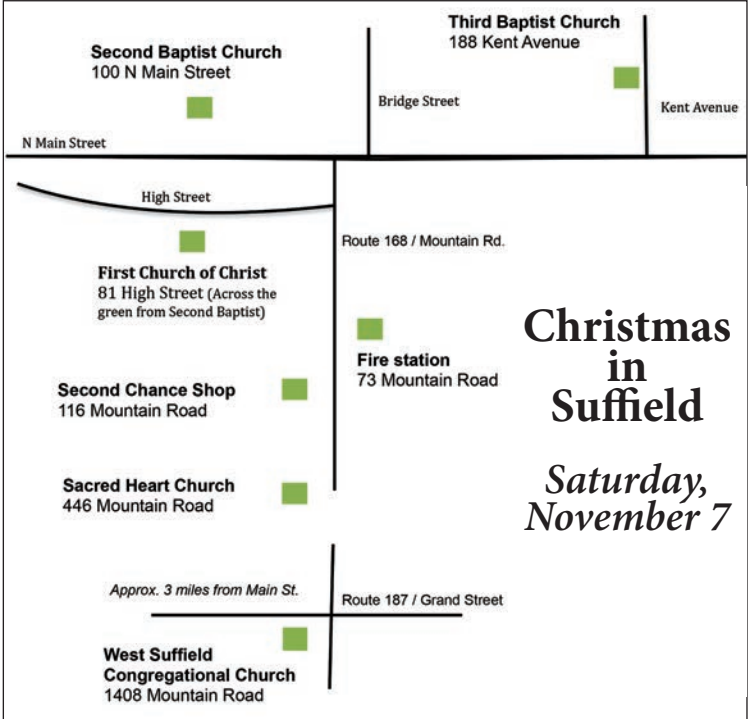
warehousing and commercial operations.

"A major part of our vision for the facility is creating a place where people can come together," the company shared. In addition to specialized surgical education, Sync hopes the facility will support professional training, educational programs, demonstrations, meetings and industry events.

That growing investment in northern Connecticut also helped create a connection with Suffield Volunteer Ambulance. Through relationships within the regional medical community, including Dr. Andrew Wakefield, President of SVAA's Board of Directors and a practicing neurosurgeon with Hartford HealthCare, Sync learned more about SVAA, its role in Suffield and the plans to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

"Being located just next door in Enfield made the opportunity especially meaningful," Sync explained. "We are investing significantly in this area and want to be an active participant in the community surrounding us, not simply a

Continued on Page 14



Christmas
in
Suffield

Saturday,
November 7

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Food For Thought

Compiled by Beth Chafetz
American Education Week
– second week in November

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King
“Education is not the means of showing people how to get what they want. Education is an exercise by means of which enough men, it is hoped, will learn to want what is worth having.”

– Ronald Reagan
“Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system.”

– Sidney Hook

Election Day
November 3

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.” – Larry J. Sabato
“George Washington is the only President who didn’t blame the previous administration.”

– WhoWhatWhy

“Elections belong to the people. It’s their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.”

– Abraham Lincoln

Young Readers’ Day
November 10

“The only way to do all the things you’d like to do is to read.” – Tom Clancy

“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

– Paul Sweeney

“Let children read what-



Photo by Joan Heffernan

ever they want and then talk about it with them. If parents and kids can talk together, we won’t have as much censorship because we won’t have as much fear.”

– Judy Blume

U.S. Marine Corps
birthday – November 10

“A ship without Marines is like a garment without buttons.”

– Admiral David Porter

“Bravery is being the only one who knows you’re afraid.” – U.S. Marine Corps

Veterans Day
November 11

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

– John F. Kennedy

“America’s veterans have served their country with the belief that democracy and freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world.”

– John Doolittle

“Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.”

– Billy Graham

Vietnam Veterans
Memorial dedicated
November 13, 1982

“In honoring those who answered the call of duty, we do not honor war. But we honor the peace they sought, the freedoms that they fought to preserve, and the hope that they held out to a world that’s still struggling to learn how to settle differences among people and among nations without resorting to violence.”

– President Jimmy Carter upon signing legislation to permit the building of the Memorial in 1980

“The injustice suffered by Vietnam veterans can never be remedied. Those who served in Vietnam did not start the war; it was not their failure that led to the miserable ending. They lived up to the code: duty, honor, country. No belated apology will erase the contumely the survivors experienced. But at least we

are now well along in providing deserved tribute to those who did not survive. . . . this will be the most moving war memorial ever erected.”

– James J. Kilpatrick

World Kindness Day
November 13

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

– Mother Teresa

“We don’t have to agree on anything to be kind to one another.” – Unknown

America Recycles Day
November 15

“If you’re not buying recycled products, you’re not really recycling.”

– Ed Begley, Jr.

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

– Albert Einstein

“We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” – Native American Proverb

National Philanthropy
Day
November 15

“It was my mother who regularly reminded me that I was merely a steward of any wealth I gained. With wealth came the responsibility to give it away, she would tell me.”

– Bill Gates

“Philanthropy is not about money. It’s about feeling the pain of others and caring enough about their needs to help.”

– Timothy Pina

“Helping those in need is not charity, it’s humanity.”

– Abhijit Naskar

Take a Hike Day
November 17

“A walk in nature walks the soul back home.”

– Mary Davis

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

– John Muir

Stop the Violence Day
November 22

“If we desire a society of peace, then we cannot achieve such a society through violence”

– Bayard Rustin

“The most violent element in society is ignorance.” – Emma Goldman

Thanksgiving
November 26

The best gift anyone can give, I believe, is the gift of sharing themselves.”

– Oprah Winfrey

“A basic law: the more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for.”

– Norman Vincent Peale

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Where to recycle whole pumpkins



If you have uncarved, unpainted, chemical-free pumpkins, these farms will take them as animal feed:

Made by LLC, 50 Cross Street: drop off in white half barrel at the farm stand.

1286 Mountain Rd: drop off next to the goat pen.

5 Log Court, W.Suffield: drop off in driveway off Halladay Dr., at the yellow raised ranch.

Hastings Farm, 472 Hill Street: place pumpkins in the large plastic crate next to the greenhouse by the farm store.

Roaring Acres Alpacas, 685 Hale St: drop pumpkins by the large maple tree on the right side of the parking lot.

For rotted pumpkins



Place rotted pumpkins, free of plastics, paint, etc., into the food scrap dumpster behind Town Hall or at the Ebbs Corner fire station.

Gubernatorial Election, November 3

By Darlene Burrell
Registrar of Voters

The Town of Suffield will hold a General Election on Tuesday, November 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Suffield Middle School.

Early Voting Information:

Early voting began in the last week of October and will continue through November 1, taking place in the town hall meeting room from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with extended hours on Tuesday, October 27 and Thursday, October 29 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Same Day Registration:

Voters who are not yet registered may take advantage of Same Day Registration, available during early voting and on Election Day, also located at Suffield Town Hall.

Accessible Voting Options:

A ballot marking system will be available at all voting locations—including the polls, early voting, and same day registration sites. This system allows voters with disabilities, including visual impairments, to vote privately

and independently. Features include a touch-screen display, audio output, tactile keys, a sip-and-puff device, and a jelly bean button.

Curbside Voting Available:

Voters who arrive at a voting location but are unable to enter the building due to a disability may vote curbside. Upon arrival, please notify election officials at 860-668-3850 for assistance.

For more information, please contact the Suffield Registrars of Voters. ☞

Political Roles and Responsibilities

By Kevin Keane

State Senator: A Connecticut State Senator represents one of 36 distinct geographical districts, each encompassing roughly 100,000 residents, within the Connecticut General Assembly. Working in tandem with the House of Representatives and the governor, senators hold several defined constitutional and legislative duties.

Lawmaking and Public Policy

- **Drafting Legislation:** Senators author, sponsor and formally introduce new bills to address statewide issues or specific local needs.
- **Debating and Voting:** They evaluate the merits of proposed legislation on the Senate floor and cast votes to pass or defeat them.
- **Overriding Vetoes:** If the governor rejects a bill, senators vote alongside the House to determine whether to override the veto.

Fiscal and Budgetary Control

- **Establishing the Budget:** Senators negotiate and set the final spending thresh-

olds for state agencies, programs and public services.

- **Adjusting Taxation:** They introduce and vote on measures to raise, lower or restructure state taxes and revenue streams.

Special Confirmation Powers

- **Executive Approvals:** As members of the upper house, senators vote to confirm or reject the governor's appointments to executive departments, the state cabinet and boards.
- **Judicial Selection:** Senators vote on the final appointment of judges to the Connecticut Supreme Court and other state courts.

Committee Work and Constituent Advocacy

- **Committee Assignments:** Much of their detailed work occurs in committees, where they review specific bill categories, question witnesses, hold public hearings, and amend bill language.
- **Constituent Services:** Senators serve as a direct link to the community by helping residents resolve issues with state agencies and advocating for local project funding.

State Representative: The primary duties of a Connecticut State Representative are to create, debate and vote on legislation, manage the state budget, and advocate for the residents of their specific legislative district.

Each representative serves a two-year term representing roughly 22,600 citizens. Their core responsibilities span three major categories:

1. Legislative Duties

- **Writing Bills:** They suggest new laws for schools, safety, education, business and the environment.
- **Committee Meetings:** Representatives serve on joint legislative committees, where they review bills, hear public testimony, and amend legislation before it goes to a full vote.
- **Debating and Voting:** They vote to pass laws and approve state and supreme court judges.

2. Fiscal Responsibilities

- **Setting the State Budget:** Alongside the Senate they decide how to spend money on roads, schools, transportation, and social services.
- **Levying Taxes:** They vote on changes to sales, state income, and corporate taxes.

3. District Advocacy

- **Solving Problems:** They help local residents deal with state agencies.
- **Secure Funding:** They fight for state money and grants for their municipal districts.
- **Community Engagement:** They host town halls, meet with local leaders, attend local public events, and issue official citations to honor local citizens. ☞





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SUFFIELD VOTERS GUIDE

The November 3 election will be held in the Suffield Middle School's (SMS) gymnasium, 350 Mountain Road from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Accessible parking will be available in front of SMS. All other parking is between SMS and McAlister School. Register online at [VoterRegistration.CT.GOV](https://www.ct.gov/elections) or complete a voter registration application and send it to the Town Hall. Election Day Registration (EDR) will take place at 61 Ffyer Place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDR is for qualified Suffield residents who would like to register to vote on Election day. They must appear in person and provide 1) a current and valid photo identificaiton that shows their name and address; or 2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows their name and address.

Local Candidates



Questions asked of all candidates for State Senator and State Representative:

- Question 1. What are your qualifications for this office?
- Question 2. What do you see as the biggest problem facing the State of Connecticut, and what specific actions would you undertake to resolve it?

State Senator

John A. Kissel – R

Q1: I currently serve as Chief Deputy Minority Leader and am the longest-serving senator in the Connecticut Senate, now serving my 17th term. I earned degrees in Education and History from UConn and a law degree from Western New England College School of Law.

I serve as Ranking Senator on the Judiciary, Regulations Review, and Special Education Committees and am a member of the General Law and Finance Committees. I have practiced law for 42 years, served as president of the Greater Enfield Lawyers Association and served in the Connecticut Bar Association’s House of Delegates.

Q2: The biggest concern I hear from constituents is affordability. I will continue fighting for more state funding for towns like Suffield, especially for education, to reduce pressure on local property taxes. I remain committed to supporting special education students and teachers. In recognition of my work, I received the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance’s 2025 Friend of Early Childhood Award and the Connecticut Education Association’s 2026 Honor Roll recognition.

As a longtime Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, I oversee the Department of Correction and strongly support law enforcement. I remain passionate about public service and will continue working to make Suffield and north-central Connecticut a great place to live, work and raise a family.

David Kiner - D

Q1. I was born and raised in this district, and my wife, Gina, and I are raising our three elementary school-aged daughters here. I served two terms on the Enfield Town Council and three terms as Enfield’s state representative. In 2016, I chose not to seek reelection so Gina and I could start our family. I have remained active in our community, and I’m running because this is home. I bring experience, deep local roots, and a personal stake in our community’s future.

Q2. After months of knocking on doors, one concern stands out: the cost of living, especially skyrocketing energy bills.

First, I will introduce legislation prohibiting state legislators from working for Eversource while holding elected office. We cannot effectively hold utilities accountable when financial conflicts of interest undermine public trust. My opponent’s lucrative employment with Eversource raises serious questions about whose interests come first.

Second, I will work to move appropriate public benefits costs from electric bills into the state’s general budget. Programs that benefit everyone should be funded through a transparent, broadly shared process—not disproportionately burden residential ratepayers.

Third, I will establish a bipartisan Utility Accountability Caucus, with at least three Democrats and three Republicans, to develop legislation that lowers energy costs and holds utilities accountable.

Connecticut families deserve relief, transparency, and a senator who puts people ahead of corporate interests. I will fight for ratepayers and work across party lines to make Connecticut more affordable.

State Representative

Tami Zawistowski - R

Q1. It is my honor to serve as your State Representative since 2014. As a member of House Republican leadership and Chair of the Bill Screening Committee, I review all bills that pass legislative committees, work across the aisle on good legislation and oppose proposals detrimental to our district and state.

My recent record includes co-sponsoring the bipartisan 2025 farm bill; championing legislation for veterans, seniors, first responders and people with autism; securing increased reimbursement for the Suffield High School roof project; and supporting \$699,255 in new annual education funding for Suffield plus a one-time \$516,210 Pequot grant increase. In 2027, I will work with the Board of Education to pursue maximum state funding for the Middle School project.

I have been recognized by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Connecticut Council of Small Towns for opposing unfunded mandates and defending local zoning control.

I am endorsed by the Independent Party, Connecticut Building Trades Council, NFIB, Realtors, law enforcement, and retired teachers. I am a small business owner, a 12-year Suffield Rotarian and an honorary Suffield FFA Chapter member.

Q2. Connecticut’s most pressing challenge is its high cost of living, especially electricity bills and property taxes. I will oppose subsidies for for-profit solar companies, push back against long term above-market green energy contracts, demand accountability from PURA and utilities, pursue full state funding for special education, and fight to reform the outdated education aid formula that favors cities over small towns.

I respectfully ask for your vote on November 3rd.

James Mol - D

Q1. For nearly six years I have served on the Suffield Board of Education, including its Finance and Facilities Subcommittee, where I see how Hartford’s decisions land on our schools and tax bills. I run a data-driven small business, Mol Hospitality Consulting, so I read the numbers before taking a position. My wife and I bought our West Suffield farm in 2008 to save it from development, and preserved it in 2023. Our three children attend Suffield public schools. And I have Congressman Joe Courtney’s endorsement, and the relationships to deliver for Suffield.

Q2. The biggest problem is affordability: the state keeps shifting costs onto property taxpayers. Its school funding formula still uses a per-student amount set in 2013. This year, the state’s main education grant covers just \$3,236 of the more than \$21,000 it costs to educate a Suffield student. Bradley Airport pays Suffield \$693,909 a year in place of taxes, an amount set in 2013 and worth about 30 percent less today. And our electric rates are among the nation’s highest.

What I will do:

1. Seek an Education Committee seat, which this district has lacked for over a decade, to update the 2013 amount and index it to inflation.
2. Push to index the Bradley payment to inflation.
3. Strengthen the Office of Consumer Counsel, which fights utility rate increases for ratepayers.

The school and Bradley updates would bring Suffield more than \$2.5 million a year, over a mill of property tax, and I will work to bring it home.

West Suffield Congregational Church News

By Pastor Denise Peterson
Well, it's that time of year again. The WSCC Christmas Bazaar is almost here. There is something about that day that feels like the beginning of the holiday season to me.

The hall is always decorated beautifully. Santa Claus attends (and we hear Snuggles the cockatoo is already looking forward to seeing him). The room smells heavenly from all the soups. There are always trays of baked goods, and there are baskets of goodies everywhere waiting to be won in the raffles. But as wonderful as all of those things are, I think my favorite part is simply watching

people come through the doors.
The bazaar brings together people from our church and from all around our community. We see familiar faces, neighbors we haven't seen in a while, children excited to see Santa, and people who may not normally walk through the doors of our church. There is laughter and conversation everywhere. People linger. They catch up with one another. And somewhere between the soup, the raffle baskets, and the baked goods, something important happens: community.
I think that is part of what makes the bazaar such a wonderful way to



Photo submitted by author
Cathy Napolski gets into the spirit of the season!

begin the Christmas season. Christmas can so easily become about everything we have to get done: presents to buy, houses to decorate, cards to send, meals

to plan. The bazaar reminds us that the season begins with something much simpler. It begins with people gathering together. It begins with hospitality, generosity, laughter and making room for one another. In its own small way, that points us toward the heart of Christmas itself: a God who chose to come among us and share our life.
And maybe that is a pretty good picture of the bazaar itself. We each bring what we can. Someone makes soup. Someone bakes. Someone decorates. Someone donates a basket. Someone sets up tables or sells tickets or simply welcomes people through the

door. No one person creates the day. We each bring our little piece, and together we create something magical.
Our Youth Group will meet on November 13 and 27, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. While we will be having fun and creating some general pandemonium, we will also be working on a service project connected to Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
Finally, we will gather for the hanging of the greens on November 27 from 6 to 7:30. We'll share pizza and sweets. The kiddoes will create gingerbread house masterpieces. And just like that, Christmas will begin. ☿

Sacred Heart News

By Father Joe Keough,
Pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish Family
November is a month to remember, give thanks and look forward. In the Roman Catholic tradition, we begin the month by pausing to reflect on the lives and witness of our ancestors in the faith as we observe the feasts of All Saints and All

Souls. These are the "big names", saints for whom special feast days are set aside throughout the years, churches are dedicated to their memory, children are often named after them. The Feast of All Souls (the true root of Halloween or "All Hallow's Eve") honors them as well as all who have gone before us in faith and

now share the joy and glory of heaven. The family and friends who lived ordinary lives and share the glory of eternal life in heaven. It reminds us to pray for one another living and deceased because in faith we are all united.
We join our nation in giving thanks to God for all we have as we feast on the

turkey dinner at the end of the month. In awareness of our blessings, we respond in action to help provide some celebration for our neighbors in need. Joining with so many other faith-based groups and charitable organizations throughout Suffield/West Suffield, we collect and share food donations as we put our faith into action. We appreciate all the good works done through Suffield Community Aid all year long and are happy to assist whenever we can. The parish food drive as well as our recent winter clothing drive allow us to help others.
Much hard work has gone into preparations

for our participation once again in the Christmas Fair held on Saturday, November 7 at our parish hall. Local crafters come together not only at Sacred Heart but across the community to help us with our Christmas shopping and holiday spirit. All the proceeds help support our parish scholarship programs. Once again, there will also be food, entertainment, raffles and possibly a visit from Santa (if you've been good).
We end the month with a new beginning. Our liturgical year begins not in January but the last weekend of November with the First Sunday of Advent. A

Continued on Page 11



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WWW.SacredHeartCT.com
Please consult the bulletin for more info.

Children's Chapel
Handicap accessible

Holy Hour: Monday 3-4 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



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

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- 10 AM Meditation
- 11 AM Discussion

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Second Baptist News

From a press release Second Baptist is Sponsoring a New Ministry!

For the last six years Connecticut Foodshare has been distributing groceries free of charge to those in need of food assistance from the West Suffield Congregational Church. We learned very recently that they needed a new distribution site, as WSCC would not be able to continue. Second Baptist Church has volunteered to fill the gap. The ministry began on Tuesday October 20 and will continue biweekly (November 3 and 17 are the next offerings). The food will be offered from our back parking lot on Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m. If anyone is interested in volunteering, the only real requirement is that you can lift 25 to 30 lbs. repeatedly as the food will come to us in large boxes on a specialized truck. If you wish to help out, contact the church at 860-668-1661. If you or someone you know needs food assistance, feel free to join us!

Second Baptist Church Puts a New Twist on Christmas in Suffield, “Making a List, Checking It Twice”

While Christmas in Suffield brings wonderful craft fairs to churches all over town, Second Baptist Church at 100 North Main St. is offering something a little different this year. On Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Second Baptist will host “Making a List, Checking It Twice” — a family-focused event designed to help visitors not just shop, but actually work on their Christmas list.

Instead of just crafts and baked goods, organizers have created three special features to draw families in: 1. Secret Santa Shoppe - Just for Kids! A private, kids-only shopping area where children can pick out a small, inexpensive gift for a parent, grandparent or loved one for just \$1-\$2. Volunteers will wrap it on the spot, so it stays a secret. We want kids to feel the joy of giving, not just getting.

2. Free Ornament Make & Take - All children are invited to make a free Christmas ornament to take home and hang on their family tree.

3. The “Who Did You Forget?” Checklist — Naughty or Nice? Don’t Forget List. Every visitor will receive a handy checklist to help remember those people we often forget until the last minute — the mail carrier, bus driver, teacher, hairdresser, coach and neighbor.

And yes — Second Baptist will still have all the favorites people expect from Christmas in Suffield: a wonderful bake sale with cookies, pies and treats, handmade jams, jellies, jewelry and crafts from local crafters young and old and a huge upstairs tag sale full of treasures, toys and home goods.

The event is free, family-friendly, and all are welcome. All proceeds support the ministries of Second Baptist Church. Free Admission

For more information, contact Second Baptist Church at 860-668-1661 or Sue at 860-402-7813

During the month we have several on-going ministries we would like to invite you to join: Prayer Shawl Ministry – Friday, November 6 and 20 – 10 a.m. This 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.

Special Needs Fellowship – Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m. This is another long-standing monthly out-

reach 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.

Soup Kitchen Ministry – Saturday, November 14. Serving a meal for anyone in need at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen at South Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts 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.

On November 29 we will enter the season of Advent and Christmas. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 20 at 3 p.m. as we host the Community Christmas Concert. Scheduled to perform are the Suffield High School Concert Choir, Suffield Middle School Elite Voices, small chamber groups of local musicians as well as SBC Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs. Mark your calendars!

Additional information for these and other activities/opportunities at the church is available on secondbaptistsuffield.org, along with our NEW Facebook and Instagram sites. The website include links for the Sunday morning bulletin and “Weekly Wednesday Write-Ups” with upcoming events and updates on the various ministries. There is also a link to the church’s YouTube channel for you to participate in past Sunday services. ☿

Third Baptist Church Christmas in Suffield Event!

By Deacon Sonia Hill
Przybylek

Join us for a delightful experience during the Suffield Christmas event Saturday, November 7 from 12:30-6 p.m. featuring some of the best fried chicken around—it’s truly a taste of heaven! We’ll be offering:

- Chicken Dinners
- Sweet Potato Pies
- Other delicious holiday treats
- Small gifts, including jewelry, ornaments, and more

Come visit us. We can’t wait to see you there! ☿

Sacred Heart

Continued from page 10

time of joyful anticipation of the coming of Christmas. The Sacred Heart parish family looks forward to the Nativity of our Lord and hopefully a rebirth in the faith of our family and friends who no longer fully participate in the life of the Church. Our “Come Home for Christmas” is a prayerful invitation to everyone who might come just for Christmas to come back more often. All through the Advent and Christmas seasons we decorate the Christmas trees in the church with silver and gold stars marked with the initials or the first name of a specific person we would

In Memoriam

William F. O’Brien
September 1, Age 97

Dr. Geoffrey Phillipson
September 8, Age 89

John Joseph “Jody” Cranmore
September 9, Age 71

Sarah Ann Marie Seger
September 10, Age 100

Albin F. Krupa
September 17, Age 101

Steven Francis Preli
September 30, Age 73

Helen U. Fay
October 3, Age 102

Frederick A. Turschmann
October 4, Age 88

Karl M. Thomas
October 7, Age 89

Helen L. Price
October 9, Age 96

like to help return to the faith. The trees will be filled with stars, and we pray our church will be filled with people.

If you would like to join us, or want more information, please stop by or check out our web site at www.sacredheartct.com You will also find us on Facebook at Sacred Heart Suffield.

Have a blessed November! ☿



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First Church News

By Amber Bigley

First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC has announced its lineup of community outreach programs, spiritual services, and seasonal events for the month of November, highlighting a major town-wide holiday market and a massive global hunger relief effort.

The church, an Open & Affirming congregation located at 81 High Street, continues its autumn programming under the leadership of Interim Pastor Chris Hart. The doors are open to everyone in the community, regardless of where they are on life's journey.

Seasonal festivities kick off early in the month with the annual "Christmas in Suffield" event on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Craft vendors and artist booths will be set up at various locations across town, First Church included, hosting several unique attractions:

- Attic Treasures: A massive tag sale offering a variety of low-cost items, curated for holiday shoppers looking for unique gifts or collectibles.
- Eddie's Country Store: A marketplace featuring locally sourced meats, jams, and fresh produce.

- Bake Sale & Gift Basket Raffle

All proceeds from First Church sponsored events benefit the upcoming RAH Event. On Sunday, Nov. 15, the focus shifts to global philanthropy with the Rise Against Hunger (RAH) meal packaging event. Members of the congregation and local volunteers will gather with the ambitious goal of packing more than 10,000 meals to combat food insecurity for families in need worldwide.

The initiative runs alongside the church's ongoing local food security program, the Blessing Box. Located outside the church building, the 24/7 outdoor pantry operates on a "take what you need; leave what you can" system, accepting shelf-stable groceries and hygiene products at all times.

Regular weekly Sunday worship continues at 10 a.m., accessible both in-person and virtually via the church's YouTube livestream. This month carries added liturgical significance as the church marks the beginning of the traditional Christian holiday season; the season of Advent officially begins on November 29, the final Sunday of the month.

Pastor Chriss Hart's regular

open office hours are scheduled for Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. He can be reached for alternative appointments or inquiries regarding community pub hours at PC@pastorchris.faith or 774-318-6006.

Additionally, the church continues to fulfill its role as a local support hub by hosting weekly meetings for both Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA). For full schedules, volunteer sign-ups, or livestream links, residents can visit the official church website at www.firstchurchsuffield.org.

First Church extends a warm invitation to friends, neighbors, and newcomers alike. Remember that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—because we believe that God is still speaking, and our doors, minds, and hearts are always open to you. ☸



Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

By Bret Lynch

The Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame (SAHOF) will be hosting an induction ceremony at the Crestview Country Club on Saturday, November 21. This ceremony will honor the Hall of Fame Class of 2026: Katelyn Corr, Susan Graves-Persio, Robbie Hitt, Dan Maroney, Jack Paterson, Bob Quaqliaroli, Austin Rupp, Sarah Wilson and the 1991-92 Suffield High School Boys Soccer team. For additional information and to purchase tickets for this event, please visit <https://sahof.org/induction-ceremony>.

Suffield Observations

By Andy Sauer

An Untreated Health Condition

A year ago, my elderly mother fell, and the memory care unit where she resides sent her to the emergency room for a CAT scan to rule out a brain bleed.

My mom was packed into an ambulance and transported to a Hartford emergency room, which was insanely busy. Sixteen hours later, she was finally seen by a doctor who ruled out a CAT scan because if she had a brain bleed, she'd be dead.

Last month when the memory care facility sent mom to the ER again, I begged them to send her to a local hospital. It'll be quieter there.

Except, it wasn't.

A patient that I presumed was whacked out of his mind on drugs was acting up and had to be restrained. A husband was complaining to a random staffer that his wife had been waiting to be seen for 12 hours. An elderly patient confused in a darkened room was crying and asking for help. One nurse told us that she had come in before her shift started and was staying well after it ended. Among the beds lined up in the corridor, there was my mom with a split lip.

"It's like this every night," said another nurse. "Word has gotten out about our little hospital, and we have people coming from as far away as Danbury to come here because the wait is shorter than any of the hospitals in between."

According to the American College of Emergency Physicians, 90 percent of ERs around the country routinely report overcrowding. According to the federal government the average ER wait time in Connecticut is tied with New York for the 4th longest.

We clearly are in the midst of a massive untreated health care crisis.

Every social malady that the powers that be perennially choose to kick down the road rather than correct somehow rolls its way into our emergency rooms. Uninsured sick person? ER. Individuals mentally disturbed from the effects of anything from marijuana to crystal methamphetamine? ER. Booming aging population in litigiously paranoid facilities with strict policies for minor injuries. ER.

Our emergency rooms are becoming clogged with cases that are not emergencies but simply possess no other options for care. And, with shortages in post-acute care like skilled nursing facilities or inpatient rehab care, the ER becomes more clogged with patients they are unable to discharge.

Of all the lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic, the one thing lost in the bitter political dialogue was an acknowledgement that our nation's emergency medical system is stretched critically thin. In the past five years, things haven't gotten better, they've gotten worse!

The average person doesn't see the problem day in and day out. A trip to the ER is a rare and bewildering experience. Patients aren't surveying people awaiting care – they're crossing their fingers that the doctor is going to see them next. To them, it's just a really bad day at the ER.

The problem is every day, is getting to be a really bad day, and that can't be good for patients.

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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.

Nov 5

The biennial state election Tuesday, brought out 868 votes, out of the total list of 1,338. Locally there were no contests on, which may be a reason for the less than 65 per cent. of the vote cast. For state senator in the seventh district, Samuel R. Spencer of this town was given a complimentary vote in the home town that put him at the head in number of votes received.

Several sticks of dynamite were found in a lot adjoining the Sacred Heart church on the West Suffield road [now Mountain Road]... by a party of hunters traversing the land, which is also owned by the church, and they notified the authorities. The dynamite had apparently been there for some days and was removed by the officers who placed it in safe keeping while the investigation is being conducted by Officer T. B. Cooney and Selectman Amos B. Crane. Whether or not a sinister meaning can be attached to the find is not known at this time.

The recent damp weather enabled the tobacco growers to take down their crop which is well cured and promises well for the growers. Some sales are already reported.

Nov 12

The officers of the Suffield Fish and Game Association are considering the holding of the annual fox hunt this Fall but no definite plans have yet been made and no positive assurance that it may be held.

Anthony Zabakleskie of Brooklyn, N. Y., has sold to Frances Filip-

cesuk, the thirty-five acre farm in West Suffield known as the Karpinski property, possession to be taken at once.

Nov 19

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 17th the members of the First Baptist church of Zion's Hill, Suffield, with a large company of friends from other parts of the town and from many outside towns and cities, met at the church for the purpose of dedicating a bronze tablet in memory of three of the early ministers who had charge of the church there.... At the close of the service, adjournment was made to the front of the church where the tablet was uncovered and dedicated with appropriate exercises.

The heavy gale of wind Tuesday caused damage which was not discovered until late in several instances. A large chimney on Bridge street owned by John H. Adams collapsed Wednesday, having become loosened during the storm and in falling nearly struck some of the teachers of the Bridge street school who were passing. Some of the bricks in their fall missed two of the teachers who were badly frightened.

Nov 26

The town clock which for several days was stopped by the breaking of a large cable holding the weights, has again been repaired and is ticking and tolling again as usual.

TO RENT: Tenement of five rooms and bath; \$25 per month. Inquire at SPAULDING GARDENS, Suffield.

A Moment in Time

Old Photos Invited from Our Readers



Photo by Roger Loomis

Dedication of the Jesse F. Smith Memorial Forest, May 30, 1959. Center, Jesse receiving a plaque from Robert Borg, chairman of the Town Forest Commission.

Historical Society Events

By Jackie Hemond, Suffield Historical Society

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

Wednesday, November 4 at 10 a.m. at Suffield Volunteer Ambulance:

Polish Heritage Society Meeting. The topic will be the Polish traditions of All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

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 & finished in a hoop with

"JOY" in a star charm in red and blue on white fabric. Free! **RSVP required at rsvphistory@gmail.com**

Saturday and Sunday December 5 and 6 Noon - 4 p.m. King House Museum:

Holidayfest!

The House will be decorated by The Suffield Garden Club.

Papercutting exhibit and demonstration by Landi Hou.

Miniature Exhibit

We are excited about our upcoming exhibit showcasing all kinds of miniatures and are hoping many of you will share your collections with us for the week-

end of December 5 and 6. Miniatures should not be newly manufactured but those with a little age on them. They can include, for example, glass, china or wooden animals or other small things, child-sized or dollhouse-sized tea sets, small furniture, shadow boxes filled with tiny items, small dollhouses, handmade models of various kinds and lots of items we probably haven't thought of. Call Anne Borg at 860 668-7841 with any questions. Items may be dropped off at the King House Museum on any Wednesday morning in November from 10 a.m. -12 noon. ☿

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Suffield Trivia

By Jackie Hemond

Questions derived from "It Happened in Our Town" edited by Paul G. Sanderson, Jr. and "An Anecdotal History of the Suffield Savings Bank 1869-1981" by David H. Johnson

1. What is a calumet?

a. A thick stew or porridge
b. An alarm
c. A tobacco pipe
2. Girls first attended the Connecticut Literary Institute (Suffield Academy) in 1847 but why did the Institute return to an all-boys school in 1872?

a. The girls' building burned down.
b. The male teachers didn't want to teach to girls.
c. Too few girls were enrolled.
3. Calvin Philleo married Prudence Crandall in 1834. Prudence Crandall started the first school led by a white woman to teach African American girls in the United States. The school was in Canterbury, Conn. Her husband was a minister at

a. The First Baptist Church in Suffield
b. The Second Baptist Church in Suffield
c. Newgate Prison in East Granby
4. Was Suffield the first recorded place to grow tobacco?

a. 1750s
b. 1780s
c. 1720s
5. About when did Suffield start shipping tobacco to England?

a. 1750s
b. 1780s
c. 1720s
6. In 1869, the Suffield Savings Bank was established. In its charter it stipulated the amount of money which could be accepted as a deposit from any individual or corporation in any one year. What was the amount?

a. \$1,000
b. \$800
c. \$400
7. Byron Loomis (1831-1896) was a Suffield native and the third president of the Suffield Savings Bank. He was a cigar manufacturer, a promoter of the Conn Western Railroad (later Central New England) and owned an interest in a paper mill on Paper Street. He was wealthy and was a large contributor to what two entities in town?

a. The Second Baptist Church
b. The First Congregational Church
c. Woodlawn Cemetery
8. In 1931, The First Selectman of Suffield stated in the Annual Report, "We now have the largest number of _____ in the history of the town..." What was the word(s) he used?

a. School children
b. Poor
c. Insane

9. Remember S & H green stamps? It was a customer reward program operated by Sperry & Hutchinson from 1896 to the late 1980s. Shoppers filled coupon books with the stamps and were able to redeem them for merchandise. Shoppers would receive stamps at grocery stores, gas stations, department stores and another place in Suffield. What was the Suffield place?

a. Dr. Coates' office
b. Suffield Savings Bank
c. Suffield Pharmacy

tion, education, reliability and continuous improvement. In medical technology, much of the work takes place behind the scenes, supporting physicians, healthcare teams and ultimately patients. Emergency medical services carry many of those same responsibilities in a much more immediate environment. Sync also views community involvement as an important part of its growth. "As Sync continues to grow, we believe being a good community partner should grow along with us," the company said. Healthcare, education, professional development and organizations that make a tangible impact in their communities are especially meaningful to Sync. That philosophy is also

reflected in its Enfield facility, which was designed to support training, meetings, presentations and other opportunities for collaboration. For the company, supporting an organization celebrating a half-century of service carries special significance. "Fifty years of service is an extraordinary milestone," Sync shared. "It represents generations of people choosing to dedicate their time and expertise to their neighbors and their community." There is also a natural parallel between an organization celebrating five decades of established roots in Suffield and a growing company now working to establish deeper roots of its own in the region. "We are proud to help celebrate what SVAA has built over the past five decades, and we hope to build the same kind of meaningful and lasting presence in this region in the years ahead." Sync Biotech will help welcome guests to the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association's 50th Anniversary Gala as the event's Welcome Reception Sponsor on Saturday, November 21. The Gala will bring together current and former members, community partners, supporters and friends to celebrate SVAA's history and the generations of people who have contributed to 50 years of service. Tickets available at <https://svaa26.auctria.events>. ☘

Answers

1. c. A tobacco pipe smoked by Native Americans.

2. a. The girls' building burned down. The school became a co-educational institution again in 1974.

3. b. and c. are correct. He served as a minister at the 2nd Baptist Church in the mid-1820s, and Newgate Prison about the same time.

4. No, that distinction goes to a 1640 record in Windsor, CT.

5. a. 1750s. The earliest record was in 1753.

6. c. \$400

7. b. First Congregation-al Church and c. Woodlawn Cemetery are correct.

8. c. Insane. The entire sentence was, "We now have the largest number of insane in the history of the town, doubtless due to the excessive speed at which we live and our cost for this item is correspondingly high."

9. b. Suffield Savings Bank. Starting in September 1964, depositors were given 1,000 green stamps with each deposit of \$50. Evidently the program caused some problem when customers demanded a strip of 400,00 stamps for depositing \$20,000. The strip of stamps was 300 yards long!

SVAA Neighbor

Continued from page 6
business that happens to operate here." Although a medical technology company and an emergency medical service operate in different areas of healthcare, Sync saw common ground between the organizations. "SVAA has spent 50 years being there for community members when they need help most. Supporting that kind of service was an easy decision for us," the company shared. "We have tremendous respect for the professionals and volunteers who dedicate their time, expertise and energy to caring for others." The two organizations also share an emphasis on prepara-

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Town News You May Not Know

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

**Board of Finance—
September 14, 2026**

Retirement Commission update from Treasurer Kacy Colston - The Retirement Commission has been having active discussions regarding the possibility of transferring pension liabilities to third parties. The Commission will conduct a financial valuation to help it understand the risks of paying someone to assume the pension risk and the associated costs. It is expected the Retirement Commission will forward a recommendation to the Board of Finance.

**Board of Selectmen—
September 16, 2026**

First Selectman Moll invited Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning and Development, to address the Board regarding the request that Suffield be added to the federal Highlands Conservation Act region. Mr. Hawkins recommended that the Town move forward with the request. He explained that inclusion would make the Town eli-

gible for federal funding for conservation projects without creating any new regulatory requirements. Selectman Harrington moved to adopt the resolution formally requesting that Suffield be added to the federal Highlands Conservation Act region and to authorize the Director of Planning and Development to forward the resolution to DEEP. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Economic Development
Commission—
September 17, 2026**

Economic Development Specialist Chad Kuzontkoski reported that completed projects from TIF grants include Zantos' outdoor patio and indoor flooring at Suffield Village.

Permanent Building Commission & Board of Education Joint Special Meeting—September 17, 2026

Board of Education Business Manager Eric Remington provided an update on several ongoing school projects in the absence of Larry Plano:

- At A. Ward Spaulding Elementary School, the brick repointing and lintel repair project is nearing bidding, with Eagle Environmental working with Silver Petrucelli on final bid documents. The Spaulding bathroom renovation is anticipated to go out

to bid in February, with design and environmental work underway. The building will be taken offline during the summer, requiring alternate arrangements for Parks and Recreation and summer pre-K programs. The Board of Education welcomed PBC review of the bid documents prior to issuance.

- The High School roof replacement contract with Gold Seal Roofing has been finalized, with work expected to begin within 60 days. Despite potential winter weather concerns, the contractor anticipates completing the initial work and weatherproofing before winter conditions become problematic. A special inspector has been engaged to ensure compliance with manufacturer requirements.
 - The High School HVAC project is substantially complete, with commissioning and retro-commissioning underway. The system is providing heat and air conditioning, with a few remaining Carrier items and HVAC balancing still to be addressed. The High School first-floor flooring project is complete, with all planned flooring replaced.
- Tecton Architects presented the three Middle School construction alternatives: See Section Four of this month's paper for more details. ☼



Photo by Kathy Dunai

Suffield Winter Farmers' Market

By Ellie Binns

Back by popular demand this Suffield Winter Farmers' Market will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Market is held indoors at the Large Animal Facility (LAF) in the northeast corner of the high school parking lot (behind the greenhouse) at 1060 Sheldon Street in West Suffield. As always, we will be hosted by the Agriscience program and they will have their wreaths and seasonal décor available for sale as well as some of their animals and displays of their projects.

Our vendors will feature local vegetables, fruit, pork, beef, chicken eggs, and honey all from the local area, baked goods, jams, herbs, floral arrangements, hand crafted soaps, wooden crafts, knitted and crochet items as well as

other crafts from local artisans.

Start December off by supporting local. It's a great way to beautify your home while supporting the Agriscience program here in Town. This is the only winter market of the season so don't miss out on a chance to stock up! It's a great community event for buying local and supporting our farmers and Agriscience students.

Check out our Facebook page – Suffield Farmers Market for a list of vendors and more details

**Market hours are from
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

For more information please contact Ellie Binns at Suffield Planning and Zoning (860)668-3848 or ebinns@suffieldct.gov. Visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SuffieldFarmersMarket ☼

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Suffield Community Aid

By Mary Curtin, MSW
Director
860-668-1986



Help Us Meet Rising Need!

We will be sending out our SCA's annual appeal letter in the mail at the end of this month. The money raised supports core services and makes a direct difference in the lives of Suffield residents. Please support our campaign at any funding level you can by donating by mail or on our website. We can't accomplish our goals without you! Visit our website to read our annual report, learn about our programs or make a donation. www.suffieldcommunityaid.org

What SCA is Spotlighting this Month: Kindness Grant Applications Open:

The Meghan Voisine Fund opened applications for "Kindness Matters" grants in October. The Meghan Voisine Fund has been established by Suffield Community Aid to provide individuals and organizations with an opportunity to demonstrate or facilitate acts of kindness, friendship and inclusion within our town. Applications are due December 4. For more information or to get an application, please contact Mary at Suffield Community Aid: (860) 668-1986 or maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org

People & Pet Food Drive at the Polls to benefit the SCA Food Pantry:

SCA volunteers will be at the election polls (Suffield

Middle School) on Tuesday, November 3 from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.. We are especially in need of small bags of dog/cat food, paper goods, snacks, condiments, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. Cash and grocery gift cards are also welcome donations at ANY TIME of year.

Are You in Need of a Little Holiday Cheer? Apply for SCA's Holiday Basket Program: SCA is coordinating the Thanksgiving and Holiday Basket Program for financially qualified Suffield residents. Residents wishing to receive help for the holidays are encouraged to call SCA: 860-668-1986.

We need volunteers for the Friendly Visitor Program! Suffield Community Aid's Friendly Visitor Program is looking for volunteers that enjoy socializing and making new friends. Volunteers are matched with an adult who is homebound or isolated 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:

Applications Open for CT's Energy Assistance Program: These government programs help offset the winter heating costs for financially eligible households. Please contact SCA to apply at 860-668-1986. More information on eligibility is available at www.ct.gov/staywarm

Parkinson's Peer Support Group: The next meeting is scheduled for November 10 from 11 a.m. – 12

p.m. at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) and will include a pizza lunch. Jessica Ackerman, MSCCC-SLP, the founder of Speak Steady, the Parkinson's Voice Reset Program, will be a guest speaker. Jessica is the founder of a simple science-backed technique that will result in a stronger voice and clear speech. Call Lauren at SCA: 860-668-1986 to register your attendance.

SCA Seeks Residents for Priority Emergency Response List:

We are updating our list of residents who would benefit from a check-up call during a town or state-wide emergency. Please contact SCA at 860-668-1986.

Are you paying too much for Medicare? Open Enrollment from October 15 through December 7 is your chance to check and change your coverage. SCA's trained, unbiased volunteer is available by appointment to help you sort it out. Give us a call to schedule your appointment.

We Have Durable Medical Equipment: SCA maintains a large medical loan closet of durable medical equipment for Suffield residents at no cost. Stop in or give us a call if you or a loved one could benefit from a short-term or permanent loan.

Housing Repair Assistance Program: Suffield Community Aid's Housing 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 ☞



Photo by Beth Sheridan
Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and VFW for donating the proceeds from their Poker night to provide support to Suffield veterans. From left to right: Bill Moryto, VFW Commander, Mary Curtin, Suffield Community Aid and Mike Voisine, Knights of Columbus.

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)

- 100 N Main St, Suffield (Second Baptist Church)
- in the parking lot behind the church
- Every other Tuesday at 1 p.m.
- See 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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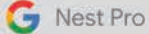
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Suffield Native Makes Good!

By Carl Casinghino

As we gear up for the holiday season at the end of the year, a favorite outing for many families is to go to the movies to check out one of the new releases designed for younger viewers (and hopefully with lots of details that make for enjoyable adult viewing as well!). Among the slate of family-friendly films in upcoming months, one features a beloved classic story that is getting a brand-new, first time full-length animated version: *The Cat in the Hat*. What moviegoers in Suffield might be surprised to learn is that one of the people responsible for bringing 2026's *Cat in the Hat* to the screen is Suffield native Zachary Anderson, who served as a Production Supervisor on the movie.

In his work, Zach oversees the daily operations of the Visual Development department, which includes a team of close to 20 creators designing all of the art that is visible in each and every frame of *The Cat in the Hat*. To develop the wide-ranging abilities necessary to oversee this work, Zach has built on an extensive range of experiences in filmmaking, from his earliest days at Suffield High School, to his studies at Em-

erson College in Boston and through professional experiences as a Casting Assistant, Production Assistant and now Production Supervisor.

In fact, Zach was already showing many of these qualities needed to find success in the high-pressure work of a producer right at Suffield High School. He and a close-knit group of friends produced numerous shorts for the school, and Zach was at the core of the first-ever lip dub at SHS, a music video that involved the entire school in 2011. Zach then moved on to Emerson where he found that he was drawn to production management, and he even produced a senior thesis film that was set in Suffield, arranging for a substantial film shoot right at SHS.

After earning a BFA in Film Production at Emerson, Zach went right into the hard work of trying to find breaks in the challenging field of film production. Following internship opportunities in Los Angeles, he and his Broadway-oriented girlfriend Ari decided to move back east to New York City (where they are still living, now a married couple). He was able to find a start in the entertainment industry working in casting for back-

ground talent in New York City, and then he made his first big break by getting hired as a Production Assistant at Blue Sky Studios for the movie *Nimona*, during which time he moved up to the position of Production Coordinator.

His time at Blue Sky came to an end when that studio in Greenwich, Connecticut (famous for the *Ice Age* movies) was purchased by Disney and subsequently shut down. Zach was able to make a move to Nickelodeon where he worked as a Production Supervisor on the *Sandy Cheeks* movie, a *SpongeBob* spinoff. After seeing that movie through its entire process from development to release and working at Nickelodeon for close to 3 years, Zach moved over to Warner Brothers Pictures Animation to work on *The Cat in the Hat*.

As Zach oversaw and coordinated the work on characters, sets, props, graphics and even how scenes are "lit" with digital lights through CGI programs, he found a particular satisfaction in knowing that he was working on a project based on a creation with origins very close to home, by Springfield native Dr. Seuss. It is also a distinct pleasure for him that *The Cat*



Photo submitted by the author

Zach Anderson stands next to the poster for a new release of *The Cat in the Hat* in which he served as Production Supervisor.

in the Hat will have a full theatrical release, being seen by families going out to the movies together, experiencing this movie on a wide screen in an expansive darkened theater.

Viewers from Suffield will want to take their time to note the name "Zachary Joel" (Zach's first and middle names, which he uses as a film professional) in the credits to *The Cat in the Hat* as one of the department heads in Production Management. Currently, Zach is working as Art Production Supervisor on an exciting new project at Sky-

dance Animation after spending a few months developing a project at Netflix Animation Studios. Skydance Animation East has offices in Stamford from which Zach can oversee a global production between centers in Madrid, Spain and Hollywood, and this new project - whose identity is still a secret - is targeted for a worldwide release in 2028! So, stay tuned for the reveal on that project's title and for further upcoming adventures in the moviemaking career of Suffield native Zachary Joel Anderson. ☿

Dowd Realty Spotlight on Suffield

Celebrate the Holidays

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Join in the fun of an event designed to bring us closer this season through the joy of shared song! A live stream link will be provided next month along with details on how Suffield by the River and the Senior Center are working to create easy access for all.

DEC
12

Suffield
Alight!

Schools of Thought

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

Kindness Grants Open to All of Suffield

By Patti and Mike Voisine
The Meghan Voisine Fund was established at Suffield Community Aid in memory of our daughter, Meghan, to provide individuals, groups and organizations with an opportunity to demonstrate or facilitate acts of kindness, friendship and inclusion within our town. This year, in her honor, the grants are now open to members of the community as well as to students and organizations who propose and complete a project or host an activity that benefits the community of Suffield.

For applications, please contact Suffield Community Aid at (860)668-1986 or contact maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org.
Last year, we had another successful cycle of Meghan Voisine Kindness Matters Grants. Applications were released in the fall to students, teachers, and youth organizations in Suffield. Criteria for submitting the projects included the promotion of kindness, friendship, connection and inclusion. These grants honor the life of our daughter, Meg, and we are proud to have funded several projects over the past school year.

In support of Teacher of the Year Heather Goldstein’s message at convocation last Fall... “You can’t teach student’s minds unless you’ve captured their hearts”, we funded t-shirts that read “Heart before Mind”. These t shirts were given to all staff to wear during the school year. Along with the Kindness Matters t-shirts purchased two years ago, this was another way for staff to spread our message within the school environment.

At Suffield Middle School 7th and 8th graders continued to provide messages of appreciation and kindness to staff who were grateful for their efforts to bring sunshine to their day.

At McAlister the Empathy in Action project supported the Responsive Classroom Model which includes the CARES competencies, (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-control) used in the social-emotional learning program at the school. The schoolwide project supported the “E” for empathy by helping students understand and appreciate the diverse ways that people experience the world. The guests from Spectrum Unplugged included a



Photo submitted by the authors
Kindness Matters stickers designed by the fifth graders at MIS.

group of individuals with autism, their family members and professionals who share their personal experiences about living with autism. The panel offered authentic voices from people experiencing life in society in challenging ways. The group was open and honest and showed the students how important it is to show kindness, respect and inclusion to all. The panel answered questions from students who were very interested in understanding their perspectives.

We replenished supplies to the Kindness Club Food Pantry previously established at McAlister School to help students who are in need of

snacks and materials.
Fifth Grade Student Council came through again this year with a Kindness Matters sticker project. The council designed kindness messages which were then made into stickers and given out to all students and staff at McAlister. They became available at parent events and were displayed all over the school providing a visible reminder of the need for kindness.

The Meghan Voisine Grant purchased all the books for the “One Book One Community” program at McAlister designed to create a shared reading experience within the school community and this year the program included 21 senior citizens to become part of that experience. The book selection was *Tree, Table, Book* by Lois Lowry. Every household received a copy to read together. Throughout the six-week experience, classrooms engaged in discussions and activities that promoted and enriched the shared reading experience.

Kate Tini, a senior at the High school, continued the Pen Pal project which built connections between generations by bringing together students and senior citizens to connect and share experiences through the art of letter writing.

The Suffield High School Lacrosse Team, for the third year, hosted a Kindness Matters/Morgan’s Message dedication game. The project sup-

ports mental health in our community specifically for student athletes, and sends the important message that mental health is as important as physical health.

The Grant Committee would like also to congratulate Maya Costello and Dymond Nelson as the recipients of the Meghan Voisine Kindness Matters Scholarship. This scholarship is not applied for by the student, but is awarded to a student who has been nominated by a teacher or staff member. The criteria is a student who consistently embodies qualities like compassion, generosity, empathy and respect to others.

We were pleased to be a contributor to the first “Suffield Reads” program, a community program which read the works of Kwame Alexander and culminated with a visit and discussion from the author himself.

We are so grateful for all the support and beautiful acts of kindness that Suffield students and teachers brought to our community. Their passion to do beautiful things for their peers, students and our community is something that we should all commend.

We look forward to this fall when applications for the Meghan Voisine Kindness Grants will be opened again and hope that our community, students and organizations will continue to keep this beautiful movement going. We hope you will apply!!! ☘



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Schools of Thought

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

Facilities and Programs for Suffield Schools

By the Suffield Board of Education

Our schools serve students with a wide range of needs, and supporting them means continually looking at both the environments where they learn and the services available to them. This month, we're sharing updates on plans for Suffield Middle School and a new partnership expanding therapeutic support for students at McAlister Intermediate School and Suffield Middle School.

Why build a modern middle school?

A school is more than a building. Its design affects how students learn, how teachers teach and how safe and comfortable everyone feels throughout the school day. Research shows that factors such as natural light, air quality, temperature and classroom design can influence student learning and well-being.

Here are some of the potential benefits of a modern school facility:

- **Improved learning environments:** Research from the University of Salford found that classroom design accounted for up to 16% of the variation in learning progress among primary school students. Good lighting, air quality, temperature control and acoustics all help create an environment where students can focus and learn.
- **Safety and accessibility:** Modern facilities can better support accessibility, security and student well-being, with

spaces designed to help students feel safe, included, and connected.

- **Energy efficiency:** Modern heating, cooling, lighting and water systems can reduce energy use and operating costs while creating more comfortable learning environments.
- **Spaces for today's education:** Flexible classrooms, science labs, technology spaces and areas for small-group instruction help schools support different learning needs and adapt as educational practices evolve.

For Suffield Middle School, these benefits are especially relevant. The Facilities Master Plan identified aging infrastructure, accessibility needs and limitations in the current educational layout. Addressing these needs is an opportunity to create a facility that better supports students and staff for decades to come.

Expanding support for students through our ESS partnership

One of the Board of Education's highest priorities is ensuring every student in Suffield receives the individualized support they need to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. This school year, we are pleased to share an important step toward that goal.

Through a partnership with Effective School Solutions (ESS), we have introduced dedicated therapeutic support programs at McAlister Intermediate School and Suffield Middle School. ESS brings specialized clinical ser-

vices directly into our school buildings, working alongside our teachers and staff to support students with complex emotional or behavioral needs.

What makes this program so transformative is its impact on where our students learn. Some students need a level of therapeutic support that goes beyond what our district has traditionally been equipped to provide. In those cases, placement in a specialized program outside Suffield may be necessary. While these placements can provide essential services, they also mean students spend time away from their local schools, classmates and community.

The new ESS programs expand our ability to provide intensive support within Suffield schools when that is the right setting for a student. They may also create opportunities for some students currently attending out-of-district programs to return to their local schools with appropriate support.

There are benefits for the wider community, too. When students can receive the services they need in-district, the Town may avoid some of the tuition and transportation costs associated with out-of-district placements.

We are proud to take this step forward for McAlister Intermediate and Suffield Middle School, ensuring our schools remain places where every child can grow, succeed, and stay connected. ☸

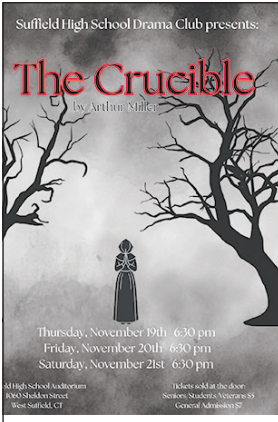
SHS Drama Club Presents *The Crucible*

By Kelly Blais

The Suffield High School Drama Club invites the community to experience Arthur Miller's powerful classic, *The Crucible*. Performances will be held November 19, 20 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Suffield High School Auditorium.

Set during the Salem witch trials of 1692, *The Crucible* follows a community consumed by fear, suspicion and accusations. At the center of the story is John Proctor (Jack Loranger), a farmer forced to confront his past and decide how far he is willing to go to protect his reputation and stand up for the truth. Abigail Williams (Gianella Gonzalez), a young woman with a complicated connection to Proctor, quickly discovers the power her accusations can have over the people of Salem. As fear spreads, her actions set in motion events that become increasingly difficult to control. John's wife, Elizabeth Proctor (Rebekah Urquhart) must navigate the consequences of her husband's past while remaining true to her own principles.

Other central characters include Reverend Parris (Lillian Macsata), Salem's minister, whose concern for his reputation adds to the community's tension; Reverend Hale (Lincoln Eisenhaure), an expert in witchcraft who arrives confident in his ability to identify



evil; and Judge Danforth (Jack Tautic), the powerful official overseeing the trials.

Although the events of this production took place more than 300 years ago, Miller's story continues to challenge audiences to consider what can happen when fear becomes more powerful than facts.

The production showcases the dedication and talent of more than three dozen Suffield High School students both on-stage and behind the scenes. The Drama Club is excited to bring this challenging and thought-provoking work of American theater to the Suffield community.

The SHS Drama Club is also proud to give back to the community through the production. Each night, a donation will be collected to benefit Suffield Community Aid, supporting its efforts to assist members of the local community. Please bring canned or goods to be donated prior to Thanksgiving. ☸

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Troop 260 Celebrates Newest Eagle Scout

By Krystal Holmes

Troop 260 is excited to congratulate Ethan Boldt on earning the rank of Eagle Scout—an achievement that represents years of dedication, leadership and adventure. Troops 260 and 262 celebrated Ethan’s accomplishment at an exceptionally well-attended and enjoyable Court of Honor on September 19 at the Suffield VFW.

Ethan joined Scouting as a Cub Scout, crossing over to Troop 260 in February 2020. Despite beginning his Scouting journey during the disruptions of COVID, Ethan made the most of every opportunity, accomplished great things and always did so with a smile on his face and a willingness to help those around him.

Ethan’s scouting journey is an impressive one. He has earned the Arrow of Light, accumulated an impressive five palms and received the National Outdoor Achievement Award for Camping. At the close of every Troop meeting Ethan is known for saying, “If anyone needs anything for your uniform please see me after the meeting.” Commitment and leadership are central to Ethan’s moral fiber. He has served as Quartermaster, Secretary, Patrol



Photo by Helene Boldt
Ethan Boldt, Troop 260’s newest Eagle Scout

Leader and ultimately Senior Patrol Leader. Ethan’s training includes Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops and National Youth Leadership Training. Ethan is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s National Honor Society and a founding member of Venturing Crew, 261.

Adventure has been a defining part of Ethan’s Scouting experience. He has had multiple canoe expeditions on the Allagash Waterway and rivers throughout Connecticut, cave exploration trips, long-distance hikes, scenic bike rides and international adventures to Italy and Iceland. In addition to troop activities Ethan is very active in the Order of the Arrow and is a regular volunteer for induction ceremonies and

other events. He attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 2024.

Ethan’s curiosity and excitement to learn is perhaps best reflected in his merit badge record: he earned the 13 required Eagle badges plus an additional 32 electives—far exceeding the 21 badges needed for the rank. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Ethan led a team in restoring one of the atriums at Spaulding Elementary School. The project involved cleaning out and re-

pairing the space, replanting the atrium and transforming it into a space that students and teachers can use and enjoy for many years to come.

Ethan still finds time to excel in life outside of scouts. Ethan is a senior at Suffield High School, has been active in theater since he was four years old, and has been broadcasting school news since 7th grade. Ethan is a regular anchor on the SHS Morning Update. After graduating, Ethan plans on attending college to

study Earth Science with a minor in Broadcasting.

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

Suffield Agriscience FFA Holiday Sale

By Gabriella Slocum

As the colder weather approaches, an exciting lineup of seasonal festivities are right around the corner. Mark your calendars! Our annual Suffield FFA Holiday Sale is running from December 2 - 5 in the Large Animal Facility located behind Suffield High School, with a wonderful opportunity to browse and shop for custom, handcrafted seasonal items including wreaths, holiday boxes, kissing balls and birch reindeer. The holiday shop hours are as follows: December 2 (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.), December 3 (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.), December 4 (8 a.m.

– 6 p.m.), December 5 (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.). The highlight of the week will be our popular Make and Take Night on Wednesday, December 2 and Thursday, December 3 from 6 - 8 p.m. Participants will have the chance to craft and take home their very own custom holiday wreath, holiday boxes or kissing balls with the help of our students. To cap off the week, we will be selling our remaining inventory at the Suffield Winter Farmers Market held on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Large Animal Facility at Suffield High School.

In order to make these hands-on workshops and the Holiday Sale a success, we are collecting items in order to complete our mission. We are currently seeking donations of birch wood, fresh greens, pinecones and winter berries. Suffield FFA would greatly appreciate your help to create holiday memories for our community by donating any of these materials. Our flyer and ordering information will be located on the Suffield Agriscience website. Please contact our agriscience office at (860)668-3817 or email mmercik@suffield.org for more information or to place your order. ☘

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Shop Local with Suffield's Small Business Passport

By Chad Kuzontkoski

The holiday season is just around the corner, and the Town of Suffield is once again encouraging residents to shop local with the return of the annual Small Business Saturday Passport Program.

Over the past several years, the Small Business Passport has become a popular holiday tradition in Suffield, bringing residents into local shops, restaurants and other participating businesses while providing a fun incentive to explore everything our business community has to offer.

The program is simple: Between the dates of November 28 and December 12 pick up a Small Business Passport by visiting participating Suffield businesses and receive a stamp when you make a qualifying purchase. Collect three stamps and submit your completed passport to any of these businesses to be entered into the annual prize drawing.

Each year, the program has continued to grow, with strong participation from both residents and local businesses. More importantly, it provides an opportunity to remind everyone just how much of an impact shopping locally can have.

When you make a purchase from a participating Suffield retailer, grab lunch or dinner at a local restaurant, or support one of our many service businesses, more of those dollars remain right here in our community. Supporting local businesses helps maintain a vibrant business community, creates jobs and con-

tributes to the character that makes Suffield such a great place to live.

Bigger and Better Prizes for 2026!

This year, we're making the Passport even more exciting with bigger and better prizes for our participants with multiple \$100 gift card winners!

Every completed passport provides an opportunity to win, so residents are encouraged to get out, discover new businesses and revisit some of their longtime local favorites throughout the holiday shopping season.

Whether you're shopping for gifts, meeting friends for a meal, picking up something for yourself or simply exploring a business you've never visited before, every stop is another opportunity to support the people who own and operate businesses right here in Suffield.

The Small Business Passport isn't just about winning a prize. It's about celebrating our local businesses and recognizing the important role they play in our community.

Shop local. Support Suffield. And don't forget to get your Passport stamped!

Additional information, including participating businesses, Passport details, deadlines and prize information, will be available on the Town of Suffield website at SuffieldCT.gov.

We look forward to another successful year and hope everyone will join us in making the 2026 Small Business Passport our biggest year yet! ☼

Book Review

By Jane Shipp



The Things We Never Say
By Elizabeth Strout
2026, 207 pgs. Random House

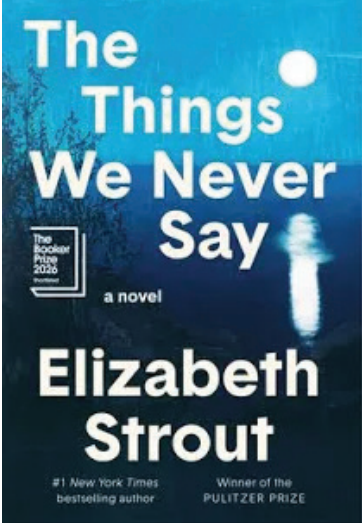
This is not another Olive Kitteridge novel, as many of Strout's books have been; it is a bit of a departure from her usual work in its content, but not in its style, which is always a pleasure to read. The main character is Artie Dam, a high school history teacher beloved by students and colleagues. He loves his work and is very successful at it. His wife is a brisk, no-nonsense, rather cold sort of woman, a contrast in personality to Artie, whom she perceives as slightly weak and ineffectual. Their son Rob is troubled by an automobile accident in which his girlfriend was killed while he was driving.

There is an array of other interesting characters in the book, and soon the reader discovers that many, if not most, of them have something to conceal. Even Artie himself, who on the surface of his daily life seems to be a straightforward, contented person, has anguish buried beneath that surface. As the plot develops, nearly all the characters could be described similarly. Some, including Artie, contemplate suicide. Some carry

out such a plan. Throughout the book Artie tries to ask various friends and acquaintances the same question: "Is there such a thing as free will?" He never gets a full answer, but his son Rob comes close: "I think we have it, but not nearly as much as we think we do."

Artie's positive influence, unwittingly brought to bear on others, is clearly important--even in some cases a life changer. Among Artie's students are two young people who learn invaluable lessons from him. Friends love him and depend on him; his son keeps a distance from Artie not because he doesn't love his father, but because he too holds a dreadful secret and can't face his kind and honorable parent. Later the young man will have another secret, one which could affect his parents' life even more profoundly than the first one. "Part of being human," says Artie to his class one day, "is realizing how private our fears are." We all suffer fears that no one knows about, as the author points out.

Finally, Rob decides to write a letter to the parents of the girl friend who died in the automobile accident. It is a turning point for him and perhaps for them too.



And toward the end of the book Artie realizes that all people "hold within themselves a vast, unknown universe." You have to give to one another whatever you can, says the author. In other words, free will is an illusion; you just have to cope with what happens to you. Although it is tempting to look for happy answers in books like this one, and although there are moments of positive outcomes in the plot, the overall conclusion is a sad but realistic one. It is not negative, only realistic, to learn to face the ups and downs of life with as much equanimity as possible and to help others to do the same whenever you can. We are all familiar with the old quote, "No man is an island;" in this book the hero learns that every man is an island. ☼

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Kent Memorial Library

Director's Corner



By Amy Vessella,
Library Director

Giving Thanks!

November is National Gratitude month, making it the perfect time to reflect on some of the things the Library has to be grateful for.

First and foremost, we are grateful for this amazing community. We love seeing your faces and being there for you when you need us! You are a big part of what makes our work meaningful and rewarding.

Like any community institution, we receive our fair share of praise and criticism. While praise is always nice to hear, we recognize that constructive criticism helps us grow. We appreciate that community members feel comfortable coming to us to discuss the issues on their minds. These conversations give us opportunities to listen, share information and address con-

cerns. So, thank you to our community!

We are also grateful to the Town of Suffield for its institutional and financial support. The Library doesn't operate in a vacuum, and we rely on many Town departments, boards and commissions to keep things running smoothly. We would not be able to provide the level of service our community deserves without the support and collaboration of the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, The Kent Memorial Library Commission, the Board of Finance and Finance Department, the IT Department, Public Works, the Suffield Police Department, the Suffield Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, Youth Services, the Suffield schools and the many "behind-the-scenes" staff that help keep our town running. Thank you, Town of Suffield!

Last, but certainly not least, we are grateful for the community groups and individuals who support our initiatives, collection, and programs.

Some of you may not know that the Friends of Kent Memorial Library fund the vast majority of our programming. They are able to do this, in large part, through proceeds from their very successful and popular annual book sale. So, please keep them in mind

when you're looking to donate books! They accept donations each month on a prescheduled collection day.

The Suffield Public Library Foundation also raises and distributes funds to support the Library's programs, events and facility improvements. Most recently, the Foundation contributed just over a third of the funding for the atrium renovation project. Its financial support, along with contributions from the Town and the Kent Memorial Library Commission, helped turn that vision into a reality.

The Rotary Club of Suffield also plays an active role in supporting our initiatives. You can see its contributions throughout the Library, especially when sitting on the beautiful atrium benches or enjoy the chess table.

Many other community groups and individuals support the Library in a variety of ways. While there isn't room in this article to recognize each one by name, please know how deeply we appreciate all that you do. Thank you!

As National Gratitude month gets underway, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the things you're grateful for. I know I will.

Library Activities

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

KML will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day and November 26 through 28 for Thanksgiving

Movies at the Library

KML is showing movies again! Visit our website at www.suffield-library.org for showtimes.

Special thanks to the Friends of Kent Memorial Library for funding these and other programs.

All Ages or Family Programs

The Nightmare Before Christmas Sing-along
Monday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.

Spooky Season's not over yet! Come watch the stop-motion animated classic, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, and sing along!

Decorate an Ornament
Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to noon

Drop in / While Supplies Last

Come decorate an ornament at the library. Do you put up a Christmas tree? Did you know Hessian soldiers brought us the Christmas tree during the American Revolution? In 1777, former Hessian soldier, Hendrick Roddemore, was the first person to share the tradition of the Christmas Tree in Connecticut -- and he lived next door in Windsor Locks!! Sponsored by the Friends of Kent Memorial Library.

Dino-rama Competition

Sign Up (and Dino Distribution) began Monday, October 26 and is ongoing.

To celebrate Dino-rama, 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. This is an all-ages competi-

tion, and submissions will be judged and winners by their category, kids, family groups or adults.

Diwali Celebration

Wednesday November 4 at 6:30 p.m.

You're invited to Our Diwali Celebration! Join us for a joyful celebration of the festival of lights. Enjoy an Indian dance performance by a local Suffield dance group, sample delicious Indian foods, and take home a goodie bag for your family. No registration required. Come in your brightest smile and festive clothing as we celebrate together!

Thanksgiving Food Basket Collection

Check in at the library for a list of needed items. In partnership with Suffield Community Aid.

Wish Tree

KML, in partnership with Suffield Community Aid,

is supporting local families during this holiday season. Unleash the magic of the holidays by granting a family's wish from the giving tree. Stop by and pick a wish from the tree, we will be collecting the gifts through December 13.

Programs for Adults

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 five reads of all time. Join us as we read and discuss Dolly's favorite works. Copies of the books are available at the library.

Rise to the Challenge Book Club -- Monday, November 16 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 will be *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins. Copies of the book will be 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, November 17 at 7 p.m.: *Dorothy Must Die* by Danielle Paige

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 November 19 at 1 p.m.

Title to be announced. Normally, this would be the last Thursday of the month, but it is early due to Thanksgiving. Books are available at the library. No registration required.

KML Hosts B.J. Smith's Farewell Book Discussion Series

Tuesday, November 10 at 2 p.m.: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

KML invites readers to the final book discussion for the

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Continued on Page 23

Kwame Reads Suffield

By Anna Cierocki,
Head of Reference,
Kent Memorial Library

After nearly a year of planning, Suffield Reads Kwame concluded with a visit from New York Times bestselling author Kwame Alexander on Thursday, October 1.

The aim of the Suffield Reads Kwame initiative was to bring town residents together through storytelling, a goal fully realized that evening as readers of all ages filed into the Suffield High School's auditorium. A joint project between Suffield Schools and Kent Memorial Library, librarians provided advanced programming in the forms of book discussions, poetry assignments, and even a birthday party in honor of Mr. Alexander.

Anticipation for the event was heady. "Kids have been excitedly telling me about his books all summer! He's a great writ-



Kwame Alexander spoke to the audience about his background and his many books

er and an amazing presenter: I laughed, I cried," comments Wendy Taylor, Children's Librarian at Kent Memorial Library.

Mr. Alexander spoke for nearly an hour. He described his career highs and lows, including the story of winning an Emmy award for the television production of *The Crossover* and the series' subsequent cancellation. He also shared the inspiration for several of his other works.

He then transitioned

to taking questions from kids in the audience, fielding queries on a variety of subjects, including his favorite books.* Mr. Alexander challenged one student to participate in a poetry demonstration and rewarded her efforts with a bag bearing the logo of Kwame Alexander Books, the author's new publishing imprint with Sourcebooks.

After a quick break to take a group photo with event organizers, Mr. Alexander moved on to signing books. Despite a long line of attendees, he graciously signed something for everyone, with occasional pauses for more photo opportunities.

"Enthusiasm around the event was contagious," says Joy Tierney, Library Media Specialist at McAlister Intermediate School. "And the fever hasn't died down. Kwame books continue to fly off the shelves."

The event organizers would again like to extend special thanks to the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools, the Suffield Library Foundation, the Friends of the Kent Memorial Library, and the Meghan Voisine Kindness

Matters Foundation for making this event possible through their generosity and financial support.

**Fox in Socks* by Dr. Seuss is highly recommended. ☸



Photo by Beth Chafetz

Suffield Reads Kwame culminated with a stimulating evening with author Kwame Alexander. Event organizers Anna Cierocki (KML), Tess McCool (SHS) Hollie Garrity (KML), author Kwame Alexander, Joy Tierney (MIS) and Kristin Johnson (Spaulding) were instrumental in making the evening one to remember. Not pictured Tony Barnette (SMS) and Wendy Taylor (KML)

KML Programs

Continued from page 22
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.

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

Coffee Hour with the Director

Friday November 6 at 10 a.m.

Library Director Amy will host Coffee Hour with the Director on the first Friday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. This informal drop-in gathering is your chance to chat about all things library - share ideas, ask questions, or simply

stop by to say hello! No registration is required, and coffee and a light snack will be provided. We hope to see you there!

Plant a Bulb Lasagna

Monday November 2 at 6:30 pm

Fall may be getting dreary, and winter is just around the corner, so of course it's the perfect time to prepare for Spring blooms! Come and plant your own bulb lasagna in a pot to take home and have beautiful blooms that will last all season long. All materials provided, registration is required.

Kids and Teen Programs Rhyme Time

November 6, 13, and 20 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Drop in. The Friends of Kent Memorial Library gave us money to buy some castanets, new ribbon wands, and more scarves. Thank you, Friends!!

Diwali Craft

Wednesday, November 4 from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Diwali is coming! The festival of lights! After school, stop by to celebrate with a craft and

some Parle G cookies (while supplies last.) If you are here at 6:30 p.m., check out the Indian dance performance!

The Kids Who Read Books Book Club

Thursday, November 19 at 3:30 p.m.

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

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For the Future of Hilltop?

Eileen Moncrief, President,
FOFAH Board of Directors

FOFAH will soon celebrate its 25th anniversary. Founded in 2002, the original goal was to secure the “Big White Dairy Barn” and make it available to the public. Today, FOFAH continues to conserve, maintain and manage the Hilltop Farm property.

We invite you to participate in a Listening Session, “For the Future of Hilltop” help the Board of Directors to plan for Hilltop Farm’s future for the next quarter century. As a community member, we want to know your vision for Hilltop Farm. Imagine with the Board and session leaders what possibilities FOFAH can do to continue as an educational, recreational, and community resource at this historic site.

Each session will consist of a few discussion questions directed by a leader and notetaker. There you can share your observations, visions, experiences, and ideas with FOFAH. Later this year, FOFAH will compile a summary reflecting collective themes and report the findings to the community.

If you’re interested in helping FOFAH shepherd Hilltop Farm into success for the next

Glenn Packard Field Scoreboard Donation

From a press release

Suffield Youth Lacrosse is proud to announce that we are donating a brand new, state-of-the-art scoreboard to the Town of Suffield for use at Packard Field. This will replace the old inoperable scoreboard on site.

Huge shout out to the generosity of: Charlie Soper - Heritage Investment Group, Mike DiLorenzo - Disal Custom, Eric Buckland - Hartland Home Improvement, Andy Johnston - AMJ Construction, John Nadeau - JTN Electrical, Matt Sweeney - Sweeney Trucking, Tyler Moccio, Rayce Bianchi - SJB Lawn Care, and a crew of Suffield HS & Youth Lacrosse Players. Without their expertise and commitment this project could have never happened!

We are grateful for everything this town provides and



Photo provided by Suffield Youth Lacrosse

Left to Right: Cayden Soper, Colin Parker, Brennan Parker, Noah Smith, Charlie Soper, Jaxson Soper, Eric Buckland, Andy Johnston, Matt Hoffman, Mike DiLorenzo, Vinny DiLorenzo, Chris Parker

happy to show our appreciation through this donation. The project is set to be completed

by the end of the Summer and will be ready for Suffield soccer to use this fall season! ☘



Hilltop Farm

25 years, please email us at FOFAH.Listens@gmail.com.

We look forward to your perspective in strengthening FO-

FAH to continue to serve the Hilltop Farm Community. ☘

Lions Club Activities

By Laura Coates

The Suffield Lions Club is busy this fall with the following planned events:

- Saturday November 7 and Sunday November 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Lions 7th Annual Winter Coat Drive** at Suffield Village Market parking lot.
- Saturday December 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Lions Fall Food Drive** at Suffield Village Market parking lot.

Blood Drives: The Lions Club sponsors and volunteers at the monthly Red Cross Blood Drive at the Second Baptist Church, 100 North Main Street, Suffield. You can make appointments ahead of time at: <http://www.redcross-blood.org>. Walk ins are also welcome.

- November 24 noon to 5 p.m.
- December 8 noon to 5 p.m.
- December 28 noon to 5 p.m.

And always there is the focus on vision. **Annual Vision Screenings** will be completed at Spaulding Elementary School, McAlister Middle School and the preschools in town. All year round you can drop off prescription glasses at:

- Sacred Heart Church
- Suffield Senior Center
- CT Vision Associates
- My Eye Dr. Dr Colo’s Office. ☘

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The Final Hoot

Neither Snow, Nor Rain, Nor Windy Weather

By Jackie Hemond

When I met Karen McTaggart, the first thing she said to me was “230”. I was a little confused because our meeting was supposed to be at 1:30, not 2:30. But then she said, “You own chickens, your husband rides a bike around the neighborhood.” And then I realized she was referencing my street address. Karen was my mail carrier, and she admits that she categorizes people by their street number. It’s like a conjuring trick. On a ferry to Martha’s Vineyard, she also amazed a couple who resided on her route.

Karen says she could do her route in her sleep.

Karen has delivered the mail in Suffield for 29 years - actually she has worked for the United States Postal Service for 36 years - but for seven years she subbed and worked part-time in the Southwick post office and the bulk mail center in Springfield which do not count toward her pension. Karen’s pension is on her mind as she is retiring after battling health issues. When she began, she took over Harry Gifford’s route. He did it for 30 years. She walked the center-of-town part of Mountain Road, Bridge Street and

North Main Street. When she developed plantar fasciitis, she bid and won a route on North Street and Mapleton Avenue.

Contrary to the idea that a dog is bad news to mail carriers, she made friends with them, but she also knew who to avoid. Cody was a German Shepherd dog on her route who loved to play ball with her. When he became sick, his owners asked Karen to say goodbye to him. Unfortunately, he died before she could.

During her time on the route, streets and houses were added. A new post office was built. She’s seen babies grow up, go to college and get married. She’s seen dead bodies and witnessed accidents. She grieves when people grow old, sell their house and move away. She also grieves when open farmland and old homes are replaced by new houses. She amuses herself with an app called Gaia GPS, a navigation tool for hiking with a unique feature that indicates the location of houses and buildings in 1900, 1930 and 1960. On her route, she savored the moment. She literally stopped to smell the flowers, watched a hawk soar and enjoyed a beautiful day.



Karen McTaggart

Photo provided by the author

Karen grew up in Russell, Massachusetts, but she lived in Agawam for 20 years. Following her divorce, Karen moved back to Russell to help her dad. She is vice president of the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers, a member of the Russell Historical Commission, the Russell Cemetery Commission and is a representative for the Jacob’s Ladder Scenic Byway and the Hilltown Lions Club.

Karen was stranded in Agawam for a couple of days when the Halloween snowstorm struck in 2011. That night, she was helping with a supper at a church. It was busy. People who had lost

their power came to the supper. Afterward, the storm was raging, so Karen spent the night with a friend. By chance, she had bought underwear and a nightgown that day. During the night, a tree and telephone pole fell down and blocked her car. But “neither rain nor snow” kept Karen from work. Her supervisor picked her up, and they sorted the mail by flashlight. She rarely missed work more than one day of work a year. However, one year she took seven weeks off after being in a car accident that left her in intensive care for three days and five weeks from a peritonsillar infection. She has also been out

of work since October 2025, when she was diagnosed with cancer.

Her advice to new mail carriers is that the route will get easier. The worst days are when it pours or when it’s cold and icy. Those icy days she wore cleats clipped to her boots. Be aware. Care for the adults and children on your route. If something looks suspicious, report it. Once, she loaned her phone to a jogger who spied a suspicious vehicle. She shoveled snow for an elderly woman to get her car out of a drift. Remember, she said, the elderly may be somebody’s grandparent. Her advice to homeowners is to keep mailboxes clear, no ants, no bees, no mud.

She intends to travel her route to say goodbye to the people she knows. Her retirement plans include visiting the birthplace of Brother Thomas Bezanson in Nova Scotia. He was a Benedictine monk and a renowned ceramic artist whose work her in-laws collected. She wants to visit the Flight 93 crash site and other historical sites. She recently met two veterans who walked from Boston to Oregon. She is thinking about driving that route herself. ☘



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PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

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

From Fall Fun to Holiday Magic: Suffield Parks & Recreation Has It All!

By Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, Director of Special Programs

Suffield Parks and Recreation is bustling with activity this fall, offering residents of all ages opportunities to stay active, get creative, build friendships, learn new skills and connect with the community. From youth sports and fitness to creative workshops, business development and social gatherings, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

Our fall lineup includes Soccer, Field Hockey, Cheerleading, Dance for Preschoolers, Fitness for Kids with XGT Fitness, Adult Fitness with Total Body Fitness, our popular Lunchtime Walkers program, Painting Programs, the Suffield Business Series, the Bowling Buddies Bowling Program, Fellowship Nights and our exciting Let Grow Play Club. We are also busy preparing for Halloween activities and the upcoming holiday season!

Let Grow Play Club Takes Off in Suffield!

One of the most exciting additions to Suffield Parks and Recreation is the Let Grow Play Club, an innovative program that encourages children to use their imaginations, develop independence and learn valuable



Photo by Donna Carney-Bastrzycki

Let Grow Program at Spaulding School

life skills through unstructured play.

The program was brought to Suffield Parks and Recreation by local resident, parent and instructor Anna-Kristin Daub-Murphy, who helped introduce the Let Grow concept to our community. Working in partnership with the Suffield Balance Project, Parks and Recreation introduced Let Grow in the spring with a workshop highlighting the benefits of independent, child-directed play. The positive response led to a summer camp offered on Mondays throughout the summer, and now the program is bustling as part of our fall recreation lineup. A key part of Let Grow's summer success was Katie Carson, our

Camp Director, and Ashley Ogurick, a paraprofessional at camp. Together, they helped bring the program to life through our Monday summer camps, introducing children to the benefits of unstructured play and helping lay the groundwork for the program's continued success into the fall.

Designed for children in kindergarten through Grade 6, the Let Grow Play Club provides an unstructured, mixed-age play environment where children take the lead. Rather than following a predetermined activity schedule, children decide what to play, organize their own activities, work through disagreements and discover new ways to have fun together. With limited materials provided, their imaginations become their greatest resource. Anna-Kristin Daub-Murphy and fellow facilitator Ashley Ogurick help make the fall program

a welcoming and supportive experience for participants. Their facilitator-only approach allows children the freedom to direct their own play while maintaining a safe environment. They are present to ensure children's safety and provide first aid when needed, stepping in when necessary but allowing children the opportunity to resolve everyday conflicts independently.

This approach helps children build essential skills, including problem-solving, communication, cooperation, resilience, resourcefulness, confidence and independence. Playing with children of different ages also creates opportunities for leadership, teamwork and new friendships.

Due to the growing interest and enthusiasm surrounding Let Grow, Suffield Parks and Recreation plans to offer another session beginning in November.

The success of Let Grow in Suffield is a wonderful example of what can happen when community members bring forward fresh ideas and Parks and Recreation works with local partners to turn them into meaningful programs. From a spring workshop to a summer camp and now a thriving fall program, Let Grow has quickly become an exciting addition to our offerings.

The Holiday Season Is Just Around the Corner!

As we enjoy all the fun of fall, we are already looking

forward to a wonderful lineup of holiday programs and community celebrations. We cannot wait to welcome families, friends and neighbors to these special events!

Lights, Laughter & Local Holiday Magic in Suffield!

If Hallmark ever needs inspiration for its next holiday movie, we have a suggestion: come to Suffield Alight! From festive celebrations to family traditions, local small businesses and neighbors coming together, our town has everything a holiday movie dreams of — and then some! The difference? Suffield has the real authentic holiday magic — wonderful people, cherished traditions and a community that makes the season truly special!

Save the Date for Suffield Alight!

Get ready to celebrate the season at Suffield Alight on *Saturday, December 12, from 3-7 p.m. on the Suffield Town Green!* This favorite community tradition brings the holiday spirit to life with festive fun, local vendors, unique gifts, and opportunities to support the small businesses that help make our community so special. Gather your family and friends, stroll through the holiday festivities, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season right here in Suffield with Tree Lighting, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Music, Food, Vendors and Fun included!

Continued on Page 27



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

*By Bethany Sullivan
Director's Corner*

As a reminder, our mini bus transportation has moved to a new scheduling program. *You must call in your rides to Marzena by 8 a.m. the prior business day.* If you want a ride on Monday, you must have called by 8 a.m. the Friday before. If we have a long weekend such that we are closed on Monday and you want a ride on Tuesday, you must have called by 8 a.m. the Friday before. Thank you for your understanding.

Due to the success of the **Diabetes Education Program** and the extremely positive participant feedback, we will be hosting a Diabetes Prevention Program. Grant backing from the North Central Connecticut Area Agency on Aging is funding a 26-week class through Monitor My Health, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The class is designed for adults with prediabetes or those at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Here's what participants should know:

- You should pre-register with Bethany.
- * The first class is Friday, November 6 at 10 a.m..
- The program is 26 weeks of 1-hour weekly group classes with post-class exercise.
- The focus is on healthy eating, physical activity, weight management, and reducing type 2 diabetes risk.
- Support/resources include post-class exercise, 1:1 sessions with a Registered Dietitian, a Certified Life-

style Coach, a Certified Fitness Trainer and educational materials.

Lastly, Thanksgiving is coming and I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the staff and volunteers that make the Senior Center the wonderful place it is! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Peter Leclerc | Director of Community Services

Senior Center Lunches

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

Please make reservations by noon the day prior.

Please bring your own container for leftovers.

Menu is subject to change.

Tues, Nov 3 - Open faced Sloppy Joe on garlic bread, salad

Wed, Nov 4 - Baked Caesar chicken, green beans, baked sweet potato

Thurs, Nov 5 - Eggplant parmesan, pasta, salad

Tues, Nov 10 - Two chicken tacos, rice and beans

Wed, Nov 11 - Meatloaf, mashed potato, vegetable, and a roll

Thurs, Nov 12 - French toast casserole, sausage paty, fruit cup

Tues, Nov 17 - Tomato soup, ham and cheese sandwich on wheat, chips

Wed, Nov 18 - Thanksgiving lunch of turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, vegetables, cranberry sauce, and a roll with butter

Thurs, Nov 19 - Manicotti with meatballs and a salad

Tues, Nov 24 - Two hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw

Wed, Nov 25 - Roasted pork, rice, lemon tomato salad

Mini Bus Trips

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

Election Day Voting

Tuesday, November 3 - Pickups begin at 10 a.m.

Lunch at Suffield Pizza

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

Lunch at Lulu's

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

Trip to Yankee Candle & Lunch at Wolfie's

Tuesday, November 17 - Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m.

Shopping at Walmart

Thursday, November 19 - Pickups begin 8:30 a.m.

Lunch at Longhorn

Friday, November 20 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Shopping at Westfarms

Tuesday, November 24 - Pickups begin at 9 a.m.

Senior Center Activities

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

Art Hour

Thursdays 10-11:30 a.m. FREE!

Nov 5 - Decorating Fake Pumpkins w/ Dried Flowers

Nov 12 - Card Making

Nov 19 - Jewelry Making

Tech Help Appointments

2nd Tues of the month, Nov - June, 8:30-10 a.m.

FREE! Register with Bethany to receive one-on-one help during your 20-minute appointment with a trained volunteer from UR Community Cares.

Tech Workshop

2nd Tues of the month, Nov -June - 10-11:30 a.m.

FREE! No registration required. All are welcome. Bring your device! November 10th topic is Smartphones at a Glance with a trained volunteer from UR Community Cares.

Armchair Travel to Ethiopia

Monday, November 16 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

FREE! Virtually traveling to Ethiopia while trying Ethiopian food.

Floral Design Class

Tuesday, November 17 and December 15

Morning class 9-10:00 a.m. Evening class 7-8:00 p.m. \$45/class. Registration required to make these beau-

tiful arrangements. Bring your own shears.

Ethiopian Nature Documentary

Monday, November 23 - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

FREE! Popcorn provided! An opportunity to learn more about the wildlife in Ethiopia's highlands.

Thanksgiving Lunch

Wednesday, November 18 - noon.

\$10 per person—pay Bethany ahead of time to be signed up. If you receive SCA lunch subsidy, it is \$5.

AARP Safe Driver Course

Upcoming Class: Nov 18

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$20 AARP Member; \$25 Non-Member payment by cash or check to the instructor. ☿

Parks & Rec

Continued from page 26

The Holiday Magic Doesn't Stop There!

There's more holiday cheer on the calendar! Join us for Sundaes with Santa on Thursday, December 3, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Suffield Senior Center, where families can enjoy a sweet treat, delicious dinner and make special memories with Santa. It is such a fun way to kick off the holiday season!

On Tuesday, **December 22**, **our Bowling Buddies** will celebrate at their annual Bowling Buddies Holiday Party. It's a special opportunity for our bowlers and volunteers to enjoy the season together and

celebrate the friendships that make this program so wonderful. We will have delicious dinner from Suffield Pizza, music and dancing from DJ Kevin Landolina and so much fun!

Suffield Parks and Recreation is proud to offer programs and events that bring people together throughout the year. During the holidays, those connections become even more meaningful as we support local businesses, welcome families, celebrate inclusion and create memories that make our community shine.

Find upcoming programs, special events, and registration information at suffieldrec.com. We hope to celebrate the season with you! ☿

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*Manager.....Margery Warren
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Jane Shipp,
Bob White, Kerry White,
Renée Wood*

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

Santa is Coming to Suffield, Again!

By Sean Sullivan

You better watch out, you
better not cry, you better not
pout, I'm telling you why
– Santa Claus is coming to
Suffield!

Once again this Christmas season, the Suffield Knights of Columbus & Friends, will escort Santa to visit the great little girls and boys of Suffield. Santa had the pleasure of visiting with over 200 children and their families in Suffield last year and would like to visit them and more in Suffield this year!

While his reindeer stop to graze and rest in some of our town's beautiful fields, Santa will visit homes to bring fun, happiness and memories to those who would like to have him stop by. Be sure to have your camera(s) ready!

The North Pole has confirmed that *Santa will be visiting Suffield during the first*

and third weekends of December, from December 4 – 6 and December 18 – 20. Santa will visit between 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on both weekends. If you are interested in arranging a visit, please fill out the form that is posted @ (www.Suffieldonthegreen/Santa).

Reservations will be taken;
 • For the **first weekend** of December and will end on November 28.

- For the **third weekend** of December and will end on December 12.

- This gives the elves time to plan the routes to the children's homes for the visit and to get back to Mom or Dad as to what time the visit will happen.

- Note that reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, as Santa's visits are limited!! Santa is terribly busy this time of year!



- Additional Santa visitation information will be on the website page.

Your financial support of Santa's visit is appreciated. All net proceeds will benefit the 'CT Children's Hospital and the Meghan Voisine Fund, which benefits Suffield children!

Santa and the Elves
look forward to seeing you
this year!!

On behalf of all the members of the Suffield Knights of Columbus, Santa & the Elves, we wish you a very Blessed, merry and healthy Christmas season!!! ☚

Suffield Land Conservancy Annual Meeting

By Sam Wolcott

The SLC annual meeting will take place on November 8 at 2 p.m. at the Suffield Senior Center. The guest speaker will be Mr. Joseph Grimard.

Mr. Grimard has been a Director of the Land Conservancy for many years and has taught science at the high school level for 34 years. He, with the help and support of many, has worked to create the John and Madeline McClean Outdoor Educational Preserve. The Preserve's

main focus is to educate our community about the wonders of the natural world. Over the years the Preserve has hosted many public events such as a bioblitz, bird, tree, and flower walks along with hundreds of student-driven education opportunities, events, activities and research.

Mr. Grimard will give a short talk via a google slide presentation. This will address the creation, past events, ongoing events and future projects to be held on



Photo submitted by Sam Wolcott

Entrance Sign

the Outdoor Education Preserve property. ☿

Rotary Sand and Salt for Seniors

*By Robert Kleszczewski and
Karl Cicitto*

The Suffield Rotary will once again be delivering sand and salt to seniors in town for the 11th year in a row. This is free of charge and done as part of our way of supporting our Suffield community. Delivery will be on December 5.

If anyone is interested in having sand and salt delivered to their home, please sign up at the Suffield Senior Center or Suffield Community Aid by November 30. Anyone can also email us at kcicitto@cox.net with their name, phone number, address, and any specific de-

livery location (i.e. next to garage, near the front door, etc.)

Anyone in the community interested in volunteering for this event or has general interest in being part of the Suffield Rotary organization, please feel free to join us every other Wednesday at the Suffield Country Club restaurant at 6 p.m. Our next meetings are on Nov. 4 and Nov. 18. We're always welcoming new members looking to become involved with activities supporting the community. You can find us on Facebook for all future dates and who to contact. ☘



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Hauling	
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State Line Propane. . . .	20
Troiano.	26
Power Equipment	
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Real Estate Agents	
Artoli Realty (Kuzontkoski).	31
Chestnut Oak (Agents).	25
Chestnut Oak (Colli).	20
Coldwell Banker (Banak).	7
Coldwell Banker (D’Angelo).	18
Coldwell Banker (King).	27
Dowd Realty Group.	17
Street Side Realty.	8

Suffield Economic Development.	4
Restaurants	
Suffield Pizza.	14
Zantos.	3
Roofing	
Trust Proof Roofing.	6
Schools	
Suffield Academy.	18
Tree Services	
Mountain Tree.	8
Sikes Tree Service.	14
Tribute	
Nolan Moore	2
Veterinarian	
Suffield Veterinary Hospital.	21
Water Utility	
Aqua Pump.	18
Northern Well and Water Supply	14

Say You Saw It in the Observer



Suffield Garden Club

www.SuffieldGardenClub.org



“The Secret Lives of Owls”

By Lisa Parker,
Suffield Garden Club

This is the time of year when we are delightfully haunted by all things spooky. If you’ve ever strolled through an old New England cemetery, you may have noticed a carving that looks like a winged barn owl. Barn owls, with their ghost-like faces, were viewed as creatures of the night who could navigate darkness safely and guide the souls of the departed on their next journey.

It seems that owls have always been surrounded by an air of mystery, particularly because they are nocturnal and therefore not easily spotted in the wild. Now you have a chance to be only a few feet from these magnificent creatures. On November 2, the Suffield Garden Club is hosting wildlife rehabilitator Mary-Beth Kaeser, founder of Horizon Wings, a non-profit 501c3 center for the rehabilitation of raptors, vultures and larger corvids such as ravens and crows. For this presentation, Mary-Beth will highlight the extraordinary features of owls, including exceptional eyesight, hearing, and the ability to fly silent-



Photo by Horizon Wings
Barn Owl “Tyton” was rescued by Horizon Wings after sustaining a serious injury.

ly, and she will be bringing a Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl!

The program is free and open to interested guests. The Garden Club meets in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Second Baptist Church, Suffield. This program will begin at noon following the Garden Club’s business meeting.

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. ☿

By Abby Wolcott

November rolls around, and lots of folks start dreaming of turkey. But for some reason I am thinking about walnuts. On Thanksgiving morning my mom would put out the big bowl filled with mixed nuts and that was our sustenance until we gathered around the table at 1:00. We were read the riot act about being pleasant around the table and cut off from our normal, locust-fashioned snacking routines. According to my mother the “kitchen was closed” and that is something I subscribe to with my own grandchildren. That was a major bummer so we would commandeer my dad’s desk to set up our metal hockey game and skittles maze. We needed to polish up our skills to maintain an advantage when our cousins on my mom’s side, all good athletes who towered over us, arrived. They would descend in their letter sweaters ready to teach us a thing or two on the playing fields or in our house whenever a competition was involved. They were equally comfortable living off the land, hunting and fishing as well as scoring touchdowns and hitting home runs. They were out of our league, big time.

But back to the nuts. We needed energy to keep those cousins at bay for a few minutes. My mom left us a few lobster crackers and a pick which worked well with the nuts so

Walnuts

we would get to work, assembly line fashion. One brother selected the nut, another cracked it, another extracted the meat and I fished the chunks of shell out of the bowl. Our favorites were the walnuts. We refused to deal with the brazil nuts or the almonds. Like little squirrels, we would crack the nuts, extract the meat and go back for more. Occasionally my dad would appear at our feeding station, the nut bowl, and remind us of his childhood days when he would collect walnuts from the black walnut trees in his yard and try to sell them to neighbors. It seems funny because decades later, I find myself in a house surrounded by towering black walnut trees and have had little success either collecting the nuts or selling them to our neighbors. And continuing with the sidebar, to add insult to injury, we have a barn which was open to the great outdoors and squirrels decided to fill our living spaces with walnuts. It was pretty industrious of them and when we closed up their gateway to the outside and opened up the walls, nuts fell down like a slot machine payoff, ca-ching ca-ching. The squirrels still lurk in the yard, peeking in the windows and occasionally find their way into the house, just to take a trip down memory lane.

Somehow I still admire the grey squirrels when they are not trying to break into our



Photo by Joan Heffernan
You can thank the native Eastern Gray Squirrel for its important role in forest regeneration by caching all those acorns.

house. I see them madly gathering nuts and caching them in any nook and cranny in our yard. They hang upside down on our mulberry tree. Or they dig to China and plop their nuts down that hole to be consumed on another day. It is so forward thinking. All this work preparing for winter includes some routine maintenance on their drey (leaf filled nests) that you see in treetops throughout town. These nests may look flimsy, but squirrels know how to build them to withstand the New England weather. They provide a great vantage point for the arboreal rodents, as sleeping and napping and nut consumption are an important part of a squirrel’s day. What’s not to love about that? ☿

Girl Scout Garden Project at Hilltop Farm Wraps Up

By Michaela Zanetti

The Community Garden at Hilltop Farm is changing with the temperature! Where tomatoes were just ripening, we now see gourds, winter squash and pumpkins. Keep an eye out for jays, cardinals and finches snacking on the remaining seeds from this summer’s sunflower harvest as you hike around the farm enjoying the foliage.

Our Cadette Girl Scouts (Troop 10994) are celebrating a successful summer

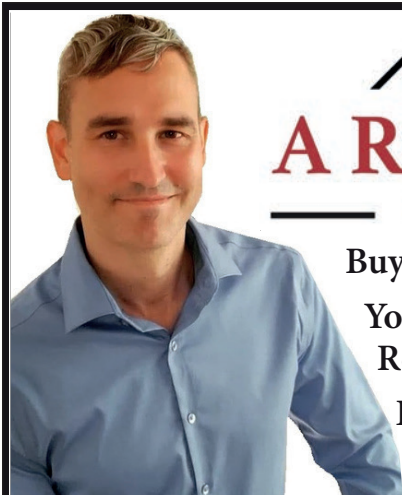


Photo by Jaime Zanetti
Girl Scout Garden project at Hilltop Farm

project with their Community Garden! Their planning and hard work resulted in providing 115 lbs. of produce and nearly 100 flowers to our senior housing, Meals

on Wheels recipients and local families! We appreciate the ongoing support and look forward to welcoming you to upcoming events at the farm, and participation

in the scouts’ service projects. Be sure to follow fofah.org and chat with your local scouts for upcoming opportunities at Hilltop Farm and beyond. ☿





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Landry-Sic Post 9544 Veterans of Foreign Wars

John F. Blake, VFW Trustee
The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veteran's service organization composed of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick, and at that time, there was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at more than 1.3 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

The Landry-Sic Post 9544 Veterans of Foreign Wars Suffield Post was chartered on the 6th day of August 1947, with a total of ninety-one veterans from WWII. The Post is named in honor of the two Suffield natives, the first to be killed in action in the two major theaters of World War II: In the Pacific theater; Seaman Second Class Fred Landry

US Navy, KIA 13 Nov 1942 at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on the USS Barton; and in the European theater; Private First Class Edward A. Sic, US Army, KIA 18 Feb 1944, in Anzio, Italy, with the 81st Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. Two other founding members of note were Chester Sic and Amiel P. Zak.

The Post building was constructed in 1951 and has been a place where veterans know that they can depend on support, fellowship, and advocacy, or simply gather to share conversation and camaraderie, as well as a meeting place for civic groups, and at one time held the Suffield kindergarten school in 1958-59.

Post 9544 also takes pride in our community involvement, working together to support various town activities and fundraisers. The Post is very active in providing support for the Memorial Day parade and providing the program at the Veterans Memorial. Each May, Post volunteers, along with students in the Suffield Agriculture program, place nearly one thousand American Flags and geraniums on veterans' graves in Suffield cemeteries.

Each Memorial Day, VFW members lead the Suffield Memorial Day Parade, conduct a service honoring our fallen comrades, and for Veterans Day, the Post conducts the ceremony at the Veterans Memorial. Following each

holiday program, the Post hosts a luncheon reception open to all.

This year, the VFW 9544 Landry-Sic Post hosted the Freedom 250 Museum Truck, which contained exhibits of our struggle to obtain freedom from the British Crown and establish the United States. The exhibit was a success, with over 1,600 visitors from Suffield and surrounding communities attending, many traveling from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Jersey.

On the first Saturday of each month, the Post serves a full, free breakfast for all veterans. This fine feast is sponsored by generous local merchants, families, individuals, and occasionally an anonymous donor. If necessary, the Post can provide transportation for any veteran in need, if requested.

The Post also raises money through semi-annual Poppy Drives to provide relief funding for veterans in need of financial assistance. Donations can also be made at any time to our Relief Fund by mail (P.O. Box 366, West Suffield, CT 06093).

The Post has been very fortunate in receiving significant financial assistance from a Mr. Michael Zak, himself Marine Corps veteran and native of Suffield whose father Amiel Zak was our Post's third commander and key player in the establishment and chartering



Photo provided by John F. Blake

VFW Post 9544

of our Post. With the goal of setting the Post up for future generations, Mr. Zak's generosity has updated the facility's utilities with more modern, energy-efficient, and environmentally conscious equipment and fixtures, as well as improved handicap accessibility. Other private donors; such as the Suffield Woman's Club, as well as a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act have also aided in refurbishing the interior and exterior of the facility. Along with the upgraded infrastructure, many aesthetic improvements were made to create a brighter and more appealing atmosphere for veterans, their families, and friends

to gather to socialize, share a meal, or celebrate a birthday, anniversary, retirement or celebration of life.

Looking to the future, the Post has a few projects still in the planning and funding stages. Such as a new floor in Duke's Canteen, kitchen renovation, an outdoor patio area and ultimately a paved parking lot.

The purpose of all these projects is to create a safe, enjoyable meeting and gathering place for veterans, families, private groups and charitable organizations to foster support amongst each other and to promote patriotism and community service. ☸



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Looking Ahead

Significant Town Building Proposals

Permanent Building Commission Presented Recommendations for Middle School and Fire Station #1

By Kevin Goff, Permanent Building Commission Chairman

On October 15, the Suffield Permanent Building Commission (PBC), together with its consultants Colliers Project Leaders and Tecton Architects, presented recommendations for the replacement of Suffield Middle School and Fire Station #1 at a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

These recommendations represent the culmination of years of facility assessments, master planning, feasibility studies, and evaluations of renovation and replacement alternatives. The Commission’s responsibility has been to evaluate the condition, functionality, and long-term viability of these facilities and identify the most appropriate solutions for Suffield’s future. Now, the Board of Selectmen will review the information and begin their own evaluation of options to decide the course of action.



The combined estimated cost of the recommended projects is approximately \$146.7 million, with an anticipated Town share of approximately \$83.2 million after State reimbursement. The meeting also included a preliminary financial analysis of the Town’s broader ten-year capital needs, prompting important discussion about affordability, debt capacity, and potential financing strategies.

Suffield Middle School Proposal

The Permanent Building Commission recommends construction of a new Middle School on the existing 350 Mountain Road campus, while retaining and renovating the auxiliary gymnasium for community use and incorporating improvements to the Central Office.

The existing school, originally constructed in 1964 as a high school, has significant infrastructure and functional deficiencies. Major building systems are approaching or have exceeded their useful lives, and the building’s

configuration does not adequately support contemporary middle school educational programs. Accessibility, ventilation, acoustics, and the availability of natural light are among the concerns identified through the assessment process.

The Commission evaluated several alternatives, including comprehensive capital improvements, renovation and expansion, and new construction. The estimated costs to the Town illustrate why replacement emerged as the preferred option:

Alternative	Estimated Town Share
Comprehensive capital improvements	\$63.0 million
Renovate as New	\$73.0 million
New construction	\$65.3 million

While comprehensive improvements would address many aging building systems, they would not fully resolve the educational and functional limitations of the existing facility. Renovation and expansion would address those needs but would cost the Town more than new construction and require approximately four years of phased work around students.

New construction provides the opportunity to develop a modern, efficient educational facility while students continue attending classes in the existing building. The proposed design also improves campus circulation, separates bus and parent traffic, provides improved community access to recreational facilities, and incorporates energy-efficient building systems.

The total estimated project cost is \$128.8 million,

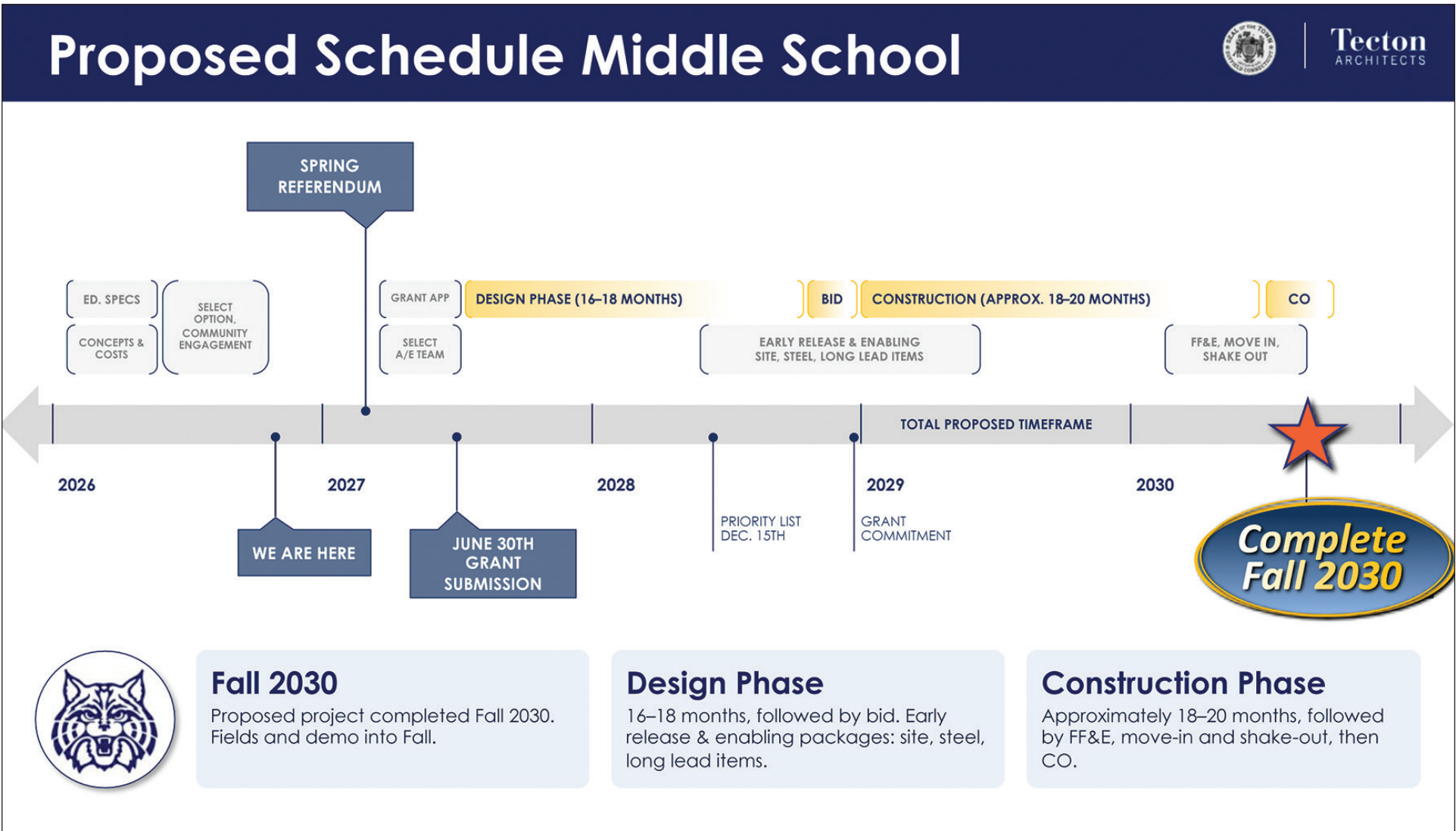
including the Central Office and auxiliary gymnasium improvements. Anticipated State reimbursement of approximately \$63.5 million would reduce the Town’s share to \$65.3 million. These figures remain preliminary and will be refined through design and the State reimbursement process.

If approved at a spring 2027 referendum, the project would proceed through approximately 16 to 18 months of design followed by 18 to 20 months of construction, with anticipated completion in fall 2030.

Existing Conditions

*Property Card has 286,843 sf

Grade Level	6-8
Building Area/Site	128,489 sf / 32.4 acres (shared)
Age/Construction	1964, 1965 (Vo-Ag), 1972, 2002



Fire Station #1 Proposal

The Permanent Building Commission (PBC) also recommends replacing Fire Station #1 with a new approximately 13,600-square-foot facility on the Town Annex property adjacent to Town Hall.

The existing station presents significant operational and safety limitations. Apparatus bays are undersized for modern emergency vehicles, circulation is constrained, and the building lacks appropriate separation between contaminated equipment and firefighter living areas. These conditions affect daily operations and cannot be fully addressed through routine maintenance or limited renovations.

The proposed facility would include four drive-through apparatus bays, improved decontamination facilities, training and support spaces, and safer circulation for firefighters and emergency vehicles.

The PBC evaluated alternatives involving improvements to the existing station as well as new construction. While capital improvements could extend the existing building's service life, they would not adequately address its fundamental space and operational limitations. New construction was therefore identified as the preferred long-term solution.

The current project estimate is approximately \$17.9 million, with no State reimbursement assumed. A third-party cost estimate is expected in November, and the PBC anticipates presenting its final design, cost, and feasibility study on November 19.

If approved through a spring 2027 referendum, the new station could be completed by March 2029. The existing station would remain operational during construction, avoiding the need for temporary facilities.



Site Plan – Town Annex Site



1

New Fire Station 1

Replaces the Town Annex; drive-through bays

2

Mountain Road access

Dedicated station drive and apparatus apron

3

Town Hall

Remains; campus green preserved

4

Existing Fire Station

Stays in service until the new station opens; future use to be planned

5

Parking & circulation

Reorganized parking for the campus and station

6

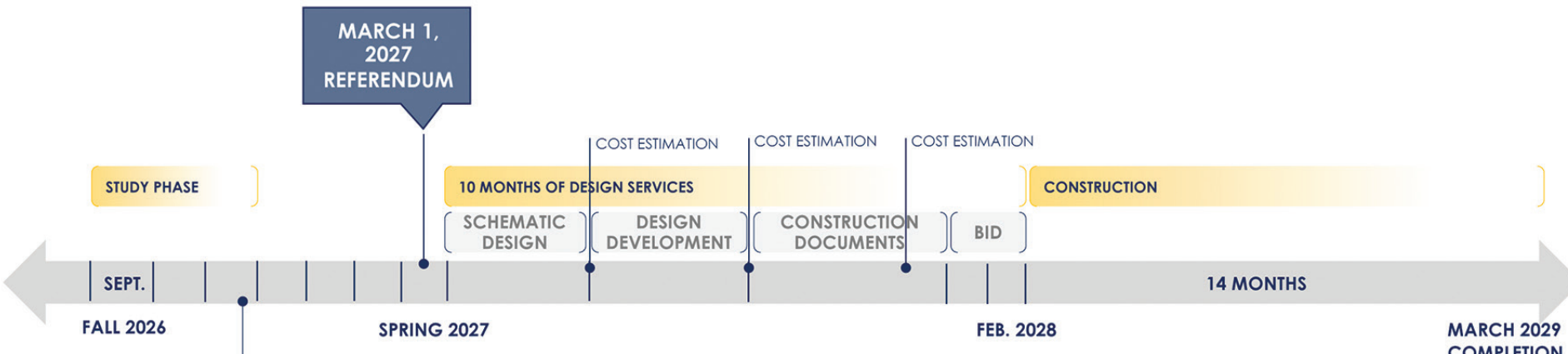
Existing Skate Park

Remains; community asset preserved

SITE DUE DILIGENCE

- Geotechnical borings show spread footings are feasible; no conditions requiring redesign or a major cost increase
- Modest grading; retaining walls along portions of the site
- No temporary station needed during construction

Proposed Schedule– Fire Station 1



STUDY PHASE

10 MONTHS OF DESIGN SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

SEPT. FALL 2026

SPRING 2027

FEB. 2028

MARCH 2029 COMPLETION

MARCH 1, 2027 REFERENDUM

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATION

COST ESTIMATION

COST ESTIMATION

COST ESTIMATION

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

BID

~\$17.92M

Total Project Budget for the current design. Cost refinement is underway; alternates are being priced for committee review.

What's included

Construction, site work, Annex demolition, design, FF&E, technology, testing, contingency, and 4.25%/yr escalation to mid-construction.

Next steps

Third-party estimate Nov. 2026; PBC final design, cost & feasibility study Nov. 19. Tax impact to be developed by the Board of Finance.

CONCEPTUAL SITE CAMPUS



Preferred Options – Cost to the Town



SUFFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

New Construction – Existing Site



EST. COST TO THE TOWN

\$65.3M

Total project: **\$128.8M**
\$63.5M state share (49.3%)

~22 months of construction
Completion: Fall 2030

PREFERRED OPTION

FIRE STATION 1

New Construction – New Site



EST. COST TO THE TOWN

~\$17.92M

Total project: ~\$17.92M
No state reimbursement
(Town-funded)

~14 months of construction
Completion: March 2029

PREFERRED OPTION

Combined estimated cost to the Town

Middle School \$65.3M + Fire Station 1 ~\$17.92M

~\$83.2M

57

Financial Considerations and the Path Forward

The October 15 meeting also included a preliminary financial presentation examining the Town's anticipated capital expenditures over the next ten years.

The analysis identified approximately \$171 million in total Town capital needs, including the Middle School and Fire Station projects, along with other planned investments in roads, bridges, municipal facilities, equipment, and infrastructure. The two recommended building projects represent approx-

imately half of that total.

The Board of Finance presentation examined alternative financing approaches and their potential effects on property taxes and municipal debt. One modeled scenario projected approximately \$7,500 in additional cumulative property taxes over ten years for a home valued at \$500,000, compared with a baseline assuming 2.5% annual tax growth.

It is important to recognize that this figure reflects the Town's broader ten-year capital program, not

simply the Middle School and Fire Station projects. It is also a preliminary financial projection based on assumptions about borrowing, future operating budgets, capital expenditures, and other variables that remain subject to review.

The presentation raised legitimate concerns about the Town's debt policies and its ability to fund multiple significant capital needs within a relatively short period. Potential strategies discussed included adjusting project timing, evaluating financ-

ing structures, reconsidering the timing of other capital expenditures, and pursuing additional State funding.

These alternatives require further analysis and coordination among the Town's elected boards, financial advisors, and project consultants.

The PBC recognizes the importance of these financial considerations. At the same time, delaying construction or pursuing limited repairs does not eliminate the underlying facility needs. Continued

investment in aging infrastructure, potential construction cost escalation, operational inefficiencies, and the availability of State reimbursement must also be considered when evaluating the long-term financial implications of each alternative.



Looking Ahead

The October 15 meeting represented an important milestone in the Town's facilities planning process, but it was not the conclusion of that process.

The Permanent Building Commission's charge has been to evaluate these facilities, study the available alternatives, and provide recommendations based on building conditions, operational requirements, educational needs, and long-term value to the community.

Following extensive investigation and analysis, the Commission believes replacement of both Suffield Middle School and Fire Station #1 represents the most responsible long-term approach. These recommendations are not based solely on the age of the buildings, but on the significant investments required to maintain them, their existing functional limitations, and the com-

parative costs and benefits of the available alternatives.

The next phase will require continued collaboration among the Permanent Building Commission, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Fire Commission, and the community to evaluate funding opportunities, refine project costs, and establish a financially responsible path forward.

The challenge before Suffield is not simply whether these buildings need investment, but how to make that investment in a way that responsibly serves both current taxpayers and future generations.

The Permanent Building Commission remains committed to providing objective information, transparent recommendations, and responsible stewardship of the Town's public facilities as this important discussion continues. ☹

Editor's Note: The Permanent Building Commission plans to update our readers through the Observer paper and website continually as developments occur.

It's Our Town!

Now is the time to let your Board of Selectmen and Commission members know your thoughts!