

Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents
April 23, 2025



Inside the Issue

- p. 2: BOS, School News
- p. 3-4: School News, Scholarships
- p. 5: Library News, Pet Adoption
- p. 6: Drivers Needed
- p. 7: Senior Center News, Help Wanted
- p. 8: Poetry
- p. 9: Calendar

To view back issues of Weare in the World, go to www.weareintheworldnews.com.



Planning Board Subcommittee Working on Master Plan Update

By Tom Clow

The Weare Master Plan Subcommittee of the Planning Board has been meeting since July 31, 2024 to lay the groundwork for updating the town's master plan, a task that has not been completed since 2005. At the April 14 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen, planning board member and chair of the subcommittee, William Stockhaus, reported on the progress of the committee, specifically on a community survey.

Stockhaus emphasized that the committee has no agenda of its own. The survey is only to gather information on how people see our town and what our needs are. The survey was finalized in February and brought to the BOS at the April meeting. Information on how to complete the survey will be sent out with tax bills in May. He said that it can be completed electronically using a computer, tablet or cell phone. There will also be hard copies available for those who do not have access to technology. The plan is to have the surveys go out in May with an open period to complete them from June through August.

At the July 31, 2024 meeting in addition to Stockhaus being elected as chair, Selectman Salim Blume was elected Vice Chairman and Philip Cody as Secretary. Other members include Sean Gaffney and Daniel Wandell.

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission completed the 2005 Town of Weare Master Plan Update. It is a 298-page document. Preparation included a survey as well as a community meeting held at John Stark Regional High School.

BOS Releases Term Limit Report

By Tom Clow

At its March 31 meeting, the Weare Board of Selectmen released its final report in response to Article 25 on the March 2024 Town Warrant. The original article as presented by petition on the warrant would have limited appointments on town committees to two consecutive terms; however, the article was amended at the deliberative session to a directive to study eligibility for appointed positions. The entire report can be found on the homepage of the town website: www.weare.nh.gov.

In summary, after seeking advice from the New Hampshire Municipal Association and the town's legal counsel, the board found that there are very few standing committees to which the restrictions could apply. First, since the warrant article specified appointed positions; all positions were deemed out of scope. elected Furthermore, if the state sets qualifications for offices through RSAs, the town cannot impose further restrictions such as term limits. This takes changes to qualifications for the majority of other boards committees and commissions off the table including planning board, ZBA, conservation commission, parks and recreation commission, energy commission, as well as historic district commission, heritage commission, and agricultural commission, should these again become functional.

This leaves only a small number of locally created committees to which term limits could be applied. Of these, only the finance committee presently has term limits in its bylaws. Given that volunteers are hard to find and that not all boards are fully staffed, the report states that the Board of Selectmen does not recommend any further restrictions be imposed on these committees.



Dems Route 114 Cleanup April 26

The Weare Dems will conduct the next cleanup of its sponsored portion of Route 114 as part of the N.H. Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program on **Saturday April 26 from 9-11 a.m.** (rain date Sunday, April 27, same time, same place). We'll gather at the Center Woods Elementary School upper parking lot to have our usual pre-cleanup briefing.

As always, safety vests and bags will be provided. Please bring gloves, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and work boots are recommended.

If you plan to come and help, please contact the Weare Dems at WeareDemCom@comcast.net.



School News



SAU 24 is pleased to announce the hiring of **two new** administrators within the district.



Phil Matzke has been named Assistant Principal of John Stark Regional High School effective July 1.

"I am very excited to have Phil on the administrative team," said JSRHS Principal Gary Dempsey. "His experience and knowledge will be a tremendous asset to the students of John Stark."

Matzke earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Philosophy from Le Moyne College and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Southern New Hampshire University.

Within SAU 24, Matzke has served in many capacities. He was a science teacher at John Stark Regional High School for 17 years (and Science Department Coordinator for three); Dean of Teaching and Learning at Weare Middle School for five years; and since 2022, he has been a district-wide Instructional Coach.

Among his professional achievements, Matzke was an "Invoking Wonder through Science" course instructor at Colby-Sawyer College and a consultant, designer and trainer for Phenomenal Teaching Workshops. He has facilitated multiple SAU 24 committees tasked with making curriculum, social emotional learning and advisory recommendations. Matzke has served on the New Hampshire Department of Education's Physical Science Credentialing Review Committee and on the New England Association of Schools & Colleges Steering Committee. New 2013, the Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association named him "Coach of the Year" for boys' volleyball.

"I am excited to return to JSR and partner with the amazing staff and students there," Matzke said. "Their commitment to teaching and learning, their commitment to each other, is uplifting and fills my heart. How could anyone not want to join in their work? Given their expertise, joy, and passion for what is best for students, I am excited to see what the future holds

for John Stark."



In mid-March, Emily McGowan joined Center Woods Elementary School as Student Services Coordinator.

McGowan earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from Granite State College and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership with a Principal Certification

from New England College.

In previous roles, McGowan was a Special Education Teacher at Newport High School and an Out-of-District Case Manager for the Manchester School District. Most recently, she served for three years as Out-of-District Coordinator for preschool and elementary students in the Sanborn Regional School District. Her years of experience in coordinating this specialized programming have allowed McGowan to become particularly knowledgeable in special education law.

"Emily McGowan comes with a wealth of special education experience and she has already hit the ground running," said Principal Jess Potter.

McGowan described her outlook for her new position at CWES by noting words from poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

"I think something I want to bring to this role is to bring this quote to life and I want to continue to bring a positive impact on not only the Special Education department but the entire Center Woods Community," McGowan said.

Weare Developmental Screenings

Are you concerned about your child's development?

Would you like your child to attend the Center Woods Elementary School Developmental Integrated Preschool?

Developmental screenings for any Weare resident and Preschool screenings for those who would like to apply to be a part of the 2O25-2O26 preschool program are available.

To sign up for a screening slot on April 25, 2025, please email Kelly Yelle: <u>kelly.yelle@sau24.org</u>.



CWES students Waylon Valcourt, Brody Peters, Dominic Martin, Phoenix Nieves, Koen McKahan, Eli Wheeler, Tony Desrochers and Brady Ryan feel the spring fever with a recess conga line.





The Center Woods stage will transform into a mysterious jungle on April 24 when the school's Theatre Club presents **Where the Wild Things Are**.

Based on the 1963 classic story of a young boy named "Max" and his nighttime adventures, Where the Wild Things Are will feature a cast of 18 third graders, who collaborated with another 16 CWES Art Club members to design costumes, props and set pieces.

Where the Wild Things Are was selected as the CWES play because it provides opportunities for different storytelling styles such as music and puppetry, said Director Molly Brennan. Plus, it leaves room for a cast of any size.

"I wanted everyone who wanted to be in the show to be able to have a fun role to play and with this story there are infinite possibilities," Brennan said.

Brennan, who is a CWES custodian, was a longtime professional stage actor and circus performer in Chicago. Over her 30-year career, her favorite roles included "Bottom" from A Midsummer Night's Dream, "Harpo Marx" in Animal Crackers, "Hal" in Picnic, and the "Red Queen" in a circus production of Alice in Wonderland.

After landing at CWES, Brennan was approached by Principal Jess Potter to start a Theatre Club; the two were high school classmates and both in drama.

The play will be presented during school hours and again at 5 p.m.



JSRHS **performing arts students** hit the Big Apple earlier this month to get a taste of what a real Broadway audition entails.

About 40 students from the school's music and theatre programs made the trip, during which they rehearsed "One Short Day" — from the musical Wicked — with Broadway actors, directors, choreographers and musicians, said Dan Williams, instrumental music director at JSRHS. During the rehearsal, they received valuable tips about the process of auditioning, what casting directors look for, and a glimpse into the life of a performer. The experience connects to a core competency of studying the role of performing arts in broader culture.

After the workshop, students then took in a performance of Wicked at the Gershwin Theatre.

"Learning just a small snippet of the actual music and choreography from one number and then getting to see professionals perform those same steps and songs on Broadway is always incredibly moving for the kids," Williams said.

Students also received a backstage tour of Radio City Music Hall – complete with meeting a Rockette – and they toured the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

"We feel these trips are important because they help to give students a better picture of the many and varied performing arts related vocations that are out there, as well as giving them an opportunity to visit places that they may not have otherwise," Williams said.



Third grader Cora
McLaughlin has taken
on the role of
"Assistant Librarian"
during morning open
library hours at
Center Woods
Elementary School.

Above, she helps first graders John Filson and Korah Gates, who are checking out their books. McLaughlin has shown tremendous leadership and responsibility in the library, along with the required technology skills.

Summer 2025

We Are G9 John Stark

9th Grade Transition Program



The 2025 We Are G9 John Stark! freshman summer program is NOW open for registration! This is a three-week program designed to provide an exciting and engaging introduction to high school. Participants will have the opportunity to earn community service learning hours through a wide variety of collaborative learning experiences and enrichment activities. Students will become familiar with our work study practices and school norms while having fun! Program runs Monday-Thursday, July 7th - July 24th @ 8:00 am-noon. Transportation and snacks will be provided. Students must successfully attend and participate in nine out of the twelve days in order to earn 15 community service learning hours.

This program is open to all incoming 9th graders but space is limited:

https://www.jsrhs.net/

Weare Garden Club Scholarship

Are you interested in pursuing a degree (major or minor) or certificate in agricultural management, botany, controlled environmental agriculture, entomology, environmental science, food science, horticulture, landscape architecture, landscape design, nature preservation, permaculture, plant biology, plant pathology, genetics, molecular biology, plant propagation and breeding, plant science, science teaching, soil science or sustainable agriculture?

The Weare Garden Club offers a scholarship of \$500 to an individual from John Stark Regional High School or an individual from Weare attending college. The student must have an interest in a field related to gardening and plants and be registered for a course or be accepted at a college.

Applications are available upon request in the JSRHS guidance office or from the Weare Garden Club at gardenclubweare@gmail.com.

This award is based on character and commitment to the field of endeavor and is not need-based. The Weare Garden Club may interview finalists. The deadline for applying is April 30.

Weare Public Library

PokeMondays (kids). <u>Mondays, 2:30-4 p.m.</u> Meet, trade, and play with other Pokemon card game enthusiasts and win prizes.

Mother Goose Storytimes (ages 0-2). <u>Tuesdays through May 6, 10:30-noon</u>. Simple rhymes, stories, and songs for infants and little ones!

Cards! (adults). <u>Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-4:30 p.m.</u> Meet and play pinochle or cribbage with other card game enthusiasts in the Paige Room.

Anime & Manga Club (ages 10+). 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 2:15-3:30 p.m. Stop by after school to talk about manga and watch your favorite anime shows!

Pre-K Storytime (ages 3-5). Wednesdays through May 7, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy longer stories, movement and songs followed by a simple craft or related activity.

Afterschool Gaming (ages 6-18). <u>Wednesdays, 2-4:30 p.m.</u> Challenge your friends on the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation and other game systems.

Ruff Readers (ages 5-11). <u>Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m.</u> Emerging readers get to read with one of our visiting therapy dogs. Call us to sign up.

Craft Group (adults). <u>Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.</u> Relax and craft and learn something new.

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

Special for Adults

Book Group (adults). Wednesday, April 23 at 7 p.m. We're reading and discussing "The Librarian of Burned Books" by Brianna Labuskes. Call to reserve your copy.

Meditation: De-stress, Relax, and Be Peaceful. Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. In this free class, Dr. Erika Duffy will guide you in eliminating negative patterns. You'll learn how meditation can help you to relax and feel instantly refreshed - enabling you to slow down, create peace, and face life's challenges.

Make Your Own Bug Spray! Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Join our free workshop to discover essential oils and plants for making natural repellents against black flies, ticks, mosquitoes, and other pesky bugs. Craft your own spray to take home and learn more recipes. Space is limited. Call to register.



April 30: National Pet Adoption Day

Meet Hearts and Tails Animal Alliance

By Cathy Bailey, CEO and Co-Founder

Hearts and Tails is not just an animal rescue; we're a



100% volunteer-powered, nonprofit organization on a mission to save lives. As a 501(c)(3) charity, every dollar donated is tax-deductible and goes straight toward rescuing and rehoming animals who would otherwise be out of time.

We step in when shelters are full and time is running

out, giving dogs who were days or even hours from being euthanized a second chance at life. These are loving, adoptable souls who simply ran out of space, not hope. With public support, we help them find what every dog deserves: a safe place to heal, and a forever home to call their own.

Some of the dogs we rescue aren't just without homes; they're in pain. Many arrive with urgent medical needs, and the cost of their care can quickly add up. Thanks to the kindness of compassionate individuals who donate money and/or time, we're able to give them the treatment they need, and the second chance they deserve.

One example of the challenges we face is Elton, a dog currently in our care. We rescued him as a stray in South Carolina two years ago. He was severely underweight, infested with fleas and ticks, and tested positive for heartworm, a condition that's not only dangerous but also very costly to treat.

Because of the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture regulations, Elton couldn't enter the state until he was heartworm-free. This meant we had to arrange treatment in South Carolina, cover the cost of temporary boarding, and find a foster home willing to care for him through the six-month recovery period. Elton finally received a negative heartworm test and made his way to New Hampshire in October 2024.

Unfortunately, we later discovered that he had a tendency to ingest foreign objects, which twice required emergency veterinary intervention. Both incidents were serious and resulted in significant medical expenses.

Elton's story is just one of many. Dogs like him remind us why adoption fees and donor support are so crucial. Without them, we simply couldn't provide the level of care these animals need to survive and thrive.

For instance, average costs for a dog with no special medical needs:

\$325	Spay/neuter and initial vaccines
\$40	Transportation from shelter to foster
\$150	Transportation to New Hampshire
\$196	Shelter in New Hampshire for two weeks. Note: many dogs — like Elton - spend far more than two weeks in the shelter before being adopted.
\$85	New Hampshire Health Certificate, microchip and updated vaccines if needed.
\$796	Total average cost. Note - this does not include boarding in their home state, as we try to find fosters. Boarding is only used about 20% of the time.

Adoption fees are \$450-\$650. It is very rare that the fees even begin to meet expenses. Our adoption fee also includes a martingale collar, small leash and three days of food. Besides the basics, all dogs are walked one mile three times per day, socialized, cuddled and loved and know that they are now in a safe place.

April 30 is National Pet Adoption Day. If you'd like to be dog's journey to a better visit heartsandtails.org to learn more about Zelda pictured on page 5 – or Elton, or make a donation. You can be the reason a dog gets a second chance, and a forever information: family. For more 603-860-8686.

Website: https://www.heartsandtails.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/heartsandtailsAA

Cribbage for a Cause

At Molly Stark Tavern 35 Mont Vernon Rd, New Boston Sunday, May 4 11:30 a.m.

> **Doubles Tournament** Entry Fee \$20

All proceeds go to Hearts & Tails Animal Alliance of Weare

Prizes for First and Second Place Teams

REGISTER BY APRIL 25



Contact Anne Chouinard at 603-340-0941 Payment is due at sign-up via Venmo Guests are encouraged to bring a donation from the Hearts & Tails Amazon Wish List

Read for more about Patrick.







Starting July 1st, 2025. Community Volunteer Transportation Company will expand their service area to include the town of

Need help getting to appointments?

Schedule a free ride with CVTC!

CVTC provides "no-fee" transportation for those who don't have access to a car due to age. ability, economics, or other circumstances.

Volunteer drivers give rides based on availability to non-emergency medical or social service appointments and to the grocery store, bank, post office, or pharmacy.

Have a few hours each month to help a neighbor?

Become a CVTC Volunteer Driver!

With their online scheduling tool. you choose which rides you would like to do, based on your availability and area preference.

You'll receive staff-supported enrollment and orientation, calendar reminders via email, monthly mileage reimbursement, and loads of appreciation.

To learn more, visit cvtc-nh.org, call 603-821-0569, or email info@cvtc-nh.or









HAND IN SENIOR CENTER HAND & THRIFT SHOP

The Hand in Hand Senior Center is a gathering place for seniors to socialize and get involved in group activities.

33 North Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281 Wed. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Hand in Hand Senior Center, with the help of Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, is starting a grassroots initiative to help address transportation needs for Weare. Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTV) has come to our aid to facilitate a rideshare program. (Scan the code, or contact them at 603-821-0569. info@cvtc-nh.org.) Wonderful community members have started signing up with CVCT as volunteer drivers to help their neighbors get to where they need to go. It's a great start. Won't you consider looking into this opportunity to help those who have no way to get to a doctor's appointment or grocery shopping or to the library or bank? And if you or someone you know needs this service, contact CVTC to learn how to sign up for the rides you need. Community is more important than ever. Everyone counts.

It's great fun to sit back and people watch. On Wednesdays you'll find a crowd eating and chatting, laughing and sharing over lunch at Hand in Hand. There's a lot of talent and creativity in the place. You don't have to have lunch to join in.

Ever heard of a three-yard quilt? Come Wednesday May 21 at 1 p.m. Bring three yards of material (one-yard light color, one-yard medium color and one-yard dark color). Bring a focus piece of something you like, such as a flower or bird. Learn how to make these things into a three-yard quilt.

Come join a group on Wednesday May 28 at 1 p.m. to talk about and exchange recipes, some that were fantastic and some that were a flop. Bring index cards and stories to tell about your culinary exploits.

Have an idea that you're willing to share with others? Contact us and we'll work to make it happen. Enjoy! "Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!'" —Audrey Hepburn



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

April 23: Grilled ham & cheese sandwich, potato chips
April 30: Breakfast for lunch: pancakes with butter & syrup
Coffee, tea, and various desserts are also available.
Donations are graciously accepted. All are welcome to stay
and socialize, play games, and work on crafts.



Caregiver Connection:

A Virtual Caregiver Support Group



Thursday, April 24 2 - 3 p.m. Caregiver Connection is an opportunity for family caregivers to support one another and connect with our professional staff. We look forward to providing a safe space to connect with other caregivers facing similar challenges.

Registration required. Click <u>here</u> to register.



Looking for Something to Do? Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki

Don't forget, links to items previously featured here can now be found at: Looking for Something to Do





Kitchen: Eddie@stonebridgeccnh.com Building: RAJ@stonebridgeccnh.com



POETRY CORNER



You Are Waaay Too Old

"You can't color eggs. You are way too old." That is a thing I'm sometimes told.

So, I asked "Why not?" of our youngest tot. "Cause, look at how many. That's really a lot."

"And...I'd find them all. I'm quicker than you." I had to admit it. That was all true.

Well, what if I make them all pretty and fine. And just hang them on cabinets – The eggs that are mine?

It sure would look nice, and be pretty to see. "Maybe you'd hang up a couple for me?"

So, it's okay to color, and I'm off the hook. None of my eggs will be where you look.

Have a fun, Happy Easter, and don't you forget, Too old's <u>NOT</u> a thing. On that you can bet.

-Sharon Czarnecki

The In Between Season

The in between season when winter really ends and spring really begins, known as the blah season, or drab, or dull, before earth's rebirth with color. ground thawing so maybe there's oozy, gooey mud, grass ungreen, trees still bare, no signs yet of tiny red buds, leaves precursor, fields covered in left over straw colored stalks from fall harvest, a blah mess. streets, gritty with sand need a good sweeping, practice patience, spring will come in glorious color, tulips, daffodils, already joyous bird song is heard.

-Marge Burke

Silly Me

For over forty years
I lived in Lexington,
Massachusetts, where the
shot heard around the world
was fired by locals,
called Minutemen, they lost
to British Red Coats who
marched on to Concord.

every April nineteenth
a town celebration
happens, Paul Revere comes
on horseback, two parades,
morning and afternoon,
every other year or
so, it snows enough plowing
needed, we carry on,
I wear my patriotic
tri-corn hat along with
all my winter gear, I
never packed it away
until after Patriots' Day,

now, I live in New Hampshire, you'd think I would remember packing rules, but no, I forgot, stowed boots because daffodil leaves popped up, I thought spring came, silly me, it snowed, I already put my fuzzy, red hat away, the one with the snazzy feathers on the back, and shed my long, puffy down purple coat, for a lighter boucle' sweater, I was ready for my Easter bonnet, the one with a lacy band that trailed down the back, not so fast, Marjorie, wait a few more weeks, then maybe, just maybe, you can pack away winter gear.

-Marge Burke





A tom fanning its tail (Sharon Czarnecki photo).



Magnolia tree and daffodils (Marge Burke photo).

Mark your Calendar

Wednesday, April 23

5 p.m. - Cemetery Advisory Committee work session

5 p.m. - Conservation Commission site walk

Thursday, April 24

7 p.m. - Planning Board meeting

Wednesday, April 30

7 p.m. – River Road Bridge forum

Thursday, May 1

6:30 p.m. - Cemetery Advisory Committee meeting

7 p.m. – Public Library Trustees meeting

Friday, May 2

11 a.m. – Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

Monday, May 5

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

Tuesday, May 6

7 p.m. - Zoning Board meeting

Wednesday, May 7

7 p.m. - Master Plan Subcommittee meeting

Friday, May 8

7 p.m. - Planning Board meeting

Monday, May 12

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

Wednesday, May 14

7 p.m. - Conservation Commission meeting

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