

# Warwick Community Newsletter

## A D M I N I S T R A T I V E   D E T A I L S

All articles, ads and correspondence may be emailed to warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com (or call Beth Gilgun at 544-3464) or dropped off in the black box in front of Town Hall **by the 20th of the month before the article will run.** Please note that we are no longer accepting FULL PAGE inserts at all for commercial ads, and are asking every organization in Town to keep their event flyers to 1/2 page or less. If a full page event flyer is desired, the organization may print the flyer themselves for insertion (call Beth for the number of copies required) if the information cannot be fit to 1/2 page and a waiver is desired. Business card size ads are \$7/month or \$70/year. All material may be edited for length, ink intensiveness, or content and may not be anonymous. Some logs and minutes provided may only be available on the Warwick Website at www.warwickma.org due to space limitations. **ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIBERS WILL GET FULL SELECTBOARD MINUTES. ANOTHER REASON TO SUBSCRIBE ELECTRONICALLY AND HELP US SAVE MONEY!!**

### PHONE DIRECTORY

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
	9 7 8 - 5 4 4 -
Selectboard	6315
Treasurer/Collector	3845
Highway	6349
Library	7866
Fire Station	3314
Animal Control	3402
Animal Contr.Pager	217-2681
Clerk/Assessors	8304
Bd of Health	6315
Community School	6310
Fire Dept Business	2277
Police Dept Business	2244
Building Inspector	2236
FAX all depts.	6499
Burn Permits	413-625-8200

**Warwick Broadband**  
413-676-9544

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND ADVERTISERS!

Greg & Kerry Stone, Wendy Wirth, Alan Morgan & Janet Norris,,  
John & Mary Williamson, Joseph & Alana Mankowsky,  
Virginia & Oliver Fellows  
\$325.00

**Thank You!**

### *Please consider donating to the Newsletter.*

It is an outreach from the  
Trinitarian Congregational Church  
serving the greater community.

#### SEND THIS FORM TO;

Warwick Community Newsletter  
c/o Beth Gilgun  
29 Athol Road  
Warwick, MA 01378

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## Town Coordinator Report

**David Young**

Thanks to A George Day for upgrades to the Town Fountain's plumbing distribution box. They got the jug filler working and the fish heads as well. George was assisted by Fire Department members Mankowsky, Alden, and Persico. Thanks also to the anonymous community member who gave the fountain a paint job last year. Over at another corner of the Town Park / common stands the historic directional mileage signpost. Our Warwick Women's Guild has undertaken the project of having this restored including carpentry repairs and painting. Finally, we will get the rough looking roof / protectors at the town hall for the heat pumps painted and leveled too.

Please mark your calendars for Annual Town Meeting on Saturday June 5 at 1 pm and will be held outdoors.

Broadband saw an important success with the first of eight new radio sector upgrades implemented and as well, coexisting with our legacy installation that are being replaced. We will continue to work one sector at a time for the coming weeks.

The rest of this report is a draft press release about our school which the District vacated, and we are readying for restart.

Warwick's Selectboard voted to establish a governance model for our future, proposed independent school district. The Selectboard voted that the new school committee will begin with nine (9) members. Selectboard Chair Doc Pruyne said "Not many Selectboard's ever make take this vote" (to establish a school committee for its public school). At least not these days. Historically, the 2<sup>nd</sup> education law passed in Massachusetts in 1647 required any town with 50 or more households hire a schoolmaster, strengthening the 1642 law requiring that all Massachusetts towns establish schools and assure students do not have to travel more than 1 or 2 miles. The 1642 law transferred authority for managing school to Selectmen (the English system at the time had schools managed by clergy).

During the 1700s when Warwick was settled and incorporated the selectmen also took votes about establishing their school(s). One of the 50 smallest towns in Massachusetts, Warwick had as many as 11 schools and now has one modern school with gym, full kitchen, library, and 25 acres of land now being developed as an arts and environmental education center.

In June of 2019, Pioneer Regional School District voted to close Warwick's elementary school, against much protest from Warwick, which offered to pay additional sums to keep the school open. Warwick argued the vote violated the regional agreement and that with the onset of a world pandemic this was not the time to require moving Warwick's children on buses to a crowded, larger school. In fact, no time was the right time for Warwick to consider moving education of their children from their school.

Warwick's elementary school and grounds currently and always have belonged to the town of Warwick and so the Pioneer Valley School District stopped using the school—Warwick has kept it open all this year. In response to being told if they wanted teachers they would have to send children to Northfield, parents in Warwick scattered. Some decided to home school; some signed up for the Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School, other parents formed a parent cooperative and began programs and clubs for their elementary children; and some parents did let their children be transported to Northfield Elementary School on a new regional district van route.

Warwick has offered elementary education in its town since the 1700s and wasn't going to capitulate because a few people from other towns didn't want Warwick's youngest children educated in their home town. An Education Committee emerged in Warwick and, following the regional agreement provisions, appointed the required official Advisory Committee on Elementary Education to advise on Warwick's elementary education.

For nearly two years, as many as 20-25 Warwick residents have been meeting, researching law, discussing policy, collaborating, and working with a consultant to redesign their town's education program for the future. Discussion with state officials has been positive. By September, Warwick Selectboard plans to submit a proposal to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to become a school district and continue elementary education in Warwick, as has been their will and commitment since the 1700s. Part of the proposal is a tuition agreement with PVRSD for continuing grade 7-12 education on a tuition basis. In the new proposal, the Town of Warwick will provide a variety of services now provided by the regional school district—facility and maintenance, payroll and accounts payable, and technology services. We already have these services in place for our own buildings and personnel—and we can provide these services well for our small school and at a lower cost is our conclusion.

At its meeting on Monday night, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard took action on a critical piece of the new school district proposal—the governance model. The plan starts the new district with a large school committee of nine due to the considerable governance work needed initially. An appointed School Governance Committee Pro Tem (eventually the school committee will be elected) will have nine (9) members. Six positions were appointed. A consensus was for people working together on Warwick's school redesign to primarily comprise the first school committee pro tem, for continuity. The first six appointees have been active school redesign participants: Adam Holloway, parent and Chair of Warwick Education Committee; Jess Marshall, parent and former PVRSD school committee; Doc Pruyne, Chair Selectboard; Diana Noble, Chair Warwick Budget Committee, Alan Genevese, current PVR school committee and retired School Superintendent, and Brian Snell, retired elementary educator and Selectboard member.

There will be no election of school committee members until the district is endorsed. The appointed members are “pro tem”—that is, temporary. “There is a lot of policy work to complete,” says Holloway.

Warwick's school governance model will also have a standing Advisory Committee on Governance and Policy, something recommended by me as Town Coordinator and to include all members of the current Education Committee who are not appointed for School Committee Pro Tem. The standing advisory committee can incorporate more people and be a training ground for Warwick residents who want to dive in to school redesign and governance since many school topics will be researched and vetted.

Having voted a governance structure, Warwick's Selectboard can turn its attention to outreach, parents, transportation, school choice, and development of the Arts and Environmental Education Center. Warwick is working with Antioch University for summer programs this summer, multigenerational curriculum projects, and curriculum that makes use of new trails and place-based, nature learning.

For more information about attending Warwick Elementary fall of 2022 or summer program, contact Brian Snell at [hwsnell@town.warwick.ma.us](mailto:hwsnell@town.warwick.ma.us)

## Warwick Council on Aging

### Foot Clinic

May 14, 2021    June 11, 2021    July 9, 2021

At the Metcalf Chapel at 8 a.m.



## Library

**Library hours:** Monday 10-4, Tuesday 1-8, Thursday 5-8, Saturday 10-12:30

Contact: [warwick@cwmars.org](mailto:warwick@cwmars.org); 544-7866.

**Covid operations update:** the quarantine period for returned items has been shortened to three days. Curbside delivery continues. **Home delivery is also available to those in need.** Limited browsing by appointment can be done Tuesdays from 3:30 - 7:30 and Saturdays from 10 am - noon; contact the Library to make an appt.

**Wowbrary e-newsletter:** Contact the Library if you'd like to receive weekly notices of new items available for borrowing, with graphics and full description.

**Museum passes:** Passes for MassMOCA, Eric Carle Museum of Children's Art, as well as State Park passes, will be available to borrow from the Library beginning in May. MassMOCA requires proof of appointment before a pass can be loaned out. Warwick Library will be acquiring additional passes in the months to come.

**Station Eleven Big Read - various events:** Warwick Library is pleased to be participating in this year's Community/Big Read, which is *Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel's 2014 novel. Various events are being offered by Libraries In the Woods: contact Warwick Library for details or view events online at <https://deerfield-ma.org/nea-big-read-pocumtuck-valley/>. Sponsored by NEA Big Read: Pocumtuck Valley. NEABig Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

**Storytelling with Clare Green - Thursday, May 6th @ 7 pm (Zoom):** Clare will read from her newly released children's book, *The Legend of the Rainbow*, an adapted Lakota tale. It is illustrated by 8-year old Sabina, who will join us. Email the Library for the link.

**Monthly Short Story Hour - Thursday, May 20th @ 7:30 pm (Zoom):** Details to be determined - look for an update; contact the Library for the Zoom link.

**SPAM Museum:** Lucky I was to be listening to Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me! last weekend, where I heard about the Spam Museum in Austin, Minnesota. It's dedicated to the iconic canned precooked meat product, which was introduced by Hormel in 1937 and gained popularity worldwide after its use during World War II. Opened in 1991 (as the Hormel Foods First Century Museum), the current Museum is approximately 14,000 square feet in size and comprises seven main galleries. These include Can Central, the World Market, where visitors can learn about the advertising and use of Spam and Spam recipes from 44 different nations; a World War II-themed exhibit explaining the importance of Spam as a staple for American troops; and Spam Brand 101, an interactive exhibit where visitors learn about 15 varieties of Spam and families are able to compete in the "assembly" of mock cans of Spam. The Spam Shop offers hundreds of Spam-branded items and gifts. Volunteer guides - known as Spambassadors - offer visitors small bits of Spam on a toothpick or pretzel stick, commonly known as Spamples... Spam Spam SPAM SPAM SPAM!

**Chromebook laptops to borrow:** The Town has acquired new computers to lend to students and people working at home. Warwick Broadband will support the devices. Contact the Library to borrow one.

## Cemetery Commission

It has been a while since we have heard Tales from the Crypt and although I do not have any ghost stories to share at this time, I do have some updates on the cemetery. As the spring season is upon us and things are picking up it would be helpful to have current contact information. Our commission currently is Brad Matthews, Tracy Kirley and Clyde Perkins Jr. Jim Toth has stayed with us as a much-appreciated advisor and is not afraid to lend some muscle when needed for gravestone resetting. Clyde Perkins Jr. is the burial agent and is the person to contact for lot assignments as well as burial arrangements. Clyde can be reached at 544-3228 or [clyde\\_cabinet\\_guy@yahoo.com](mailto:clyde_cabinet_guy@yahoo.com).

Brad Matthews is going off the commission this year and does not wish to re-up for another term. We are looking for someone to run for the position and if that someone has good computer skills it would help us out a lot. Please contact Clyde, Tracy, Brad or Jim if you are interested or simply curious and we can give more details on the position.

Clyde Perkins Jr Warwick Cemetery Commission

## Warwick Trails Association

Greetings!

Here's an update on the work we're doing. First, though, some sad news. Many of you already know we lost our good friend and founding member, Karl Quackenbush, who passed away unexpectedly in February. Karl brought creativity, positivity, and heaps of humor into every aspect of our work. He had stamina and he continually amazed us by always showing up with whichever power or hand tool the occasion required. There is really no way to adequately say how much we'll miss him or to thank him for all he did for our community. The happy news is that we have two new members: Nancy Harnden, Karl's wife and a trail enthusiast in her own right, and Howard Matheson, a hiker who is also frequently seen biking in and around town. Welcome Nancy and Howard! Here's what we've been up to:

We changed our weekly meeting day from Wednesday to Monday at 3:30PM. If you'd like to join us, regularly or occasionally, for stewardship or just to hike, get in touch with Brad Compton, Clare Green, Howard Matheson, Kai Woodson, Nancy Harnden, or Tom Ziniti.

We've turned our attention to the 25-acre elementary school campus. The WTA has been asked to support the procurement of a potential grant by advising the town about cultivating trails for place-based learning and intergenerational recreation. To that end we are focusing on the pond to the south of the school building and the cranberry bog to the north. Opening a trail around the sparsely wooded cranberry bog will be easy. Gaining access to the pond will require considerably more time, effort, and resources, but we're up to the challenge.

We're exploring a trail network that begins at the Littlewood Trailhead on Beech Hill Road where there is the potential for just under five miles of overlapping trails that connect MA Audubon, DCR managed and privately owned properties. In March, Alan Berman, Betsey Alkins, and Mary Williamson joined us. Brad led us on a two and a half mile, Millstone Loop hike from the Littlewood Trailhead to a beautiful west-facing vista, down to and north along Gales Brook to the millstones, and back up to Littlewood. The adjoining two-mile Brook Loop runs down to and north along Gales Brook, connects to Millstone Loop and goes back to the Littlewood Trailhead. These trails are linked to an additional four-tenths mile Outlook Loop that begins a short distance from the trailhead. When the MA Landscape Partnership Grant is approved (we're optimistic) there'll be plenty of stewardship work to be done, including construction of two small bridges.

Thanks to Greg Brodsky and ConCom for building and placing two benches on the Hockanum Hill Loop, one along the trail, and the other at the overlook.

Tom Ziniti

## Town Clerk

Town Election will be from 12pm-4pm on May 17th. Early voting is available in person at Town Hall on the 3rd & 10th from 1pm-4pm.

Early voting by mail is also available - I just need a written request for a ballot, either by email (sent to [townclerk@town.warwick.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@town.warwick.ma.us)) or a physical note dropped off or mailed to Town Hall, attn Town Clerk.

We're still looking for poll workers on the 17th, please reach out to me if interested!

## W o m e n ' s G u i l d

**\*\*\* ALL EVENTS ARE PENDING BASED ON THE CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES\*\*\***

- May 4, 2021      Women's Guild monthly meeting will be held at 1 PM in the school gym, using the coronavirus guidelines, no more than 100 people, and 6 Ft. apart and wearing a mask. **If the weather is clear and warm (60+ degrees) bring a lawn chair and we will hold it outside the school.** Regular meeting no presentations this month.
- June 1, 2021      Women's Guild monthly meeting will be held at 1 PM in the school yard, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair. If inclement weather, we will hold it in the "school gym". Uniquely Quabbin Magazine Editor and Publisher, Marcia Gagliardi and Business Manager, Debra Ellis, will join us and discuss "Uniquely Quabbin"

\*\*\* Everyone, please stay safe and healthy \*\*\*

## R E V I E W

### Lickity Splitz

231 Main Street (Rt 202)

Winchendon, MA 01475

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM Everyday

One nice warm day in March, I was in the mood for ice cream but nothing around here had opened yet. Then I remembered seeing the opening of Lickity Splitz in Winchendon. That is not too far so picked up a friend and we headed over figuring it wouldn't be crowded about 3 PM. Wrong! Everyone else had the same idea. Nice day let's get some food and ice cream!

We were not disappointed. We got their foot long hotdog on a toasted bun; home cut French fries; home cut onion rings; and sodas. We shared the fries and onion rings. And of course, we had to have ice cream. They have creamees as well as homemade hard ice cream; lots of flavors to pick from.

We picked a nice picnic table in the yard, most had people at them but we managed to get one before they all filled up. And the line moved along quite well. We people watched and dog watched as a lot of people had their dogs and kids with them; all well behaved. It really felt like a May spring day and not March!

Their menu is quite varied, with hotdogs, burgers, sandwiches, clubs, fried fish and chicken nugget dinners. And Soda, Frappes, and ice cream sodas for beverages. Prices are reasonable. Their dogs, burgers and sandwich come in combo plates which include a small soda and fries (but not the hand cut ones, just regular). We leisurely came back to Warwick having had a nice lunch/dinner and great ice cream. I recommend it to everyone. Bon Appetite.

Gloria Varno

## Warwick Electric Aggregation Update (the Green Corner)

About a month ago 30+ households in Town received a notification in the mail about Warwick's Community Choice Power Supply Program. These were folks who are on National Grid's Basic Service but hadn't already been mailed back in June 2020 when the aggregation program first went into effect. Residents who received this most recent mailing are either new in town, or those who have ended a third party contract and switched back to NGrid Basic Service, etc. The mailing informed these residents about the Town's Program, showed them the savings over Basic Service and allowed them a 30-day opt-out period before being automatically enrolled.

Some folks are uneasy about having to opt-out of this program - they would not want to be "automatically enrolled" in anything. However, the MA Dept. of Public Utilities has scrutinized this and deemed it fair, legal and in the public's interest.

If it is any consolation, a long public process was involved to initiate Warwick's aggregation plan, and we went in with 12 other towns - that's how we got such a good deal.

We now have some data:

From August through December 2020, Warwick residents who signed up for Dynegy 100% National Wind have saved a total of \$15,333 over the NGrid Basic Service rate.

The savings in December alone were \$6,219.

Commercial accounts in Town (mostly Town buildings) saved only \$446 during that same time period - small change considering the entire Town budget, but a savings nonetheless.

Savings are not guaranteed because we don't know what NGrid will be charging in the future. Historically the price of electricity with NGrid trends upward, but Warwick has entered into a fixed price contract with Dynegy through January 2024 resulting in anticipated savings.

100% National Wind doesn't mean that YOUR electricity is made from wind turbines - it means that all that you consume is offset by turbines somewhere in the U.S.

Likewise, the more expensive option of 100% MA Class 1 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) (which several folks in town have chosen) means that their electricity consumption is offset by post-1997 LOCAL Renewable Energy generation projects (wind, solar, etc.).

More information can be found at <http://colonialpowergroup.com/warwick/>

Good for Warwick!

Good for the Planet!

Janice Kurkoski, on behalf of the Buildings & Energy Committee



# Warwick School Renewal News - May 2021

Tom Wyatt, Warwick Education Committee

## What's happening:

**Summer programs.** Details for the programs at the Warwick Community School (WCS) this summer have been finalized.

There will be two 3-week sessions running Monday- Thursdays.

The first session will begin Monday June 21 with a focus on aquatic environments.

The second session will begin on Monday July 12 with a focus on forest and field environments.

Morning sessions will run from 9 a.m. to noon and will cater to the younger populations of students in kindergarten through third grade.

Afternoon sessions will run from 1 to 4 pm and cater to children in grades four through eight.

Drop-off will begin at 8:30 am, a lunch break will go from noon to 1 pm. All children must be picked up by 4:30 pm.

**Sign-up:** at the Library, by email to Brian Snell [hwilliamsnell@gmail.com](mailto:hwilliamsnell@gmail.com) or by calling Janice Starmer 978-544-8968. Recorder [article](#) by Zack DeLuca has more info.

Staff from Antioch University's nature and place-based programs will assist and enrich the summer programs. In addition, Antioch staff will work with Warwick on designing place-based curriculum for the re-opening of WCS in 2022. This is all made possible by a grant from the Warwick Cultural Council (local chapter of the MA Cultural Council) plus funding from the Warwick Arts Council, Recreation Committee and Town.

The Warwick Selectboard voted to create the **Warwick Governance Committee** (Pro Tem) which will act as a "forerunner" to a Warwick School Committee. This committee will help develop plans for the re-opening of WCS along with the Warwick Education Committee. A particular focus for the new committee will be the development of policies. Six members were appointed: Adam Holloway, Jessica Marshall, Doc Pruyne, Diana Noble, Alan Genovese and Brian Snell. Recorder [article](#) by Zack DeLuca has more info.

The Warwick Education Committee **Early Childhood study group** has been reviewing the information gathered via their school planning survey. Many thanks to all the families who participated! This will greatly help planning our school population when the school re-opens. The group is researching how other small towns have addressed the state special need obligations for pre-school children. All key parts of the long-range plan the town will submit to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The Pavilion fund appeal, begun in December, has already raised \$6080! Plans for the Pavilion and Amphitheater at WCS are progressing. Many thanks to the numerous Warwick residents and supporters from near and far!! **Interested in supporting the pavilion project? Make checks payable to:** Town of Warwick – Pavilion **Mail to:** Town of Warwick, Pavilion Project 41 Winchester Rd, Warwick, MA 01378.

**Want to be updated** on Warwick's School Renewal? **Contact** Adam Holloway: 978-501-0609 or Tom Wyatt 413-768-8641 or email: [school-redesign@town.warwick.ma.us](mailto:school-redesign@town.warwick.ma.us). We are looking for partnerships with businesses, organizations, colleges & schools, towns and concerned citizens in our region. With a "chorus of support" Warwick can re-open its elementary school!

*Warwick: committed to educating Warwick youth in town since 1768.*



**TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**of WARWICK**

MAY 2021

Dear Friends,

*“...Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’  
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side... Jesus said to them again,  
‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so send I you.’” John 21: 19-21*

The followers of Jesus have just been through several traumatic days in which all their hopes were dashed as they saw their friend and teacher executed by the hands of the military and religious leaders they had hoped Jesus would unseat. Some may have hoped for a revolution in which the forces of good would defeat the forces of evil. Others may have hoped that Jesus would perform one more miracle in which the transition would be quick and seamless. Instead of a one-and-done miracle or violence in re-venge of violence, Jesus showed them the wounds violence inflicts and empowered and inspired them to have the courage to continue the struggle against the destructive evil of fear, greed and hatred.

After so many millennia on earth, Rev Cameron Trimble wonders *“Why do we keep killing each other? Why are we choosing to live in an ultraviolent state, ruled by domination and aggression? Why are we risking our children’s lives? Black lives? Brown lives? Why are we shaping a culture that demands we numb out so that we aren’t crushed by grief?...What a heartbreaking reality we have created in the United States. Because of our manufactured fear of one another and our greed for power over others and our planet, we have shaped a culture steeped in abuse, trauma and grief. Surely we want more for ourselves. Surely we want more for our children?”*

*To stop this devastating cycle, we must share our heartbreak...at allowing fear to drive us to division, greed to drive us to oppression and ego to drive us to violence. In not facing what we have created, we deny us all the chance to correct what has gone awry between us.”*

Jesus did not appear to his disciples in some transformed, beatific, heavenly form promising pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by; he appeared in the broken, wounded body of the here and now. His resurrected body was the promise that the world we physically inhabit is every much as sacred as some after-life form liberated from the pain and struggle of this embodied life. He then sends them out as God has sent him, not as an army of avenging angels, but as healers, restoring rightful connections among all living things; to bring joy out of mourning.

Sometimes we may need a real shock to jolt us out of our blind, self-destructive habits. Jesus’ crucifixion did that for his followers; they no longer could remain bystanders, watching what Jesus did and said, they had to act with “the mind of Christ”. Perhaps the Covid 19 pandemic can provide a similar shock-treatment adjustment to our culture. We have sown seeds of deep division among the human population and we have tried to divorce ourselves from the natural world that is both our home and the source of life’s sustenance. With the pandemic, we have witnessed a growing acknowledgement of the disparities within our population; unequal access to health care, unequal treatment of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) by police and the justice system, unequal access to education, housing and healthy food. Similarly, we have been reminded that humans are a part of the natural world, not apart from it. The disruption/destruction of forests and jungles are being acknowledged by scientists as weakening both the natural systems that provide clean air and water, and exposing populations of people to increasingly virulent diseases that we humans have no natural defenses against. We also have an out-sized role in the altering of our climate that must be addressed if we care at all about the future we hand off to our children and grandchildren.

The pandemic has also raised awareness that the “normal routine” CAN be changed. We can alter our way of life and still be comfortable. We can spend less time chasing the almighty dollar and more time chasing our children, our dreams, our mutual care for each other and a deeper sense of peace.

In hopeful faith, *Dan.*

## **UP COMING EVENTS**

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Free Food Fridays – We will be moving back to the Chapel for the Free Food Fridays, beginning in May. We hope to expand our ability to share garden surplus this summer. This would mean having some sort of refrigeration and we would need more help to keep the food rotated and the space clean. If you would be interested in helping with this, contact Dan

AV help for Sunday worship – We need some people who know how or would be willing to learn how to operate the ZOOM and in-house projector system together for Sunday worship. Tom Ziniti does this now, but we are looking for someone who could give Tom occasional Sundays off. If interested, contact Tom or Dan.

### **FILMS IN THE CHURCH**

We started showing films and documentaries in the Chapel before Covid restrictions closed us down. We would like to start that again on a limited basis. We will be able to seat about 16 people safely (with masks to begin). Unfortunately, we have found that we don't have ready access to some of the films we were planning on starting with, but we hope to correct that soon. If you would like to be alerted to what shows will be coming up in the near future and when, let Dan know. And if you have suggestions, we'd like to hear that as well.

### **ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AT THE METCALF CHAPEL**

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS**      *Nonperishable food, personal hygiene items and household cleaning supplies are collected in the front hall of the Chapel. The personal & household cleaning items are especially needed as they cannot be purchased with "food stamps".*

**BLANKETS/SHEETS/PILLOW CASES/ ETC**      *sheets (the shelters only have twin beds and mattresses) blankets and pillowcases, towels and washcloths are collected and taken to the area shelters. Bring clean and useful items to the Chapel and we will get them to the shelters.*

**MEDICAL SUPPLY LIBRARY**      *We have crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and many other medical supplies for free loan at the Chapel. Check us out before buying new.*

**FREE FOOD FRIDAYS**      **11 AM**      Thanks to Cliff Fournier, Zac Marti, Brian Snell and many others, we have free food to give to those in the surrounding community who could use help stretching their food budget. Come check us out.

Dear Warwickians,

This is Doc Pruyne, Chair of the Selectboard, signing off. After six years, four of them as Chair, I am not seeking re-election. We need a third board member. No one filed papers to run, so we need a write-in candidate. A two member Selectboard is not ideal. That is an awful lot of work for two people. I'd prefer a woman on the board. If it wasn't for Diana Noble, Chair of the Finance Committee, the meetings would be awash in testosterone. However, let's be honest: you—yes, you—no matter who or what you are, you would also be a *great* board member.

Serving you has been an amazing experience. I met so many local folks I wouldn't have otherwise...and I learned so much!

For example, the first time I went down to Town Hall to sign the warrants, so all the Town employees get paid, David Young said, "Sign on the dotted line."

"Where?"

He put his finger on it. "There."

I said, "I can't, it's solid. It's not a dotted line."

David got a crestfallen look. Three more years of this guy?

Todd and Brian understand what fun it is to work with me. A few months ago the Town got a new police cruiser, a muscle car. I asked Chief Shoemaker, "Can I take it for a spin around town, before it's in service?"

Todd answered before the Chief. "After it's in service and you're in the back seat!" Yes, my fellow board member wanted me arrested. For nothing.

We had a Transfer Station vote on single or double waste streams. Everything goes in one dumpster or two. I figured, seeing how I pee and poop, we must need a double waste stream, so that's what I voted for. I knew I did good. No one kicked me under the table.

Joking aside, I am relieved that Todd Dexter and Brian Snell are my fellow Selectboard members. Todd will make an excellent Chair. I am impressed by his business acumen. He's detail oriented, keeps a professional image, and has a good facility with numbers. His work with the Highway Department takes a lot of his time.

Brian Snell is quickly becoming a great selectman. He brings special strengths in education and is very strong in his communications with outside partners. He designed the seminars on tap for our kids this summer, in tandem with Antioch New England, the mother ship for place-based educators. He is helping to stave off food insecurity in Warwick. That gives him a special place in my thoughts. I have been concerned about food insecurity during the pandemic, and Brian has helped calm my worries.

We are fortunate to have those two...and a third?

Let's be honest: you—yes, you—no matter who or what you are, you would also be a *great* board member. And yes, I know I'm going out on a limb here, but if you have a well-behaved family pet, a Bassett hound maybe, well heavens, we'll take it. Hamsters are too dumb, but a gerbil, now there's a smart rodent. This is a small town, everyone has to do their part. David Young will buy some treats and we'll be good to go.

Please, if you've ever wanted to be the head honcho, here's your chance. You'd be surprised how appreciative Warwickians can be. How's this: if you announce as a write in candidate, Cheri and I will have you over for breakfast. I make a mean mushroom and cheese omelet. If you're a Bassett hound, we'll feed you a whole bowl of doggie yum yums. Can't beat that, huh?

In this job, you gotta be flexible. On another note:

It is my great pleasure to announce the arrival of two new and capable members of committees of the Town of Warwick: Diana Noble and Adam Holloway.

Diana became the Chair of our newly constructed Finance Committee. It takes a hefty investment of time every month, but Diana sees the major requirements we make of her—including work on the reopening of our school—wades in and gets the big jobs done, with the help of her committee. I am impressed by how thoroughly she went about educating herself on school funding and town financial processes. I couldn't be more pleased, and I'm thankful that I was there to see her grow.

Adam Holloway assumed leadership of the Education Committee and is overseeing (with Tom Wyatt) the assembling of our proposal for our new school district. He's also leading the home-schooling cooperative now using our school building. Adam has been spot on in our dealings with the Commonwealth on the school issue,

and has been effective in his communications with them. I'm pleased to see someone in a younger generation stepping into a high profile and demanding role. He's learning a lot and will be a strong leader for Warwick for a long time to come.

Last but not least, I must mention David Young. Thank you, David Young.

David has been with us for a long time. We are lucky to have his experience and expertise. He's busy with his work on the Pioneer Valley School Committee, the six town planning group for a consolidation of districts, leads Warwick Broadband, and is now the building supervisor for the refurbishment of our school. That's on top of his duties as Town Coordinator. He earns his weekly paycheck by Wednesday afternoon. He made our duties on the Selectboard manageable.

Ladies, gentlemen, I've said enough. Thank you for this learning experience. Please consider being a write-in candidate. I can promise you this: nobody on the Selectboard will bite you, unless you bite them first.

Yours in these strange times,

Doc Pruyne

Chair,

Selectboard

Town of Warwick

**The Warwick Council on Aging presents "Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors!"**

*There is some evidence that physical activity can slow down the decline of cognitive disabilities and may improve the quality of life.*

This 1 hour class will be held on May 21 at 10:30 in the school gym. Travel through time and space on the Soul Train and chair dance to clean hip hop music. **"All Aboard the Hip Hop Soul Train Express"**. It will be presented by MUSIC Dance.edu.

This program is brought to you by a generous grant provided by the Warwick Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**The Warwick Cultural Council is seeking new members.** The Cultural Council receives money from the state which is granted to applicants who present programs open to the public in the town and surrounding area. If you are interested please contact Beth Gilgun at [bethgilgun@msn.com](mailto:bethgilgun@msn.com) or during the day at 978-544-8304.

## Thank You

I am deeply grateful for, and humbled by, the donations made by my Warwick friends and neighbors to the Regina Curtis Student Success Fund at Greenfield Community College. Having my community choose to support GCC students in honor of my upcoming retirement is one of the nicest things that has ever happened to me and I am so touched by this kind gesture from fellow Warwickians. And I am reminded once again how special our town and the people who live here truly are.

Thank you so much to all who gave; you have not just made my day - you are helping change lives at GCC!

With tremendous appreciation,

Regina Curtis

## Thank You

Thank you to Warwick folks for supporting and donating to the Ned Green Scholarship Fund. An award of \$500 will be presented to a deserving graduate of PVRSD who is entering a field of environmental studies. Thank you for helping to make this possible. Hopefully, we'll be able to actually hike Mt. Grace next year!

"The many essences of May enlighten my outlook on life." Ned, age 10

Clare Green

## Labyrinth Walk Invitation

May 1 is worldwide Labyrinth Day and May Day. You are welcome to walk the Woodland Labyrinth from 1 to 2 PM at 71 Athol Rd. at your leisure.

Sit by the pond and look for resident turtles. Enjoy the emerging wildflowers and spring fragrances. Sketch, write, contemplate, relax.

Please wear masks.

Gratefully, Clare Green

## Story Book Trail Walk

The story book trail at Warwick Community School will have various stories featured throughout the summer. There may be a day when there is no story because stories are being swapped out. Thanks for understanding if this happens to you. This is coordinated by volunteer efforts.

The Little Pine Tree story by Clare Green will be installed May 1, Saturday, for 2 weeks. Come on by and walk the trail! All ages welcomed!

## PLANT SWAP

In Memory of Millard Chase

To benefit the Children's Collection at Warwick Free Public Library

When: Saturday, May 8, 2021

10am – 2pm



Where: Front Lawn, Warwick Free Public Library

How Does it Work? Bring Perennial Cuttings and House Plant Starts Split and Ready to be Taken and Planted. Bagged or in pots is best. Identify your cutting and attach any special instructions if you're so inclined.

Take Cuttings that interest you, there is no limit for bringing or taking, but please use common sense.

There will be a Jar to take Donations for the Library and Library Trustees in Attendance to Help (they may or may not have plant knowledge!!) Questions? Email Library Trustees Andrea at [jarkat99@yahoo.com](mailto:jarkat99@yahoo.com) 544-6844 or Clare at [dclara\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:dclara_2000@yahoo.com) or 544-7421

\*\*\*\*\*

Grand Opening: May 1st

of

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made in Warwick

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Transfer Station 8-3  Library 10-12:30  Labyrinth Walk 1-2
2  Worship Service 10:00	3  Library 10-4  Early Voting 1-4pm	4  Library 1- 8pm  Women's Guild 1:00 at the School	5	6  Library 5-8pm  Storytelling 7pm	7  Free Food Friday 11:00 At the Church	8  Transfer Station 8-3  Library 10-12:30  Plant Swap 10-2
9  Worship Service 10:00  Mother's Day	10  Library 10-4  Early Voting 1-4pm	11  Library 1- 8pm	12  Book Group 10:00	13  Library 5-8pm	14  Foot Clinic  Free Food Friday 11:00 At the Church	15  Transfer Station 8-3  Library 10-12:30
16  Worship Service 10:00	17  Library 10-4  Town Election 12-4pm	18  Library 1- 8pm	19	20  Library 5-8pm  Short Story Hour 7:30pm	21  Free Food Friday 11:00 At the Church  Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise Class 10:30	22  Transfer Station 8-3  Library 10-12:30
23  Worship Service 10:00  30 Worship Service 10:00	24  Library 10-4  31 Memorial Day	25  Library 1- 8pm	26	27  Library 5-8pm	28  Free Food Friday 11:00 At the Church	29  Transfer Station 8-3  Library 10-12:30

# MAY, 2021

WARWICK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
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## **CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Don't Miss these MAY events

LABYRINTH WALK—MAY 1

WOMEN'S GUILD –MAY 4

STORYTELLING—MAY 6

PLANT SWAP—MAY 8

TOWN ELECTION—MAY 17

SHORT STORY HOUR —MAY 20

HIP HOP DANCE CHAIR EXERCISE—MAY 21