



Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents

December 13, 2023

The Charlie Brown Tree

By Sharon Czarnecki

There are a lot of Christmas traditions I really like, but one that stands out is cutting your own Christmas tree.



When my son was about 8, he insisted we get our tree from our own land. Accordingly, Andy and I and his 11-year-old sister took off into the woods behind our house. We left around 1:30 p.m. with the expectation that we would be hauling the tree home by 3:30 at the latest. Then we could relax with popcorn and hot chocolate.

Instead, at 3:30, we had established that most of our acreage did not have anything on it resembling a standard Christmas tree. Still, our young woodsman was undaunted and remained in good spirits. He spied a tree from a distance that he declared to be perfect. As we got closer, it became apparent that this particular specimen was a pretty scraggly hemlock tree that struggled to make five feet from the very base to the tippy top. But, its worst problem was that it had many many bare spots and very droopy branches. Nevertheless, this very tree had now been anointed as THE Christmas tree and nothing else would do.

See TREE, page 2



It has been another fruitful and productive year for *Weare in the World*! We published 23 issues, plus an addendum or two, covering town news, local elections, community events, school happenings, business notes, poetry, prose, photography and more. We also grew from 912 subscribers in January to a current 1,004. In this, our final issue of 2023, *Weare in the World* wishes to thank our loyal contributors and readers. We wish everyone in the community a Happy New Year! See you in January!

Harlem Wizards to Play Locals in Fundraiser Event on Jan. 29

The world-famous Harlem Wizards will visit the Weare Middle School on Jan. 29 for an evening of great fun and fundraising. The Wizards will play a game against a team of teachers, principals and community leaders from Weare Middle School, Center Woods Elementary School and Henniker Community School. The event is a fundraiser for the Weare Middle School Student Council and the school's music program. For tickets or more information, visit



www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets.

According to a school release, the energy at a Wizards game is electric. The laughter is infectious. The dunks are rim-rattling, high-flying, and awe-inspiring. The hoop artistry, ball-handling, tricks and teamwork are mesmerizing.

What takes it to another level is the hometown participation from the kids on the court and the teachers, principals and other community leaders who take on the Wizards as the "hometown heroes." Besides cheering for their teachers, the kids are involved all night and will have a chance to get on the court.

Pre-game, any child or teen with a Wizards jersey can warm up with the Wizards, according to the release. Throughout the game, audience members will be asked to volunteer in different contests and acts. At the end of the night, the final moments include inviting all students to come onto the court for a dance celebration with the Wizards.

See WIZARDS, page 2



"Talk" To Us
Dress Up Your Pet
Deadline: Jan. 5
Weareintheworldnews@gmail.com

TREE, continued from page 1

My wise husband considered the situation for a moment and said, "Tell you what? Let's cut this one here too and tie it to the first one to fill out some of the bare spots. What do you say?" The suggestion was approved, and we dragged these two Charlie Brown trees back home.

It was starting to get dark by the time we came trudging down the hill. Our little woodsman was leading us in song at the top of his voice singing, "Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree, how lovely are thy branches. Not only green in summer's heat, but also winter's snow and sleet." (The lyrics were courtesy of the many times our family had watched "The Swiss Family Robinson.") We were a very happy group for sure.

Once the little tree picker had gone to bed – exhausted – my husband tied the two selections together and then carefully shored up the base of the tree with hefty pieces of wood. Garland and lights filled the tree out quite nicely and we even tied a star on top. Of course, we were obliged to be careful about the ornaments and they were carefully selected based on weight, not color or shape.

To this day, it is considered one of the "best trees ever!" by everyone in the family.

heads on hand to further elaborate on their proposals. Dearborn explained that a capital asset is defined as something that will be used for more than one year and/or costs more than \$15,000. The most expensive assets in town, he said, are vehicles, the road systems, and buildings. The proposals for 2024 include the following:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Fire Rescue | New fire engine |
| Dept. of Public Works | Two 10-wheel plow trucks (replacements) |
| | Road reconstruction funds |
| | Roadside mower |
| | Trailer caddy for transfer station |
| Police Dept. | New cruiser (replacement) |
| Parks and Rec | Survey and engineering study of East Road |

Complete minutes of the Nov. 29 meeting are available on the town website. The 2024 CIP Report breaks down the cost of all requests with alternative funding sources where available. It also provides a six-year plan overview.

On Dec. 6, the committee began hearing from departments on their portions of the town operating budget with presentations from Police Chief Christopher Moore and DPW Interim Director Jason Fiske. They are scheduled to hear from other town departments on Dec. 20 and from Weare and John Stark School Districts on Dec. 21. Both of these meetings will be held in the conference room at the Weare Town Office Building and will begin at 6 p.m. They will also be broadcast live on YouTube on Weare Channel 6 and be available for future viewing, as are the meetings highlighted above.

Everything presented thus far is subject to change as the Board of Selectmen prepare the Town Warrant and the school districts' respective boards prepare their warrants, all leading up to deliberative sessions and voting in March 2024.

The Finance Committee will schedule meetings for January to make recommendations that will be presented at the deliberative sessions and go out in a mailer to Weare voters before the March election.

WIZARDS, continued from page 1

The goal at a Wizards game is to bring the community together for a night of good, pure fun and excitement – and it's a fundraiser.

The event will feature a variety of fun interactive extras to complement the Wizards' demonstration of hoops artistry including pre-game "Wiz Kids" warm-up, contests, comedy, awesome slam dunks, audience participation, merchandise giveaways and more. The game will conclude with the Wizards' signature dance celebration.

"We are delighted to host the Wizards," said Jodie Antoine, advisor to the WMS Student Council, in the release. "They are superb showmen who deliver fantastic, all-ages entertainment for a great cause."

Finance Committee Hears Reports on CIP Plan; Town and School Budgets

By Tom Clow

Since seating new members and electing Karie Tepper vice chair on Nov. 1, as reported in the Nov. 22 issue of *Weare in the World*, the Weare Finance Committee has had a full plate, with more to come rounding out the calendar year. On Nov. 29, CIP subcommittee Chairman Jack Dearborn presented this year's CIP (Capital Improvement Program) requests, with town department



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



School News



Meet entrepreneur **Amelia Burke**, 8, a very ambitious 3rd grader at CWESI. Driven by an idea and willingness to work hard, Burke has made her dream of having a school store at CWESI a reality.



The Center Woods School Store is now open and running on a mobile cart stocked with pom-pom winter hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts emblazoned with the Center Woods name or eagle mascot. Coming soon to the store are pencils, erasers, water bottles and more. Why on

a cart? When there is an event at school, like the recent Unified Arts night, the store can move into the lobby. Plans also call for the cart to be moved from classroom to classroom for special sale days.

“One day my mom asked if we had a school store at Center Woods,” Burke said in a school release. “When I told her we did not, she told me I should start one. So, I scheduled a meeting with Principal Potter to ask about it, and the idea took off.”

Why did she want a school store?

“At the end of third grade, we all leave CWESI for Weare Middle School,” she said in the release. “We should have something to remember this school by. It also shows your spirit.”

Burke’s next step was to set up a business meeting with Potter and the school office manager, Erica Butler, to decide what merchandise to sell, find vendors for the merchandise they wanted to sell and how much to charge over cost to fund future purchases. They do strive to keep items in the store priced as low as possible. For example, a t-shirt is \$12, a pom-pom hat is \$14 and a sweatshirt is \$26.

“Amelia has experienced one of the not-so-fun parts of running a business and one of the hardest parts of this project--waiting for the items to be approved, ordered and then delivered,” Potter said. “Everything had to go through the normal school district procurement process with approval needed from the building principal, the SAU 24 business office and the Superintendent.”

As the school store project evolves, Burke keeps meticulous notes in her business plan notebook. For example, when they decided to offer a discount on items purchased by students who have received an Eagle Eye (an award that occurs when a teacher notices

a student doing something kind or helpful), they needed to figure out how much of a discount they could give and still turn enough profit to make future purchases. Burke recorded all these calculations and decisions in her business plan.

When asked what career she thought she’d like to pursue, she firmly said she wanted to be the art teacher at CWESI. There is no doubt she’ll get there.



JSRHS freshman **Evan Payeur** recently earned the honor of Eagle Scout after completing his service project: a moveable donation bin for the Pope Memorial SPCA.

The bin Ethan constructed is large enough to hold multiple 50-pound bags of dog food and is on heavy-duty casters for the ease of unloading in the storage room. He fundraised over \$500 and has over 120 man hours into the project.

EAGLE requirements include earning each of the six previous ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life). Along the way, a youth needs to complete a minimum of 18 service hours (most do way more), camp outside and learn outdoor skills, and participate in community and civic activities. They need a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 14 required ones. Payeur earned 47.

Payeur is a founding member of Troop 529, a regional Weare-based troop for both boys and girls from Weare, Henniker, Hillsboro and Deering.



The **JSRHS Leo Club** donated over 60 food items, including a turkey, to help create a Thanksgiving dinner for a local family. Photo, back row: Cassie Lentsch, Josh Smith, Rio Callie, JD Drabble, Joel Douzanis, Elizabeth Ackerly, Natalie Jensen, Becca Mussey, Madelyne Cyr, Eleanor Brown, Maxine Lundeen, Elise Gage, Charlotte Furness. Front row: Owen Powers, Josh Askham, Evan Powers, Shane Brunini, Mrs. Braga, Mrs. Hagen, Isabel Korbet, Olivia Worthen, Maggie McGinty (courtesy photo).

WMS Student Council teamed with Weare Parks and Recreation to host a dinner for Weare seniors on Dec. 6 at the school.



Janell Fleck measures chicken broth



Kayla Essman and Abby Duval help prepare the senior dinner meal.



Council members L to R: Kora Beard, Lauren Williams, Claire McCallum, Izzy Powers and Avery Pellerin.



Seniors enjoy a dinner put on by the WMS Student Council.

UPCOMING DATES

There will be **NO SCHOOL** in SAU 24 on **Dec. 25-Jan. 1** (holiday break) or Jan. 15 (Civil Rights Day.)

Weare School District:

- Dec. 14:** Early release day
- Dec 19:** Weare School District board meeting, 6 p.m., WMS or live-streamed on SAU 24 YouTube channel.
- Jan. 10:** Weare School District board meeting, 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. will be the 2024-25 budget public hearing. Meetings at WMS or live-streamed.

John Stark School District:

- Dec. 13:** John Stark School District board meeting, 6 p.m. in Room 144 at JSRHS.
- Dec. 14:** Early release day
- Dec. 14:** Winter concert; snow date Dec. 19.
- Jan. 12:** John Stark School District board meeting, 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. will be the 2024-25 budget public hearing. Meetings in Room 144 at JSRHS or live-streamed.



You Should Be Dancin’ to Hold Holiday Performance on Dec. 16

From elves to Frosty the Snowman, Rudolf, the Big Guy himself (Mr. Claus) and a classic battle between Heatmiser and Mr. Freeze, You Should Be Dancin’s holiday performance of “Christmas Is My Favorite Time of Year” is something you won’t want to miss this holiday season! The shows will be at Derryfield School on River Road in Manchester on Dec. 16 at 12 and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Santa recently stopped by our dance studio to encourage our dancers as they got ready for the show!



Making Memories

SANTA CLAUS
aka Nathan Kelley
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nathankelley0603@gmail.com

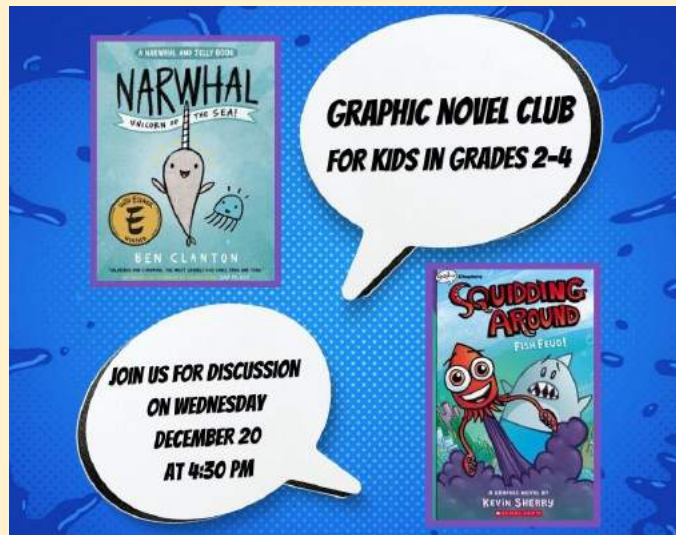
Weare Public Library News



MINI "GINGERBREAD" HOUSE
STEM challenge

Thursday, December 14 1:30 pm

Space is limited
Registration required



GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB
FOR KIDS IN GRADES 2-4

JOIN US FOR DISCUSSION
ON WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 20
AT 4:30 PM

NARWHAL: WILDERNESS OF THE SEAS by BEN CLANTON

SQUIDDING AROUND by KEVIN SHERRY

To register for any program, 603-529-2044.
Closed Dec. 23-25, Dec. 30-31 and Jan. 1.



Candlelight Carol Sing

Friday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m.

Henniker Quaker Meetinghouse, 529 Quaker St.

Led by members of Weare/Henniker Quaker meeting, join us once again as we gather together, for the first time in four years, to join our voices in song at this Christmas season. All are invited, including children. The event is free, but you are encouraged to bring a candle, a stick of firewood, or finger food to share. For more information call 995-4311. (Mask wearing is at your discretion).

Light in the Darkness: A Service of Healing

Are you feeling sad, blue, lonely this holiday season due to some kind of loss in your life? Has a loved one died, have you lost your job, a friend, a home? On Sunday, Dec. 19 from 5-6 p.m., there will be a quiet service at St. Andrew's Church in Hopkinton, co-sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Church, Dunbarton, and Holy Cross Church, Weare, offering prayers, meditation and the lighting of candles. All are welcome. Please join us.

Scout News

Scouts on Boston Freedom Trail

By Marsha Lanier

Fourteen Scouts from Troop 24 and two Cub Scouts from Pack 24 completed the Boston Freedom Trail on Veterans Day (observed) 2023.

Pictured are the Scouts and their very own Minuteman chaperone in front of the Massachusetts State House.



One of our Scout's grandfathers, Jim Curley (a Weare resident), is the Chaplain for the 6th Middlesex Regiment and gave us the grand tour of Boston.

Webelos from Pack 24 shopped for and cooked a meal over a fire on Dec. 9 as part of their Cast Iron Chef adventure.



Pack 24 Cub Scouts joined together at the Weare Public Library on Dec. 9 to have an introduction from Director Clay Kriese and to craft and play various board and trivia games (Alyssa Small photos).

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 - Fri, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

603-529-4263 / facebook.com/hihsc.org

No mistaking it: the cold weather is here. If you want to feel the warmth of community and friendships, come to **Hand in Hand Senior Center** on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a hot lunch and happy chatter.

Check out what else is going on. Donna McCarron provides help and support for quilting, knitting and all types of projects on Mondays at noon (or just come to be social). Tuesdays there's chair yoga at 10 a.m. If we find there's interest in a more advanced group, we'll work to make that happen. On Saturday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m., Donna Carey will lead a class on candles for the holidays.



Two examples from last week's craft session.

The last movie of the year, "A Christmas Story," will be Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 2:30 p.m.

Once again, **Christmas dinner** will be served on Dec. 25 at 1 p.m. Stop by the Thrift Shop to let us know you'll join us. The holiday spirit abounds at the center and welcomes you to see it for yourself.

We're a wonderfully busy place that's growing. We could use an extra pair of hands to help serve lunches on Wednesdays. Should you be interested please contact Shirley at shiggins@hihsc.org.

Speaking of lunches and food...this week, meet Sue Cannella, who has been volunteering to cook every other week at Hand in Hand Senior Center for about three years. She plans



these meals, does the shopping and all the prep and then cooks the meals. We now serve more than 50 meals a week! Why does Sue volunteer to do all this? She likes to cook and try new recipes – especially for people who enjoy a good meal. Sue hopes that Hand in Hand Senior Center continues to thrive as a community center and gathering place. A warm meal certainly is a keystone to making that a reality.

Professionally, Sue is a seamstress. She's mostly retired, working one day a week at the Bedford Bridal Shop. Her hobbies include gardening, beadwork and various other creative arts. Jamie Oliver said it best, "Cooking is the ultimate giving." Thank you, Sue!

**WHAT'S FOR
LUNCH?**



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

Dec. 13: Breakfast: scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, link sausages, waffles with syrup.

Dec. 20: West African chicken stew, green bean and relish salad, brown rice.

Dec. 27: Hungarian goulash, buttered noodles, spinach salad, rolls.

Coffee, tea, and various desserts are also available.

**WHAT'S IN
THE SHOP?**



We have lots of wonderful Christmas and winter decorations, including lights and ornaments, dishes, clothing and more.



See up-to-date information on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/hihsc.org and like us while you're there.



Looking for Something to Do?

Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki



Santa's Christmas at Charmingfare Farm

(603) 483-5623 visitthefarm.com



(603) 644-5000 snhuarena.com



Capitol Center for the Arts

Chubb Theater 44 S. Main St., Concord

Join Greg and the Morning Buzz Team as they host an all-star cast of musicians, performers, comedians and special guests. A portion of the proceeds go to Lend a Helping Can, a 501c3 Charity that serves 11 soup kitchens in New Hampshire. More: ccanh.com



Asked and Answered: Holidays

Ode to Christmas Decorations

By Sue Cannella

When I was growing up in suburban Chicago, Illinois, one of seven children, we developed a couple of annual "events" in our family during the Christmas season. One was our day-long trip on the train to Chicago for a major shopping venture in all the big city stores. That always included lunch in a



See **DECORATIONS**, page 8

DECORATIONS, continued from page 7

department store cafeteria and a visit with Santa Claus. Mostly we loved just seeing all the decorations. Macy's and Penny's and Carson, Pieri, Scott and even Woolworth's outdid themselves every year. And all the streets were decorated throughout the downtown area, making everything completely magical.

Since seeing all the decorations and lights that individual homes put up was also magical, we always took one night during the season to pile in the car after dinner and take a leisurely drive through our own small-town neighborhood simply to see all the decorations. This was always a Friday or Saturday night, since a school night could never be used for an outing.

To this day, I always enjoy seeing all the decorating that people do – how amazingly creative they are. I no longer go as often as I used to to the Mall of New Hampshire, but I do plan one trip during the Christmas season, not to shop, but just to see the mall fully decorated in its Christmas finery. My own decorating is quite simple: one little four-foot artificial tree with my treasured collection of homemade ornaments, and an evergreen swag for the deck or front light post. But they do make the season seem so much more real...

Favorite Holiday Memories

By Marge Burke

During my childhood, on a Friday night a week or so before Christmas, our family would go Christmas shopping, or perhaps mostly looking, up and down Moody Street in Waltham, Mass. It was exciting to see all the decorations and lights in store windows. Sometimes there would be music playing. The best of the outing, and most anticipated by me, was my dad's tradition of buying a bag of cashew nuts for us to share while shopping/looking. The saliva started building in my mouth as we entered the store that had the nuts. What absolute delight when I put that first cashew in my mouth, a once-a-year treat.

Another favorite preparation memory is baking cookies with a friend. She would come to my house with her mixer and ingredients. I would get out my ingredients and all the other equipment, including my mixer; after all two were better than one when baking cookies together. Pounds of flour, sugar (two kinds), butter,



chocolate chips, nuts, cocoa powder, flavorings, eggs a dozen or more, filled the counter.

We measured, chopped, mixed, baked, gabbed and laughed a lot. I have a double oven, so there were lots of shelves for sheets of dough. The house filled with delicious aroma as our masterpieces came out of the ovens. We made seven or eight different kinds of cookies, so the temptation to try each one was great. By the end of the day, we had boxes and boxes packed to share with each other. Then, my kitchen elf, my dear husband Donald, would appear and clean up our mess, while sampling each cookie variety.



Tell Us About:
Dressing Up
Your Pet

January 14 is Dress up Your Pet Day. Send us pictures and stories of dressing up your pets, what was the occasion? Was there a parade? Did the pet enjoy being dressed up?

Why We Love Living in NH

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



A field in Henniker (Joe Czarniecki photo).



POETRY CORNER

Way Station Between Two Worlds

I am loath to leave my bed
 A womb of warmth against the cold embrace of a winter morning
 The sheets form a tent that acts as a way station of the in between worlds
 In which I play a mirror image in my mind, a reflection of the outer world.

But this mirror is different.
 Like a funhouse mirror
 The dream life is distorted
 Elements out of step with my daily doings.

Colors and cities and countries I have never seen
 Seem like old familiar places
 I am facing my past with faces from my past
 It leaves me stirred and shaken.

Alarm buzz jolts me back rudely into the day
 And the caffeine lifeline reels me in to real time.
 -Diane T. Padilla

Frosty Mornings

Temperatures dip below
 the red line at night now,
 mornings are frosty,
 lake surface is changing,
 a thin skim at dawn
 glistens as sun rises,
 thaws by noon if
 temperature rises,
 skims over again at dusk,
 motions below slow as
 the lake readies itself
 for the months ahead
 when skim becomes ice
 hats and handwarmers needed.

-Marge Burke

Sunrise

Morning came gently
 with pastel colors,
 layers on top of
 layers of pinks, blues,
 greys, slivers of white,
 slowly rising up
 over the sky line,
 time to savor a
 quiet beginning
 of a new day
 before the sun burst
 forth in radiance
 to light our day.

-Marge Burke

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, Dec. 12

7 p.m. – Parks and Recreation meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 13

3 pm. – Trustees of the Trust Fund meeting
 6 p.m. – John Stark School Board meeting
 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission meeting
 7 p.m. – Weare Democrats meeting

Thursday, Dec. 14

7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

Friday, Dec. 15

11 a.m. – Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

Monday, Dec. 18

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

Tuesday, Dec. 19

6 p.m. – Board of Fire Wards meeting
 6 p.m. – Weare School Board meeting
 7 p.m. - Cable Committee meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 20

6 p.m. – Ethics Committee meeting
 7 p.m. – Finance Committee meeting

Saturday, Dec. 23

9:30 a.m. – Weare Republicans meeting

Thursday, Dec. 28

7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

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