

Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents April 24, 2024



- at the Weare Town Clerk's office and the Weare Town Library. Why not sign your group or family up to cover a specific street, road or town area?
- We ask volunteers to take their bags to the Weare Transfer Station (it closes at 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays) if you are able so the town doesn't have to spend money to pick them up!
- Thanks for volunteering to keep Weare beautiful!

Roarick Offered PT Chief Position; Depart. Struggles to Find Help

By Tom Clow

After a prolonged discussion at the April 15 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen, the board voted to offer Acting Fire Rescue Chief Mark Roarick the permanent position of part-time chief with the start date to be determined later. The complexity arises because in his present role, Roarick is part of the New Hampshire retirement system. In order to accept the part-time position, he would first have to retire and then wait 28 days from his date of retirement before starting as part-time chief.

The question of covering the chief's position for the 28-day period, and possibly longer, after his retirement was a major concern of the board. Roarick suggested turning to the town's mutual aid partners for coverage or to Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI). Christopher Olsen from MRI previously served as interim chief and mentored Roarick. The board voted 4 to 1 with one abstention to offer Roarick the part-time position. Selectman Salim Blume abstained because he wanted to see someone in place for the interim period after Roarick's retirement, before making a decision.

Department Update

Chief Roarick was initially on the agenda to update the board on department issues. A March 2023 vote dissolved the Board of Fire Wards and turned its responsibilities over to the selectmen effective March 2024. Roarick said that keeping full-time firefighters/EMTs has become a major issue. Of the eight full-time positions, he said there are presently three vacancies, putting a strain on those that remain to cover the extra shifts. In some cases, he

said, they are working as many as 96 hours a week, which is unsustainable and unsafe. See FIRE, page 2



FIRE, continued from page 1

He said the department has posted flyers in the emergency rooms of area hospitals as well as on the fire academy website, but has had no applicants. He said they also have six active on-call personnel and are again relying on per diem help to fill in. He has four per diem workers available.

On a positive note, Roarick said that the new ambulance has arrived, but is waiting for a radio to be installed before it can be used. Voters approved the purchase of the ambulance in March 2022.



Town Wide Yard Sale to Be June 1

By Tom Flaherty

The Weare Historical Society's Town Wide Yard Sale will be held June 1. Here's how you can get involved:

- 1. Get on the map! DEADLINE: May 17. Applications to register your home and all information can be found at the link below.
- Sign up to set up a table at one of the 10-15 sites at the Stone Memorial Building for guaranteed traffic.
- 3. Donate items for the Historical Society's sale. Call Sherry Burdick at 603-945-1445 or Tom Flaherty at 603-487-7911 for more info.

On June 1, shoppers can buy a yard sale map from the Historical Society at the Stone Memorial Building starting at 8 a.m., and then can visit booked yards around town.

To register and learn more about the event: www.wearehistoricalsociety.org/YardSale2024.php

School News

The Jessica Colburn Memorial Fund was created after longtime special education paraeducator Jessica Colburn passed away following a six-year battle with



cancer in 2023. JSRHS students and her work at the school in the Life Skills program always held a special place in her heart. The fund was created to honor Colburn by supporting students in accessing extracurricular activities. This year, money from the fund will allow 10 students to attend the JSRHS prom on May 4.

These students would not otherwise afford to purchase tickets.

In addition, Colburn, along with fellow paraeducator Carole Zervos and then-JSRHS student CJ Drabble, worked to register a Best Buddy Chapter at JSRHS in 2017. The mission of Best Buddies is to support people with intellectual inclusion for and developmental disabilities (IDD). The John Stark Chapter joined the annual Best Buddies Walk in 2019. This year, the JSRHS Best Buddies Chapter will be walking in Friendship Walk in Concord with 96 registered walkers signed up for May 11. Courtesy photo: Jess Colburn at the first Best Buddies Friendship with the John Stark Best Buddies Chapter walk in 2019.



JSRHS hosted the second annual **Music Sharing Festival** on April 9 including choral and music students from the Henniker Community School, Weare Middle School and JSRHS. Together, the whole group made

some amazing music as one. Courtesy photos. Above: Music students. Right: WMS music teacher Serena Gorham, HCS music teacher Taylor Carroll, JSRHS chorus teacher Susan Williams Back Row: JSRHS music teacher



Dan Williams and HCS paraeducator Kyle Klose, who has been leading HCS chorus.

Two Weare Middle School students recently participated in the **N.H. Showcase of the Mikva Challenge** with seven other students from across New



Hampshire. Aberdeen Demers-Younie (seventh grade) delivered the speech she wrote about Increasing Teacher Salaries and Kaidrien Sleasman (seventh grade) spoke about Bully Prevention. One of the seven students from New Hampshire will be asked to share their speech at a

Zoom National Showcase later this year.

Project Soapbox is Mikva Challenge's public speaking

program that calls young people to speak out on issues that affect them and their communities. These powerful speeches have lasting, transformative impacts on classrooms, schools, and communities. Mikva Challenge is a civic education organization that believes better decisions are made when all voices are heard. Their Mission is to develop youth to be empowered, informed, and



active citizens who will promote a just and equitable society. Mikva programs create authentic civic experiences that are collaborative, rooted in project-based learning, and relevant to the everyday lives of students. Their programs create environments for students to develop a powerful sense of civic agency and work for meaningful change in their schools and their communities, fostering a feeling of connection and purpose. Courtesy photos. Above left: Kaidrien Sleasman. Above right: Aberdeen Demers-Younie.



Some members of the JSRHS faculty and staff during Diversity Week. They are wearing "Everyone Belongs" shirts on April 17: "No Hate in This Place Day."

For the second time, eighth-grade students from the Henniker Community School and WMS combined for a



of five-dav tour Washington, D.C. the week prior to April The week vacation. allowed the 98 students to see many of D.C.'s historic sites, including the U.S. Holocaust Museum. the National Museum of African American History, the National Air and Space Museum the National Zoo and the Lincoln,

Vietnam, Korean Iwo Jima, Jefferson, FDR, Martin Luther King, Jr, and World War II memorials. This year, they also went on the Ghost Tour of Old Town Alexandria. The nearly 150 eighth graders also attended a production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at Ford's Theater on the final evening of their trip. The students will be classmates in the fall as Henniker and Weare students attend JSRHS. Students who did not make the trip participated in various outdoor and team-building activities during the week.

Dunbarton Garden Club Event

By Carrie Carbonneau Henry Homeyer on Growing Great Flowers Monday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m. Dunbarton Town Hall / 1004 School St., second floor



Henry Homeyer is a lifelong organic gardener who has lived in Cornish Flat, N.H. since 1970, teaching organic gardening workshops throughout New England at garden shows, clubs, nurseries, public gardens and other venues. Henry is a UNH Master Gardener and has published several books, including "Organic Gardening (not just) in the Northeast: A

Hands-On Month-by-Month Guide" and "The New Hampshire Gardener's Companion." To learn a bit more about Henry or to order one of his books, check out www.gardening-guy.com

This event is open to the public and we look forward to seeing you! Upon the conclusion of Henry's talk (approximately 60 minutes), we will proceed with our May agenda items for our DGC members and anyone interested in sticking around is welcome!

Weare Public Library Upcoming Events

For Kids and Teens:

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

Baby & Toddler Playgroup. Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30-12 p.m. An informal gathering. Books, puzzles, early literacy toys and music. Get out of the house; meet new friends!

Afterschool Gaming. Wednesdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Challenge your friends on the Nintendo Switch and other game systems. (Recommended for ages 6+).

Storytime. May 8 at 10:30 a.m. Join us for stories, songs, and movement followed by a craft or activity. Recommended for ages 3-5, but all are welcome.

Resilience & Goal Setting Workshop. May 9, 6:30 p.m. (For ages 11 and up). With inspiration from book "The Running Dream," high school transition specialist, bioethics instructor, and life coach Dr. Tiffany Campbell will lead empowering activities and discussion on how you too can rewrite the script of your journey.

For Adults:

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

<u>Craft Group</u>. Thursdays at 1 p.m. Learn a new craft. Space is limited. Call us at 603-529-2044 to register.

Book Group. April 24 at 7 p.m. We're reading "The Wager" by David Grann. Call us at 603-529-2044 to reserve your copy.

Meditation: De-stress, Relax, and Be Peaceful. May 30 at 6:30 p.m. In this free class, Dr. Erika Duffy will guide you in eliminating negative patterns. You'll learn how meditation can help you to relax and feel instantly refreshed enabling you to slow down, create peace, and face life's challenges.



Check out past issues of Weare in the World, our **Business Issue (listing more** than 75 local vendors!) and

more at www.weareintheworldnews.com



using gentle, low-impact movements based on the forms of Tai Chi. This is a progressive 24-week (six months) evidenced-based group exercise program. It will meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45-9:45 a.m. at Hand in Hand Senior Center.

-Improve balance -Gain a sense of achievement -Reduce the risk of falling -Improve memory and cognition

- Increase self-confidence - Improve well-being - Reduce stress

Please note you need to commit to the majority of classes, in order to see progression. If you are interested in participating, please email your name, and phone number to hkurk@hihsc.org or stop by Hand in Hand Senior Center and Thrift Shop to sign up.



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

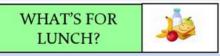
YES! The bright yellow from the blooming daffodils and forsythias along with the sound of the spring peepers assures us the winter is behind us. **Hand in Hand Senior Center** is looking forward to an active spring and summer. Gail Parent will offer an eyeglass clinic on the third Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. Roland Beauregard is happy to help you with cell phone, tablet or computer issues. Yoga classes will continue Mondays and Thursdays, as will craft gatherings on Mondays. And we'll continue having movies (with refreshments) once a month. Lunches on Wednesdays are **the** place to be, with much laughter and camaraderie. New faces are welcomed with open arms.

Our friend Jade offers the opportunity for you to make a container garden on Saturday, May 25 at 1 p.m. We'll provide the soil and flowers and guidance. You provide the container to accommodate six annuals (about a 12-inch pot). You'll have fun and leave with a masterpiece that you can enjoy all summer. The group will be limited to ten people. Call 603-529-4263 (leave your name and phone number) or stop in when the Thrift Shop is open to sign up. A donation of \$5 to cover the cost of materials would be appreciated.

On Monday, June 3 at 10:30 a.m., Shaunna from Granite VNA will return and provide a program on "The Power of Sleep." All are welcome to be part of this dynamic presentation and learn how to sleep better.

Coming soon, as soon as June! An exciting 24-week opportunity to participate in Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance program. This is an evidence-based exercise program led by qualified instructor, Sandy Turcotte. Hand in Hand Senior Center is pleased to bring this program to Weare. (See separate article for more details.)

Please come and visit us during the Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 1. We'll be on the Stone Memorial Building lawn, and of course the Thrift Shop will be open.



Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Dine in, take out or free delivery. April 24: Red lentil soup, tuna melt sandwiches, fruit salad

<u>May 1:</u> Breakfast casserole, breakfast potatoes, toast with jam

<u>May 8:</u> Corn and potato chowder, ham and Swiss sliders, winter salad

Coffee, tea, and various desserts are also available.



FURNITURE FOR SALE!

We need to open up space for all our great new items. Look at these great bargains.

2 Tables, \$25 each

1 high table with 2 chairs, \$75

1 wicker end/coffee table, \$15

4 bar stools with backs, \$6 each

2 bar stools without backs, \$5 each

1 oak mirror with shelf, \$15

1 wicker full length mirror, \$10



See more pictures on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/hihsc.org



T I P S A N D T R I C K S

Is Your Produce Getting Gassed?

By Marlayna Keane

Did you know that most of your fruits and vegetables produce a gas called ethylene? The fruits use this gas as part of the ripening process. BUT, too much of a good thing can cause food to over ripen and go bad.

Thus, it is a good idea to keep the high ethylene producers separated from the others. This includes most fruits that grow on trees as well as apricots, avocados, cantaloupes, nectarines, papayas and peaches. Bananas, peppers and tomatoes also produce ethylene, but only when they reach full ripeness.

Placing these items in a brown paper bag, rolling down the top, and placing them away from other produce should be sufficient. This "life hack" is one I learned from my daughter, Victoria.

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 KILEY! She is a Golden Retriever mix and is friendly, affectionate, gentle, playful, smart and funny. She is house-trained, her vaccinations are up to date, and she has been spayed and microchipped. She enjoys playing with other dogs and she is SMALLER than

she looks in her photos. She doesn't bark, chew, nip, or get into anything! She'd be happy to sleep right next to you and not make a peep all night! She is four months old and she weighs just 19 pounds. She'll likely remain under 40 pounds as an adult.

Meet MILEY! She is a Golden Retriever mix and is friendly, affectionate, gentle, playful, smart and funny. She is house-trained, her vaccinations are up to date, and she has been spayed and microchipped. She enjoys playing with other dogs and she



is SMALLER than she looks in her photos. She doesn't bark, chew, nip, or get into anything! She'd be happy to sleep right next to you and not make a peep all night! She is four months old and she weighs just 16 pounds. She'll likely remain under 40 pounds as an adult.



Meet AMANDA! (Mandie). She is a Black Lab/Retriever mix and is friendly, affectionate, gentle, smart, athletic, quiet and playful. She is house-trained, her vaccinations are up to date, and she has been spayed and microchipped. Mandie has been through more trauma in her young life

than most will ever experience in a lifetime. But she's a survivor, and she has healed very nicely from her injuries. She has a couple of scars on her face and front paws from the altercation with the other dogs, and in spite of the beating she took, she decided to forgive those dogs who hurt her. This gentle girl longs for affection and we can't even begin to describe her wonderful disposition. She is the sweetest of sweethearts. She gets along very well with other dogs, as well as cats. And most of all, Mandie loves to spend time cuddling with humans of all ages. At 15 months old, Mandie has reached her adult weight of 44 pounds.

Meet BELLA! She is a Yellow Lab/ Retriever/Terrier mix and is friendly, affectionate, loyal, gentle, smart and quiet. She is house-trained and her vaccinations are up

to date. She has been spayed and microchipped. Bella is

good in a home with other dogs and older children. This poor sweet little lady was surrendered to a high kill shelter in Georgia by her former "family." The shelter staff couldn't understand why anyone would give up this



sweet-tempered little babe, and they reached out to Hearts and Tails to see if we could save her life. Bella is now here at our shelter in Weare. She's a wonderful girl who loves belly rubs, going for walks, and laying in the sunshine. She wants nothing more than to find a new family to love. She's housetrained, crate trained, knows her commands, and is eager to please her humans!

We believe she would be best with children over 12 (or no children). She has ZERO aggression toward anyone, but small children sometimes make quick movements and it makes her nervous. Bella is about five and a half years old, and she weighs about 46 pounds.

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



Looking for Something to Do? Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki

AG Paintball 603-529-3524 www.agpaintball.com

May 4 * 8 a.m. - NEPL 3 Man Tournament \$200/team May 5 * 8 a.m. - NEPL 5 Man Tournament \$300/team Registration required. See website for details..

THE AMATO CENTER For The Performing Arts

56 Mt. Vernon St. Milford, NH (603) 672-1002 x38 https://amatocenter.org/

Apr. 26 & 27 * 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Shakespeare for Youth " A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Donations accepted)

iter for the Arts 11 com
44 S. Main St., Concord
Midsummer Night's Dream - play
ordan Klepper - comedy
traight No Chaser – choral

Bank of NH Stage16 S. Main St., ConcordApr. 26 * 8 p.m.Michael Glabicki with Dirk Miller (Guitar & songs)				
Apr. 27 * 8 p.m. Neon Wave 80s Tribute Band				
Apr. 28 * 3 p.m. NH Opera Idol				
Young Opera Singers Competition				
Apr. 28 * 6 p.m. Sing-Along Piano Bar				
May 1 * 6 p.m. Highway to the Ranger Zone (Open mic)				
May 3 * 7:30 p.m. Jeffrey Gaines (Singer songwriter)				
May 4 * 7:30 p.m. Panorama - Tribute to the Cars				
with Fleetwood Heart (band)				
May 5 * 6 p.m. NHMC Sunday Sessions: Run Like				
Thieves				
Theves				
Concord City Auditorium 2 Prince St., Concord 603-228-2793 www.theaudi.org May 3 & 4 * 7:30 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice"				
May 5 * 2 p.m. "Pride and Prejudice"				
May 11 * 8 to a.m Noon Grand Community Gardening				
Project: Bring your perennials for a				
joyous exchange with others				
joyous exchange with others				
CURRIER MUSEUM */ART 150 Ash St. Manchester 603-669-6144 www.Currier.org				
NOTE: Our library has discount passes!				
May 1 * 1-2 p.m. Memory Café For Memory Loss				
Patients and Caregivers				
May 6 * 9:30 a.m 2 p.m. Yoga, Art & Lunch				
May 6 * 6-8 p.m. Art of Hope (For loved ones				
whose family members suffer				
from substance use disorder)				
May 9 * 4-6 p.m. Expressions Through Art				
for those affected by cancer				
<u>EXHIBITS</u>				
Until May 27 "Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War"				
Artists Kara Walker & Winslow Homer				
Until June 23 Artist Raphael Barontini				
-				
20 pieces on exhibit				
Until Sept. 2 Filippo de Pisis and Robert Mapplethorpe:				
A Distant Conversation				
Until Oct 18 "Stories of the Sea"				
Artists Van Gogh & Andrew Wyeth				
<u>Classes and Workshops</u> : A plethora of classes explore and teach with considerable expertise. For children and adults. Registration required. See website. Cost range is				
\$150 to \$375 for non-members.				



Breakfast

May 5 * 8-11 a.m.

Page 7



Majestic Theatre 880 Page Street, Manchester (603)669-7469 www.majestictheatre.net

Apr. 23-26 * Vacation workshops/Ages 5-7; 8-13; teens (Check website for details & cost)
May 10 & 11 * 7 p.m. "Les Misérables"
& May 11 & 12 * 2 p.m. Musical/school edition (Call theater for tickets)

SUMMER CAMP: June & July Ages 5 to 14 (Scholarships Available)



2 Institute Drive, Concord (603) 271-7827x113 www.starhop.com

Until **Apr 28** Eclipse Quilts Display

May 3 * 6:30 to 9 p.m. Super Stellar First Fridays Biofabrication is an emerging field of science and medicine which aims to create personalized tissues and organs for the people who need them, and it's happening right here in New Hampshire! Speaker Sydney Rollins.



1 Central Wharf Boston, MA 02110 617-973-5206

www.neaq.org

NOTE: Our library has discount passes!

Featured Exhibits: Amazon Rainforest / Atlantic Harbor Seals / Giant Ocean Tank / Indo-Pacific Coral Reef / Marine Mammal Center/ Olympic Coast Sanctuary / Penguin Colony / Sea Jellies / Science of the Sharks / Shark and Ray Touch Tank.

Now showing: "Arctic: Our Frozen Planet," "Blue Whales: Return of the Giants" and "Secrets of the Sea." (*Tickets required. See website.*)



NH Audubon 84 Silk Farm Rd. Concord 602-224-9909 NHaudubon.org

Until May 31 * 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Earth Day Exhibition featuring original work from League of NH Craftsmen artists which includes photography, prints, and fiber art. Apr 28 * 10 a.m. - noon Climate Café for Parents Registration required May 2 * 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Loons of Massabesic - Lecture

Brockway Nature Preserve Farrington Corner Road Hopkinton

May 1 * 10 - 11 a.m. Brockway Wee Explorers Who lives in the pond? Tickets required



Main Stage – 80 Hanover St. Manchester

Apr 26 & 27 May 3, 4, & 9 * 7:30 p.m. & Apr 27 & 28 May 4 & 5 * 2 p.m.

Apr 27 * 11 a.m. **May 7 & 8** * 7 p.m. Beautiful: The Carole King Musical Seussical Kids (Youth theater) Spongebob the Musical (Youth theater)

Rex Theatre - 23 Amherst St., Manchester

Apr 26 & 27 * 7:30 p	.m.			
& Apr 28 * 2 p.m.	Glitches in Reality starring			
	Simon Coronel (Magic Show)			
Apr 30 * 6:30 p.m.	A Night of Jazz with the Central			
High and Hillside Middle School Bands				
May 3 & 4 * 7:30 p.m	n. Susan Werner (Music)			
May 4 * 7:30 p.m.	An Evening with the Kruger			
	Brothers (Music)			
May 5 * 3 p.m.	New Hampshire Gay Men's Chorus			
May 9 * 8 p.m.	The Vanity (Music)			
-				



200 Bedford, St. Manchester (603) 669-0400 www.see-sciencecenter.org

NOTE: Our library has discount passes!

May 8 * 10 - 11 a.m. Storytime Science Manchester City Library. Reg req. 2024 Summer Camp Registration NOW OPEN.

Visit website for more information.



23 Science Center Road Holderness, NH

603-968-7194www.nhnature.orgNOTE: Our library has discount passes!

May 1 * 9:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. Trails open! Last tickets for the day sold at 3:30 p.m.

May 4 * * 9:30 a.n. - 5 p.m. NH Day Admission \$5 for residents

Currently Registering for summer programs. Also seeking **volunteers** 14-17 to serve as First Guides More info here:

https://www.nhnature.org/who/volunteer.php



White Birch Community Center 51 Hall Ave, Henniker (603) 428-7860 www.whitebirchcc.org \$ = donations accepted.

5 – donations accepted.				
Apr 26 & 30 & May 3 & 7 * 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders, Free				
Apr 26 & May 3 * 1 p	o.m. Crik	bage, Free		
Apr 26 & May 3 * 2 p	o.m. For	ever Young Fitness		
Apr 29 & May 2, 6, 8	4 9 * 10 a.m.	Bone Builders, Free		
Apr 29 & May 6 * 1 p	o.m. Brid	lge, Free		
Apr 30 & May 7 * 10	:45 a.m. Ge	ntle Yoga		
Apr 30 & May 7 * 1 p	o.m. Ma	ah Jongg, Free		
Apr 30 * 1p.m.	Create Your	Own Painting,		
Materials Cost \$20.				
May 1 & 8 * 10 a.m.	Knit Wits (kn	itting group), Free.		
May 2 & 9 * 8:45 a.m	n. Ger	itle Yoga		
May 7 * 1 p.m.	Movie: "9 to	<i>5",</i> Free		
May 8 * 1 p.m.	Team Trivia, I	ree		
OUTINGS				

April 25 * 8:55 a.m. Bus Trip to Tuscan Market in Salem
May 2 * 9:20 a.m. Bowling at Boutwell's, \$16.50.
May 3 * 12 p.m. Lunch Bunch at Henniker Country Spirit

Asked and Answered: Siblings

Coming Home

By Terri Trier

Coming home, the rain pounded the tarmac as the



Happiness is having your husband home after a tour of dury in Viet Nam with the Air prog in films for Cleatinas, Mr. Barbara. Wood was confined to St. Joseph's Hospital from for husband T. Set, Raymond Wood acrowd ystimitys and rusbad to the hospital to be. Wood course lithe of ha svite illusts because if a gurbed roution meange. He has frome with his wile last night, but most of his day was spont with their its unail children Bardier public. soldiers walked one by one down the stairs from the airplane. They were all dressed blue, in and each carried a matching black umbrella. This moment was a long time coming and even at my young age, Т knew of its importance.

A year prior, my father had traveled the exact same path; however, at that time, his back was turned away from us. My tiny 110 pound mother gave birth to six children between February 1958 and June 1965...that's six children in seven years and four months' time. Mark was seven, Kevin was five, I was three, and Gregg was a year and a half when the twins, Karen and Keith, were born. That in itself would be remarkable without even adding on the fact that my father left for Vietnam when the twins were less than a year old. This left my mom, who was a full-time I.C.U. nurse, to care for them. Though he'd been on "tours of duty," before, I'm sure his partings grew harder as his offspring grew larger. My mother was wise beyond her years and came up with a plan to keep her children safe, her job secure and her husband free from worry. Though I don't recall a great deal during my father's time away, I do remember having extra people in our home. I found out the full story years later when I was able to understand it all.

Back in the fifties and sixties, women who got pregnant out of wedlock, were often sent away by their families. All sorts of excuses were made, while their daughter (or sibling), were away from the family home for nine months or more. My mother, in her own progressive way, took some of these young ladies into our home while they waited to have their babies. She never judged their circumstances and treated them like family. They would stay at our home and watch over the house while we slept, and our mom worked the overnight shift in the hospital. After her shift was over, my mother would come home, feed us breakfast, then get us to school or daycare until late in the afternoon. She would sleep as much as she could before gathering us from our activities and making us dinner. Once that was completed, she'd play with us, bathe us, then head off to work again.

My mom did this over and over, until she got sick and ended up in the same hospital she worked in. My father was immediately notified and due to the enormity of the situation with our family, Air Force officials decided to send him home to be with his wife and children. Waiting for my father to make his way into the airport on that rainy night is one of my earliest memories. Friends of the family took all of us to greet him while my mom waited in the hospital. As each of the soldiers stepped out of the plane before descending the stairs, the twins, who were now toddlers, would ask, "Is this one my daddy?" They repeated this question over and over until the answer was finally "YES!" As the years rolled on, life sent us all in different directions, but for one rainy night over 55 years ago, we were just six little kids waiting in an airport to welcome home a man we barely knew, having no idea of the sacrifices that he and my mother had made for our family and for our country.

Everett's Folly

By Frank Oehlschlaeger My brother, Everett, passed away a few months ago. I

miss my best friend. He was three years younger than



me, but we did so many things together, especially after high school. We both roomed together in college, bought motorcycles back in the early 1960s, lived together in an apartment in Seacrest Village in Portsmouth, and traveled then through Europe together. I was the academic/athletic type and he was the hotrod/greaser type (a.k.a., John Travolta

in "Grease.") In high school, he had a D.A. ("Duck's Ass") haircut and I had a "flattop." Later, in college, he was the first guy at UNH to have very, very long hair.

What is the most outstanding memory of our collective high-jinks that comes to my mind? It was the night he lit up "Teen Heaven."

"Teen Heaven" was the quintessential teen dance hangout in the Weirs on Lake Winnipesaukee. In the summer, everyone went to Teen Heaven. You could either meet your local girlfriend (or girlfriends) there or else schmooze the myriads of summer girls who were staying on Lake Winnipesaukee. Going there was a real thrill, especially during motorcycle weekend when you could watch the Levi bedecked biker-couples dirty dancing.

Paying to go into Teen Heaven wasn't cheap so I, as an artist, came up with an idea for getting Everett and his friends in there for free. When you paid at the door, you had to get a round fluorescent stamp on the back of your hand. I had an ample supply of paint supplies and I could duplicate that entry stamp with fluorescent paint. I painted a circle around the top of the bottle cap and then painted a backward P (for "paid") in the center of the circle. I stamped the bottle cap on the back of everyone's hand. That night, we all walked in, slightly nervous, a little bit after the dance started, and stuck our hands under the fluorescent light. Success.

The interior of the large, cozy, low-ceiling dance hall was clean and tastefully lit. Teen Heaven was a classy wood-paneled place, probably built in the 1940s, with lots of booths with varnished wooden tables and red, high-backed, padded vinyl seats. Each table came equipped with a small glass ashtray for the kids--especially the greasers. These tough guys liked to look especially cool by smoking.

Everett had recently been in a confrontation with a greaser gang at the nearby Weir's movie "drive-in." They were here, as always, in Teen Heaven. We had a gun-toting neighbor who had a formidable stash of black gunpowder from which Everett had "borrowed" a small amount. He had hatched an idea!

This evening, he went carefully from one table to another in the back section of the dance hall, while those kids were dancing, and poured just a few little shakes of black powder grains, from a small plastic vial, into each ashtray. Then our group sidled over near the front door, ready to make a quick getaway.

The live band finished a song. A few moments later, a big flame erupted from the booth full of greasers. The flash was followed by a billowing cloud of dark smoke. Somebody cool, in a ducktail hair style, had just rested his cigarette in the ashtray. Then another flame, with another plume of black smoke, came from a different part of the room.

Mr. Hope, the manager, stepped up to the microphone and began to announce "this is not funny" about the out-of-control situation but, as he was talking, another huge puff of black smoke erupted from somewhere in the back of the room. We slid out the front door and ran, full speed, for our cars. Forever after, anyone who was there can remember and talk about it. They can say where they were sitting, and exactly what they saw and what they heard. We were silent. Ironically, Teen Heaven, our great teenager summer dance-magnet-hangout, which we all remember so fondly, eventually caught fire, years later, and burned to the ground.

Ev and I went on, as best friends, to form a rock band, a motorcycle club and a decade of hippie lifestyle. We would always stay in touch. He is gone but those memories... they stay.

Siblings & Mud Pies

By Sharon Czarnecki

To be honest, I started life without a sibling and really



did not share everyone's enthusiasm for the prospect. I mean, after six solid years in the spotlight, I was pretty convinced I had this gig down and no one else need apply.

Once my sister arrived, she proved pretty easy for See SISTER, page 11

SISTER, continued from page 10

me to ignore – rather a lump with very little personality. But when she got to the walking-on-her-own stage, we both were tossed out into the backyard for the day – as was the custom in the 50's. Honestly, she proved to be a lot more fun than a grasshopper or even a group of ants.

It turns out she had an artistic bent and we spent hours making mud pies with elaborate decorations. (Did you know that a small amount of Joy Dish detergent applied to the right consistency of mud would "bake" if left unattended in the sun?)

The teenage years were a struggle. (When are they not?) But the six-year age difference meant we never seemed to be in the same place at the same time.

Still, I have to say, that now, 70 years later, she is – once again – the only person who truly understands the new backyard into which we wander. Could I go there alone? Yes, of course, but so uncertain. When I go there with her, I am brave, much more confident. Together takes work, but the complex decisions are so much better.

No longer deciding the topping for a mud pie cake. Wishing we still were.



Betty Jean and Billy C. (courtesy photo).

Sibling Speak

By Betty Muecke

No doubt many of you have had a younger sibling who had a language of their own, which you learned to speak and thus translate for your parents. Such was the case with my brother and I.

In fact, my family had a favorite book on the subject: "Gerald McBoing Boing," a classic Dr. Seuss book. It was about a small boy who speaks in BIG sounds instead of words. (Think "HONK!" "BOING BOING!" and "CLANG CLANG CLANG!") It was an ideal choice for celebrating the quirks that make each of us unique and for making Billy feel at home with his self-styled language.

True to his buoyant spirit, when I asked my brother if he was comfortable with me sharing these things in Weare in the World, he said: "Go ahead. Make me an urban legend!" There is something precious about our relationship with siblings: they share our past, present and future. They are the cord that connects us to who we were, who we are now, and where we may go from here. So many times, my conversation with my brother begins, "Do you remember...?" And together we relive a golden memory. They know us in a way no one else can, having traveled with us through time and change; challenges and triumphs.

By the way, one excellent reference I have found on getting along with siblings can be found at: <u>www.stephenministries.org/PDFs/CaringTip Empathy</u> with_Siblings



<u>Tell Us About:</u> "Volunteers!"

April 20th is Volunteer Recognition Day. Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." Sharry Anderson

Naturally, we at Weare in the World have a soft spot for volunteers since that describes our entire staff.

But take a minute to think about the other volunteers in your life. Take a minute to send us a note acknowledging them. And don't forget, some folks in our midst are in paid positions but volunteer for overtime or to supply craft items or just to stay after and help.

What would you miss if there were no volunteers?



POETRY CORNER

People Watching

A REAL

The sights you see on Main Street, the regular couple holding hands walking their daily route, I see them going and returning, rain, shine, or snow, the once an hour smoker, rain, shine or snow, paces in front of the building, stomps her cigarette out when finished, the walker, ladened with bags, pinches her unfinished cigarette, puts it in one of her bags for later, people walking their dogs, some place their mark against the building, while others tug on their leash to investigate, parking enforcement officer, patrols the street, gives out tickets to offenders placing yellow envelope under windshield, owners not happy discovering their offense, homeless push carts full of their possessions in plastic bags, a microcosm of our world.

-Marge Burke

Yellow

It's spring now, I know because the vernal equinox happened weeks ago, but we were bombarded by nor'easters bringing winter back with a vengeance, snow, sleet, wind, power outages for days, trees downed, rivers full, today, I see hope, yellow in my yard, brave daffodils and forsythia bloom, courage, tenacity through adversity, lessons for us when too many lemons upset our routines. -Marge Burke An occasional column featuring readers' reveren observations of our natural surroundings



(Sharon Czarnecki photo.)

Right:

Left: David Erickson photo.



Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, April 25 7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

Monday, April 29 6:30 p.m. – Board of Selectmen meeting

Wednesday, May 1 6 p.m. – Mildred Hall Advisory Committee meeting

Thursday, May 2 7 p.m. – Public Library Trustees meeting

Friday, May 3 11 a.m. – Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

Monday, May 6 6:30 p.m. – Board of Selectmen meeting

Tuesday, May7 7 p.m. – Garden Club meeting 7:30 p.m. - Zoning Board meeting

Wednesday, May 8 3:45 p.m. - Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission meeting 7 p.m. – Weare Democrats meeting

Page 13