



# Weare in the World

*For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents*

**February 26, 2025**



*Retiring Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau cuts the first piece of cake at her retirement party in the Old Town Hall on Feb. 17 (Tom Clow photo).*

## Retiring Town Clerk Honored for 30 Years of Service to Weare

By Tom Clow

Retiring Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau said that the party held in her honor in the Old Town Hall on Feb. 17 was like Old Home Day. The attendees included friends, family, neighbors and coworkers past and present, including one from as far away as Montana. Former town clerk and mentor Evelyn Connor, and soon-to-be town clerk Pamela Moul, were both there. Moul is presently the deputy clerk and is

the only person on the ballot in March running for the clerk's position.

Billodeau is retiring after 30 years of service to the town. She said she started as a collection clerk in 1995, at a time when property taxes were also paid in the town clerk's office. She next served as deputy clerk and, in 2011, was elected town clerk. She said she likes helping people and will miss everybody. Virtually every adult in town has a reason to visit the town clerk's office on occasion for vehicle registrations, dog licenses, or perhaps even to be married.

A major part of the town clerk's job, beyond the day-to-day routine, is working with the town moderator to oversee all elections. Billodeau said that the secretary of state's office offers really good training for elections. During her time as town clerk, Billodeau has worked with six different town moderators, two of whom were present at her retirement party. She said the most challenging time with elections was during the COVID-19 crisis with so many absentee ballots to handle.

When asked about her plans, Billodeau said she has no interest in politics. Her predecessor, Connor, served in the state legislature after retiring from the town clerk position.

**See BILLODEAU, page 2**



## Inside the Issue

### Meet the Candidates:

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### Upcoming Forum:

SAU 24 is hosting a "Meet the Candidates" for school board at John Stark Regional High School on March 4 at 6 p.m. There will also be time for budget questions.

### Election:

Tuesday, March 12, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Weare Middle School gym

### Results:

Results will be available following elections on the town website at <https://www.weare.nh.gov/> and the SAU 24 website at <https://www.sau24.org/>.

*Weare in the World* may publish local results in an upcoming issue.

**BILLODEAU, continued from page 1**



Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau, left, chats with former clerk Evelyn Connor at Billodeau's retirement party on Feb. 17 (Tom Clow photo).

Billodeau said she is happy working in her vegetable and flower garden, kayaking and enjoying other outdoor activities with her grandchildren ages 6, 8, and 10.

Her last day on the job will be Election Day: March 11. The following day, she and her husband Rickey plan to hook up their camper and head on an extended vacation. The first stop will be North Carolina, followed by a visit with two sisters in Florida. After that, it's a trip

across the country to Arizona and a visit to the Grand Canyon.

**HI THERE, I'M PADDY McDOODLE!**

**The wee-woo crew at the Weare Police Department put a little contest together for youngsters in Town!**

2 age groups may submit entries, (Ages 4 to 8 & ages 9 to 12)

**1 winner from each group will receive a "Pot o' Goodies!"**

Designs must be submitted no later than 12PM on March 14<sup>th</sup>

**Visit their Facebook page for details!**

<https://www.facebook.com/wearepolicedepartment>



*School News*



**Senator Maggie Hassan** visited Weare Middle School last week ahead of the springtime eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.



"This may be the only time for many of us, students and adults alike, that we have an opportunity to meet and

have a conversation with a U.S. Senator," said eighth grade social studies teacher Holly Wilson, who helped organize Hassan's invitation to the school. "She was simply inspirational." Wilson said her own goal has been to boost activities, guest appearances and materials related to the government buildings and historic monuments students will see in Washington. With that in mind, Wilson said, she and Philip Mansour – parent of an eighth grade student – invited both Sens. Hassan and Goodlander to WMS. During Hassan's visit, she traced her political history, encouraged students to get involved and find their passion, and urged them to ask for help when they don't understand something, Wilson said. Hassan asked students to contemplate a key question: "As you move through life, always ask yourself 'What am I doing for freedom?'" Hassan also toured the school and answered student questions, Wilson said, which sparked a discussion about perceptions in political advertising, among other exchanges. Students can expect another guest visit in April, Wilson said, when she expects Professor Tom White from Keene State College's Cohen Institute for Holocaust Studies. *Photo: New Hampshire U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan speaks to Weare Middle School students on Feb. 14.*



**JSRHS wrestling champions** Sean Crean (113 pounds) and Lincoln Jablonski (126 pounds) were crowned this past weekend at ConVal High School.



JSRHS junior **Austin Freeman** skied his way to a runner-up performance in the Division III State Alpine Championships in Giant Slalom held at Gunstock Mountain. He also placed an impressive fifth in the slalom event.



Freeman secured a spot in the Meet of Champions.  
*Photo: JSRHS senior Austin Freeman.*

John Stark High School junior **Parker Greenhalge** placed 28th out of 100 gymnasts at the state championship gymnastics meet in Salem this past weekend. Greenhalge, who has for three years been competing as the lone independent gymnast for the Generals, earned high scores in vault (8.6) and floor exercise (7.6).



*Photo: JSRHS junior Parker Greenhalge.*

Seventh grader Myla Small's remarks on reducing screen time were the top finisher in a recent speech contest at Weare Middle School.

The contest, called "**Project Soapbox**," is a program of the Mikva Challenge, a nonpartisan organization

that strives to empower, inform and activate young people in the area of civics. The speech contest is designed to give youth a platform to voice their opinions and propose action on current issues. To prepare for their speeches, Weare Middle School students first answered guided questions to organize their thoughts and create a meaningful speech, said social studies teacher Jen Levesque. They also received support in their English Language Arts classes, where they practiced writing argumentative claims and citing research. Every seventh grade student then participated in classroom-level speeches; seven students then volunteered to present at the grade-level showcase. At the showcase, students covered a wide range of topics, including healthcare, sexism, gun laws, education and puppy mills. Teachers and office staff were invited to listen, and students were evaluated using a rubric – along with staff discussions – to determine a winner and runner-up. Levesque said one of the highlights of the showcase was hearing each student's "call to action." Small, she said, suggested setting a time limit for phone use to increase awareness and reduce screen time, while runner up Jovie Hooper – who spoke about decreasing plastic use – encouraged using reusable containers for lunches and bringing reusable bags when shopping. Next up will be a state showcase. *Photo: Jovie Hooper (left) and Myla Small (right) were the top two WMS finishers at the recent "Project Soapbox" speech contest.*



Children's book author **Angeli Perrow** video



conferenced this week with Center Woods Elementary School second graders, who are studying Native Americans in English Language Arts. Perrow, who lives in Maine, read to the

students one of her books, "Many Hands," a story about a young Native American girl who learns about the shared tradition of weaving baskets. Perrow showed the students several examples of authentic woven baskets with customary touches, such as braided grass and colorful dyed ash wood. She also taught them a song of the same name as her book, which many students continued singing even after the presentation. The second grade plans to invite Perrow back again next year. *Photo: Angeli Perrow reads her children's book, "Many Hands," to Stephanie Klements' and Barbara Grantz's second grade classes on Feb. 12.*



## Scholarship Money Up for Grabs in Rotary Speech Contest

Are you a confident, clear public speaker with high ethical standards? Then this is for you! The Henniker Area Rotary Club presents the 4-Way Speech Contest, an incredible chance to showcase your speaking talents and possibly win some fantastic prizes! The contest will be held at the Henniker Community Center on **March 23** at 1 p.m. The winner goes on to the semi-finals on April 6 to compete for a share of \$1,700!

The Rotary 4-Way Test challenges you to apply these principles in your speech: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Open to students in grades 9-12 at John Stark Regional High School, Hillsboro-Deering High School, or any high school within their catchment area (including home-schools and alternative schools).

Choose a topic that matters to you and prepare a 5-7 minute speech. Previous inspiring topics have included everything from student art to the Boston Marathon bombing.

For more information and **to apply**, contact Hanna Schofield (JSRHS) [hanna.schofield@sau24.org](mailto:hanna.schofield@sau24.org); Michelle Prentiss (H-D HS) [mprentiss@hdsd.org](mailto:mprentiss@hdsd.org) or John Capuco (Henniker Rotary) [j\\_capuco@mcttelecom.com](mailto:j_capuco@mcttelecom.com).

## Campbell Fund Scholarship Application Period Open



Almost a century has passed since Dr. Eleanor Campbell discovered Deering, New Hampshire, a town populated mostly by farmers at the time. She came at the encouragement of Rev. A. Ray Petty of Judson Memorial Church in Manhattan, where Dr. Campbell had established a clinic to give medical care to needy women and girls. During summers in New Hampshire, she opened a clinic in Deering, and established a youth center on Route 149. She also began giving scholarships to college bound students.

Her philanthropy benefitted Deering and surrounding towns, and her legacy lives on in the form of a scholarship fund now accepting applications from high school seniors in towns served by Hillsboro-Deering and John Stark High Schools. The Eleanor Campbell Charitable Fund, formerly the Deering Foundation, awarded 20 scholarships last year in amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Special awards go to a business student, a student of politics or journalism, and one studying health or medicine. Other awards, based on academic achievement, community participation and financial need, are given to students in a variety of fields. Over time, scholarships have gone to public and private high school students and home schoolers, as well as students in college.

Applications are available through the schools and online at [www.eleanorcampbellcharitablefund.org](http://www.eleanorcampbellcharitablefund.org). Details and instructions are included on the website. Specific questions may be addressed to Chris Hague, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair at: [wooden\\_tent@yahoo.com](mailto:wooden_tent@yahoo.com) or by calling the number on the application. **Submissions must be received by April 15.** Awards are announced in June.

### CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

The Weare Garden Club's first 2025 meeting will be:

Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Hand in Hand Senior Center and Thrift Shop (33 N Stark Hwy)

It will start with an ice cream social, and David Trumble of the Good Earth Farm will talk with us about organic farming.

We meet monthly from March through August.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## Scout News



### Pack 24 Cub Scouts

By Alyssa Small

On Feb. 17, Pack 24 Cub Scouts held their Blue and Gold banquet at Weare Middle School. This ceremony is held each year to celebrate Scout advancements. Cub Scouts from each den received badges of rank,



performed skits and enjoyed pizza and cake with their families. The Arrow of Light Scouts completed their Cub Scout journey and were welcomed by representatives of the troops they will

be joining. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make the event a success.

The Cub Scout program is open to all boys and girls in grades K-5, and the Pack welcomes new members year-round. Regular den meetings take place every other week. If anyone is interested in joining, learning

more about the program, or checking out an upcoming event, please reach out to Pack 24



Cubmaster Matt Powell at [laxmtt22@gmail.com](mailto:laxmtt22@gmail.com).



## Meet the Candidates

### Weare Board of Selectmen



**Name:** Franklin B. Fillmore  
**Contact:** [fbsinnet@gsinet.net](mailto:fbsinnet@gsinet.net)  
 603-660-1603

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare and your involvement in the community.** I grew up in New Boston; I lived there from 1966-2001. While in New Boston, I served on the planning board for six years. I have an Associate's in Manufacturing Engineering from NHTI (1980). I built my house in Weare in 2001 and have lived here since. I have been a home builder (over 200 homes) and land developer. I have served on the CIP and planning boards since 2013.

**2. What specific skills do you bring to the position? I** hold Septic System Designers and Installers Permits in NH. I was on the building committee for the DPW building and acted in the capacity of Town Representative overseeing its construction. As a principal member of the CIP committee for the past 12 years, I am very familiar with town department capital needs and the history of the past 12 years. As a planning board member, I currently serve as Vice-Chairman. As a long term planning board member, I am very familiar with all town committee/board functions and how they interact with each other.

**3. What is the town government doing right?** The town government has its capital priorities and spending well under control while balancing the health and safety needs of its citizens. Unfortunately, because of the way NH funds education, our property taxes are not entirely under the local control as most people think or would like. This problem is not unique to Weare, but is an issue in most small NH towns.

**4. What could the town government improve, and how?** The select board needs to garner the full respect of its employees and volunteers. This is severely lacking at the current time, hence the problems the town has hiring and retaining employees. There needs to be a much better balance of being transparent to the citizens while being respectful of its employees and volunteers.

**5. What town initiatives do you support for retaining employees?** The select board needs to encourage and allow its employees to lead in their respective potions,

this is not happening at this time, impacting morale and therefore the stability of our workforce in a very negative way.

**6. What experience do you have working with people who have opposing viewpoints?** As vice-chairman of the planning board (filling in for the chairman in his absence), I have had plenty of opportunities to diffuse folks having opposing viewpoints (aka landowner vs abutters)

**7. What long-term goals would you like to see set for the town of Weare?** I would like to see our town workforce and volunteers working in harmony with each other and not being fearful of making any decisions as they are now. Continue on our prudent spending path as we have been in the past. Continue building a stable and dependable vehicle and equipment fleet, as we have been working towards for the past few years.



**Name:** Paul Thoman  
**Contact:**  
 ThomanSelect@Protonmail.com

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare and your involvement in the community.**

My background is one of hard work to do anything I can to support my family. My early career was spent working in high-tech industries while going to night school for nine years. I met my wife at work and we have been married for 40 fulfilling years, raising three children. We retired to Weare in 2023 and now enjoy the frequent visits our grandchildren make to town. My wife and I ran our own business for over 30 years and I've done everything from being an independent consultant for the defense industry to designing and implementing computerized systems for the natural gas industry.

**2. What specific skills do you bring to the position?** As a small business owner, I learned how to be part of a team, how to make difficult hiring and firing decisions and how to serve customers while balancing cost and services provided. These skills all translate to being an effective selectman because the townspeople are our customers and none of us act independently. I've paid close attention to the role of government during my life. I've learned that limited governing, coupled with the empowering of citizens, almost always succeeds. I witnessed Nashua lose control of its principles and the

effect that had on the citizens. As Weare grows, I want to make sure it does not fall into the same traps as many other small towns that sacrifice their character.

**3. What is the town government doing right?** The town government has been working hard to increase transparency and carefully consider our tax burden, but there is more to do. As a senior citizen on a fixed income, I feel the full effects of tax hikes and I will be a strong voice to make sure that taxes are set with all citizens in mind, not just those who can easily afford them.

**4. What could the town government improve, and how?** The selectmen should push for more collaboration between the town boards and departments. The selectmen have discussions at their meetings that don't always reach the rest of town and we see some boards ignore the input of others. Recently, we saw the Planning Board propose a solar ordinance where they did not ask for feedback from the new Energy Commission or Conservation Commission and those commissions were left scrambling.

**5. What town initiatives do you support for retaining employees?** We heard a lot at this year's deliberative session about the cost of insurance and I think the town should be considering all options to give our employees more choices. It's going to take hard work, but we can find better rates and increase the choices our employees have.

**6. What experience do you have working with people who have opposing viewpoints?** In my decades as an employer, I've had to moderate numerous issues that didn't always make everyone happy, but were in the best interests of all our employees and customers. Over time, I had to review previous decisions with employees and the ramifications whether right or wrong.

**7. What long-term goals would you like to see set for the town of Weare?** As a selectman, I will work to make sure that all citizens are included in town decisions. I'm a senior citizen with a history of small business ownership and know that in a bedroom community such as ours, these voices are not always heard.



## Weare School Board



**Name:** Katie Lipp

**Contact:** Katherine.arnold1@gmail.com

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.** Hi neighbors! My husband and I moved to Weare just after our son was born about eight years ago. We have two kids who both attend CWES. You can often find us watching or coaching youth sports or at the library, where I am a member of the Friends of the Weare Public Library. After almost a decade in community mental health, I work as a behavioral health consultant—primarily to state governments. I have a Masters in Social Work and am a licensed clinical social worker and certified Project Management Professional.

**2. What specific skills do you bring to the position?** I have 15 years of experience in project and program management ranging from small initiatives to state-wide system implementation. I am skilled in grant and report writing, budgeting, strategic planning, regulatory compliance, quality improvement, hiring and training, stakeholder engagement and change management. As a former family therapist, I am also a great listener and communicator.

**3. What are Weare schools doing right?** In our experience at CWES, we have known Weare teachers, administration and staff to be deeply committed to students and their families. When issues come up, they are transparent in their communication and partner with us to find a solution. We've also had teachers show up to cheer on our kids at weekend lacrosse games. We need to retain these staff and maintain this culture!

**4. What could Weare schools improve, and how?** In the absence of adequate state funding, our schools rely on taxpayer dollars to maintain our childrens' right to a public school education. We need to make sure every cent is used as effectively as possible to maximize the impact. This includes a continued focus on improving student outcomes. The teacher contract that was passed last year has given the schools more leverage to hire certified educators and new curriculums have been introduced. These changes will take time to show improvement and need to be closely monitored.

**5. What initiatives do you support for retaining employees?** Staff stay where they feel respected and

valued. While we can't compete with the salaries of some of our neighboring communities, we can ensure they remain adequate. We need to further demonstrate respect and value by promoting a healthy culture led by strong administrators, support from families and community members, and allowing for flexibility to the extent the school environment allows.

**6. What experience do you have working with people who have opposing viewpoints?** As a former family therapist, I have deep experience working with people to communicate their thoughts and feelings effectively, identify common ground, and chart a path forward. My experiences as both a therapist and a consultant support my ability to set aside my own feelings and work towards the goals identified by the group.

**7. What long-term goals would you like to see SAU 24 set?** There are always opportunities for increased efficiency and resource management. I would like to see the SAU continue to assess and implement ways to optimize resources across the district.



**Name:** Lorraine Westfahl

**Contact:** [westfahllorraine@gmail.com](mailto:westfahllorraine@gmail.com)

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.**

I grew up in Eastern Oregon (which I find to be a lot like New Hampshire) and was in the National Honor Society while in high school. My dream was to graduate college with a medical degree, but with increasing tuition rates at the time I was unable to pursue that dream. The local community college had a nursing program, which I applied to and began my nursing career. I have worked in long-term care, acute care, ambulatory care and clinical trials as a clinical research nurse. Along the way, I met and married my husband of 18 years and have two wonderful children whom we homeschool and who currently participate in the SAU 24 district. Our daughter is 16 and is already taking calculus and English composition at a local community college. She is also active in stage band at John Stark and is active on many sport teams including cross country, swim, and track. Our son is 14 and is working on high school level courses and enjoys gaming days at the library and running cross country at WMS. We moved to Weare in October 2021 and have come to appreciate the slower pace in life here. I am involved in

the Weare Pink Ladies group and occasionally attend the Senior Center lunches.

**What specific skills do you bring to the position?** I have five years of experience participating on a school board as well as being chairman of a school board. During my time as chairman, I helped navigate the school through COVID and increased student population by 20%. There are many similarities between teaching and nursing; first and foremost they both take care of people. With my background as a research nurse, I am able to review and negotiate budgets, follow protocols and provide necessary communication between parties.

**What are Weare schools doing right?** As a parent, I feel the school is doing well at offering a variety of electives and after-school sports.

**What could Weare schools improve, and how?** I would like to see the state test scores improve. It would be a great reflection of the hard work teachers undertake day to day. As a member of the community, I would love to see more advertising for community involvement. I have seen very little promotion displayed with regards to this. I'm interested in fundraisers, arts and craft fairs, plays (or theater) and music concerts that are open to the public to display the students' talents and let them know that their community wants to see them grow and develop with the investment of monies contributed.

**What initiatives do you support for retaining employees?** I would love to see a merit system in place to increase teachers' salaries based on student test scores. I would also encourage teachers to explore different teaching methods to help students learn. When students do well, it reflects on the teachers and makes their jobs feel fulfilling.

**What experience do you have working with people who have opposing viewpoints?** It is important to hear other people's views and discuss them in a rational way. As someone with previous experience working on a school board, I would listen to all views, there would be open discussion and then there would be a vote. The process was open and transparent with majority rule.

**What long-term goals would you like to see SAU 24 set?** My goal would be to adopt changes that would engage student learning and understanding academically, which in turn would accomplish a more satisfactory work environment for teachers and staff. I would also like to see more community involvement than our current standing.



## Weare Public Library

### Special Events

**Lego Freebuild** (kids). Thursday, Feb. 27, 1-3 p.m. Stop by and show us what you can make with our big pile of Legos and put them on display for all to see!

**Tax Help** (adults). March 4, 13, & 27. Free and open to everyone from the AARP. Schedule your appointment by calling Jim Luckern at 603-765-0558. DIY? Stop by the library to pick up 1040/1040-SR tax forms and booklets.

**Knockout for a Cause** (family). Saturday, March 15 at the Weare Middle School gym. The Friends of the Library are presenting an exciting, fast-paced game of Knockout! Play for fun; play for a purpose! All proceeds go towards family summer programming. Come shoot your shot and support a great cause! To play: \$10 per adult. \$5 for kids 12 and under. Snacks and water will be available for purchase. Winner takes home a trophy! See page 9.

**Shrinky Dink Keychains** (kids). Monday, March 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Drop-in for this after school craft. Watch as your colorful drawings magically shrink into cool charms and keychains right before your eyes.

**Book Group** (adults). Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. We're reading and discussing the dystopian classic "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley. Call us at 603-529-2044 to reserve your copy.

### Weekly Events

**PokeMondays** (kids). Mondays, 2:30-4 p.m. Meet, trade, and play with other Pokemon card game enthusiasts and win prizes.

**Mother Goose Storytimes** (ages 0-2). Tuesdays, 10:30-noon. Simple rhymes, stories, and songs for infants and little ones! Afterwards caregivers and children can stay and play.

**Cards!** (adults). Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Meet and play pinochle or cribbage with other card game enthusiasts in the Paige Room.

**Manga & Anime Club** (ages 10+). 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month, 2:15-3:30 p.m. Stop by after school to talk about manga and watch your favorite anime shows!

**Pre-K Storytime** (ages 3-5). Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. (starting Feb. 5). Enjoy longer stories, movement and songs followed by a simple craft or related activity.

**After-school Gaming** (ages 6-18). Wednesdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Challenge friends on various game systems.

**Ruff Readers** (ages 5-11). Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m. (starting Feb. 5): Emerging readers get to read with one of our visiting therapy dogs. Call us to sign up.

**Craft Group** (adults). Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Relax and craft and learn something new.

**Baby & Toddler Playgroup** (ages 0-3). Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. An informal gathering for young children and their caregivers. Get out of the house; meet new friends!

**For registrations, the library phone is: 603-529-2044.**

The passes below are made possible by the Friends of the Weare Public Library! Double click on the icon to explore.



## The Weare Area Writers Guild Library Gift

By Sharon Czarnecki

I just want all of you to know we have been given a gift by one of our former members, Bob Jarvis. Jarvis has sent us three full sets of course work from "The Great Courses." The titles are, "Writing Creative Nonfiction," "Building Great Sentences" and "Writing Great Fiction."

He included a note that said in part, "I found the courses on fiction writing especially useful. I am sure the Weare Area Writers Guild will also find them helpful."

We heartily agree and want to be sure we offer these books to anyone in town who wants to write. To that end, our library has graciously agreed to keep them and loan them out upon request. Just ask for the Great Courses on writing.



**HAND IN HAND SENIOR CENTER & THRIFT SHOP**

The Hand in Hand Senior Center is a gathering place for seniors to socialize and get involved in group activities.

**33 North Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281**

Wed. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

603-529-4263 / [www.facebook.com/hihsc.org](http://www.facebook.com/hihsc.org)

Energy was high during February; one week Fire Chief Roarick enjoyed time with us talking about winter safety. Another week Police Chief Moore and Corporal Muise spent lunch time socializing and sharing how to avoid the latest creative scams targeting seniors. Both departments provided us with reading materials to make us more knowledgeable about what each department has to offer for our safety.

We're so pleased to announce that Hand in Hand now has an AED (automated external defibrillator), thanks to a grant from the Goffstown Rotary Club and Tom Flaherty of Birch Hill Technology Group. Their support and that of other community groups and organizations makes all the difference in our success.

If you have a business that you think would interest our population and you would like to join us for lunch, please contact us to set a date. We're also looking for people who have an interest or talent that they would like to share with us. Please let us know.

Hand in Hand Thrift Shop has so many volunteers with different talents. In this issue, we introduce Tina Duvall, who joined our volunteer crew through her friendship with Melody, the Shop's manager. Tina volunteers a few days a week, taking photos and videos and posting them on Facebook to highlight things you can find in our Thrift Shop. When unique items are donated, she sees if they will sell on eBay. That's important because we rely on the Thrift Shop to support our Senior Center.



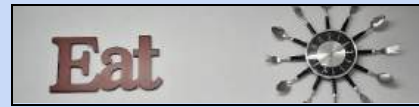
Tina volunteers a few days a week, taking photos and videos and posting them on Facebook to highlight things you can find in our Thrift Shop. When unique items are donated, she sees if they will sell on eBay. That's important because we rely on the Thrift Shop to support our Senior Center.

Tina's vision is to get more people to know about the Shop through her advertising. She would like to see an increase in visitors, and hopes that the Shop will someday

open one evening a week from 4-7.

Tina loves fitness and helping women get in shape and feel good about themselves. You can find her teaching fitness classes or being a personal trainer in Weare's Old Town Hall. She stays in shape being a

mother of three wonderful kids, two cats and one little puppy. She would love to teach yoga or senior fitness at the Center. If there is enough interest, we can see if Tina can fit it into her busy schedule. Please let us know.



Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Dine in, take out or free delivery.

**Feb. 26:** Breakfast for lunch! Griddle cakes, sausage, fruit cup

**March 5:** Lasagna with marinara sauce, garlic bread, veggies.

**March 12:** Corned beef dinner, potatoes, carrots, brussel sprouts (or cabbage)

Coffee, tea, and various desserts are also available. Donations are graciously accepted. All are welcome to stay and socialize, play games and work on crafts.

Caregiver Connection is an opportunity for family caregivers to support one another and connect with the professional staff of the Granite VNA. We look forward to providing a safe space to connect with other caregivers facing similar challenges. Join Thursday, Feb. 27, 10-11 a.m. **Registration is required.** Click [here](#) to register.

Friends of the Weare Public Library present

# KNOCKOUT FOR A CAUSE

Join us on **March 15th at 12:00 PM SHARP** at Weare Middle School for an exciting, fast-paced game of Knockout!

Play for fun, play for a purpose! All proceeds will go towards **Family Summer Programming**—come shoot your shot and support a great cause! To play: **\$10 per adult, \$5 for kids 12 and under.**

Snacks and water will be available for purchase.

**Winner takes home a trophy.**

Weare Public Library



## Looking for Something to Do?

Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki

### Ace Hardware

[www.goffstownhardware.com](http://www.goffstownhardware.com)

### AG Paintball

[www.agpaintball.com](http://www.agpaintball.com)

### The Amato Center

<https://amatocenter.org>

### Capitol Center for the Arts

[www.ccanh.com](http://www.ccanh.com)

### Concord City Auditorium

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

### Deering Community Church

[www.facebook.com/DeeringCommunityChurch](http://www.facebook.com/DeeringCommunityChurch)

### Hampshire Hills Athletic Club

[www.hampshirehills.com](http://www.hampshirehills.com)

### Henniker Brewing Co.

[www.hennikerbrewing.com](http://www.hennikerbrewing.com)

### Hillsboro Moose Lodge

<https://www.facebook.com/hillsboro.mooselodge/>

### Majestic Theatre

[www.majestictheatre.net](http://www.majestictheatre.net)

### NH Audubon

[NHaudubon.org](http://NHaudubon.org)

### Palace Theatres

[www.palacetheatre.org/calendar](http://www.palacetheatre.org/calendar)

### Pat's Peak

[www.patspeak.com](http://www.patspeak.com)

### Poetry Readings (Various)

[www.exeteruu.org](http://www.exeteruu.org) [www.frostfarmpoetry.org](http://www.frostfarmpoetry.org)

[www.bookerymht.com/open-mic-night](http://www.bookerymht.com/open-mic-night)

### Southern NH University Arena

[www.snhuarena.com/events](http://www.snhuarena.com/events)

### Stark Brewing Co

[www.starkbrewingcompany.com](http://www.starkbrewingcompany.com)

### White Birch Community Center

<https://mailchi.mp/e808d844cb02/81922-weekly-newsletter-12772976>

JSRHS Theater Company Presents

## "Soundscapes," A One-Act Play & Broadway Musical Revue

**When:** Fri. and Sat., March 14 & 15, 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** John Stark Regional High School  
**Tickets:** TBA

Milford Area Players Presents

# Steel MAGNOLIAS

By Robert Harling

Directed by  
Laura Majore

February 28 -  
March 9  
Fri & Sat @ 7:30pm  
Sun @ 2pm

The Amato Center  
56 Mont Vernon St  
Milford, NH

 MILFORD AREA PLAYERS





## POETRY CORNER

### Ode to a Timer



I had no idea what was wanted from me.  
All I was trained for was cooking, you see.

When I got to their house there was plenty of that.  
He likes his eggs quick, they can't rest in the fat.

And now, when you boil them, there's more to consider.  
If they stuck to the shells, well *that* just undid her.

But we found a rhythm, that lady and me.  
Her cooking was sure of the highest degree.

Now wait 'til you hear what she taught me to do.  
Most other timers would just have no clue.

Some rowdy grandkid, they needed time out.  
They liked my soft ticking, in spite of the pout.

He came home for lunch, and took a quick nap.  
She depended on me to call it a wrap.

And .... then she left us in 2009,  
But he and I... still got along fine.

In 2014 this "Alexa" arrived, and I'm not a fan.  
Frankly she cheats whenever she can.

She uses words and talks right out loud,  
But listen, I'll tell you, I'm still pretty proud.

Because when he's cooking, It's me he's about.  
He wants to hear ticking and the ding that I shout.

Sometimes it's about relationships.  
Talk your way out of THAT, Alexa!

*-Sharon Czarnecki*

### White Out

The orange snow fence  
that ran through the field  
was of no use when  
blowing snow buried it,  
the road between two  
resting corn fields was  
lost in blizzard like  
white out, blowing snow  
covered the road, no  
visibility,  
unsafe conditions,  
drivers, cautious, wise,  
inching in low speed

*-Marge Burke*

### Lament of the Birch Branch

For over fifty years  
I shared a tree trunk with  
my sibling birch branches,  
we were in a garden  
of perennial plants,  
I was the lowest branch  
and hung over the plants,  
my bark was typical  
white birch like a canoe,  
I was very happy  
in this pleasant garden  
full of summer color,  
one winter day a strong  
storm of snow and wind roared  
through the yard, I was struck  
by one of the gusts and  
blown right off the tree trunk,  
landed with a thud on  
frozen ground, I was stunned,  
what happened, was my branch  
too fragile to survive,  
none of my siblings fell,  
there I was on top of  
sleeping flowers below,  
the owner tried to move me  
but I was too heavy,  
one day a man came with  
a chain saw, cut me up  
into smaller pieces,  
that hurt more than the fall,  
he put me in his car,  
where was I going, what  
would happen to me  
now that I was cut up,  
the man treated me nicely,  
he was a wood carver,  
gentle and reverent,  
using his tools carving  
me into spoons, I felt  
loved being smoothed, whittled  
into one of a kind  
unique spoons,  
but I knew I would miss  
"Camp Grammie" where I had  
lived on the stately tree  
for over fifty years,  
my lament was short lived,  
I now live in many  
homes of the family  
where I used to live, they  
each have a piece of me,  
have happy memories  
living or visiting  
"Camp Grammie," I live on.

*-Marjorie Burke*





**On A Cold Winter Night**

Twilight arrives softly  
 Sketching the outlines  
 Of trees whose  
 Leaf stripped limbs  
 Show black against  
 A peacock blue sky.

The colors comfort me and make me smile  
 -Diane T. Padilla

**Pat's Peak**

Now hiring **Cashier, Cleaning, First Aid, Fun Squad, Groomer Operator, Kids Programs, Kitchen, Lift Attendant, Parking, Race Crew, Repair and Tuning, Retail Shop, Shuttle Driver, Ski Instructor, Ski Patrol, Snowboard Instructor, Snowmaker, Ticket Checker, Tubing Attendant.** Great benefits. Fill out application online at [www.patspeak.com](http://www.patspeak.com).

**Pampered Pooch Grooming Salon**

**Table Renter** wanted. Plenty of customer parking. Two large tubs, one small. Location: Warner Contact Nicole at 603-391-7685.

**Mark your Calendar**

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**

6:30 p.m. - Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting

**Thursday, Feb. 27**

7 p.m. - Master Plan Subcommittee meeting

**Monday, March 3**

6:30 p.m. - Board of Selectmen meeting

**Tuesday, March 4**

7 p.m. - Zoning Board meeting

**Wednesday, March 6**

6:30 p.m. - Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting

**Friday, March 7**

11 a.m. - Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

**Monday, March 10**

6:30 p.m. - Board of Selectmen meeting

**Tuesday, March 11**

7 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Town Voting

**Wednesday, March 12**

6 p.m. - John Stark School Board meeting  
 7 p.m. - Conservation Commission meeting  
 7 p.m. - Weare Democrats meeting



**Job Opportunities**

**Weare Parks and Recreation**

**Summer jobs at Chase Park.** Wages: \$10-\$10.50 starting. The [application](#) deadline is **March 15.**

**Director.** This individual will be a member of PaRC and will be required to attend monthly meetings, which take place on the third Tuesday of every month. Duties include, but are not limited to, responsible for overall operations of PaRC facilities, coordination of PaRC programs and events, and making recommendations to PaRC for improvements. An annual stipend is provided. Applications will be available on the town website: [www.weare.nh.gov](http://www.weare.nh.gov) beginning the week of **Feb. 24.** All inquiries can be directed to [PARC@WeareNH.gov](mailto:PARC@WeareNH.gov). Applications can be dropped off at the Town Office or mailed to Weare Town Offices, 15 Flanders Memorial Rd. All questions can be directed to [parc@wearenh.gov](mailto:parc@wearenh.gov).

**Volunteers** interested in serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission. If you are interested in serving, please fill out a volunteer to serve form that is available on the town website: [www.weare.nh.gov](http://www.weare.nh.gov) . From the front page click on "Find it Fast" and then to "Volunteer Program Form", fill it out and submit it to [nbolton@wearenh.gov](mailto:nbolton@wearenh.gov) via email. You can also drop it off at the Town Office or mail it to the above address. Questions can be directed to [PARC@WeareNH.gov](mailto:PARC@WeareNH.gov).

**Contact Us**

[weareintheworldnews@gmail.com](mailto:weareintheworldnews@gmail.com)

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