



# Weare in the World

Volume 6, Issue 3 February 23, 2022

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*For Weare Residents, by Weare Residents*



**Voting Day:**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

## Inside the issue:

### Meet the Candidates

This week, meet the candidates for the Weare School Board and the JSRHS Board. See pages 3-8.

### Get informed

For complete coverage of recent deliberative sessions, see pages 8-9. For details on an upcoming public Zoom session with the Weare School Board, see page 8.

### Voting

Last issue, we ran a guide on when and how to register, absentee guidelines and where to direct questions. Go to [www.weareintheworldnews.com/issues](http://www.weareintheworldnews.com/issues) to check it out. In Weare, polls will be open at Weare Middle School on Tuesday, March 8 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Results

*Weare in the World* will publish all the local results in the issue coming out Wednesday, March 9. To subscribe and receive two issues a month to your inbox, go to [www.weareintheworldnews.com](http://www.weareintheworldnews.com).

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### Candidates' Forum

**Thursday, March 3, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**Weare Middle School cafeteria**

See the candidates for town and school offices. The public is welcome to attend in person. A live stream link will also be available on the town website:

<https://www.weare.nh.gov/>

## Hilliard Leaving WMS and CWUES at End of 2021-2022 School Year

Center Woods Upper Elementary School and Weare Middle School Principal Shawne Hilliard has announced that she will leave at the end of the 2021-2022 school year after seven years in the Weare School District, according to a school district release sent by Superintendent Jacqueline Coe.



Hilliard joined the Weare School District in 2015. Throughout her time in Weare, Hilliard has skillfully managed several significant transitions and challenges. Hired as teaching principal of the newly formed CWUES, she fostered a positive, developmentally appropriate environment for

For details on the selection of the new WMS/CWUES principal, see page 2.

fourth and fifth graders within the middle school building. In 2018, she became Interim Principal, and in 2019 she was named

principal of grades 4-8. Throughout the pandemic, Hilliard provided steady and consistent leadership to keep the school moving forward.

Hilliard sought out numerous opportunities and resources over the years including bringing in engaging programs like Chaos and Kindness and field trips to Gundalow Company and Odiorne Point. She collaborated with teachers and instructional coaches to bring the Universal See HILLIARD, page 2



**"Talk" To Us**  
**Funny Stories**  
**or Pictures or Poems**  
**Deadline-March 4**  
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Design for Learning (UDL) framework into the classrooms. Additionally, Hilliard serves as a state leader in the Universal Design for Learning network.

"Her consistent support of my growth and program is what has kept me in this district for three consecutive years. I have her to thank for so much wisdom, advice, and support regarding my professional ability," Music teacher Serena Gorman said. "Shawne has changed my professional life and I know that wherever she goes, she will positively impact the staff and students."

"Through her dedication and hard work, Principal Hilliard leaves a solid legacy," Coe said. "I am grateful for her years of service, and wish her the very best of health, success, and happiness in her next chapter."

In her resignation, Principal Hilliard said, "I have learned so much and will forever be grateful for the amazing people I was able to work alongside, and of course for the students. To see students challenge themselves, create, work, collaborate, reflect, wonder... what a privilege to be part of their journey."

## Community Input Sought in Search for New WMS/CWUES Principal

The Weare School District is beginning the process of searching for a new WMS/CWUES principal. According to a release from Superintendent Jacqueline Coe, the district has "a rigorous schedule planned to convene focus groups for input, screen applications, interview candidates and identify finalists. If all goes as planned, finalists will be interviewed between April 2-10 with a final nomination to the board in late April." Below are opportunities for public input:

**-Respond to a survey:** Teachers, parents and students can respond to a survey about the learning climate at CWUES/WMS and share insights on positive things that should be maintained and areas for growth. In the coming week, emails will be sent directly from Panorama Education to emails on file. The deadline for responding is Feb. 25. This survey will take about ten minutes to complete.

**-Attend a focus group session:** There will be three focus group sessions to review the rubric that will be used in the hiring process. The first session will be on March 7 from 6 - 7 p.m. on Zoom. There will also be two in-person sessions on March 8 at Weare Middle School. One will be from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and the other from 5-6 p.m.

**-Serve on the screening committee:** An 8-10 member

screening committee composed of school board members, teachers, support staff and parents is being organized. The committee will use the rubric to review applications and interview candidates. The charge of the committee is to recommend up to three finalists to the superintendent by the end of March. People who can make the commitment to the dates and times below and would like to serve on the committee, please contact Jackie Coe at [jacqueline.coe@sau24.org](mailto:jacqueline.coe@sau24.org) by Feb. 21. The screening committee dates are: March 10 (4 - 5 p.m.); March 21 (4 - 7 p.m.); March 23 (4 - 7 p.m.); and March 30 (4 - 7 p.m.)

**-Attend public forum:** Final interviews will be held in a public forum. Exact dates and times have not yet been scheduled, but the forum will take place at Weare Middle School. At this time, staff members, community members, parents and students will have the opportunity to meet the candidates and offer feedback to the superintendent.

## Weare in the World Marks Two Years Since Volunteer Effort Began

*Weare in the World* began in 2016 as a labor of love by Michael Sullivan, former director of the Weare Public Library. His goal in producing a weekly four-page newsletter was to increase engagement and connectedness in Weare, our quiet rural town of roughly 9,000 people. In late 2019, Sullivan suddenly died of natural causes. Determined to honor his wonderful human nature and continue the impact he made, a small group of volunteers came together to keep *Weare in the World* going.

In February 2020 – almost exactly two years ago – we published our first issue: a tribute to Sullivan. From that point until the present, *Weare in the World* has been produced separately from the library – with its knowledge and consent – and solely by this group of volunteers. In total, we have published nearly 50 issues, growing regularly to 10 pages or more per issue and nurturing readership to nearly 600 email subscriptions.

We are proud to provide news about our town and schools; features about its people and their accomplishments; announcements by our many civic groups, clubs and non-profits; spotlights on our hard-working local businesses; local writers' poetry, prose, and humor; recipes; photography; and more.

Our mission today reflects what Sullivan first sought to do, and it remains the same as when we picked up the baton: to provide information and build a sense of community. Thank you for your continued support and readership.

## Meet the Candidates

This week, meet the candidates for Weare School Board and the John Stark Regional High School Board.

In Weare, there are two candidates for a three-year term and two candidates for a one-year term. At John Stark, incumbents Jill Dagenais (Weare) and Zach Lawson (Henniker) are running unopposed for three-year terms. (Look for Lawson's survey to be published soon as an addendum to this issue.)

The *Weare in the World* staff developed the following surveys and sent them to all candidates. They were given a word limit and surveys were lightly edited only for style and mechanics. *Note: Candidate Alyssa Small is Assistant Editor of Weare in the World. She recused herself from any involvement in the survey process or development of this issue.*

### Weare School Board: Three-Year Term



**Name:** Brent Dickinson

**Contact:** [BrentDickinson5@aol.com](mailto:BrentDickinson5@aol.com)

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your**

**involvement in Weare schools and the community.** I have lived in Weare since 2013. I am originally from Bangor, Maine, but have traveled and lived throughout the country. I am a Navy veteran. I have been a machinist for the better part of 30 years and am now a toolmaker. I attended public schools and some college courses that were focused on psychology. I attended many trade-related U.S. Navy schools, along with leadership training. I have Six Sigma training as pertaining to manufacturing. I have two children in the Weare school system: Brianna, my daughter is in sixth grade, and my son Brad is in tenth grade. In the past I have volunteered as a scout leader and assistant coach for the Weare Athletic Club.

**2. What specific skills would you bring to the position?**

The skills I would bring to the school board include leadership, analytical thinking, compromise, budgeting, and a willingness to learn. I also bring the love of a concerned parent. I have dealt with governmental budgets while being the supervisor of an Aircraft Carrier machine shop, as well as the financials as a former small business owner. I have also been a trainer in my trade for over 20 years. The leadership skills I acquired while

serving involved more than just simply giving orders. Leadership requires knowing your people and their needs and giving them the necessary resources to be able to excel. Where our town has a limited tax base, we need to maximize our resources that are available to our teachers and our children.

**3. What would be your top priority if elected?** My priorities would be encompassed by transparency in the budget, in the disciplinary and safety policies, and in the culture for our teachers. I do not want our schools devolving into what is seen throughout the country, where students are in physical fear. I would like to see advisory meetings held by the board for parent/taxpayer input, along with advisory meetings for the teachers. We cannot provide if we do not know what is needed.

**4. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, how should the school district support the health, well-being and academic achievement of its students? What actions would you support in service of those goals?** As we are moving forward out of the pandemic, we as a nation, as well as the local community, have learned much. Much of what we know now is unsettling to many, as the reactions by our government, both state and federal, have had a negative and unnecessary effect on our lives, and I feel mostly on our children. I do not agree with the masking practices and believe the mandates are and have been unconstitutional all along. I have been outspoken publicly on this topic since the beginning. I feel the best course to set for the students is to get back to kids being kids. Get them back to the routines they need and with that the expectations surrounding discipline while at the school. I believe that each family knows what is best for their own circumstances, what is in line with their own beliefs, and should not be dictated to by the government, local elected body, or any other group.

**5. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten?** I am not totally sold on the all-day kindergarten plan as it has been presented, especially in a year of an increase in the budget request of roughly \$600,000. The state funding that is said to make the plan at least a zero net proposal, or as described at the proposed budget meeting, revenue generating, is not a guaranteed, perpetuating amount. I see the convenience of a change to all-day. One piece of information that was not presented was a predictive census of the future population of the children in Weare who would benefit from the investment in funding,

**See DICKINSON, page 3**

**DICKINSON, continued from page 2**

resources, and teachers. Without that information, I would rather spend time and effort on the current material condition of Center Woods, rather than to expand into a venture that would possibly become burdensome.

**6. What are your plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district?** Where the tax base in Weare does not provide top salary for the competing area, I believe the culture that is fostered for our teachers will help in retainment. With that, I believe the teachers should be heard by the board directly, as to ensure the proper culture is being promoted and ensured. Schools are no different than a business; many have experienced the middle management blocking technique. I would like to see direct, advisory meetings for the teachers with the board, without interference or fear of reprisal.

**7. What do you think is the most important thing we should be teaching children in our schools?** I support an emphasis on STEM subjects, especially math skills. As a nation we lag behind, and after 30 years in machining, using advanced arithmetic everyday, I know that everything we touch, use, and buy has a need for math skills behind it.



**Name:** Alyssa Small

**Contact:** [alyssawaite@gmail.com](mailto:alyssawaite@gmail.com) or [alyssa.small@sau24.org](mailto:alyssa.small@sau24.org)

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.** I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, as I thought I might teach English as a second language and support myself while traveling the world. I also have a Certificate in Paralegal Studies and have worked as a paralegal for 26 years (20 of those in the same office). My husband and I have owned a home in Weare since 2013, but I have lived in Weare off and on a few times before that, thanks to my parents' help during life's bumps. We have a daughter in the Upper Elementary School/WMS and a son at Center Woods Elementary School. I have been serving on the Weare School Board in an interim position since October. Prior to joining the board, I was working as a substitute at Center Woods one day a week as a paraprofessional, UA teacher, and

classroom teacher - whatever was needed on any given day. For the past two years, I have also been volunteering to help produce this publication.

**2. What specific skills would you bring to the position?** My legal experience has helped me develop analytical, research, and administrative skills. As a person, I am a caring, respectful listener and thoughtful collaborator. My experience on the board has already taught me so much about policies, procedures, committees, administration, budgets, etc., and that training will prove extremely helpful.

**3. What would be your top priority if elected?** In my time on the board, I have tried to make sure that everyone feels heard so we can move past Covid policy-based disagreements and focus on the education of our children, which has suffered during the pandemic. That is what I would like to see in the next 3 years - a strong focus on recovering from pandemic learning loss.

**4. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, how should the school district support the health, well-being and academic achievement of its students? What actions would you support in service of those goals?** The schools have worked so hard to keep our kids in the classroom as opposed to learning remotely, which is a great start. To be in school, we need to make sure that the staff and students present are physically well. The wide availability of home rapid tests has helped keep sick people home and has also helped get others back in school quickly. The schools have been using many layers of protection such as air circulation, spacing, cleaning, and cohorts. However, we are still seeing in-school transmission of Covid and that is why there is still a need for mask use in some situations. I am hoping that as we creep closer to spring we will have less cases, more outside time, and more normalcy. In the meantime, we need to address the social/emotional and academic toll of the pandemic on the students. The effects vary from kid to kid, but I think most could benefit from more counseling opportunities and tutoring offerings, even if these were offered remotely as an after-school program. It would also be nice to see more clubs and other enrichment activities to boost the kids' morale and sense of belonging.

**5. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten?** It looks like we have a solid, fiscally-sound plan and our town is ready for it, so I'm excited! It will give Weare children a good start on their learning path.

**See SMALL, page 5**



**SMALL, continued from page 4**

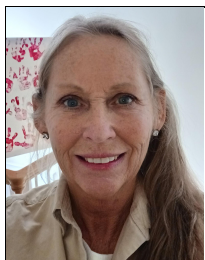
**6. What are your plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district?** We need to offer a competitive pay and supportive work environment (not just in school, but in the community). Our teachers have been going above and beyond what they ever expected to have to do as teachers, and they should be respected and appreciated for their service.

**7. What do you think is the most important thing we should be teaching children in our schools?** We need to teach our kids the value of education. The intake of information alone is not education. We want our kids to acquire practical knowledge and skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking. If students see that what they are learning is relevant, they will be more internally motivated to succeed. With younger kids, there is often a sense of curiosity, excitement, and pride around learning. We want to foster these feelings in our bigger kids too. When we are enthusiastic about education, the kids also will be.

### Weare School Board: One-Year Term

**Name:** Toni Parker

**Contact:** <https://www.facebook.com/savedthrufaith99/>  
<https://toniparkeraconservativevoiceforschoolboard.com/savedthrufaith99@protonmail.com>



**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.** My name is Toni Parker

and I have lived in Weare with my husband, Kyle, for the past six years. I have four adult children but no children currently in the Weare school system. I and all of my children were educated in the public schools of New Hampshire. Following graduation, I entered the New Hampshire workforce, where I have held numerous positions focusing on customer relations and support, as well as general office functions. As a taxpayer, I have attended Weare School Board meetings and recently was involved in gathering signatures for a critical race theory warrant. My community involvement is centered on my church family at Weare Bible Baptist Church, where I participate in several ministries.

**2. What specific skills would you bring to the position?** For more than 20 years, I worked in the corporate sector

providing administrative support in areas such as organizational management, record keeping and accounting functions. I am proficient in computer applications and website design. I had primary responsibility at several firms for customer support and gained experience in listening to, understanding and meeting each customer's individual needs; thinking strategically to solve problems with workable plans; and functioning proficiently in an extremely difficult and fast-paced environment. I am organized and analytical. For the past 15 years, I have served as a personal assistant and home manager for a family of two medical doctors with five children. This work experience, in particular, has given me familiarity with current curricular issues in New Hampshire schools.

**3. What would be your top priority if elected?** Using the skills I acquired during my years working in customer relations, my top priority will be to serve as an advocate for parents, students and taxpayers -- the "customers" of our educational system. I will emphasize listening in order to understand and meet needs. Many people feel that their voices are not being heard. Trust is an issue, and trust can be restored and enhanced only through effective communication between our professional educators and the community. An excellent education has benefited my family, and I am committed to assuring that current and future students have the same high-quality educational and extracurricular opportunities. As a taxpayer, I believe that we are confronting unsustainable budget growth. My work in the corporate world and with my husband, who is sole proprietor of a construction company, has given me an appreciation and understanding of how to combine quality with financial prudence. I will bring this perspective to my activities on the school board.

**4. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, how should the school district support the health, well-being and academic achievement of its students? What actions would you support in service of those goals?** We are still the United States of America. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights are alive and well. Our state, in particular, emphasizes individual freedom through its "Live Free or Die" motto. Data shows that in-person learning best promotes the health, well-being and academic achievement of students. Individual differences among students must be accommodated when developing policies regarding such things as masking and vaccinations. I am a strong advocate for personal freedoms and parental rights. Parents must be **See PARKER, page 6**

**PARKER, continued from page 5**

integrally involved in making choices for their children.

**5. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten?** Having very young grandchildren, I personally disagree with full-day kindergarten because I do not believe that children of this age have a long enough attention span to be in a school environment all day. I do, however, fully support up to four hours daily. I recognize that full-day kindergarten has been a controversial issue in Weare for several years and was defeated in 2019. As a taxpayer, I believe that stronger documentation of the educational benefits of full-day kindergarten should be provided in order to justify the expense.

**6. What are your plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district?** I believe that a district, which is recognized as having good communication between the school system and the community, will attract highly qualified teachers and encourage their retention. The board must seek data from the administration that can be used in setting shared student-centered performance goals that will attract, inspire and guide teachers. Strategies need to be developed to explore best practices in administration and the classroom. Such practices should be incorporated into professional development initiatives that enhance teaching skills and show teachers that they are respected and valued.

**7. What do you think is the most important thing we should be teaching children in our schools?** Schools must focus on academic achievement for all students in a safe environment, preparing them for the world of work and/or higher education. Basic skills of reading, writing, math and scientific literacy are central. In addition, schools need to inculcate life values such as treating all people with dignity and respect and serving country and community. Rapid advances in technology, in particular, call for more emphasis on developing skills in researching and evaluating. Therefore, teaching such skills as critical thinking and courage are central.

**Read all about it!**

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**Name: William "Bill" Politt****Contact:**

[billpolitt4weareschools@gmail.com](mailto:billpolitt4weareschools@gmail.com) or "William Politt for Weare School Board" on Facebook

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.** I am a 37-year Weare homeowner and taxpayer. My wife is a retired 30+ year Weare Elementary / Center Woods teacher. My two stepdaughters and four grandkids all attended Weare public schools where they received an exemplary education. I have a Bachelor's degree from Boston University in history with minors in economics and biology. Retired from a lifetime of sales, I have been a substitute teacher for 11 years.

**2. What specific skills would you bring to the position?** Experience in the business world has taught me how to listen carefully, resolve conflicts before they become unresolvable and find reasonable solutions to what may appear to be unreasonable problems. Substitute teaching has given me the perspective to see what might be unintended consequences of well-meaning school board actions.

**3. What would be your top priority if elected?** I believe schools are best when they encourage curiosity, open inquiry, discussion and discovery, including self-discovery. I am dedicated to maintaining our schools as centers for the free exchange of ideas and information. In the short term, my priority is to do whatever is needed to assure that our students continue to make progress until COVID-19 has passed.

**4. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, how should the school district support the health, well-being and academic achievement of its students? What actions would you support in service of those goals?** I am NOT an expert in the field of public health. Although we must, ultimately, make our own decisions, we should give great deference to the legitimate public health professionals at county, state and federal levels. We must not let our students be "collateral damage" in manufactured controversies. I will do everything in my power to keep kids safely in the classroom, which is where they learn best.

**See POLITT, page 7**

**POLITT, continued from page 6**

**5. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten?** I support full-day kindergarten. The learning skills that modern life requires should be taught as early as children are intellectually and emotionally ready.

**6. What are your plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district?** Teachers must be treated with the respect they deserve. Their education, experience and the dedication they demonstrate every day have earned them that. If we can entrust our children to them for a large part of their development as human beings, then we can reward them with the financial security of ratified contracts.

**7. What do you think is the most important thing we should be teaching children in our schools?** We must impart to our children a never-ending respect for learning, for curiosity, for exploration and discovery, and perhaps above all a respect for other people and their points of view. My years of substitute teaching have shown me how eager young minds are to learn. Not every kid does so in the same way or in the same direction, but however they do it, the responsibility is ours to promote their learning. That is what gets me out of bed and into my car on cold winter mornings, and it is an indescribable pleasure to watch "my kids" developing into what we all want them to be: good citizens and productive members of our community.

### John Stark Regional High School Board



**Name:** Jill Dagenais

**Contact:** [jdags@comcast.net](mailto:jdags@comcast.net)

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.** I've been a software

implementation consultant (for financial software for K-12 school districts) for about the last 9 years, prior to that I was the business manager of NFI North, a nonprofit organization in Contoocook. I've lived in Weare since my husband and I moved back to NH from Albuquerque, NM in 2000. I have two daughters, and the oldest, Andra, graduated from John Stark Regional High School last year and is now attending Babson College. My younger daughter, Evette, is a freshman at

John Stark. I've been a member of the John Stark School board for 9 years now and really appreciate that our board members don't always agree, but are always respectful and able to compromise.

**2. What specific skills would you bring to the position?** When it comes to skills, I would say that with my finance background I'm able to see beyond the top layer when looking at the way our district spends the taxpayers dollars. I'm also a very positive person who is often trying to find the win/win or compromise in situations rather than there having to be winners and losers. I think it's also very helpful that I work with a lot of different school districts on a weekly basis, which means I am able to see opportunities to share ideas with our district when I see another district doing something very successfully.

**3. What would be your top priority if elected?** My top priority if elected would be to continue to keep the John Stark School Board functioning smoothly. Over the past year there have been a few times that members of the community came to a board meeting and seemed to expect that it would result in confrontations. I would like to think they were surprised at how reasonable our board has been while we are still able to disagree. I have had several people approach me to share that they really appreciate that we have a variety of voices but are able to find compromise.

**4. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, how should the school district support the health, well-being and academic achievement of its students? What actions would you support in service of those goals?** As it relates to the pandemic, I realize that there are wildly varying ideas about how to manage it. It is my opinion that both sides are coming to it from a good place in their heart. One side feels strongly that it is a safety issue and can not understand how the other can not see it that way. The other side feels as though it has minor safety issues and it is a personal rights issue and can not understand how the other can not see it that way. I feel as though John Stark and the staff within the building have worked hard to try and keep the school as a positive location that promotes well being of the students who attend it. I think it's important to respect the views of both sides and make an effort to compromise – and I would support the school's continuation in this path where they try to mitigate spread but not at the expense of being able to have a somewhat normal high school experience.

**See DAGENAIS, page 8**

DAGENAIS, continued from page 7

**5. What changes would you like to see in order to ensure that all JSRHS students are ready for the next phase of life upon graduation?**

When it comes to changes, I take my cues from my students and community suggestions. I feel that John Stark is doing a great job in preparing students for the next phase of life, and although college is the plan for my daughters, I do appreciate that the school has the opportunity for other pathways for the students who don't see that as their own pathway. Covid has been hard on the students and I hope that we are on the downhill slope of the turmoil created by both this illness and the media surrounding it.

**6. What are your plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district?**

My plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers is to continue with the progress we have achieved at John Stark. I would hope that the community would support the teacher contract that is on the warrant this year, especially in light of the administration's efforts to keep the budget below the prior year. That is only the first step though, because passing a contract sets the tone that the teachers are appreciated, but encouraging them to grow and learn within the district means that we will have happy staff, and happy staff are more likely to stay, and promote a better environment.

**7. What do you think is the most important thing we should be teaching young adults in our schools?**

I think the most important thing we would be teaching the students in our schools is that they can do anything/be anything if they are willing to work at it. I love seeing the pride my daughters have in their accomplishments and I hope that all of the students who attend John Stark have the opportunity to feel successful (knowing that this means different things to different people).

**Name:** Zachary Lawson

**Contact:** [zach.lawson@sau24.org](mailto:zach.lawson@sau24.org)

**1. Tell us about your background: your education, line of work, how long you have lived in Weare, whether you have children in the school system, and your involvement in Weare schools and the community.**

I'm a lifelong resident of Henniker and a graduate of John Stark High School. Currently, I've got two children enrolled at John Stark, with a third on the way in another year. I attended college at Worcester

Polytechnic Institute, and since then, I have been involved with the John Stark community. First, as the boys varsity lacrosse coach, and then as a school board member, which I've been doing for close to 12 years now. Professionally, I've been involved in the group health and workers compensation industries, with a brief stint in the nonprofit sector.

**2. What specific skills would you bring to the position?**

Having been working as a school board member for many years, I feel that I bring experience and leadership back to the position.

**3. What would be your top priority if elected?**

I see two main priorities for the next 24 months. The first being how to unwind from the last two and a half school years under COVID. There is a financial component to this, but more importantly, we have some culture and climate work to do. The other priority has to do with the way in which we utilize resources and work across the entirety of SAU 24. As a multi-district SAU, I see a clear and present need for us to reevaluate the way in which we could share resources and work better as an entire SAU, instead of as three separate districts. We have already begun this work, and have been soliciting feedback from the community (<https://tinyurl.com/4pjxc83h>).

**4. As we enter the third year of the pandemic, how should the school district support the health, well-being and academic achievement of its students?**

**What actions would you support in service of those goals?**

I recognize that this is a very sensitive topic for so many families. My hope is that we move out of the pandemic during the end of this school year. Current signs point to this being possible, if not likely. Regardless of this however, I feel that it is the school board's responsibility to review and develop a strategic plan for the district, which covers many areas including, as phrased, "the health and well-being and academic achievement of students." Such a strategic plan encompasses all of the goals we hope to achieve in these areas (and others), and provides a framework for the administration to work with as we achieve those goals.

**5. What changes would you like to see in order to ensure that all JSRHS students are ready for the next phase of life upon graduation?** We have recently developed our portrait of a graduate, reviewed our graduation criteria and revised the John Stark Connections program, all in pursuit of ensuring post graduate 'readiness'. As we move ahead, I'd like to see more, and better use of the Extended Learning

**See LAWSON, page 9**



**LAWSON, continued from page 8**

Opportunity (ELO) framework for our students in order for our students to gain competencies outside of the traditional classroom environment; particularly in the fields in which they are interested and/or hope to pursue someday.

**6. What are your plans for attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers in the district?** So much of this has to do with contract negotiations, which we have recently completed. Attraction and retention of talent is always a priority in these negotiations. We look to establish wages and benefits that are competitive with surrounding schools. More specifically, on the retention front, culture and climate, again, plays a big role. I would again point to the strategic plan, particularly in a post-COVID world, as a way to ensure we are fostering positive growth and outcomes in this area.

**7. What do you think is the most important thing we should be teaching young adults in our schools?** This is a particularly difficult question to answer. Early on in my school board career, I might have given a specific answer, like, since math scores are lower than our reading scores, we need to invest heavily in math education. I think that what I've come to understand however is that we have a lot of work to do with pedagogy and the way in which we still consider every student as an individual learner. In this regard, we aren't considering that every student is an empty vessel, waiting for us to fill up with knowledge. Instead, I think we are trying to find the best ways in which we can approach all of our subject matter with each individual student.

**Get Informed!****"ASK A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER" ZOOM MEETING**

**Monday, March 7 at 12 p.m.**

School Board members from Henniker, Weare and John Stark Districts will be available for questions via Zoom. If you have a question about budgets, contracts, or anything board-related, join in or just drop in to listen.

**How to connect:**

<https://sau24-org.zoom.us/j/82361441890?pwd=WitqTFN1b21jV0t6MVYwMHk3MW01dz09>

Meeting ID: 823 6144 1890 Passcode: 292666.

**Budgets and Contracts Debated At School Deliberative Sessions**

By Tom Clow

February 9 - 12 was a time for deliberating, moderating, and at times, pontificating as three deliberative sessions were held within four days.

The action started with the Weare School District deliberative session on Wednesday, Feb. 9. The meeting was held in the Weare Middle School gymnasium with separate areas set aside for those who wore protective masks and those who did not. Daniel Recupero was the only school board member not wearing a mask but refused to move to the unmasked section. On a vote of 17-16, those present decided to suspend the rules and allow Recupero to stay seated with other board members.

The first spending article on the warrant proposed an operating budget of \$17,287,816. An amendment that would have reduced that amount to \$17,100,000, which was lower than the default budget, was defeated, thus moving the article to the ballot as originally proposed.

There were two collective bargaining agreements on the warrant. A two-year teachers' contract would provide salary increases estimated at 5% for each of the two years. A one-year contract for paraprofessionals would increase hourly wages to \$14.91 and \$15.25 respectively, depending on para level. Following presentations by the school board and input by voters present, both articles were moved to the ballot unchanged.

As reported in the last issue of *Weare in the World*, there is an article on the school warrant to expand the current kindergarten program to a full-day program. That article was also moved to the ballot unchanged.

The most discussion of the evening centered on a petition article that called for prohibiting the teaching of Critical Race Theory or any of its deliberative philosophies. The article was eventually amended to read: "Shall the district permit and encourage open inquiry and honest discussion of social and political movements in U.S. history from 1607 to the present?"

Those in favor of the original article argued that the change was too great; however, Moderator Luther Drake allowed the amendment to move forward. The school district's attorney, Diane Garrow, when asked, said that in either case, the language in the article would only be advisory.

**John Stark Deliberative Session**

The issue of masking came up again at the John Stark deliberative session with a discussion of who had the  
**See DELIBERATIVES, page 9**

### **DELIBERATIVES, continued from page 8**

authority of enforcement. Excluding the John Stark School Board, SAU 24 personnel and members of the Weare Finance Committee, only about a dozen voters attended the meeting, and peaceful coexistence between the masked and unmasked prevailed.

The meeting, held in the high school cafeteria on Feb. 11, lasted less than an hour as voters zipped through the three warrant articles that carried a fiscal impact without offering any amendments. The articles will therefore go on the ballot as presented. They include the district's operating budget and two collective bargaining agreements.

Since the proposed budget of \$14,292,743 is equal to the default, there was little discussion. A three-year contract agreed to by the John Stark Regional School Board and the John Stark Teachers' Association calls for 4.2% to 4.31% increases each year. An appropriation of \$204,770 in additional costs for the 2022-23 fiscal year represents the increase in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels.

A two-year contract agreement between the John Stark Board and John Stark Support Personnel Association is also on the warrant. The agreement calls for additional spending of \$101,864 in the 2022-23 fiscal year and \$25,850 in 2023-24. The John Stark Support Staff Association includes office staff and paraprofessionals as well as food service workers and custodians.

Weare Finance Committee recommendations on warrant articles for both school districts will appear in a mailer which will be sent out by the town before election day on March 8.

## **Few Changes Made to Town Warrant at Deliberative Session**

By Tom Clow

Few changes were made to the town warrant at the Weare Deliberative Session that stretched from 9 a.m. into midafternoon on Saturday, Feb. 12. A proposed operating budget of \$7,464,993 was moved to the ballot without amendment. That amount is \$237,010 more than the default budget, which represents an estimated difference of \$0.19 on the tax rate.

Three articles that involved raises for non-union employees were approved without amendments with one exception. An article to give raises of \$1 per hour to returning Parks and Recreation employees was amended to include all PARC employees by striking the word "returning." The department has had difficulty filling part-time summer positions at Chase Park.

There were only two additional amendments made to

the warrant. An article that would allow the Conservation Commission to spend \$30,000 from the Town Forest Account to secure the contracted services of a licensed forester was amended to add "layout trails" to the list of services to be provided.

An article to reinstate the Ethics Committee was amended to include a reference to the Code of Ethics adopted by the town in 2006. The Ethics Committee was abolished in 2014 due to lack of interest in serving on the committee. All members of boards and committees, as well as town employees, are required to sign the Code of Ethics, which can be viewed on the town website.

All other warrant articles will appear on the ballot as presented. These include the purchase of vehicles for the police, fire, and highway departments as well as money for road reconstruction.

Other major articles include the addition of two full-time firefighter/EMTs to bring Fire Rescue to its goal of eight full-time employees to provide 24/7 coverage. The department also has a proposal to join the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact, which would improve radio communication as well as offering other benefits beyond those offered through their present dispatch and mutual aid contracts.

The Department of Public Works is proposing that a special revenue fund be established for the purpose of Transfer Station Equipment and Capital Projects. Fifty Percent of revenues from recycling would go into this fund. Presently all recycling revenue goes into the town's general fund.

There is also an article on the warrant to adopt the All-Veterans Tax Credit. Presently veterans who served during specific times of conflict can receive a \$500 tax credit. Adoption of this article would allow the town to extend that credit to all veterans who served not less than 90 days and were honorably discharged.

Other spending articles include \$5,000 for three skateboard park features. The present equipment is damaged and must be removed; \$20,000 to establish a capital reserve fund to update the town's master plan; and \$10,000 to be withdrawn from the Cemetery Trust Cy Pres Account for cemetery improvements.

Following the deliberative session, the changes noted here were made to the warrant, and the 2022 town ballot was posted on the Town of Weare website, [www.weare.nh.gov](http://www.weare.nh.gov).

The Weare Finance Committee met on Feb. 16 to review its recommendations, which will appear in a mailer sent out by town prior to election day March 8. Typically, the committee meets after the town and school deliberative sessions to consider if any changes made to those respective warrants would change its decisions.



## School News



*Eight John Stark Regional High School DECA students participated in the 65th annual N.H. DECA Career Development Conference held in Manchester on Feb. 10. Students competed against several hundred other students from around the state. JSRHS DECA advisors are business teachers Tricia Macey and Jaime LeFlem. PHOTO (left to right) Emily Barriere, human resources management, third overall; Bella Mann, principles of marketing; Eva Grolljahn, marketing communications; Jason Crean, accounting applications, second overall; Nathan Grandmaison, restaurant and food services management; Diana Stafford, hotel and lodging management, second in a role play; Jack Malone, business services marketing, third overall; and Isabella Pelletier, sports and entertainment marketing, second overall (courtesy photo.)*

**The John Stark Stage Company is proud to present the musical "Firebringer."** The show dates and times are March 11 at 7 p.m., two shows on March 12 at 2 and 7 pm and March 13 at 2 p.m.

Firebringer is a comic musical set in prehistoric times and shows the struggles of early humans finding their way as a society. This satirical musical features characters like "Grunt," "Smelly Butt" and "Jamilla the Peacemaker." Senior Jenna Jezierski said, "Every character is funny and loveable, and they all go through lots of development to get to where they want to be by the end of the show."

Parental guidance is suggested for adolescent humor.

StarKid Productions are known for their groundbreaking and irreverent productions like "A Very Potter Musical!"

The cast includes Percy Carson, Kassidy Downing, Ryan Flaherty, Alexis Guilmette, Emma Guilmette Jenna Jezierski, Rose Kosciuszek, Arik Linstad, Berkley Newcomb, Lydia Richman, Braden Schou, Ella Smith, ZoeyTadlock, Alexx Wilber and Maddy Wood.

Tickets are \$7 for students and seniors (65+) and \$10 for adults. Seats are limited and are on a first-come-first-serve basis at <https://johnstarkstagecompany.ludus.com/>. As per current school policy, masks are optional but highly recommended.

Firebringer music and lyrics are by Meredith Stepien and Mark Swiderski, book by Matt Lang, Nick Lang, and Brian Holden, arranged by Clark Baxtresser and Pierce Seibers, and was originally produced by StarKid Productions.

## Need College Money?

By Chris Hague

As college admission season gets underway, it is also time for scholarship applications for college-bound seniors and those already attending college. Each year, the Eleanor Campbell Charitable Fund awards scholarships to students from Weare, Hillsboro, Deering and Hillsboro-Deering High School and John Stark Regional High School.



Applications are available through the John Stark guidance office as well as online. They must be received by April 15 for consideration by a Scholarship Committee currently comprising twelve volunteers who have an interest in carrying out the legacy of the scholarship's founder, Dr. Eleanor A. Campbell. Awards are announced in June and scholarships sent directly to each student's chosen institution.

Last spring, the fund awarded 20 scholarships, including four to John Stark seniors, one to a Weare home-school student and another to a college student from Weare. Quinn Antle was awarded a Sherwood Scholarship, for a student studying writing or journalism. Other scholarships were awarded to Brianna Bodner, Bethany Fulton, Margaret Girardet, Alana Sevigny and Jaimason Lacasse. Fourteen scholarships were awarded to students from the Hillsboro Deering area.

Dr. Campbell's particular interests were support of students studying in the medical fields, ministry or social work. She had a medical practice in Manhattan, and during the 1930s came to Deering, where she opened a clinic for women and children.

Since then, scholarships have been awarded to students pursuing a wide range of studies. Contact information and details about the scholarships are on the application forms, found at: [www.eleanorcampbellcharitablefund.org](http://www.eleanorcampbellcharitablefund.org). Originally a private trust, the Eleanor Campbell Charitable Fund is now a public charity, which encourages donations to maintain a robust scholarship fund.





## Goffstown Rotary Speech Contest

**Application deadline is March 1.**

The Goffstown Rotary Club is seeking contestants for its annual 4-Way speech contest!

All high school students from Goffstown, Weare, New Boston and Dunbarton (home schooled students included) are eligible to compete. The date is Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m., most likely via Zoom.

Rotarians around the world use the 4-Way test to help make good decisions and we want to hear how the test might impact your life. Here's the test:

- \* Is it the truth?
- \* Is it fair to all concerned?
- \* Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- \* Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The first place winner will receive \$300 and will continue on to the semi-finals, being held April 3, also most likely via Zoom. The runner up will receive \$200 and will continue on to the semi-finals if the first place winner cannot compete.

Contest applications can be found under the discussion tab on our Facebook event page or by emailing [goftstownrotary@gmail.com](mailto:goftstownrotary@gmail.com). They can be mailed or submitted electronically.

## College Graduates and Honorees

The following Weare residents were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Plymouth State University: Jack Baumann, Hannah Cartier, Autumn Nelson and Haley Philibotte. *-Concord Monitor reports*



A plaque in memory of John Foss was dedicated in the Weare Town Hall on Feb. 16. Foss served as the assistant principal at the middle school as well as town moderator and will be sorely missed. His many contributions to the community were remembered with comments such as "He was my mentor," "He was a dear friend," and "What a kind, sincere, caring person." Town representatives and members of the Weare Democratic Town Committee joined Judy, Foss's wife, for the ceremony.

## Weare Public Library News

### Kids: Need something to do during March Vacation Week?

At the Weare Public Library, not only can you check-out a wide variety of the latest books, movies and games, but there's events like...

#### Game Afternoon

Date: **Every Tuesday**

Time: 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Who: Kids and teens

Challenge your friends with Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8 or another classic video game OR play one of our board games OR You can bring one of your own.

#### Storytime with Ms. Karen

Date: **Wed, Mar 2**

Time: 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Who: Ages birth-5

Join us for stories and songs.

#### Lego Club

Date: **Thurs, Mar 3**

Time: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Who: Kids

Show us what you can create with our big buckets of Legos!

**That's not all, there's more coming-up in March and April – for all ages.**

#### Pinochle and Cribbage

Dates: **Every Tuesday**

Time: 3 p.m.

Who: Adults

#### Game Nights

Dates: **Thurs, Mar 10 & 24 / Apr 14 & 28**

Time: 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Who: All ages

#### Read with the Ruff Readers

Dates: **Wednesdays** (not on Mar 2)

Time: 5 to 6 p.m.

Who: Kids

Meet and Read with the Library's own Ruff Reader Team. Call Ms. Karen (603) 529-2044 to sign-up.

Thinking of a community event that you'd like us to host? Let us know by emailing Clay at [wearepl@comcast.net](mailto:wearepl@comcast.net).





## LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Susie B'z Lip Balm

By Sharon Czarnecki

This local business in Weare was born when a dental hygienist picked up a tube of regular commercial lip balm being distributed by the dentist she worked for at the time. She examined it and found it was full of chemicals and a far cry from a natural product. Suzanne LeBlanc gave it some thought and decided to set about making a healthier product herself.

There was so much research to be done! The ingredients – what to use? How much? Which ones are high-quality and which won't stand up? What's a good-quality tube that won't leak in a pocket or purse? What's a nice flavor that blends well with the base? How do you make labels to wrap each one? It can certainly be overwhelming. But LeBlanc was a person accustomed to challenges in life and explains she never doubted she could do it if it was meant to be. Asked where that determination and confidence comes from, and she shared one of her favorite quotes: "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Phil. 4:13.



In addition, she has a supportive family and friends who were happy to test various iterations of the product as she went along. Once she had perfected her product, the dentist she worked for began giving them to his patients. One of the partners branched out and began using them in his new office. Everything has been pretty much word of mouth (pardon the pun) and now LeBlanc provides her product to 12 dentist offices in New Hampshire, New York and Vermont. In addition, she has private party customers all over the country and several retail outlets.

One readers may have heard of is the store Chaos and Kindness, which is affiliated with Recycled Percussion. Once again, a word-of-mouth situation as the buyer for the store was given Susie B'z lip balm by her dentist. Their initial order was for 4,000 of them as soon as possible, which left LeBlanc turning once again to her family for a one-time assist. Those of you who like to try new breakfast places may have been to Parker's Maple Barn in Mason, where the products are also sold – but only in maple flavor. 😊

LeBlanc has been making lip balms for over eight years now and has 15 flavors. The most popular are

Dreamsicle (orange and vanilla) and mint. Currently, she averages about 1,000 lip balms per month. She also mentions that it would not be possible without the support of her husband Mark, who does all the labels for her. This can often be one of the more complicated parts of the job since Susie B'z does custom orders for special occasions and, of course, each dentist office and retail outlet has a unique label as well.



Lastly, she credits her family of three Golden Retrievers (shown left in photo, named Harlie, Stuart and Teddy) with helping her reduce stress and remember to laugh.

To learn more, ask your dentist for a sample, visit her Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=susie%20b%27z%20natural%20lip%20balm> or email [susiebz@comcast.net](mailto:susiebz@comcast.net).

## Looking for Something to Do?

By Sharon Czarnecki

The Milford Area Players are putting on a production in March at their spacious theater located in the Amato Center at 56 Mont Vernon Street in Milford.

Performances are the first and second weekend in March, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.. There is also a performance on Sundays at 2 p.m. On occasions, performers from Weare have participated in these productions. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for seniors and students. For more information and to purchase tickets <https://milfordarea.booktix.com/view/2/d102b9d2203123be/>



*The Philadelphia Story* is a 1939 American comic play by Philip Barry. It tells the tale of a socialite whose wedding plans are complicated by the simultaneous arrival of her ex-husband and an attractive journalist. The play retrospectively highlights Philadelphia's high-class society and norms of the 1900s. This is a classic play filled with the delicate balances of great comedic timing, various nuances and clever repartee. The characters that many of us are familiar with are brought to life by a talented cast from the Milford area. The high jinks of socialite Tracy Lord and her eccentric and colorful family are sure to bring smiles and laughter to all in this clever and creative adaptation.

## Weare Flags Fly – Get Yours Too

By Sylvia Beaupré

Flags will be placed around town from April 12 - 16 to commemorate the Pine Tree Riot. Our flags are a beautiful, patriotic addition to any property. They fly from ten-foot poles in people's yards, next to mailboxes, and in public places on seven important occasions throughout the year: Pine Tree Riot Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Purple Heart Day, 9/11 and Veterans Day. Last year, SWIS posted 65 flags throughout Weare, including three donated by the organization to display on town property in Weare Center. SWIS is a non-profit and funds received are used in the restoration of Osborne Memorial Hall which is available for rent to anyone in the community.



Here's how it works: you supply the location and SWIS supplies the flag. A volunteer will come out and install a temporary stainless steel ground stake at your Weare location. Then, two days prior to each of the commemorative dates listed above, SWIS will come and place your 3'X5' flag on a 10' pole in the holder. Two days after the event the flag and pole will be removed and stored by SWIS until the next time. Your property is always "dressed for the occasion."

If you are not part of this patriotic group, don't miss out! Please call 603-529-7282 or e-mail [cslindh@gmail.com](mailto:cslindh@gmail.com). The fee for the entire year is \$50 for businesses and individuals up to age 60, and \$35 for seniors. You can also mail a check to South Weare Improvement Society P.O. Box, Weare, NH 03281

(To rent Osborne Hall for your event, please contact the telephone number above.)

## Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot

Relive history! Be part of history! Come celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot, which took place in April 1772. There will be:

- VIP descendants of the Pine Tree Riot participants – Any descendant who is interested is welcome to contact us.
- A state proclamation reading
- A live theatrical dramatization
- Local author readings on the subject
- An aerial drone photo of participants
- Kids' crafts and souvenirs
- Lively and intimate retelling of the Pine Tree Riot tale

by Sue Edge

- T-Shirts/Sweatshirts. They will be available for advance purchase online this month. Some will be on hand at the event as well. Don't miss this collector's item!
- Food - Food trucks and the American Legion Post 65 will be serving up something delicious.

These events will be held Saturday, April 9 beginning at 10 a.m. in Weare Center. Check out the Historical Society web page for updates about this event: [www.wearehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wearehistoricalsociety.org) or search "Pine Tree Riot 250th Anniversary Celebration" on Facebook.

## SENIOR NEWS

### News From Senior Café

By Peggy Bailey

#### Menu:

**Feb. 23:** Stuffed shells

**Mar. 2:** Chicken, apple and winter squash stew with sourdough rolls

**Mar. 9:** Empanadas with corn and black bean salad

Dessert, coffee, tea and hot chocolate included. Fruit may be added. Affordable lunch for all (donation of your choice) and FREE for any local area seniors 60+.

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday. Dine-in (we have room for 35 guests) or take out. Delivery is free for any senior who has no transportation.

**Call ahead** 603-529-4263 and leave your name, telephone number and how many plates. It is first come, first served. When it is all gone, we are finished serving.

Senior food pantry needs: canned cat food, B&M baked beans and toilet paper. Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hand.in.Hand03281/>

## Ya Never Know Thrift Shoppe

Our \$1 winter clearance sale continues as our back room is bursting with spring items just waiting to make their way onto our showroom floor! We've added space for books in our arts, crafts and entertainment room. Now accepting hard-covered novels if you wish to donate! We also have some locally made, beautifully scented candles \$4 to \$6.

Thank you for all your generous donations! That's what keeps us going. We also have room for a few pieces of furniture. Bring in a picture so we can evaluate where it might go.

Don't forget, If you are driving by during the hours we are closed, you can use the orange bin on the porch to leave your unwanted, gently used items or bring them in during business hours. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ThriftyShopper03281>.

## Holy Cross Happenings

By Marge Burke

Holy Cross Church has partnered with St. Pauley's Textiles, Inc., based in Farmington, N.Y., and is one of 1,100 communities located in the Northeast and West Coast providing clothing sheds for recycling USEABLE clothing. The company's goal is to provide clothing to people and organizations in the United States and developing countries around the world by selling the clothing to foreign governments, the United Nations, the U.S. government and other relief organizations. Organizations that participate in this recycling program receive money to further support their own mission. The EPA reports that 85% of clothing in the U.S. is thrown away, leaving only 15% of clothing that could potentially be re-used available for collection through sheds like the yellow one that sits in the parking lot at Holy Cross Church. St. Pauley's reports that 37,784 pounds of clothing was donated to our shed in 2021. This was enough to clothe an estimated 6,960 people all over the world. Their year-end report includes the fact that they collect 200,000 pound of clothing every business day allowing them to distribute over 40 million pounds of clothing world-wide.

Holy Cross church members are grateful for every bag of clothing that is deposited in our shed, then collected and redistributed. Helping 6,960 people around the world with useable clothing is ever so much better than filling the transfer station with thousands of pounds of clothing.

## Garden Club News

### Why start plants from seed?

By Anne Wirkkala

It's cheaper - even if you use grow lights.

You have more choice of varieties.

You control how they are grown: organic especially.

Some plants don't transplant well.

Transplants may not be available locally.

It's a fun project.

**So you're going to brave the seed route? A few hints.....**

Start early; plan well.

Use clean materials.

Label well; tend often.

Keep on schedule with watering and light.

**Get ready**

Check your garden planner for the varieties you want to plant.



Check your last frost date calendar for timing of plantings.

Get your equipment ready.

Ok now you are ready.....set grow!

**I want to plant...**

Tomatoes, beans, lettuce, squash, corn, peas, cabbage, broccoli, peppers, flowers

**What can I start inside? When can I start it?**

Check your planting guides.

Dates below calculated for Weare

Last frost: May 12; first frost Sept. 30; 140 growing days.

**Seeds to start indoors NOW(around March 2)**

Peppers, Celery, Eggplant, Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme

**Seeds to start indoors in later March (March 17)**

Basil, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Sage Cauliflower, Kale, Kohlrabi, Chard, Tomatoes

**Seeds to start indoors mid April (April 14)**

Cantaloupe, Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Squash, Sweet Potatoes, Melons

For more information contact Anne Wirkkala ([awirkkala@gsinet.net](mailto:awirkkala@gsinet.net)). In the next issue, look for Part 2: The growing process, equipment, techniques, etc.

## Do You Have What It Takes to Be a Master Gardener?

By Anne Wirkkala

The U.S. Master Gardener program started at Washington State University in 1973. The name came from the German word "Gartenmeister," which means "Gardenmaster." The originators of the program had worked in Germany and learned that Germans have been bestowing titles for proficiency levels in various crafts since the Middle Ages. The New Hampshire program began in 1993. N.H. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who share their enthusiasm for all things gardening with the general public. By serving as volunteer educators in their communities, Master Gardeners help the UNH Cooperative Extension Program reach more people.

N.H. Master Gardeners are willing to work on a variety of horticultural projects that extend the outreach capabilities of UNH Cooperative Extension. Volunteers do everything from answering questions sent to the state garden hotline to developing cooperative programs in schools and with other community and state organizations.

**See GARDEN, page**



## GARDEN, continued from page 14

The program offers an extensive 12-week training course each spring and fall. The next class will begin on Thursdays from March 3 through May 19 at the [Harris Center for Conservation Education](#) in Hancock. Future classes will be in different parts of the state, based on demand and regional distribution.

The fee for the class is \$300 plus \$25 for a printed manual (electronic versions are available for free). Scholarship funds are available. Anyone interested in the training must [complete an application](#) and qualified applicants will be interviewed prior to acceptance to the class. Due to the emphasis on building regional cohorts, preference for this spring's class will be given to candidates from Cheshire and western Hillsborough Counties, along with other southwestern New Hampshire communities.

To learn more about the Master Gardener Program, follow this link: [About the New Hampshire Master Gardener Program | Extension \(unh.edu\)](#)



*This Master Gardener's vegetable garden awaiting spring (Anne Wirkkala photo).*

## Get Ready for Spring! Join the Garden Club

New members welcome!

**Any** interest and skill level in things gardening. First meeting of 2022 for the Weare Garden Club will be held on Tuesday, March 1 at the Weare Public Library in the Sawyer Room (unless COVID causes restrictions). Please wear a mask. Meeting program: ice cream social and planning for the coming year. For more information contact Anne Wirkkala at [awirkkala@gsinet.net](mailto:awirkkala@gsinet.net) or 603-529-1234.



## Asked and Answered: Embroidery

### My Hand Stitched Legacy

By Sue Canella

Sewing, and particularly hand sewing, is something I have done for as long as I can remember. I'm sure I started by at least age five. This ballet scene in cross stitch I did when I was 10. The design was one I picked out (I think it was in Grants) and my mother bought for me. It was one of those



iron-on transfer patterns that you can still get today. It came with a direction sheet and was color-coded for the design and may have included the thread in a kit. I don't really remember those specifics, but I do remember I also picked out the blue fabric to work it on.

Exactly how long it took to do, I cannot say, but I loved working on it. When it was done, it was carefully ironed out and my dad framed it. I actually won some sort of little prize or ribbon for it in a creative arts display contest at school.

Where it hung after that, for how long, and what eventually became of the original frame, I have no idea. I know I also did a lot of other embroidery projects that I have long since lost all trace of. For years, this one was stored in a trunk somewhere, and then rolled up in tissue and stored for many more years in my cedar chest. Finally - maybe six or seven years ago - I got it out and knew I had to do something with it.

By then it had those awful rust spots that old fabric often gets, but a careful soak overnight in a special quilt-cleaning solution completely cleared them all, leaving the fabric and stitching fully intact. It might well have been ancient antique lace the way I handled it then. After very careful pressing with a protective pressing cloth over it, I mounted it on a foam core, padded with a layer of cotton quilt batting. A very good professional framer whom I knew helped with matting and framing it. Now it has a place of honor in my room at home, and hopefully will stay in my family for future generations.





*Embroidery photos by Sharon Czarnecki.*

### Rhododendron Leaves

Leaves shriveled,  
curled under  
in frigid  
temperatures  
buds for spring  
blooming stand  
straight up like  
candelabra  
bulbs waiting  
to light up  
bringing cheer.

*-Marge Burke*

### Whoa

I stop dead in my tracks  
walking by the window,  
the sky is on fire,  
my feet rooted in place  
I stand still, watching,  
mesmerized by the  
moving picture outside  
broad brush strokes streak across  
the sky, dazzling shades of  
reds, oranges, yellows,  
fading gradually like the  
dying embers of a  
camp fire, until all that  
is left is white ash, not  
only was this a  
whoa, it was a wow!

*-Marge Burke*



### Volunteers Needed!

(These are NOT paid positions.)

[Hand in Hand Ministry](#)

#### Board Members

Enthusiasm for helping others required. This position is part time and there are no formal meeting schedules. However, Board Members usually do some volunteer work within the Senior Center or Thrift Shop whenever they are able.

In addition, a major contribution of board members is that they help decide, by votes, what, where, and when resources will be used for the benefit of Hand In Hand Ministries and their mission.

If these tasks sound like a great opportunity for you to do what you LOVE, please get in touch. Contact Bob Boucher, president at [boucherrobert@comcast.net](mailto:boucherrobert@comcast.net) or Peggy Bailey, director, at [handinhandministriesinc@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandministriesinc@gmail.com) or call 529-4263



There is no charge for Ads posted here.  
It is a free public service for the Town of Weare.

### Country 3 Corners

#### **Convenience Store – Cashier, Deli, Stocking, Cleaning**

FT and PT, various shifts, flexible hours. Must be 16 years or older; benefits for full-time employees.

**CDL-B Driver**, experience required; \$23 per hour.

**To Apply:** Stop into the store at 833 S. Stark Highway for an application. Call 603-529-7539 for the convenience store X2; for hardware store, X3.

### Weare Girls & Boys Club

#### **Group Leaders & Assistant Group Leaders**

Looking for an extra staff member in the after-school program. Also, now hiring summer camp staff at this time. Part time, competitive salaries, all experience levels welcome. If you are looking for a fun afternoon or a fun summer, please get in touch and make a difference in the lives of young people. Contact Jim O'Hara at [johara@centralnhclubs.org](mailto:johara@centralnhclubs.org).

### Weare Market & Deli

#### **Retail Associate, Grocery Store**

PT/FT; all shifts available. Experience not needed but must work well with others. Prefer 18 years or older. Schedule varies. Salary - will discuss.

**Deli Associate – PT**

**Apply at** 421 S. Stark Highway

### **Contact Us**

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

Editor – Karen Lovett

Assistant Editor – Alyssa Small

Town News – Tom Clow

School News – Marge Burke

Community Outreach – Sharon Czarnecki

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Thursday, Feb. 24**

7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

### **Saturday, Feb. 26**

9:30 a.m. – Weare Republicans meeting

### **Tuesday, March 1**

7:30 p.m. – Zoning Board meeting

### **Wednesday, March 2**

6 p.m. – Mildred Hall Advisory Committee meeting

### **Thursday, March 3**

**"Meet the Candidates," Weare Middle School**

\*6:30-7:30 p.m. town candidates

\*7:30-8:30 p.m. school board candidates

### **Friday, March 4**

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

### **Monday, March 7**

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

### **Tuesday, March 8**

**7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Town Voting, Weare Middle School**

5 p.m. – Cemetery Trustees meeting

7 p.m. – Park & Recreation meeting

### **Wednesday, March 9**

4:15 p.m. – Trustees of the Trust Fund meeting

7 p.m. – Conservation Commission meeting

7 p.m. – Weare Democrats meeting