



Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents

February 8, 2023

Snow at Last



Pack 24 Cub Scouts are shown hiking up a hill at Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown (Bailey Theriault photo). For more Scout news, see page 4.



"Whisper the Goat" waits patiently for someone to shovel a path (Nicole Czarnecki photo). For more "Why We Live in New Hampshire" pictures, see pages 7 and 8.

Voters Brave Frigid Cold to Debate Town Warrant

By Tom Clow

Months of work by department heads, administrators, the Weare Board of Selectmen and the Weare Finance Committee culminated in the presentation of the 2023 Weare Town Warrant at the deliberative session on Saturday, Feb. 4. Fifty-eight citizens braved the frigid weather to attend the meeting in the Weare Middle School Cafeteria. High on the list of priorities for the selectmen, as well as the finance committee, was passage of the town's operating budget and approval of a collective bargaining agreement between the town and the police union. The finance committee voted to recommend both articles by a vote of 8-0.

In its unanimous support of the proposed operating budget, the finance committee emphasized that the town has been operating on default budgets for the last three years, resulting in ever-increasing funding shortfalls for fuel, road salt, parts, trash hauling, and IT needs. The town shored up these shortfalls, the committee's report states, by reallocating funds from unfilled positions and other planned, but less critical, expenditures.

The police collective bargaining agreement is a one-year contract with an 8% across-the-board increase with no change in primary benefits. The finance committee noted, in supporting the agreement, that the department is already down one officer and will possibly be losing two more. Even with the 8% increase, the Weare salary structure will be below some similar-sized communities. Hiring new officers requires investments in time, training and equipment at an estimated cost of \$70,000 per new recruit.

See DELIBERATIVE, page 2



"Talk" To Us
Candy
Deadline-Feb 17
Weareintheworldnews
@Gmail.com

DELIBERATIVE, continued from page 1

The finance committee was, overall, supportive of other articles on the warrant, many of which used alternative funding sources to lessen the tax impact. Weare Fire Rescue proposes using money from the Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Special Revenue Fund to replace 25 aging pagers and a 20-year-old utility truck, causing no impact on the tax rate.

The BOS will use \$30,000 from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to help offset the cost of a fully-equipped police cruiser, lowering the amount from \$78,010 to \$48,010 to be raised through taxation. In addition, the board proposes using \$241,941 in unanticipated revenue, received from the state as an additional highway block grant, to offset most of the cost of a new fully equipped 10-wheel plow truck. The board has also included an article to add \$30,000 to the Government Building and Maintenance Fund, with that amount being withdrawn from the undesignated fund balance.

An article for pay raises for non-union town and library employees would create a pool to be distributed through a plan being developed by the BOS rather than an across-the-board percentage raise. The finance committee supports this approach.

Other familiar articles on the 2023 Warrant include funding for road reconstruction, funding for cemetery improvements, and approving the withdrawal of funds from the Forestry Account to hire a town forester.

New this year are two articles related to the Veterans Tax Credit. According to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) both articles must be approved by voters in order for veterans to continue receiving a \$500 tax credit.

Also new are two articles from Parks and Recreation. One would set up a Recreational Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of the town tennis courts and place \$20,000 in that fund as a first installment on a \$170,000 project. The other would establish a revolving fund with all revenue from PARC activities placed in the fund to be used for future improvements or equipment.

An article proposed by the Board of Firewards would disband that board and return control to the Board of Selectmen. If approved, the change would take effect one year after approval. According to the present chairman of the Board of Firewards, there are very few of these boards left in the state.

The complete 2023 Town Warrant is posted on the Selectmen's page on the town website www.weare.nh.gov. All of the finance committee recommendations will be included in a town mailer, which will be sent out prior to voting on March 14.

Selectman John Van Loendersloot, right, receives a plaque from Weare Board of Selectmen Chairman Frederick Hippler at the end of the Town Deliberative Session on Saturday, Feb. 4. Van Loendersloot is retiring from his position at the end of his three-year term (Tom Clow photo).



School News



JSRHS Senior **Alexys Wheeler**

won a Silver Key and an Honorable Mention for two short stories in this year's N.H. Scholastic Writing Awards. Alexys is the first John Stark Scholastic Writing Award winner.

Alexys won the Silver Key for "The Night Time Snack," a story that unfolds in a cemetery at night and an encounter between a woman and a man. The man is looking for his home in the cemetery and meets a woman. She is afraid but helps him, only for the reader to discover something unexpected.

Her Honorable Mention was for "The Nightmarish Dream," the story of a woman who keeps having dreams about doing horrible things. Each night is the same until something unexpected happens, changing how she views her world.

"When I looked at the results of my submissions, I was completely and utterly surprised," said Alexys in a school release. "I had gone into this knowing I had written some pretty unique stories, but I never thought I'd win. It was more of an opportunity to have someone I didn't know read my work."

"This is the first year anyone from the John Stark Young Authors' club has entered," said Suzanne Carmichael, JSRHS teacher and advisor to the school's Young Authors club. "As a club, we set a goal to work toward improving our pieces through writer's workshops with an eye toward publishing. A few brave souls entered the New Hampshire competition and Alexys was recognized in her inaugural debut. I'm very **See AUTHOR, page 3**

AUTHOR, continued from page 2

excited for her and the rest of our young authors.”

Founded in 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the nation's longest-running educational initiative supporting achievement in the visual and literary arts.

Students and their parents/guardians of current eighth-grade students at the Henniker Community School and Weare Middle School are invited to **Incoming 9th-Grade Night** at JSRHS on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. (Snow date: Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m). During this evening, administrators will meet with parents and guardians to talk about the high school experience and the many opportunities that will be available to their students. JSRHS peer leaders will lead incoming students around the high school. It will be a great time to ask questions, meet teachers and hear about the opportunities at John Stark. JSRHS counselors will meet with eighth graders at both Henniker Community (2/17) and Weare Middle School (2/20) to review course selection and the registration process. For questions, contact the JSRHS Counseling Center at 603-529-5306.

Come see Monsters Inc.!


MOVIE NIGHT

When?	Time?	Where?
Saturday, February 11th	Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7:00 p.m.	John Stark Cafe

Tickets cost \$5.00 for single and \$15.00 for a family of three or more

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase




“The Little Free Library” was started by Christine Maglio in August and is to be enjoyed by anyone. Stop by 90 Mount Dearborn Road for a free book. Lots of new titles have been added! (courtesy photo).

Weare Public Library News

The WPL now offers 50% off discounts to the Children's Museum in Dover! Call us 603-529-2044 or stop by to reserve your day. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for funding our museum and park passes!

FOR ADULTS

Pinochle & Cribbage: Tuesdays at 2 p.m. Meet and play with other card game enthusiasts.

Craft Group: Thursdays at 1 p.m. We're doing diamond dots and space is limited. Call 603-529-2044 to sign up.

Tax Help: Feb. 14-23. Free from the AARP. Schedule your appointment by calling 211 or Jim Luckern at 603-765-0558.

Book Group: "Horse," by Geraldine Brooks: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Call the library at 603-529-2044 to reserve your copy.

Friends of the Library Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. Get involved! You, too, can volunteer and help raise funds for programs and events. Stop by to see what they're about. Learn more at: wearepubliclibrary.com/friends.

Art Exhibit: "The Road Not Taken:" March 6-31. Inspired by the poetry of Robert Frost and designed by New Hampshire artists Ingeborg V. Seaboyer, Judy Krassowski and Corinne Dodge. Featuring approximately 30 works that reflect a variety of personal interpretations of Frost's poetry.

KIDS & TEENS

NEW! PokeMondays: Mondays,, 2-5:30 p.m. Meet, play, and trade with other Pokemon card game enthusiasts and (maybe) win a prize.

Gaming: Tuesdays 2- 5 p.m. and Fridays 5-8 p.m. Challenge your friends with Smash Bros., Cuphead, Arms, or other video games OR play one of our board games. You can also check-out many of our games and take them home! Recommended for ages 7+. In the Sawyer Room.

Baby & Toddler Playgroup: Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. - noon. An informal gathering for caregivers and young children.

Get out of the house; meet new friends! Books, puzzles, early literacy toys, and music.

Pre-K Storytime. Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Join Ms. Karen for stories and songs.

Read with the Ruff Readers: Wednesdays at 5 p.m. Read with friendly dogs! Call Ms. Karen at 603-529-2044 to sign up.

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tourney IV: Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 3:30 p.m. It's gonna be a Valentine's Day battle! Fight for prizes and glory in this double-elimination tournament. Recommended for ages 7+. There's no pre-registration, but you'll need to be on time.

Afterschool Slime: Thursday, Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. Who loves slime? We love slime! Come and make a batch of your own at the library. We'll provide all the materials. Ages 8+.



Friends of the Weare Public Library

By Dianne Hathaway

The Friends of the Weare Public Library met on Jan. 24 at the Weare Public Library and through Zoom.

It's membership renewal time! Now is the time to renew your annual membership to the Friends of the Weare Public Library at the low cost of \$10. Membership forms are available at the WPL and on our web page at www.wearepubliclibrary.com/friends.

If you are interested in additional gifts to the Friends to help us accomplish our mission, please consider going "Above and Beyond." This initiative is meant for gifts above annual membership and gifts can be restricted by the giver to something specific, like programming, museum passes, etc. Above and Beyond forms are available at the Weare Public Library.

The Friends voted to fund a six-month discount membership to the N.H. Children's Museum in Dover. This pass will be available at the Weare Public Library. Call them at 603-529-2044 for information and to reserve the pass.

The Friends are working on an events calendar to organize fundraising and program dates. This will be finalized at our next meeting. We do have a date for our annual silent auction: Saturday, July 8, during the Weare Patriotic Celebration. If you are a member of a local organization or business and would like to donate an

item or gift certificate, please email Dianne Hathaway at WPLFsilentauction@gmail.com

Here are our 2023 officers: Nancy Zienkiewicz, president; Debbie Farr, secretary; Helen Dutton, treasurer; Suzanne Belanger, vice president; Lea Anderson-Smith, member-at-large.

Interested in joining us? We meet on the fourth Tuesday evening of January, March, May, July, September, and November at 6:30 p.m. at the Weare Public Library. Our next business meeting will be held on Feb. 28. This is a special meeting to accomplish dated items. If you would like more information, please email us at friendsofwearepl@gmail.com.

Pack 24 Scout News

By Alyssa Small

On Jan. 29, Pack 24 Cub Scouts hiked and snowshoed around the grounds of Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown. We spotted bird tracks and talked about birch trees, conservation and fire safety. Afterward, the Scouts had a great time sledding down the hills.



This outing was in lieu of our ice fishing plan, which we are hoping to reschedule if the temperatures cooperate.

The next Pack activity will be the Blue and Gold Banquet on Feb. 19, which takes place each year near the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910. The Scouts will receive badges



of rank, learn about Camp Carpenter and enjoy a spaghetti dinner.

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 Bill Theriault at usaairforceod@yahoo.com.

SENIOR NEWS

**HAND IN HAND
SENIOR CENTER**



33 North Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281
Wednesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
603-529-4263

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



JSRHS Principal Gary Dempsey and several senior students joined us for lunch on Feb. 1. The students plan to volunteer at the Center, and to help folks get to school musical performances.

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?



- Feb. 8:** Sloppy Joes, potato salad and chips
 - Feb. 15:** Louisiana red beans and sausage on rice, corn and cucumber salad.
 - Feb. 22:** Pizza (plain cheese and pepperoni), garden salad
- Dine in or take out. Delivery is free for any senior who has no transportation. Call us to make arrangements.

WHAT'S IN THE SHOP?



Our clothing sale continues to the end of February. All clothing is **\$1 apiece**. Coats, boots, and shoes are **half price**.



Donations can be placed in the orange bin out front, or dropped off during business hours. We accept gently used clothing, kitchen and housewares, games, books and movies.

Lookin' For Love

By Cathy Bailey

If you'd like to adopt any of the pets pictured here, please complete an adoption application at <https://www.heartsandtails.org/adoption-application>



Meet Tango! Plott Hound mix. Friendly, affectionate, playful, smart, athletic, house trained, vaccinations up to date, neutered. Good with other dogs and children. Tango is one-year-old and weighs 45 pounds. He is also microchipped. He is handsome, goofy, sweet and LOVES people.



Meet Lizzie! Terrier mix. Friendly, affectionate, gentle, smart, playful, quiet, house trained, vaccinations up to date, spayed. Good with other dogs, cats and children. Lizzie is about two years old and weighs 45 pounds. She is also microchipped. She is people-loving and has energy to burn so she is looking for an active family.

For more information on these and other dogs, visit <https://www.heartsandtails.org/petfinder-list/>

Weare Garden Club

By Anne Wirkkala

Happy spring, fellow garden enthusiasts! I know the little rodent saw his shadow and winter will last a bit longer, but we can dream of spring and gardening! Read those seed catalogs and don't wait too long to order; supplies are short! Inventory your tools of the trade. Here is a minimum list (not in any order):



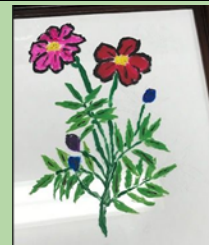
1. Trowel
2. Shovel
3. Rakes (soil and leaf)
4. Wheelbarrow (gorilla cart instead for us older folks)
5. Pruning shears
6. Watering can
7. Garden fork
8. Gardening gloves
9. Hose
10. Chair nearby for those breaks

On another note, please save the date: **Tuesday March 7** (date of the full worm Moon) for the **Weare Garden Club's Spring Ice Cream Social** at the Senior Center, 7 p.m., 33 North Stark Highway. Everyone is welcome... Bring an ice cream-related treat to go with a sundae (sign-up list to follow).

More importantly, it is the first meeting of the new year, a chance to renew friendships and welcome new members and plan for the year! We ended on a couple of high notes last year with (finally, after two years of COVID) our traditional holiday get-together and a great craft event in November (see photos below and to the right). SO... join us for another educational and fun-filled year. Contact Anne Wirkkala (529-1234) for more information.



Garden Club Christmas lunch and Yankee Swap. Who says gardeners don't know what to do with themselves in the winter? (Courtesy photo).





Asked and Answered: Best Book

Best Book

By Clay Kriese

The *Mummy, the Will, and Crypt* by John Bellairs. While, *The House with a Clock in Its Walls* is the most well-known of John Bellairs's 30 horror novels for kids (with a 2018 film adaptation, starring Jack Black), I prefer *The Mummy, The Will, and the Crypt*. It epitomizes the Bellairs tropes: In a cozy northern mid-century town, a wise elder befriends an introverted boy. Together, they solve a supernatural mystery by thwarting a demonic ghost, or wizard, or ghost of a wizard. The illustrations by Edward Gorey contributed to the eerie atmosphere. Baffling, the newest editions (including the one at the Weare Public Library) lack these images, but Bellairs masterly imparts an absorbing sense of suspense, dread and downright creepiness. The *Mummy, the Will, and Crypt* captivated me as a child. Reading it again, 30 years later, I can still say it's a favorite.



POETRY CORNER

Pruning

If you keep digging
you will find dirt.
But, sometimes it's the best kind of
gritty-gets-under-your-fingernails
kind of soil for growing the best sort of
learned-from-your-mistakes life.
The vitamins and nutrients
are rich in giving strength
from being tested.
That's the lasting kind of growth
that rids itself of thorns and
choking vines and
becomes the beauty it was
always intended to be.

-Connie Sullivan

Fringe

Icicles hang from
the eaves like a
crystal fringe on a
fancy evening dress,
sparkling beauty.

-Marge Burke

Endless Motion

The dance never stops,
from field's end to end,
eerie, specters swirl,
speed defying moves,
frenetic, dizzy,
wild, wind whipped snow ghosts.

-Marge Burke

Wine Tasting at Country 3 Corners

Friday, Feb. 17 from 5 - 7 p.m.

833 S. Stark Highway

603-529-7539 X 4

lfiala@country3corners.com

or check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Country3Corners>



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On Jan. 2, this year, my husband and I had a chimney fire and the Weare Fire Department answered our call. The guys were professional with what they had to do to take care of the situation, polite and friendly.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for saving our home from something much worse.

-Suzanne Merrill



Weare Fire Rescue members Cody LeMay, Acting Fire Chief Robert Richards and Wayne Meattay (courtesy photo).



Why We Love Living in New Hampshire

An occasional column featuring readers' reverent observations of our natural surroundings



Alyssa Small photo



Joe Czarnecki photo

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, Feb. 8

- 4:15 p.m. – Trustees of the Trust Fund meeting
- 6 p.m. – Weare School District Board meeting
- 7 p.m. – Weare School District Deliberative Session
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission meeting

Thursday, Feb. 9

- 7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting
- 7 p.m. – Weare Democrats meeting

Friday, Feb. 10

- 6:30 p.m. - John Stark School District Board meeting
- 7 p.m. - John Stark School District Deliberative Session

Monday, Feb. 13

- 6 p.m. – Board of Firewards meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 14

- 7 p.m. - Parks and Recreation meeting

Monday, Feb. 16

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

Friday, Feb 17

- 10:30 a.m. – Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21

- 7 p.m. – Cable Committee meeting

Contact Us

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School News – Marge Burke

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