



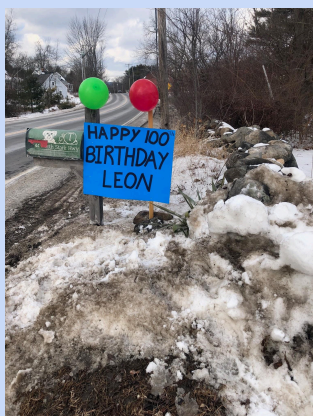
Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents

February 12, 2025

Leon Taylor Sees a Century

A convoy of community members celebrated the 100th birthday of Leon Taylor in a vehicle parade on Jan. 26. Taylor was a member of the town's volunteer fire department for more than 75 years, and in recent years, he has been known to sit on his porch in Weare Center and wave at passersby – who enthusiastically return the favor.



For more on Leon Taylor, see page 5.

Few Changes Made to Warrant at Town Deliberative Session

By Tom Clow

Sixty-five registered voters attended the Town of Weare Deliberative Session on Saturday, Feb. 1 to debate the articles on the 2025 town warrant. The deliberative session gave voters a chance to offer their opinion on warrant articles and to propose amendments. Although the meeting started at 9 a.m. and extended into the afternoon, there were few changes made to the warrant articles as presented by the Weare Board of Selectmen. The one exception was a petition article that called for taking \$11,000 from the town's unassigned fund balance to pay for fireworks at the patriotic celebration. The article was amended to read \$0. The article was not recommended by selectmen. A member of the Patriotic Celebration Committee cautioned that without fireworks the company with amusement rides and concessions wouldn't find it profitable to come.

The first two major spending articles on the warrant,



Fire Chief Mark Roarick explains the need for a new fire engine to voters at the Weare Deliberative Session on Feb. 1 (Tom Clow photo).

Article 2 for a new fire engine and Article 3, the town's operating budget, were moved forward without change. An amendment was proposed to Article 4, which is for a 3% pay increase for all non-union town and library personnel, except the town administrator. The amendment, which would have increased the pay increase to 5%, was defeated.

An amendment was passed to change the wording of Article 6 from the establishment of an ancillary position of detective in the police department to an ancillary assignment of detective. Chief Christopher Moore explained that detective responsibilities would be assigned to a present employee and not involve adding new personnel.

A proposed amendment to Article 10, which would have used additional funds from the unassigned fund balance toward the purchase of a new fully outfitted and marked

See TOWN DELIBERATIVE, page 2

TOWN DELIBERATIVE, continued from page 1

Chevrolet Tahoe 4X4 police pursuit vehicle, was defeated. The article as it was written still has offsets of \$15,000 from the Police Special Detail Fund, and \$6,000 from the unassigned fund balance representing funds received from Everett Dam patrols, leaving \$63,276 to be raised by taxation.

All other articles on the warrant will be moved to the ballot without change. The Board of Selectmen's agenda for Monday, Feb. 3, called for the final approval of the ballot, which will be posted on the town website and in other public locations.

Before the close of Saturday's meeting, Town Administrator Naomi Bolton thanked Selectman David Pratte for his service on the board. Pratte is not running for re-election.

She then presented Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau, who is retiring, with a plaque thanking her for 30 years of service to the Town of Weare. There will be a retirement party for Billodeau at the old town hall on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 1-3 p.m.

For information on the Weare and John Stark School District Deliberative Sessions, see page 4.

Our Town Clerk,
MAUREEN BILLODEAU,
is retiring.
Join us in thanking her and
wishing her well as she embarks
on a new adventure.

Please come:
Sunday - February 16th
1 to 3 p.m.
Weare's "Old" Town Hall
16 No. Stark Hwy - Weare Center

*Sign a giant card
and enjoy a piece
of cake!*

Candidates for Local Offices**Town of Weare**

Board of Selectmen One three-year term	F. Bruce Fillmore Paul T. Thoman
Moderator One one--year term	Daniel Wandell
Town Clerk One three-year term	Pamela J. Moul
Treasurer One three-year term	Tina Connor
Library Trustee One three-year term	Hanna Schofield
Trustee of Trust Funds One three-year term	Lynda A. Fiala
Ethics Committee Two three-year terms	Leah Cushman Kimberly H. Gannon

Weare School District

School Board Member One three-year term One one-year term	Alyssa Small Lorraine Westfahl Katie Lipp
School District Moderator One three-year term	N/A

John Stark School District

School Board Member Weare One three-year term	Jill Dagenais
School Board Member Henniker One three-year term	Zach Lawson
School District Moderator One one-year term	N/A

Meet the Candidates Night

Mar. 4	6 p.m.	School board candidates and school budget forum	JSRHS
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Voting: Tuesday, March 11 WMS



School News



JSRHS Senior Rio Calle won the Division II boys' **high jump state championship** with a clearance of six feet four inches. Calle defended his indoor title in this event, which he also won last winter.



A food drive at CWES yielded 3,873 pantry items for local families in need. The drive – dubbed a **“Soup-er Bowl”** – challenged individual classes to collect as many canned goods and other non-perishables as possible. The winning class – Ms. Sherri Dyer's kindergarten, which collected over 450 items – earned a chance to play some fun football games against CWES staff on Monday. The whole school attended the Bowl festivities, where they also learned about making healthy food choices.



John Stark-Hopkinton-Hillsboro-Deering General Hawks ice hockey head coach **Denis Kolehmainen** reached an impressive milestone at New England College on Jan. 28: Career victory number 150! The 13-year coaching veteran led the team to a 5-3 win over Laconia-Winnisquam-Interlakes.

John Stark Regional High School art students earned recognition for their work from the **Scholastic Art Awards**. Their pieces were on display at the New Hampshire Scholastic Arts Exhibit at Pinkerton Academy.



Jenna Sinclair
Ceramics
Gold Key Award



Addie DeCew
Ceramics
Silver Key Award



Lucjan Heino
Ceramics
Silver Key Award



Sophie Gray
Ski racer
Painting I
Honorable
Mention Award



Lucjan Heino
Ceramics
Honorable
Mention Award



Carmela Martin
The
Stadium
Painting I
Honorable
Mention Award



Jackson
Lochmandy
Ceramics
Silver Key Award



Staff members and students tipped off against the **Harlem Wizards** in a night of hoops and alley oops at Weare Middle School on Jan. 28. The player pool included eighth grade basketballers from WMS and Henniker Community School. The evening was a fundraiser for the eighth graders' trip to Washington D.C. planned for April. Photos: Clayton Tamala gets a lift from the Harlem Wizards on his way to the basket. Basketball team members advance down the court against the Harlem Wizards.





Rex, Molly and Sky spent their whole class period chatting, turning sideways and making everyone around them laugh. This is generally not considered great classroom behavior, so it's a good thing Rex, Molly and Sky were actually robots being controlled by students learning to code. CWES second graders are tinkering with **"block coding"** in their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) classes with teacher Kate Rodgers. The students can program the "Dot" robots – blue spherical machines made by Wonder Workshop – to light up, repeat phrases, or even answer a question about the future. Eventually, Rodgers said, the students will work up to programming more advanced robots through an obstacle course. *Upper left photo: David Daigle and Rilynn Wilcox. Lower right photo: Lejla*



Smajovic-Gagnon and Lincoln Evans.



Center Woods Elementary School third graders visited the **McAuliffe-Shepherd Discovery Center** in Concord last month, during which they enjoyed a planetarium program about the sun and an interactive space-shuttle landing exhibit, among other highlights. Some 90 students attended the field trip, which is connected to their current unit of study about how people learn about space. *Photo L to R: Fiona Donnelly (blue shirt), Emma Parsons, Sasha Hallee, Elijah Sbat, Dashiel Hammond and Easton Brien get hands-on at an exhibit at the McAuliffe-Shepherd Discovery Center.*

A **clothing drive** at WMS drew an estimated 21,000 pounds of apparel last week, benefitting both a charity and students who will head to the nation's capitol this spring. Eighth graders in Weare and Henniker participated in the Epilepsy Foundation drive as a fundraiser for their Washington D.C. trip. By Jan. 24, 1,750 bags of clothing that had been dropped off by families and



community members lined three hallways at WMS. It took three trucks to gather and haul away all of the donations. *Photo: A hallway at WMS is stacked with donations to benefit the Epilepsy Foundation and the WMS eighth grade field trip to Washington, D.C.*

School Warrants Spark Debate but Go to Ballot as Presented

By Tom Clow

A lengthy Weare School District Deliberative Session on Feb. 5 was dominated by debate on petition articles with the end result being all articles on the warrant moved to the March ballot without change. The two major spending articles on the warrant – Article 3, the school district operating budget and Article 4, a two-year collective bargaining agreement with support staff – primarily received informational input.

The district's proposed operating budget of \$20,449,303 for the 2025-2026 school year represents a 4.27% increase over the prior year's budget. Board members explained that the increase was mostly in salaries and benefits. Despite the increase, the proposed budget is \$20,454 less than the default budget. By supporting the proposed budget, the school board is encouraging voters to choose the lower amount.

The two-year support staff contract calls for estimated increases of \$145,420 in 2025-2026 and \$95,469 in 2026-27. The board showed charts and graphs indicating that hourly wages of support staff in Weare are lower than those in surrounding communities. They also said that the support staff is not part of the retirement system and receives no insurance benefits.

See SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE, page 5

SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE, continued from page 6

Article 5 (by petition) would require including an estimated tax impact on the warrant for each article that has a tax impact. The article, which was not recommended by the school board by a vote of 2-3-0, will go on the ballot as submitted.

Article 6 (by petition) would implement a budget cap of \$24,767 per pupil times the previous year's enrollment. An amendment to raise the amount to \$50,000, in an apparent attempt to defeat the article, was defeated, so the exact wording of the article as submitted by the petitioners will appear on the ballot. It was not recommended by the school board by a vote of 1-4-0. Passage would require a 3/5th vote in March.

Article 7 (by petition) calls for state officials to reject expansion of the voucher program that uses taxpayer funding of private education until there is "full accountability, transparency, and a funding plan that ensures no further strain on public schools and local taxpayers." After lengthy debate, the article will move to the ballot with the wording submitted by petitioners. The article was recommended by the school board by a vote of 5-0-0.

John Stark Deliberative Session

The John Stark Deliberative Session held on Feb. 7, did not create lengthy debate, and resulted in all warrant articles being moved to the ballot as presented on the school district warrant. Whereas the Weare session involved much debate, the John Stark deliberative was over in less than an hour.

Article 3 presented a proposed operating budget of \$15,515,737. Should the proposed budget fail, the default budget would be 15,481,148. The article is supported by the school board.

Article 4 asks for the approval of a two-year collective bargaining agreement between John Stark School Board and the John Stark Teachers' Association. The estimated cost increase in salaries and benefits would be \$342,266 in the 2025-2026 school year and \$335,041 in 2026-2027. The article is supported by the school board.

Article 5 (by petition) requires that an anticipated tax impact appear on the warrant for the annual budget and any other special warrant articles. Although this is a petition article, it is recommended by the school board by a vote of 4-0-0.

Town Mailer

The Town of Weare will send out a mailer to all Weare voters prior to the municipal election in March. The mailer will include all articles on the town and school warrants as well as the recommendations of the relative boards and the Weare Finance Committee.

Leon Taylor's Legacy

By Sylvia Beaupre



It is Aug. 12, 1940. If you catch the pig, you get to keep it. It costs 10 cents to enter and the pig weighs about 15 pounds. Fifteen-year-old Leon Taylor is one of those giving chase at the 19th Annual Lawn Party at Osborne Memorial Hall. He catches it! His father, Robert, tosses it into the back seat on top of Leon and his younger sisters,

Pauline and Mary Lou. Imagine the squealing!

Lawn parties were very much a part of Osborne Memorial Hall during the last century. They included old-fashioned games, food and drink, community and camaraderie. Clam chowder was served from the doorway of the downstairs kitchen. Adults and children milled around and relaxed on the lawn.

For a number of years, Leon was a board member of the South Weare Improvement Society (SWIS), the original organization and owner of Osborne Hall. It was built by Albert Farmer, Sr., with help from the South Weare community and money left by Wellman Osborne's widow in 1916.

In 2000, the Weare Historical Society designated Osborne Memorial Hall as one of Weare's historic buildings in their "Save the Buildings" campaign. SWIS has been restoring the building to its former status as a function hall and meeting place for the people of Weare, and Leon was an important part of that ongoing effort.

One of Leon's fond memories of the early years: "When Jigg's [Richards] folks ran the Saturday night dances, we helped with the food, parking cars and selling tickets. The Grange put on shows on stage. Joe La Flipp was one funny guy who had many chances to go on Broadway. I enjoyed the loose wire act on the stage. At the time it looked like it just could not be done, but he did it! Some of Joe La Flipp's songs had the names of some of the local people in them. This would bring the house down! The local band played at the dances: Leighton Drewry on the drums, Gerald Purington on the sax, Ralph Hazen on the violin, and little May Hadock on the piano. Everyone had a good time!"

As for Leon's pig: it was raised on Peacock Hill, where Leon's family lived, and dressed out in December at 299 pounds.

Weare Public Library

TAX HELP AT THE WEARE LIBRARY

**FEB 11, 13,
18 & 20**

Schedule your
FREE appointment
by calling
Jim Luckern at
603-765-0558.



Feb. 11, 13, 18 and 20: 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.

Upcoming 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 (starting Feb. 4). 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 pinocle or cribbage with other card game enthusiasts in the Paige Room.

Manga & Anime Club (ages 10+). 1st & 3rd 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.

Afterschool Gaming (ages 6-18). Wednesdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Challenge your friends on the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, and other 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! Books, puzzles, early literacy toys, & music.

Book Group (adults). Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. We're reading and discussing "The Parable of the Sower" by Octavia Butler. Call us to reserve your copy.

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. Contact the library for a pass.



CURRIER
MUSEUM
of ART



**VALENTINE'S
DAY**

ENTER TO WIN THIS BASKET OF
LOCAL GOODIES (MORE COMING!)

Tickets

\$5

Proceeds
benefit Hand
in Hand Senior
Center



scan to
donate!
Include
#backlist to

soris.dough@gmail.com or
contact the Senior Center at 603-529-4263

**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

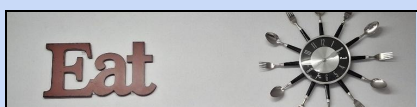
What are intergenerational friendships? How do they provide a sense of belonging and community? Does it help you feel connected to something greater than yourself?

Let me share what is happening at **Hand in Hand Senior Center**. For several years we had wonderful "dessert angels." But even for angels, time marches on and life needs change, and so those angels flew away. Not long after, a young woman named Brenda walked into the Center inquiring if she could bake a dessert for our Wednesday lunch. She told us that she would get some friends (Jessica, Linda and two named Robyn), who also bake, to help. Now we are graced with new "dessert angels." The seniors love, enjoy and appreciate how these angels have reached out to us. They are under our umbrella of intergenerational friends.

Another example is Sarah Soristo, owner of Soris Dough, who came in one day with a smile and little ones in tow. Every week she shares her freshly baked bread with our lunch crowd. What a weekly treat, and another intergenerational friendship has bloomed. The Thrift Shop and the Café have welcomed enthusiastic, talented, younger volunteers who have added that intergenerational love, friendship, belonging and spark. Hand in Hand is blessed.

Our movie this month will be 2019's "The Art of Racing in the Rain" based on a novel by Garth Stein. It's narrated by a dog named Enzo, who reflects on life and the human condition through the experiences of his owner, a race car driver. It features themes of love, loss, and the bond between humans and their pets. Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m. Popcorn, hot dogs and drinks always enhance our movie experience.

Don't be shy; join us for a heartfelt singalong with Mike Ard after lunch on Feb. 12. Police Chief Moore will come for lunch and socialize on Feb. 19. You never know what tips he will share with us. Hope to see you at **Hand in Hand**.



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

Feb. 12: Chicken cutlet sandwiches, chicken veg soup, chips

Feb. 19: Roast beef sandwiches, French onion soup, chips

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

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.

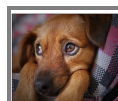


Osborne Hall

By Sylvia Beaupré

The wonderful Osborne Hall celebrated its centennial in 2020 and continues to be cared for by a small group of volunteers and dedicated members of the South Weare Improvement Society (a local non-profit). This community building/function hall is available for rent and is constantly being upgraded where funds permit.

You can support this process AND get a beautiful American Flag displayed in front of your house on seven of our most important flag holidays. Just contact Weare Flags Fly at 529-7282 or email cslindh@gmail.com. The cost is \$50 for businesses and individuals up to age 60, and \$35 for seniors. Proceeds benefit Osborne Memorial Hall. To rent for your event, please contact the telephone number above. (Sheila Lindh photo).



Looking for Something to Do?

Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki

Ace Hardware

www.goffstownhardware.com

AG Paintball

www.agpaintball.com

The Amato Center

<https://amatocenter.org>

Capitol Center for the Arts

www.ccanh.com

Concord City Auditorium

www.theaudi.org

Deering Community Churchwww.facebook.com/DeeringCommunityChurch**Hampshire Hills Athletic Club**www.hampshirehills.com**Henniker Brewing Co.**www.hennikerbrewing.com**Hillsboro Moose Lodge**<https://www.facebook.com/hillsboro.mooselodge/>**Majestic Theatre**www.majestictheatre.net**NH Audubon**NHaudubon.org**Palace Theatres**www.palacetheatre.org/calendar**Pat's Peak**www.patspeak.com**Poetry Readings (Various)**www.exeteruu.org www.frostfarmpoetry.orgwww.bookerymht.com/open-mic-night**Southern NH University Arena**www.snhuarena.com/events**Stark Brewing Co**www.starkbrewingcompany.com**White Birch Community Center**<https://mailchi.mp/e808d844cb02/81922-weekly-newsletter-12772976>**After the Night**

After earth's dark night,
splendid dawn returns,
before the sun shines forth,
glorious colors splash
across the horizon,
promises of new day,
renewal of the light.

-Marge Burke**Memories of Magic**

He's gone from us now, but he's left behind
Memories of magic he's taught us to find.

A work-a-holic, that's what they said
But he told me stories when I went to bed.

Quality time, he invented the phrase
Stop, look at this, and all else went away.

Time spent with you was his favorite thing
No alarms did he set, no timers went ding.

But as soon as you left, a whirlwind was he.
His lists were so long, no end could be seen.

If you had a problem, he took it to heart,
Came up with solutions that were – pretty smart.

He loved to grow things, straw hat and a hoe
Yet still watched the inch worm to see where he'd go.

"Don't take for granted this world that we see"
Was something he taught to my sister and me.

Just take a minute, or maybe take two
At the end of the day, what harm could it do?

Small bits of magic are all around too.
Stop... Find them. They're meant for you.

Thanks for the Magic Daddy! It will continue.

-Sharon Czarnecki

In memory of Al Weatherbee

10/4/28 – 1/22/25

**POETRY CORNER****Icicles**

Icicles form on
eaves and leaves, making
pretty pictures where
they appear hanging
down in plain sight on
eaves, hiding in leaves,
their shapes twist, sparkle
create fringe or tinsel
depending on where
they form, leaf icicles
surprise me hidden
among the clumps of
frozen rhododendron
leaves, closed in against
themselves in freezing
temperatures.

-Marge Burke



Pat's Peak

Now hiring – multiple positions. Fill out applications online at www.patspeak.com.

Pampered Pooch Grooming Salon

Table renter wanted. Plenty of customer parking. Right off the highway. Two large tubs, one small. Location: Warner. Contact Nicole at 603-391-7685.



Sam Small of Weare created this skiing bear out of a snow block at the Jackson Invitational Snow Sculpting Competition on the weekend of Feb. 1. His assistants were his wife and two kids (Shirley Waite photo).

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, Feb. 11

6 p.m. – Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 12

7 p.m. – Conservation Commission meeting

7 p.m. – Weare Democrats meeting

Thursday, Feb. 13

7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 18

7 p.m. – Parks and Recreation Commission meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 19

6:30 p.m. – Energy Commission meeting

Thursday, Feb. 20

3:45 p.m. – Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting

Friday, Feb. 21

11 a.m. – Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

Saturday, Feb. 22

9 a.m. – Weare Republicans meeting

Monday, Feb. 24

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

Contact Us

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