SAU 24 Students Go Back to School

All schools in SAU 24 began the 2020-2021 year on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

“The logistics to get us to this first day were tremendous and custodial and paraprofessional staffing continues to be a concern, but I am relieved to say WE DID IT,” said Superintendent Jacqueline Coe. “And when I say WE, I mean we. Students, parents, teachers, paras, custodians, secretaries, community members, bus drivers—everyone helped to get us to opening day. It was so wonderful to hear student voices in the buildings, whether in person or through a teacher’s computer!”

Coe cautioned that the first day is only the beginning of what is certain to be a complex and ever-changing school year.

“Moving forward, we know there are many things we still need to figure out,” she said. “Bus schedules and runs are an example. The bus schedules were late getting published because we ran into issues and some of them still need to be resolved. Bus routes and schedules in See SCHOOL, page 2

Weare Police Set Trick-or-Treat Date, Recommendations and Contest

By Alyssa Small

The Weare Police Department has announced that trick-or-treating will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5 - 8 p.m.

"One of the missions of Weare Police is to ensure the public’s safety,” expressed Police Chief Christopher Moore. “We all know the small-town feel that Weare offers and the sense of community that we have. We want to ensure citizens have the opportunity to experience community events if they so choose.”

With that in mind, Weare PD has some recommendations for trick-or-treating this year, as posted on their Facebook page.

First, if you are welcoming trick-or-treaters to your home, please leave your front porch light on. If you don’t want to participate, please keep your outside lights off. Just prior to Halloween, Weare Police will notify the community about the active number of COVID-19 cases in town for our consideration before participation.

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Above: Trick-or-treaters along Rolling Hill Drive in 2019 (Karen Lovett photo)
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some districts will likely change over the next few weeks. We will communicate those changes out as soon as they are resolved.”

SAU 24 does have one advantage. Two district schools -- Henniker Community School and James Faulkner Elementary School in Stoddard -- opened fully in person on Sept. 9 and will be able to share insights about what worked and what didn’t in bringing students back to school. “They are our smaller schools, which gave them more flexibility and space to open fully in person,” Coe said. “We’ll be able to share their experiences, which will assist our larger schools before they bring students into their buildings.”

Weare District Schools, which include Center Woods Elementary (K-3), Center Woods Upper Elementary (4-5), and Weare Middle School (6-8), all began remotely and then followed a phased-in approach with alternating days. Starting Sept. 23, Center Woods Elementary and Upper Elementary will be in-person five days a week. Weare Middle School will follow a hybrid schedule, which began Sept. 14.

John Stark Regional High School began remotely for all students. The in-person school day started on Sept. 15 with orientation for freshmen. The remainder of the week saw sophomores in the building on Wednesday, juniors on Thursday and seniors on Friday. The JSRHS hybrid school schedule began on Monday, Sept. 21. Each Monday is a remote day for all students, followed by alternating schedules with students receiving in-person instruction two days and remote instruction for two days per week. This schedule means only half the student body is in the building on any given day.

Above right: Sophe and Chloe Boswell entering grade 6 at WMS. Above left: Freshman Ethan Boswell graciously pauses before entering John Stark to allow his dad to grab a “first day at school” picture (courtesy photos).

TREAT, continued from page 1

The Weare PD Facebook page also lists the following trick-or-treat recommendations for parents concerned with COVID-19:

- Include a mask in your child’s costume • Have a mask for yourself • Carry an extra mask in case one gets lost • A cloth bag or pillowcase to put candy in • A large spoon, pair of tongs, or something else to get candy (besides hands) • A portable bottle of hand sanitizer • A small LED flashlight to light up dark paths and ring doorbells • A bell, cowbell, stick or something else to get attention that doesn’t require touching a door • Baby wipes or sanitizing wipes • Tissues • A bag for trash • An extra bag of candy at home • Set up an area in your entryway or garage for the child to disrobe out of costume and put pajamas on.

For homeowners welcoming trick-or-treaters, the Weare PD is sponsoring a contest for the most creative and scary way to distribute candy while maintaining social distancing. The only rule is that candy must be delivered from six feet away.

Call Weare PD (529-7755) or e-mail Christopher.moore@wearepolice.com before Halloween if you would like to participate in the contest. On Halloween, Weare PD will come by and evaluate your entry. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries based on creativity, the scary factor, and effectiveness at social distancing.

“We at WPD look forward to these events where we can interact with the public (especially our younger citizens) outside of a formal interaction, which assists in building trust,” says Chief Moore.

On Halloween, Weare PD will be handing out candy and glow necklaces and will have extra officers on duty for traffic control.

See you out there!

Lucas Bell and his mom, Tina, outside WMS (courtesy photo)
Country 3 Corners Donates Health and Safety Kits to Schools

Country 3 Corners, in partnership with the True Value Foundation, is providing free health and safety kits to Center Woods Elementary and Weare Middle School through the newly created “Educational Heroes Safety Campaign.”

To ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, administrators and staff at their local school, Country 3 Corners True Value is donating kits comprising 50 N-95 masks, many gallons of hand sanitizer, cleaner and bottles, said Lynda A. Fiala, Chief Financial Officer of the local store.

At the beginning of the pandemic, True Value Manufacturing retooled its EasyCare paint production facility in Cary, Illinois, to produce FDA-approved hand sanitizer and other essential cleaning products to meet unprecedented nationwide consumer demand for health and cleaning essentials.

In August, the True Value Foundation decided to go even further to address growing public need for these products as schools reopen by launching the “Educational Heroes Safety campaign.” This collaborative effort between the company and its independent retailers aims to keep America’s kids learning while keeping frontline educational heroes safe.

Minimal Spectators Approved for Fall Sports at JSRHS

The John Stark School Board has approved minimal spectators at John Stark Regional High School home games. The restriction is two family members per player and reporters. Reporters/photographers must wear face coverings and social distancing is required at all times. Spectators may not be on the team sidelines when athletes are present at any time before, during and after games, but may go to the opposite sidelines for most sports. In the case of football, since both sidelines have teams on them, spectators must stay outside the team boxes or back in the middle of the track.

The Primary is Over – On to the General Election

By Beverly Cotton

The primary elections went well in Weare, as they did statewide, with a few minor exceptions in other towns. Approximately 30% of voters in New Hampshire opted to vote by absentee ballot. The Union Leader reported that as of Sept. 7, 75,287 absentee ballots had been returned statewide. The most absentee ballots previously cast in an state primary was 9,270 in 2016. It is believed that number will be even larger for the general election on Nov. 3.

There is no specific date as to exactly when the general election ballots will be mailed to those who have already requested them. Most estimates are that it should happen around the beginning of October. Please be sure to complete your ballot carefully, and remember, the inner envelope needs to be signed.

It is not too late to request your absentee ballot if you decide you would like to vote that way for the upcoming election. The application form is straightforward and can be found on our Town Clerk’s website, at www.sos.nh.gov or at www.votenh2020.org.

Please allow extra time for the mail system that seems to be a bit slower these days by completing and sending the request form as soon as possible.

If you have already requested your general election ballot but have not received it by the second week of October, please be in touch with the Town Clerk’s office.
Hazardous Waste Day
Scheduled for October 10

The Weare Transfer Station will host a Household Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clean Harbors Environmental Services will be on site to collect materials such as oil-based paint, pesticides, toxic cleaning products and other chemicals that cannot be safely disposed of through normal trash collection or recycling programs.

According to Public Works Director Benjamin Knapp, oil-based paint has usually made up the bulk of what has been brought in on previous hazardous waste days. He emphasized that latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. Homeowners can remove the cover on latex paint cans, let the paint harden in the can, and then dispose of the whole thing in the regular trash trailer at any time during the year. If you have questions regarding other materials, call 529-2469.

Public Works Presents CIP Requests

By Tom Clow

Public Works Director Benjamin Knapp unveiled his department’s proposals for 2021 capital improvement projects at the CIP meeting on Sept. 15. The major equipment proposal is a 10-wheel plow truck at an estimated cost of $230,000. The 10-wheeler will replace a 2005 six-wheel Volvo with 11,885 operational hours on it, or 138,095 miles. In the past, Knapp has said that the hours are a better measure of a truck’s useful life, because after 10,000 hours of use, the repairs to keep a plow truck on the road get very expensive. Knapp said the town has 11 plow trucks, and he anticipates an 11-year replacement cycle.

The biggest ticket item, as in the past, is a warrant article for road reconstruction. The 2021 request is for $525,000. Out of that amount, an estimated $276,150 will come from NH DOT Block Grant Funding with the remaining $248,850 to be raised through taxation. The town has seen more paved roads resurfaced during the last two years than ever before thanks to the passage of a $2.5 million bond in 2019 for road preservation. The purpose of the bond was to extend the life of roads that were in good enough condition to resurface rather than totally rebuild. Some roads were also chip coated, which extends the life even more. The yearly road reconstruction money primarily goes to totally rebuild roads that cannot be saved. Past estimates have been up to $200,000 to totally rebuild one mile of road. That amount includes a finish coat in the second year of a project.

Knapp also submitted a request for $25,000 to be added to the Bridge Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. The town has placed $105,000 per year for the last four years into this fund to pay the town’s share to replace three local bridges, the largest being on River Road. The state pays 80% of the cost of bridge replacement. The additional money going into the fund this year will be for ongoing bridge repairs, Knapp said.

The final DPW request was to replace one of the trash trailers at the transfer station at a cost of $115,000. The town owns two trash trailers, and the one being replaced will no longer meet DOT safety inspections due to excessive rust. Pictures of the rusted trailer were submitted with the request.

The CIP Committee was scheduled to finish hearing department requests on Sept. 22, after which a report will be prepared for the Planning Board and then submitted to the Board of Selectmen, who will begin the process of building the 2021 Town Warrant.
Breaking Bread Senior Café News
By Chef Karl

It’s hard to believe we are closing in on our 10th month of providing a senior luncheon (60+) every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Despite having experienced a pause in operations due to COVID-19, we are running strong and following all CDC guidelines. Currently, we are serving homemade hot lunches and tasty treats to 20-25 people each week. Equally so, the social gatherings have been a welcome return to a somewhat 'normal' life.

We are now expanding our space to allow more indoor dining, which is a timely welcome as the frost on the pumpkin is rearing its head at our front door. And what better time to sit with friends old and new and enjoy a hot cup of homemade soup and sandwich or a meal. As most already know, we have a nice variety of coffee and teas as well as homemade desserts. Nobody goes home hungry!

It has been, and continues to be, a pleasure to serve our community. Hopefully, we will see the return of Chef Gary at some point in the future as he brings a plethora of culinary knowledge to the table. Not to mention our dedicated volunteers who make the event that much more delightful. We are always open to having more volunteers join our staff. We look forward to having you stop by and say hello. For information regarding our times and menu, please go to the website or our Facebook page. We also post a notice on the local cable station channel 6.

For now, I will sign off until next time. Bon Appetit.

Troop 24 Earns Kayak Badges
By Lorrie Piper

On Aug. 15, under the careful guidance of the adult leaders, twelve BSA Troop 24 Scouts earned their Kayaking and Canoeing Merit Badges.

Using a private beach on Lake Horace, the Scouts were able to spread out and respect BSA guidelines for addressing COVID 19. They learned about water safety, first aid, boat care and how to properly use personal flotation devices. Scouts also demonstrated how to safely tip their kayak or canoe and remove water successfully. Troop 24 Scouts had a great time learning valuable skills and seeing their Troop-mates again - even if from a distance! If you are interested in joining this fun troop, please contact Scoutmaster Marc Hallee at: wearetroop24@gmail.com

September is Dance Month

Victoria Keane and Kasey Czarnecki (courtesy photos)

Troop 529 Cleans Up Purington Field
By Marc Payeur

On Sept. 15, Troop 529 performed community service at Purington athletic field. We cleaned brush from behind the sponsor fence all along the field. This was to benefit both Weare Athletic Club and Weare Parks and Rec. Kids interested in joining either the Boy Troop or Girl Troop can contact troop529wearenh@gmail.com.

Left: Zane Talbot, a member of Troop 24, earns his Kayaking and Canoeing Merit Badge. Above: Members of Troop 529 work to clean up Purington Field (courtesy photos)
September Holidays Part 2
By Sharon Czarnecki

Don’t worry: if you didn’t find your favorite holiday in the first half of the month, there is still a chance for it in the days that follow:


Adopt A Plant
Weare Garden Club Plant Sale 2020
to benefit our scholarship fund
(HELP A STUDENT WITH COLLEGE)
(OR HELP A TEACHER WITH WORKSHOP)
Plants waiting for adoption will be social distancing at the ends of driveways.
All grown in Weare
(S donations accepted)
Checks to Weare Garden Club - PO Box 187
Or Leave in Donation Box
Location 1 – 183 East Road
Location 2 – 54 River Road

Celebrate Elephants in September

Elephant parade from the collection of Andy Czarnecki (courtesy photo)
Crossword by Alyssa Small and Karen Lovett

Apples to Apples

Across
1. Applegate of "Married With Children" fame
5. This apple sounds like a party
6. A falling apple knocked the theory of gravity into his head
7. Cover one in this sweet and serve on a stick
10. Green apple; Granny ___
17. Johnny Appleseed's real surname
18. Many apple trees growing together
19. Apple founder Steve
22. An apple a day keeps this professional away (abbrev.)
23. This apple sounds like a Japanese mountain
24. Apple name pays homage to NY
26. In French
27. Apple Martin, daughter of this band's lead singer

Down
1. Popular apple named for NY county
2. Variety of Canada's national apple
3. '70s Western comedy, "Apple Dumpling ____"
4. Drink made from apples
8. "Eatin' Good in the Neighborhood" chain
9. Spoiler
11. Give one as a gift to this professional
12. This "Little Pony" wears a cowgirl hat
13. The Big Apple (abbrev.)
14. This apple will provide music at a party
15. The Evil Queen gives her a poisoned one (2 words)
16. It's the official fruit of this state
20. If a peck isn't enough, buy this amount
21. Easy as apple ___
23. First name of moody 90s singer: ___ Apple
25. Apple of my ___

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