

# Warwick Community Newsletter

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

Please note: Articles, ads and correspondence should be emailed to [warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com](mailto:warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com). If you cannot email, drop off clearly-printed articles in the METCALF CHAPEL MAILBOX AT 32 ATHOL ROAD **by the 20th of the month before the article will run.** Please note that we do not accept 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 Mary Humphries 544-0126 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](http://www.warwickma.org) due to space limitations.

### Phone Directory

#### Emergency 911

Selectboard /Town Coordinator

978-729-3224

Warwick Broadband  
(413) 676-9544

#### 978-544-

Selectboard voice mail 6315

Treasurer/Collector 3845

Highway 6349

Library 7866

Fire Station (978) 633-9087

Animal Control (413) 774-7340

Clerk/Assessors 8304

Bd of Health 6315

Community School 6310

Police Dept Business 2244

Building Inspector (978) 544-6296

FAX all depts. 6499

Burn Permits:

[www.fcburnpermits.com](http://www.fcburnpermits.com)

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND ADVERTISERS

All Donations and Ad Payments should be sent to WCN/Metcalf Chapel,  
32 Athol Road, Warwick, MA 01378

**Helen Whipple**

**David & Beverly Shepardson**

**Total: \$100.00**

### ASSESSOR CLERK OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Tues. 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. and Thurs. 2:00-6:00 p.m. or by appointment. (978) 544-8304

Thank you, Tracy Styles, Assessor Clerk

### TOWN CLERK OFFICE HOURS

The Town Clerk's office will be open 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Mondays and 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The office will be closed on January 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Thank you,

John Paganetti, Town Clerk

### Foot Clinics

All clinics are at 8:00 a.m. at the Metcalf Chapel.

Jan 9	April 10
Feb 13	May 8
Mar 13	June 12

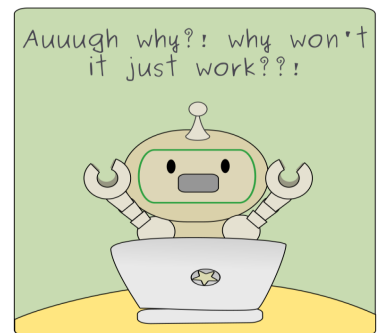


### TECHNOLOGY HELP DAYS ARE EXPANDING!

We're adding another day! We will continue to be open on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon, **PLUS** we will now be open on Tuesdays 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Coffee, tea, cocoa, conversation and tech help as always!  
Come visit Downtown.

(\* Please note that Tech Help will not be available on Thursday, Jan 1, 2026.)



### Highway Commission News

The Highway Commission would like to remind people of the protocol for concerns about road conditions. For issues that need immediate attention call Shelburne Control Non-Emergency line at 413-625-8200. For concerns not needing immediate attention, please call the Highway Garage at 978-544-6349 or attend a Highway Commission meeting to discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,  
The Highway Commissioners

## Warwick Cultural Council 2026 Grant Awards

Our town was allocated \$5,700 for Cultural Council grants for the coming year. We received applications for \$23,140 worth of grants. We awarded a variety of grants, some that will take place in various venues in Warwick and some that will take place in our wider community. Harvest stories with Davis Bates and stories about the Blues with Barrett Anderson will take place in Warwick. Nature and art classes at the Athol Bird & Nature Club, Open Studio time at the Launch Space at OIC in Orange, dancing at Inside/Out Dance Company in Orange, Craft Workshops for Warwick teens and Shell Hines's workshop, Images of Aging, were all supported with our grant funds. Local festivals and parades such as the Nolumbeka Festival in Turners Falls, Starry Starry Night in Orange and the Franklin County Pride Parade in Greenfield were all awarded some of our grant funds. Artist-in-residence programs and a singing and songwriting residency were supported at the Warwick Community School. We supported the ongoing publication of Uniquely Quabbin Magazine and will help the Warwick Firefighters purchase a larger unit for frying French fries at our annual Old Home Days celebration. Many thanks to all who submitted applications. We look forward to a culturally rich year ahead in Warwick and in our wider community.

Submitted by Sue O'Reilly-McRae for the Warwick Cultural Council



## Warwick Women's Guild

### **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

The Women's Guild will meet at the Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. We will welcome Jamie and Donna from TD Bank for a presentation regarding identity theft. This will be followed by our annual meeting and refreshments.

### **Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

The Women's Guild will meet at the Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. We will welcome Mary Humphries to discuss our monthly newsletter. She would like any suggestions we might have. This will be followed by a business meeting and refreshments.

## Riding Warwick Roads in the WCS Electric Bus

What a delightful Green Corner assignment... On a chilly fall morning, I was welcomed into Lois Wells' beautiful Warwick home followed by her two friendly dogs, Zelia and Zion. The WBEC was eager to learn how things have been going with the new 2024 Kia EV9 and Lois, our bus driver, had kindly agreed to tell the story.

With pen and paper ready, I sat at the kitchen table enjoying home-made sourdough toast as Lois talked about the blue Kia. Just the previous day, she had to drive the bus to Belchertown for inspection. As a former coach and teacher, Lois has lots of experience with driving vans, although this one requires a 7-D (up to 10 passengers) license which required her to jump through several additional hoops. She helped with the steps required to get the bus road-ready for students including the signage, child safety alarm system, and fire extinguisher. She now has a year's worth of experience with this E-bus and told me what it's like to travel the Warwick roads with her five students.

Lois is responsible for keeping the bus charged using the WCS charging station. The bus runs for approximately 270 miles per charge, which works out to roughly one charge a week for the morning and afternoon bus routes five days a week.

The bus feels *safe* and, yes, it is fun to drive. It has good, smooth pickup and doesn't jar her five passengers. Brake usage is minimized, as the vehicle slows as soon as the foot is off the accelerator. Loading in and out is easy with doors on both sides. Some of the students know that they're riding in a special vehicle, and the blue bus is well known along its regular routes! It is safer for younger students with seat belts and ability to accommodate boosters and car seats. The dash has indicator lights to alert the driver if a seatbelt is unfastened and which seat has been vacated. In addition, the bus can accommodate more readily a young student who uses a wheelchair. Lois describes a more personal space in which to transport the students, and she's also getting to know the parents.

The only drawbacks Lois mentioned were increased wear and tear on the tires due to the vehicle's weight of approximately 7000 pounds, and that it's not equipped with stop signs that extend away from the bus for oncoming traffic; it's not as recognizable as a school bus, and she's had vehicles fail to stop. The bus always starts, although sometimes the door handles will freeze from excess moisture in the colder weather.

The financial side to this E-bus is also positive. Compared to each contracted (regular) bus costing \$90,000 per year for both the elementary and secondary routes, costs associated with the E-bus are under \$20k; therefore, with a purchase price of \$60k it offers an amazing one-year payback! Electricity costs to recharge the batteries on-site are under \$300/year and trips out of town to "refuel" are unnecessary. Flexibility for field trips and allowing the school to start and end the day with all students arriving and leaving close to the same times are additional benefits. It's no wonder that WCS is considering a 12- or 15-passenger electric bus through grant funds.

Special thanks to E-bus driver Lois Wells for giving us her time for this interview, as well as for her first-hand knowledge and expertise.

~ Mary Humphries for the WBEC

## WARWICK RECREATION COMMITTEE CLASSES

### YOGA

#### WEDNESDAYS 9:00 a.m.

These classes are taught by Holly who is a yoga teacher just returning from her second training in Costa Rica. She has over 10 years experience teaching Yin, Restorative, Hatha and Vinyasa. She is delighted and honored to practice with you.

#### SATURDAYS 9:00 a.m.

Kalliope has been teaching classes Warwick for many years. An all-levels Hatha yoga class to meet students' needs, with emphasis on proper alignment, pranayama breathing, and relaxation. This is a dynamic yet harmonious approach to cultivate strength, awareness, and inner balance.

### ZUMBA

#### SATURDAYS 8:00 a.m.

Zumba has many benefits: its a great way to stretch, strengthen, increase balance, and lift your mood ! class taught by Susan Krieger. first two classes are always free

We hope you can join us!

These classes are sponsored by the Warwick Recreation Committee.

### ***Warwick Trails Group January Hike***

*We invite you to join us for a hike on the **Darling Brook and Hockanum Hill Trails.***

***When:*** *Third Sunday of the month: January 18 at 1 p.m.*

***Where to meet:*** *At the parking area located on Wendell Road, about 0.7 miles south of the intersection of Wendell and Quarry Roads.*

***The Hike:*** *This long lollipop loop hike (about 5 miles) in the south of Warwick combines the ruggedness of the Darling Brook Trail with the more family-friendly Hockanum Hill trails. Please dress for the weather, including hiking or winter boots, and bring a water bottle. We will have maps and a trail description available.*

*The all-volunteer Warwick Trails Group maintains some of Warwick's Town-owned trails, hikes and maps existing trails, plans and creates new ones, and occasionally leads hikes around Warwick.*





Wooden Fender Presents:

## **Carol Devine & the Mighty Fine**

January 24, 2026 – 7PM – Warwick Town Hall

Get your hips groovin', your feet movin', and your day improvin' with this high energy band from Western MA.

— \$5 Suggested Minimum Donation —



## **Souper Supper**

### **Food served at 6PM**

Come be part of a cozy evening filled with delicious soups, chilis, bread, desserts and drinks! Enjoy great company and homemade dishes with our warm, welcoming community.

**\$10 for adults, \$5 for children**

All proceeds go to the Warwick Arts Council



## Coordinator for January 2026 Newsletter - David Young

I want to take a moment to highlight the role of the Warwick Education Foundation, Inc. in supporting educational opportunities by raising money for Warwick School District in ways over and above your generous taxpayer's support. The Foundation is a separate nonprofit and tax-exempt organization from the town and the town's school department. It may, on behalf of the mission accept tax-deductible gifts and bequests to benefit our community's educational programs, projects, and students without looking like a pay to play scheme. This matters very much at the state and local level.

If you are revising your will or considering a planned gift, please keep the Warwick Education Foundation in mind. It is a way to make a meaningful difference in our community, and you will make a difference at whatever level you are able to support us. Feel free to contact me for basic information on how to direct such a gift to the Foundation. If you want to write a check their mailing address is c/o Town Hall 12 Athol Rd 01378.

The Town currently has several openings for volunteers on board and committees. We are seeking applicants for part-time positions with the Town. We have open seats on the Personnel Committee, which plays a key role in helping the Town develop and review personnel policies and practices and has a role as step three of four in the grievance process. We would benefit from residents who are thoughtful, fair-minded, and willing to do some homework between meetings. We need two alternate members for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Alternates are essential to keeping the ZBA work on track when regular members are unavailable, and this is an effective way to learn about land use, zoning, and local decision-making and process.

The Selectboard is assembling a citizen visioning committee to help chart a transition in the Town Coordinator role. As many know, I retired in July and was rehired on a month-to-month basis. I am now moving toward fewer hours and focus on special projects rather than day-to-day administration. The board hired Diana Noble to carry some of the workload. I plan to focus on special projects that are expected to include Warwick Broadband Service (WBS), work related to the Meeting House, long-range capital planning, and staying involved with town buildings and infrastructure. Selectboard are looking for residents who are interested in helping think through how best to structure and staff Town administration going forward, including what skills and hours the community will need in its next Town Coordinator.

If you have an interest in serving on the Personnel Committee, as a ZBA alternate, on the Town Coordinator visioning committee please reach out to me or a Selectboard member so we can talk about your interests and answer any questions. Warwick depends on its volunteer-engaged residents, and this is a meaningful way to contribute to our town's future.

The Town's digital equity and technology support program continues to expand. Weekly in-person assistance is offered every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, providing residents with help using phones, computers, email, online services, and other every day or not so ordinary technology needs. To make this support available to more people, additional hours are being added on Tuesdays following the senior lunch program through 6:00 p.m. These sessions are informal and open to all residents, whether they need one-on-one assistance or simply want to stop by, spend time with neighbors, and build comfort and confidence with technology in a welcoming setting.

## **TCC UP-COMING EVENTS**

**Movies in the Chapel:** Start the New Year with an inspiring documentary about the young Pakistani female activist and Nobel Peace prize laureate Malala Yousafzai. *He Named me Malala* is the moving story of a teenage girl and her fight for girls' education that nearly cost her her life in 2012. Popcorn will be served at the TCC Chapel with this film on January 21st at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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 and household cleaning items are especially needed, as they cannot be purchased with "food stamps."

**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. ***Please bring only "durable equipment" (wheelchairs, walkers, "potty chairs" & similar items).*** We've added a clipboard on the door of the medical supply room. Please just fill out your name and item borrowed and cross off the line when the equipment is returned.

**FREE FOOD FRIDAYS 9 AM @ the Chapel** Thanks to Clyde Perkins Sr., Zac Marti 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.



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**Asher**

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Or contact either Andrea Woods or Mary Humphries, board members.



## LIBRARY NEWS - JANUARY

**Library hours:** Monday 10-4, Tuesday 1-8, Thursday 5-8, Saturdays 10-12:30 (during school year). Contact: [warwick@cwmars.org](mailto:warwick@cwmars.org); 978-544-7866; Ivan Ussach, director

**New addition to the Library of Things - Blood Pressure cuffs** (see Jan. 20th program): With the support of the American Heart Association, the Library now has several blood pressure cuff kits to loan out to patrons as part of the Libraries with Heart initiative. The kits are easy-to-use and available on a first come, first-serve basis, for a period of two weeks at a time (or longer if there is no waiting list). Batteries are included, along with an instruction sheet. **Medical Disclaimer:** Patron/borrower understands that any concerns about their health should be addressed to a healthcare provider.

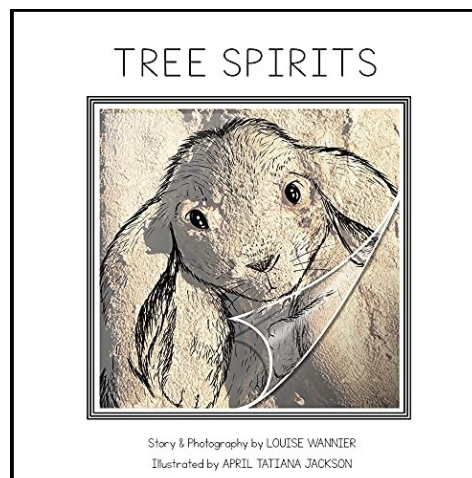
**Monthly Short Story Hour - James Herriot, Jan. 22nd @ 7:30 pm:** We'll read selections from *Every Living Thing* (2025), the fifth and final book in James Herriot's beloved series of memoirs about his life as a veterinarian in the Yorkshire Dales of England, published in 1992. This will be one of our occasional forays into non-fiction (though in the end, who can say what's truly fictitious—or not?). Come to read or just to listen.

**Non-Fiction Discussion Group - Thursday, Jan. 15th @ 7 pm:** This discussion group is wide open: Could be something you're reading now or from long ago; science, history, memoirs, biographies; articles, books, newsletters, journals. It's all up for discussion at the new non-fiction discussion group. Designed for independent, asynchronous reading, we'll get together to share our favorite non-fiction reads and make recommendations. Come to share/discuss or just to listen and build your reading list.

**Blood Pressure & Heart Health workshop - Tuesday Jan. 20 @7 pm:** This workshop with Samantha Piragis, a nurse with the North Quabbin Health Collaborative, will discuss the basics of blood pressure and heart health, and will introduce the new Libraries with Heart Initiative.

**Lego Club returns! Sat. Jan. 24th - 10-11:30 am:** Open to families with kids of all ages, including infants and toddlers! Legos are provided. **Please note: This is not a drop-off program:** Stay and play with your kids!

**Author visit & Kid's program w/Louise Wannier - Sunday, Jan. 25th @ 1 pm:** Author and environmental advocate Louise Wannier will read from her book series, *Tree Spirits*—an interactive picture book series for children ages 4-9. The reading will be followed by a fun, creative leave-behind activity. Louise is passionate about helping children connect with the natural world and each other. Through her engaging, hands-on presentations, she creates space for empathy, imagination, and meaningful conversations that nurture social-emotional growth.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1  NEW YEARS DAY	2  Foot Clinic 8:00 am Metcalf Chapel  Free Food Friday 9:00 am @ Metcalf Chapel	3  Zumba 8:00 am; Yoga 9:00-10:30 am; Lib. 10:00 am-12:30 pm; C. bells 11:00 am; Climate Vigil 11:30 -12:30 pm; T. St 8:00-3:00 pm
4  Worship Svc 10:00 am; Sacred Rhythm Circle 1:00-4:00 pm Town Hall	5  Library 10:00 am -4:00 pm	6  Bone & Balance; Tai-Chi; Sr. Meal Noon Town Hall; Library 1:00-8:00 pm	7  Yoga 9:00 am TH	8 Warwick Inn Tech Help 9:00 am-Noon; Library 5:00-8:00 pm	9  Free Food Friday 9:00 am @ Metcalf Chapel	10 Zumba 8:00 am; Yoga 9:00-10:30 am; T. Station 8:00-3:00; Library 10:00 am-12:30 pm; Climate Vigil 11:30 -12:30 pm
11  Worship Svc 10:00 am	12  Library 10:00 am -4:00 pm	13 Bone & Balance; Tai-Chi; Sr. Meal Noon Town Hall; Warwick Inn Tech Help 1-6:00 pm; Library 1:00-8:00 pm	14  Yoga 9:00 am TH; Book Club 10:00 am	15 Warwick Inn Tech Help 9:00 am-Noon; Library 5:00-8:00 pm; Non-Fiction Discussion Group 7:00 pm	16  Free Food Friday 9:00 am @ Metcalf Chapel	17 Zumba 8:00 am; Yoga 9:00-10:30 am; Transfer Station 8:00-3:00 pm; Library 10:00 am-12:30 pm; Climate Vigil 11:30 -12:30 pm
18 Worship Svc. 10:00 am; Warwick Trails Group Hike 1:00 pm Town Hall	19  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Bone & Balance; Tai-Chi; Sr. Meal Noon TH; Warwick Inn Tech Help 1-6:00 pm; Library 1:00-8:00 pm; BP/Health Workshop Library 7:00 pm	21 Yoga 9:00 am TH  TCC Movie Night 7:00 pm	22 Warwick Inn Tech Help 9:00 am-Noon; Library 5:00-8:00 pm; Mo-short story hour 7:30 pm	23  Free Food Friday 9:00 am @ Metcalf Chapel	24 Zumba 8:00 am; Yoga 9:00-10:30 am; Transfer Station 8:00-3:00 pm; Lego Club Library 10-11:30 am; Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30 pm; Souper Supper & Music TH 6:00 pm
25  Worship Svc. 10:00 am; Author visit/Kids' Program Library 1:00 pm	26  Library 10:00 am -4:00 pm	27  Bone & Balance; Tai-Chi; Sr. Meal Noon; LWarwick Inn Tech Help 1-6:00 pm; Library 1:00-8:00 pm	28 Yoga 9:00 am TH	29 Warwick Inn Tech Help 9:00 am-Noon; Library 5:00-8:00 pm	30  Free Food Friday 9:00 am @ Metcalf Chapel	31 Zumba 8:00 am; Yoga 9:00-10:30 am; Transfer Station 8:00-3:00 pm; Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30 pm

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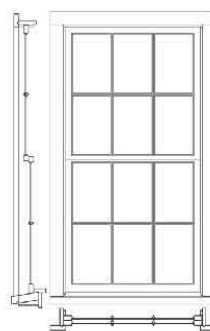
Louise P. Doud, MEd, Ed.S.

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WARWICK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

32 ATHOL ROAD

WARWICK, MA 01378

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Sacred Rhythm circle - Jan 4

Tech Help - Jan 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

Warwick Women's Guild - Jan 6

Book Club - Jan 14

Non-Fiction Discussion Gp - Jan 15

Warwick Trails Group Hike - Jan 18

BP & Heart Health - Jan 20

TCC Movie Night - Jan 21

Monthly Short Story Hour - Jan 22

Lego Club - Jan 24

Souper Supper & Music - Jan 24

Author Visit - Jan 25

