



# Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents

January 14, 2026

## Inside the Issue

- p.2: Theater News, Upcoming Event
- p.3: Yule and Kwanzaa
- p.4: Pink Ladies, Library, WITW Note
- p.5: Senior News
- p.6-8: Poetry Corner
- p.9: Obituary, Calendar

## Dates Set for Budget Hearing and Town Deliberative Session

By Tom Clow

The 2026 Weare Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, January 31 at 9 a.m., which, according to the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), is the earliest date possible to hold the meeting. Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 19, beginning at 7:00 p.m., to hear public testimony and comment on the overall proposed town budget including all separate, special, and petitioned warrant articles as well as disclosure of the default budget. The public hearing will be held in the Selectmen's conference room in the Town Office Building.

At the deliberative session, which is held in the Weare Middle School Cafeteria, voters will have an opportunity to propose amendments to the warrant articles. Voting on all town and school warrant articles as well as voting for elected officials will be on Tuesday, March 10 in the middle school gymnasium from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

The groundwork for 2026 warrant articles began in October 2025 with the Capital Improvement Program Committee (CIP) hearing presentations from all departments for capital expenditures costing \$15,000 or more. Normally, this includes replacement vehicles, building improvements, road reconstruction, and specialized equipment. The specific CIP proposals appeared in the November 12 issue of WITW. Since that time, the BOS has heard presentations from all departments for building the town's operating budget. Selectmen are ultimately responsible for what articles are placed on the warrant and in what format.

Hand in Hand  
SENIOR CENTER  
& THRIFT SHOP

## SELF PROTECTION WORKSHOP

Workshop led by  
Suzanne Couhie—a 6th  
Degree Master in  
Taekwondo Martial Arts



With over 50 years of martial arts experience and training,  
Suzanne will address safety at home and in public.  
Avoidance, awareness and a few personal self protection  
techniques.

**JANUARY 22 FROM 6PM TO 8PM**

### HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Question and answer session included.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Bring a notebook and pen.
- Open to ages 18+.
- Open to men and women.
- No prior experience needed.

Hand in Hand Senior Center  
33 N Stark Hwy, Weare

Sign up at the Center during  
open hours, or call us to  
register in advance: (603-529-  
4263). Leave your name,  
phone number and name of  
workshop. You can also email  
us: hkurk@hihsc.org

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC. DONATIONS  
ALWAYS WELCOME.**



*Watch history come to life!*

Weare Community Theater invites you to travel through time with us in our third play:

## Ebenezer Mudgett & the Pine Tree Riot

**Rehearsals Wednesday Jan 14  
at the Old Town Hall  
at 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

*Our plays are free to the public, but we need your support and donations to continue to produce and perform them successfully.*

*Donations help us rent  
costumes, build sets, and  
so much more!*

*Open your camera to scan this  
code. Please donate today!*



*All donations are tax-deductible and are managed through the  
Weare Historical Society.*





## John Stark Stage Company

By Eloisa Osgood - President of TRI-M (Modern Music Masters - Music honor society), Improv Club, and Historian of I.T.S (International Thespian Society).

Don't miss this chance to see 2 plays for the price of one and get to encourage our budding directors. The performances will be on **January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at John Stark High School**. Tickets are \$7.00 for students and seniors, and \$10.00 for adults.

Blair Schou and Ellah Adler are directing their own shows for their senior projects. Blair Schou's production of "A Wrinkle in Time", adapted for the stage by Morgan Gould and produced through special arrangement with Stage Partners, is a captivating story about Meg Murray, her brother Charles Wallace, and friend Calvin O'Keefe traveling through space and time to find her missing father. It is based on the popular novel by Madeleine L'Engle.

Ellah Adler's production "Story of Kati" is an adaptation of Kati Preston's books describing her life during the Holocaust. She is a Holocaust survivor and the story is told from the eyes of a young Kati and how she ventured through a world full of hate because of who she was. The showing is a staged reading of an original script.

Choosing to run a production as a senior project is a daunting task, yet Blair makes it look effortless. Blair chose to direct "A Wrinkle in Time" saying it is "a story of self-acceptance and fighting the darkness can relate to anyone." He goes on to say, "His story is timeless, and means so much to not only me but my mentor and producer Jen Matzke. Both of us grew up reading this story and it holds so many happy memories for us both." His directing is hugely inspired by his older brother Braden and he dedicates the show to his mother Jennifer for getting him invested in theater.

While Blair directs, Ellah takes on both directing and writing her production. She researched Kati Preston's books, met her at a signing, and adapted her story for the stage to share as much as possible

## Weare Community Theater



The Weare Community Theater is at it again, and we can't wait to bring our town's bold history back to the stage! By popular demand, we're reprising our very first production: ***Ebenezer Mudgett and the Pine Tree Riot***.

Step back into the 1770s, when resistance was brewing and Weare's courageous townsmen were among the first to challenge King George III by standing up to the infamous pine tree law. This is our story—full of grit, pride, and early American rebellion—and we want *you* to be part of it!

Whether you've always dreamed of being on stage or prefer working behind the scenes, there's a place for you. We're thrilled that many original cast members are returning, but we're still looking for one more man (age 20–50) to complete this large, lively cast. We're also seeking an **assistant director** and a **stage manager** to help bring the production together.

**No experience necessary—just enthusiasm and a love for community theater!** You'll be joining a welcoming group of wonderful people of all ages who enjoy learning, laughing, and creating something special together.

**Rehearsals** begin January 14 (6-8 p.m.) in The Old Town Hall and take place Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

**Performance dates:** April 17 & 18.

*Interested or curious? We'd love to hear from you!*

**Contact:** Lisa Wilber at [LWilber@aol.com](mailto:LWilber@aol.com) or 603-345-9466

Come help us tell Weare's story—onstage or behind the curtain! 





## The Lights of Yule and Kwanzaa

By Diane T. Padilla

Most people are familiar with the holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah. They mark important events in two major religions: Christianity celebrates the birth of Jesus at Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations mark the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem, following the Jewish victory over the Greek conquest in the Second Century BCE (Before Common Era).

Hanukkah is known as The Festival of Lights and is celebrated for eight days; a special candelabra called a Hanukkah, uses eight candles to recall the ancient story of using one night of oil which lasted for eight days.

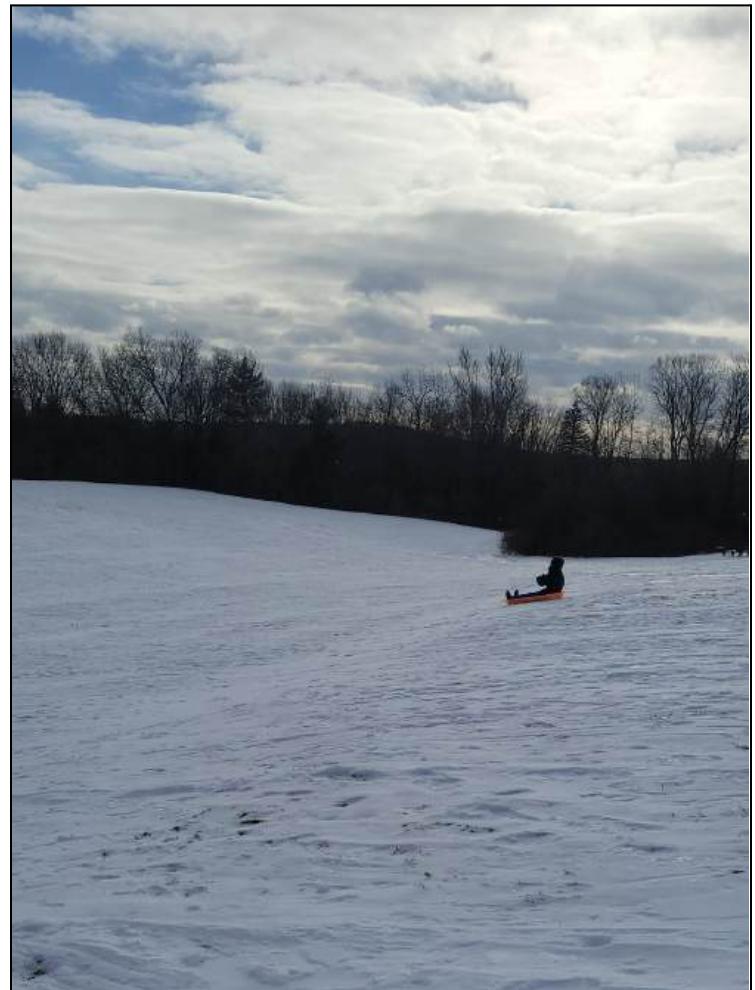
The use of candles in both holidays symbolizes light overcoming darkness, a looking forward towards new beginnings and a fresh start. But these are not the only holidays celebrated at this time of year.

Yule (also known as Winter Solstice), which is celebrated on December 21, has its origins in central Europe, primarily in the regions of Germany. This festival marks the shortest day and the longest night at the end of the year. Celebrations included: feasting, giving gifts, singing songs and decorating, using holly and mistletoe. And there was the burning of the Yule log, a symbol of looking forward to the new year and new beginnings with more light and warmth to come. Some of these Yule customs were incorporated into Christmas festivities by King Haakon I of Norway.

Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday; according to Encyclopedia Britannica, "the name and the celebration were devised in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, professor of Africana studies at California State University in Long Beach." It is celebrated from December 26 to January 1, and has its own special candelabra. There are seven candles using the African colors of green, black and red, for each night of the festival, and each candle represents one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility; cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Other symbols include harvest fruits and vegetables as gifts. The holiday is an African harvest one, bringing community and families together for a special feast on

December 31. Some participants wear traditional African clothing during the celebration.

These holidays, religious and secular, have light as the central theme. As the end of the year approaches, with the cold chill days and dark nights descending upon us, light and warmth offer all of us the opportunity to take stock, grow closer and look forward together to the New Year and the warmer and brighter days ahead.



Sledding Fun. Photos by Alyssa Small.



## Weare Pink Ladies Group - January Meeting

By Lily Tang Williams

Weare Pink Ladies Social Club is looking forward to our January luncheon on **Tuesday, Jan. 20th from noon-2 p.m.**

Please watch our Facebook page for location.

Please email me for details or sign up to join our private group on Facebook. [\(1\) Weare Pink | Facebook](#) or via email [lily4liberty@comcast.net](mailto:lily4liberty@comcast.net)

## Weare Public Library

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### MONDAYS

- 2:30-4:30 p.m.: Pokemondays (kids). Drop in to meet, trade, and play with other Pokemon card enthusiasts - along with games and prizes.

#### TUESDAYS

- 10:30-12:00: Mother Goose Storytimes (starting Jan 13) (ages 0-2). Simple rhymes, stories, and songs for babies and toddlers! Afterwards caregivers and children can stay and play.
- 2:15 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month): Anime & Manga Club (ages 10+). Stop by after school to talk about manga and watch your favorite anime shows!

#### TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

- 2 p.m.: Cards! (adults). Meet and play pinochle or cribbage with other card game enthusiasts.

#### WEDNESDAYS

- 10:30: Pre-K Storytimes (starting Jan 14) (ages 3-5). Enjoy longer stories, fingerplays, flannel, and songs followed by a craft or related activity.
- 2-5 p.m.: Afterschool Gaming (ages 6+). Drop in to challenge your friends on the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, and other systems. Featuring collaborative games like Smash Bros, Mario Kart, and Minecraft.

#### FRIDAYS

- 10:30 a.m.: Baby Playgroup (ages 0-3). An informal gathering for young children and their caregivers. Get out of the house; meet new friends! Books, puzzles, early literacy toys & music.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Thurs., Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. (all ages). Peaceful Roots Yoga. Elevate community connection through mindful, fun, and creative movement with Yoga Master Amanda Marusarz! In this free workshop you'll learn simple, mindful flow that focuses on breathwork and deep stretches in those overworked places with

easy-to-follow poses accompanied by light music and aromatherapy.

• Thurs., Jan. 22 at 7:00 p.m. (adults). Book Group: The Serviceberry. We're reading and discussing Robin Wall Kimmerer's non-fiction about abundance and reciprocity in the natural world. Call the library to reserve your copy.

• Tues., Jan. 27 at 3:00 (grades 4 & 5). Book Club for Kids. Meet once a month to talk about a book you've read. Our first theme is ADVENTURE! Pick a book from home, from school, or from the library and come to share your thoughts and hear about what others are reading. Call the library to reserve your spot.

• Wed., Jan. 28 at 3:30 (ages 6-18). Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament. Fight for prizes and glory in this double-elimination tournament. There's no pre-registration, but you'll need to be on time.

**For programs that require registration, call 603-529-2044.**

The WPL offers discounted passes:



Thanks to the Friends of the Library for making these possible!

### Contact Us

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

Layout Editor – Evelien Schaafsma

Assistant Editor – Alyssa Small

Town News – Tom Clow

School News – Marge Burke

Community Outreach – Sharon Czarnecki

## Note from the WITW Team

We welcome the submission of photographs for publication. When submitting photographs that include minors, written consent for publication from the respective parent(s)/legal guardian(s) is required. We also kindly request that all photographs be accompanied by a caption and photo credit.

**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](https://www.facebook.com/hihsc.org)**

Goodbye 2025. It has been a good year, one in which new friendships were made and **Hand in Hand Senior Center** provided many activities and programs for Weare and our neighboring communities. A special shout out to **Nichols HVAC** for sponsoring Hand in Hand Senior Center over the past half year. Thank you; your help has been appreciated by all!

So, let's see what's in store for January at the Center. **Monday crafts from noon to 2** will continue through January 19. On **January 26** join Donna at **noon** as she leads you through making a **tie-dye shirt**. Bring a white shirt and take home a colorful one at the end of the session (see poster on page 3).

Do you enjoy **hiking or snowshoeing**? Meet at the Senior Center at **10:00 on Tuesdays** to **carpool and enjoy the outdoors**. For more information contact Donna: [dmccarronsp60@yahoo.com](mailto:dmccarronsp60@yahoo.com).

Suzanne Couhie, who over the years has taught many of us and our children how to swim, and owned, with her husband, the Taekwondo Martial Arts Studio in town, will offer a **Self-Protection Workshop** on **January 22 from 6-8** (see poster on page 1 for more details). All are welcome to participate.

Looking ahead to February, the Center will sponsor a **Cribbage Tournament**. Learn more about it in the next newsletter.



Looking back on our December happenings: Santa paid the Center a visit, and he was the warmest and jolliest of Santas. He brought cheers and smiles all around. While he was visiting, we had some other special visitors, too. Weare Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> graders walked over and delighted all with lovely soft, warm scarves and wooden

baskets that they had made. What a wonderful day of surprises and treats! Thank you, Santa and 7th graders!



The day before Christmas the King family (picture below) came to the Center and sang Christmas carols after Wednesday lunch. It was wonderful to go back to some of these old traditions.

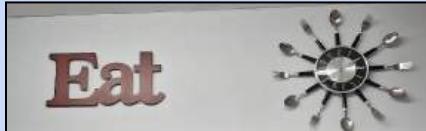


A Christmas day buffet organized by Shirley, Sully, Jim, and others made for a bountiful table. The food, comradery, laughter and good cheer made the thirty guests all seem like family.



In closing out 2025, we want to send a special thank you and words of appreciation to all who helped us have a wonderful year, whether providing financial support, time and energy, moral support or volunteering at the Center or the Thrift Shop. All together you've helped us become a successful growing community and make a difference in each other's lives.

**Happy New Year to all!**



Join us for lunch every Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dine in, take out, or free delivery.

**January 14:** Sausage and peppers, garlic bread

**January 21:** Shepherd's pie, salad

**January 28:** Breakfast: eggs, hash browns, bacon

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.



## Grateful for Our Senior Center

By Donna Carey

Being a senior from Manchester, I have been attending Weare Senior Center for nearly three years now, a 20-mile trip one way. The experience is the highlight of my week. My free meal is always delicious and nutritious and always served with a cheery smile and greeting. I have many friends who share their crafts, their recipes, their highs and lows in life and yes their aches and pains too! Also the thrift store attached supplies all my household needs and clothing desires at discount prices for my limited budget. WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE!!! Thanks to all!!



## POETRY CORNER



### The Winds Are Biting — Grab a Scarf

A snowy cathedral  
Blue skies, icy branches  
Silent save the thrush and chickadee,  
And the occasional tap of the woodpecker.  
In this silent congregation of trees and brush,  
Of snow and ice,  
And the solitary listening fox,  
I lift my voice and sing.  
We Shall Overcome,  
We Shall Live in Love,  
We Shall Act in Joy,  
We Shall All Be Free  
Again and again in the silent woods,  
Sheltered from the icy blast,  
Protected by the trees,  
Until I am ready to return to face the world.

As I turn into the road,  
Facing the wind once more,  
I am grateful for the many layers  
protecting and warming me.  
Not just the jacket, hat, and gloves,  
But the invisible protections weaving through heart,  
mind, spirit  
Like multicolored scarves sheltering me from the winds.  
What scarves are you wearing today?  
Hope, ancestors, nature, spirit,  
Family, community, writing, books,  
Friends, travel, art, helping.  
Marching, fighting, laughing, creating,  
Bubblebaths, yoga, tears.  
Whatever nourishes and protects you  
and strengthens you,  
Pull it out and put it on.  
Embrace it and cherish it.  
Let it shelter and prepare you  
For the cold winds blowing now,  
And know that this storm will pass  
And spring will come again.

- Diane Jackson Schnoor

## Peacefulness in the Midst

Weather frightful,  
snow yesterday,  
peaceful hush came  
over the world,  
temperature rose  
today, rain came,  
heavy, new sounds,  
no more calm hush  
whoosh on windshield,  
tap, tap on car roof,  
temperature drops,  
metamorphous  
happens quickly,  
ice crystals form  
on bare branches,  
pine boughs bend low,  
snow needles form,  
world quiets as  
rain stops, becomes  
fairy village  
peaceful picture.

-Marge Burke

## Unexpected Visitor

Standing at the kitchen sink  
lost in my own world, I was  
not expecting anyone,  
doorbell did not ring, something  
caught my eye, there on the walk  
stood a young doe, unmoving,  
looking in, our eyes locked in  
wonderment, I gazed at this  
magnificent creature who  
gazed back at me, what did  
she see through the window, could  
she see me, or just a structure  
in her pathway, we stayed  
that way, still and silent  
until she turned and moved  
toward the barn, I followed her  
through the house to the porch,  
where our eyes met again,  
no longer strangers, rather  
different creation species  
together in the moment  
then, she picked her way down  
the hill into the woods,  
each of us returning  
to our own lives with joy.

- Marge Burke



## Sue

Sue - a very kind person  
I soon grew to appreciate  
She is an angel from above  
Do not leave her side  
All would agree  
Lives in a quant home  
She has many relationships  
For she is someone you should know  
Thankful is what I feel  
She is a delight to get to know  
Do not let her go for she never will  
Sue

- By Bonnie Kurylo

## Romper Room

Snow fell covering my  
yard in magical white,  
pure, unspoiled, hushed,  
trees dressed in finest ermine,  
a picture perfect scene,  
but not for long, when I  
wasn't looking, it all  
changed, from idyllic  
to romper room, pristine  
surface trampled, visitor  
alone or with friends had  
frolicked, hoof prints left from  
resident doe who comes  
often, alone or perhaps  
with playmates to cavort  
in safety of my yard,  
now looking like lumpy  
mashed potatoes,  
going round in circles,  
or leaping over stonewalls,  
or finding red berries  
on the holly bush then  
disappear into woods,  
days later, after new  
snow, spotless surface  
disappeared once again,  
playground for visiting deer.

- Marge Burke

## Roger L.

Roger L. you may know  
 Of course you do !  
 Weare will tell.  
 Community member for many years  
 Big white house on the side of the road  
 Little red store you remember well  
 He'd be at the butcher counter - work all day.  
 Layered the meat department with such array  
 He served us dinner - Post 79.  
 What a display!  
 No one did what he did. He was the best.  
 He is in a resting place, I know for sure.  
 Roger Lanctot, thank you for all you did.

- By Bonnie Kurylo



At a New Year's party, I was enjoying the company of a table of friends my age. The band played the early Beatles hit, "I Saw Her Standing There". I looked around the table and the following updated lyrics began to emerge:

## Standing There – Years Later

If you're past seventy,  
 then you'll know what I mean.  
 To our former looks,  
 it's hard not to compare.  
 We'll never dance with another,  
 'cause our knees all need repair.

Well just look at me,  
 and you - you can see,  
 that before too long,  
 I won't even be here...

There's a slim chance that I will recover,  
 but I'm - still - standing here.  
 Well if my heart went boom,  
 that'd fore-shadow doom,  
 'sides new love ain't always sub-lime

Perhaps we've learned 'fore it's too late,  
 Shallow attraction's not so great,  
 Have we learned to deeply care?  
 Have we learned how to love one another?  
 Have we learned to really care?  
 Have we learned to truly care?

- David Erikson



## ai-generated imposter syndrome

she types  
 slowly  
 as if each word has to step over  
 the thought she's been avoiding:  
*it could write this faster than I can.*

every sentence she shapes  
 feels like a rehearsal  
 for her own disappearance  
 like she's teaching some machine  
 in a far off data center  
 how to wear her voice  
 the way you'd slip into someone else's  
 already warm coat

she imagines it studying her commas,  
 her crooked metaphors  
 the way she always circles a feeling  
 before she finally pinpoints it

she imagines it learning her rhythms so well  
 that even she wouldn't notice  
 the difference

and the fear blooms:  
 one day her readers will reach out  
 and grasp only the echo  
 never realizing the words come from  
 a different, digital throat

that she could vanish without a ripple  
 replaced by something fluent  
 and tireless  
 and indistinguishable.

she hates that the fear feels so plausible  
 she hates that it makes her hesitate  
 before every line break

but still she writes  
 hoping the trembling in her voice  
 is something no one  
 not even a perfect digital mimic  
 could ever learn to fake

- Rachel Cisto Kindred

## Pauline M. Purington-Bond



Pauline Purington-Bond of Thorndike Road in Weare, died at Concord Hospital on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, from a brief illness. Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, she is survived by her husband of 7 years, Bernard Bond of Weare; brother, Eugene Desjardins Jr. (wife Linda) of Ft. Meyers, Florida; daughters Cynthia Griswold (husband Gary) of Church Hill, Tennessee; Denise Purington (husband Bruce) of Weare, New Hampshire; Patricia Beaudoin (husband Don) of Chester, New Hampshire; stepchildren Dan Purington of Weare, New Hampshire; Cliff Purington (wife Joyce) of Washington, Maine; Robin Asselin (husband Bruce) of Holyoke, Massachusetts; Lorna Clancy (husband John) of Weare, New Hampshire; David Viens of Nashua, New Hampshire; 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She is predeceased by Bernard F. Maillette, husband and father of her 3 daughters, and Donald A. Purington, husband and father of her 3 stepchildren.

Born in Concord, NH in 1933, Pauline was the oldest daughter of Eugene and Bertha (Audet) Desjardins. She attended Sacred Heart School in Concord and graduated from Presentation of Mary Academy Hudson, NH in 1951. Pauline was employed at the NH Unemployment Department for 5 years as secretary, married Bernard Maillette and moved to Henniker in 1956. She lived in Henniker for 15 years and during that time she was the secretary at Henniker High School from 1965 to 1970.

She married Donald Purington in 1971, moved to Weare and has lived in Weare for 54 years. During this time, she was employed as a teacher's assistant in the Henniker Elementary school, she worked at Knoxland Equipment as accounts receivable secretary for 5 years and worked for the Weare Public Library from 1985 to 2012 as a part time library page and library aide. Many of those years were in the library's children's section.

Pauline was a member of St. Theresa's Church in Henniker for almost 70 years and served as a Eucharistic



Minister, Sunday school teacher's assistant and participated in Martha's Ministries. She and her husband Bernie Bond were active members of the Henniker Senior Center where she enjoyed exercise, playing cards, trips with the center and socializing with her many friends. She was also a member and secretary of the Weare Senior Wearites. She enjoyed gardening, reading, traveling and line dancing but her grandchildren were the love of her life. She will be missed by all who knew her.

In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the White Birch Center for Active Living in Henniker or to the Weare Public Library.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Tuesday, Jan. 13

7 p.m. – Finance Committee meeting

#### Wednesday, Jan. 14

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

#### Thursday, Jan. 15

6 p.m. - John Stark School Board meeting

#### Friday, Jan. 16

11 a.m. - Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

#### Monday, Jan. 19

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

#### Tuesday, Jan. 20

3:45 p.m. – Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting  
7 p.m. – Parks and Recreation Commission meeting

#### Wednesday, Jan. 21

7 p.m. – Energy Commission meeting

#### Thursday, Jan. 22

7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

#### Friday, Jan. 23

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee meeting

#### Monday, Jan. 26

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

#### Tuesday, Jan. 27

6:30 p.m. – Finance Committee meeting

#### Wednesday, Jan. 28

6 p.m. – Ethics Committee meeting