Warwick Community Newsletter

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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!!**

		THANK YOU TO THE	FOLLOWING DONORS			
PHONE DIRECTORY		AND ADVERTISERS!				
Emergency	911	Robert & Asako Dav, Jear	n Haskell & Claire Michaels,			
Selectboard	6315					
Treasurer/Collector	3845	Ruth & Roger Joslin, Chuck Fellows				
Highway	6349	\$200.00				
Library	7866		Thank You			
Fire Station	3314		1-1-0-00 1000			
Animal Control	3402	Please consider donating to the Newsletter.				
Animal Contr.Pager217-2681		It is an outreach from the				
Clerk/Assessors	8304					
Bd of Health	6315	Trinitarian Congregational Church				
Community School	6310	serving the greater community.				
Police Dept Business	2244	SEND THIS FORM TO;	Subscription Mailed To:			
Building Inspector	2236	Warwick Community Newsletter				
FAX all depts.	6499	c/o Beth Gilgun				
Burn Permits 413-625-8200		29 Athol Road				
Warwick Broadband		Warwick, MA 01378				
413-676-9544		I prefer to save paper and	d postage by having an E-subscription			
		Email Address				
		You may request an email only subscription	n by sending a note to			
		warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com				

For all the folks who currently receive their **Warwick Broadband Service invoices** via the US Mail. If you would like to receive your invoices via email please send me an email (<u>billing@warwickbroadband.net</u>) stating you would like to do so and provide the email address you wish to use to receive the invoices. Thank you, Jim Erviti.

Library

Library hours: Monday 10-4, Tuesday 1-8, Thursday 5-8, Saturdays 10-12:30. Contact: <u>war-wick@cwmars.org</u>; 544-7866.

Covid operations update: Normal operations continue in effect at press time. We request that patrons who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask upon entry. *The Library is closely monitoring Covid infection rates, and may decide to require masks of all patrons who enter—stay tuned!* Curbside delivery will continue to be available upon request.

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.

Poetry reading - Dorothy Johnson: Tuesday, December 7th at 7 pm - at the Library Warwick Library is pleased to welcome Dorothy Johnson of New Salem, a new poet who, at age 88, has written her first book of poetry, *My Heart Remembers*, recently published by Haley's of Athol. Johnson writes the Quiet Places column in Uniquely Quabbin Magazine and is known in the Quabbin area for writing the script and lyrics for 11 musical plays presented by the 1794 Meetinghouse. In her new poetry collection, she writes freely about politics and the pandemic, on living in the modern world, observations on growing old and what she has cared about in her long life. A copy of her book is available at the Library and additional copies are available through inter-library loan (ILL).

Monthly Short Story Hour - Karen Russell: Thursday, December 16th @ 7:30 pm at the Library: This month's selection will be from Russell's *Orange World* (2019). Be a reader—or come just to listen.

Baseball Poetry: Some months back, someone placed a copy of the Worcester County Poetry Association's "Baseball Issue" of May 22nd in the dropbox, and before shelving it I opened it at random to "Knuckleball" by Thomas Alan Orr. I've been meaning to share an excerpt, and with the Atlanta Braves having clinched the World Series on November 2nd, it seems high time I did. So, here's the first of the poem's two stanzas:

With gangster names the great deceivers come— Spitter, Cutter, Splitter, Hanger, Slider and the strangest, weirdest one of all—Knuckler birthed, some say, in Indianapolis, nineteen-ought-six, by Eddie Cicotte, the kid they called *Knuckles*, for a pitch the batter cannot find, floating, dipping, in a way that defies nature, a ball that moves without turning, the seams catching air in crazy ways, and slipping, slopping, across home plate with a deft and daffy magic all its own.

Warwick Council on Aging

Council on Aging has now begun offering counseling by Tracy Gaudet on fuel assistance, health care assistance, etc on every other Tuesday for seniors in need. It will be at the school cafeteria.

Foot Clinic



December 10, 2021 January 14, 2022 February 11, 2022 At the Metcalf Chapel at 8 a.m.

Celebration of Life

Come join Carol Kahler's family and friends for a celebration of her life on Saturday December 18, 2021 at 1:00 pm at Warwick Community School, 41 Winchester Rd, Warwick, MA 01378. She left this world way too early on October 23, 2021 due to complications of heart surgery. Flowers gracefully declined. Donations in her memory may be made to the Charlotte and Laura Kahler Account, checks can be mailed to Workers Credit Union 32 New Athol Road, Orange, MA 01364. All fond memories will be gratefully accepted and shared. No refreshments will be served. We look forward to you joining us and thank you for all your prayers and support as we work through this extreme change in our lives.

Charter Agreement

David Young, Town Coordinator

Gigabit internet is about two years away in Warwick. Members of the Selectboard met with a Charter company representative and with the Governor's special broadband envoy Peter Larkin to discuss the cable franchise process. Charter Communications who operate cable systems as Spectrum won a federal subsidy to build a gigabit cable system in Warwick. The Selectboard voted to request that Massachusetts Broadband Institute commit \$29,065 from the Town of Warwick's allocation of MBI Last-Mile funds to reach four households in town which wouldn't have been covered through the Charter's federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund award. Warwick's vote will allow MBI to enter into an agreement with Charter to extend their buildout and reach all Warwick homes.

By vote the Selectboard as well initiated the cable television franchise or licensing process which unless we are granted waivers by DTC (Department of Telecommunications and Cable) will take two months for notice and hearings.

In addition to internet, they will offer TV and phone. The fact that Athol and Orange are served by Spectrum make Warwick attractive to the company to serve. Unlike Warwick broadband, which is town owned, Charter will own the fiber facilities and Charter is financially responsible for repairs.

Since this is cable and the model in history is of regulated natural monopoly, the Town of Warwick through the Selectboard must grant the company our exclusive cable franchise. These grants are what nixed a lot of Verizon FIOS construction in the past decade around the state because a lot of the places they wanted to go were "spoken for", that is had a franchisee providing service. There are jurisdictions in MA that are overbuilt but in general, and certainly in our case we are best served by going with the regulated cable model to get a wireline service installed. The agreement does not stifle wireless broadband competition.

The \$29,065 to extend this buildout and reach additional homes are apart from the \$450,000 MBI awarded Warwick's fixed wireless pilot project which is concluding its construction.

According to Spectrum's website they offer broadband, voice, and video services through its Spectrum brand. Their standard internet speed offering is 100 Mbps X 10 Mbps with no data caps, no usage-based pricing, no modern fees, and no contracts or early termination fees. It is priced in the first two years at \$50. Spectrum pricing is national and won't be part of negotiations.

An outline was provided by the MBI which presents 11-steps of the franchising process: The <u>document</u> explains this process could take approximately 51 days. Currently, the town has completed step one.

Roads and Flooding

Senator Jo Comerford announced a nearly \$4 billion bill that includes reimbursement of \$7.5 M for storm damage relief to our region. The bill allocates funds from ARPA (Covid Recovery Funds) and FY21 state budget surplus. Versions of this legislation have passed both the lower chamber and the Senate and await reconciliation before being sent to the Governor.

On November 12, a letter was sent out from the office of Senator Jo Comerford about the S.2564- *An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs*, which the Senate voted to pass. This bill will distribute "close to four billion dollars worth of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and surplus FY21 state revenues".

Part of the bill includes Amendment 716, which reimburses \$7.5 million for storm damage relief to municipalities in the Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester, and Berkshire counties, who were impacted by the July storms. The amendment was filed by Sen. Hinds and co-sponsored by Sen. Comerford, to reimburse towns for their costs. The estimate of damage in Warwick approached \$2M although the town has to date spent less than \$200K and had been frugally affecting fixes with no expectation of financial help.

"District director Elena Cohen and I went to Warwick," said Comerford in a <u>video</u> on Nov. 12. "I walked on the roads, with municipal officials at roads so buckled they looked like an earthquake had torn through the community of Warwick, with another road completely washed out, requiring upwards of 27 truckloads of gravel just to repair the roads so that homeowners could leave their homes and emergency vehicles could enter the homes if needed."

The July storm cost Warwick a total of \$202,898.81. Which includes expenses of a culvert pipe (not installed yet), materials and contactor, reimbursable machinery, and regular and overtime labor.

The Amendment states that "For a reserve to provide extraordinary relief from the impacts of the storms of July 16 to July 18, 2021, inclusive, and July 27, 2021, in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties with qualifying expenses otherwise insufficient to receive federal disaster relief; provided, that not less than 15 days in advance of distribution, the secretary of administration and finance shall file a distribution plan along with a detail description of the qualifying expenses for which municipalities will be reimbursed with the house and senate committees on ways and means......\$7,500,000."

On the day of the flooding, the Selectboard met on the Chestnut Hill bridge and voted to declare a state of emergency. This allowed expenditure of funds to make repairs even though not budgeted. The highway department has been keeping track of costs as they relate to specific road repairs. Had the FEMA emergency status been achieved the town would get 75% reimbursement. While details are not known, it appears the state has stepped into the place of FEMA and in the end, the town will need to meet a quarter of these costs from our resources and not 100%. According to Town Coordinator Young, Warwick was facing emergency borrowing and at most a two-year repayment term. This legislative action saves Warwick from that financial hit. According to Young, Selectboard Chair Todd Dexter spearheaded the town's advocacy with our legislative delegation.

The letter by Sen. Comerford can be seen <u>here</u>.

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A Note of Thanks

I want to thank my friends and neighbors for the kindness shown to me and Freddie during my recent hospitalization and adjustment to a new normal. Thanks for early morning rides to appointments, delicious meals delivered, visits, cards, and the many encouraging words and Healing thoughts sent my way. It is all deeply appreciated. Cal Fellows

Women's Guild

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

December 7, 2021 Women's Guild Meeting will be held at the School Cafeteria at 1 PM. This is our Annual "Holiday Fruit Baskets", which we deliver to those 80 and older years of age. Those of you who joined us at Terrazza's Holiday Lunch, you received a card with your assignment and people's names who you are assigned to deliver baskets to. Due to Covid, please call them a couple days before to tell them about the delivery and ask them if they want you to ring the bell and wait or just leave the basket at the door. Delivery will be sometime between 1PM and 3PM.

January 4, 2022 Women's Guild Meeting will be held at the School Library at 1 PM. This will be our annual Business Meeting to review 2021 and plans for 2022, so bring some ideas.

REVIEW

Bacon Me Crazy 6 Main St Hinsdale, NH 03451 (603) 336-6249 Open every day EXCEPT Wednesday, 7:30 AM to 2:00PM

A friend of mine from church told me about, "Bacon Me Crazy" and that the breakfast menu is huge and delicious. They also serve lunch but on a smaller scale.

So decided to give it a try and got there about noon so could decide whether we wanted breakfast or lunch. Almost every item on the menu contains some sort of bacon. Of course you could eliminate it if you don't like bacon but why go if you don't!!

I chose to try lunch so ordered a Bacon, Steak, and Cheese Grinder and I could have chips or French fries, for an extra \$2, so I chose the fries. It was shaved steak with crumbled bacon mixed in and melted cheese, American or Cheddar, mayo, onions and peppers (which I eliminated). It was excellent. My friend decided on breakfast, so had a plain Belgian waffle with 2 eggs and her choice of 5 kinds of bacon, She said it was delicious. Definitely going back and next time I will have one of their special breakfast items...Cheesecake Stuffed French Toast? Peanut Butter and Banana Stuffed Waffles? Nutel-la Stuffed Pancakes? All come with a side of bacon.

The service was excellent and the place is cute with all kinds of bacon signs and little pigs scattered around. Prices are reasonable, my grinder was \$9.99 and I could not finish it, course I had the additional fries so had I stuck to the chips, I might have finished it. Belgian Waffle with eggs and bacon, \$8.99 and their special breakfast items range \$9.99 & \$10.99. Highly recommend it and it's not far from Warwick. Bon Appetite

Gloria Varno

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of WARWICK

DEC 2021

Dear Friends,

"...My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. ...The Lord makes poor and the Lord makes rich ;(God) brings low, (God) also exalts. (God) raises up the poor from the dust; (God) lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them (God) has set the world." Hannah's Prayer 1 Samuel 2: 1, 7-8

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for (God) has looked with favor on the lowliness of (God's) servant. Surely, from now on all generations shall call me blessed... (God) has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. (God) has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; (God) has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." Mary's song of praise Luke 1: 46-48, 51-53

The Bible is filled with stories about God's "favor" resting upon the poor and the oppressed and these two women, Hannah and Mary, are prime examples. Hannah was an older woman who was barren, unable to give her husband children to carry on his name. As such, she was essentially a nonentity in her society. Mary was a young woman, probably a teenager. She was unmarried and pregnant, a pariah in her society. Hannah eventually gave birth to Samuel who became a revered leader of the Israelite people and anointed David king. Mary's son, Jesus, became the Christ of the Christian faith. Gifts of immeasurable worth given to the lowest of the low.

As we enter this season of gift giving, what will we give that is of real value? We are exhorted to spend that "stimulus" money we were "given" by the government so that we can bring the economy back into robust growth. Go out to eat, go on vacation, book your flights early, spend, spend, and spend. The world economy depends on us; go do your part.

But wait a minute, how many of those great gift ideas will actually bring real, lasting happiness to those who receive them? How many will just end up in our ever growing landfills or the growing gyres of plastic filling the world's oceans or filling the atmosphere with more heat-trapping gases, raising the earth's temperature and making the future more problematic for the children and grandchildren we are trying to show our love for? Isn't there a better way of showing our love?

I know it's hard to think about "alternative gifting" when we are so indoctrinated by the consumerist culture we ourselves have created. So much of my identity is tied up in consumption. I am just one data point in the algorithmic matrix that runs the world's economic framework, which I both benefit from and curse. At this time of year especially I am acutely aware of how deeply I have bought, literally and figuratively, into a system I believe is severely flawed and even destructive. And yet, when I want to show my love for friends and family members, especially my grandchildren, I turn to the very system I deplore.

Why? It's quick. It's easily accessible. I don't have to explain myself. I know what to expect. If I try to change, it would mean putting time and thought into what I do and why so that I could explain to others what my motivations are. It would mean admitting that I am addicted to the privileges I have access to through the status quo. Once I do that, I open myself to realizing what my privilege requires of others who are less privileged and of the earth I claim to love; to say nothing of the spiritual cost.

Hannah and Mary were deemed non-existent by their societies so an over turning of the tables was, for them, a thing to celebrate. Could being released from the consumer addiction and the privilege it affords me be a cause for me to celebrate? I hope so, because there is so much that would be positive about it. It would reduce my portion of the extractive demand that over-consumption places on the earth, it would reduce my contribution to the "weirding" of the global weather patterns and would let me focus on the joy of simply being in love with friends, family and all of this beautiful, diverse world I am blessed to inhabit.

I hope your holiday season is filled with joy and blessings that have lasting meaning.

In hopeful faith, Dan

UP COMING EVENTS

Covid 19 numbers are once again rising around the area so we are not planning on the usual gatherings and events. No Hunters Supper, no Advent Workshop in the Town Hall or the Chapel and we won't be caroling around the town.

We are planning on putting up a tree outside once again and "decorating' it with pinecones which we will cover with peanut butter and birdseed on <u>Sun, Dec 12 at 4:30 PM</u>. This sort of activity always goes better with help from small people. Come help us decorate, light the tree and welcome Joseph and the pregnant Mary with a few carols. Masks are requested, we will have extras for those who forget.

A viewing of the documentary "Mission: *Joy*" will be shown in the Chapel and on ZOOM on <u>Dec 1 at 7 PM</u>. This film focuses on the friendship that developed between the Tibetan Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, and Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, two leaders who have known great struggles in their lives. If you want to watch via ZOOM, call (978) 544-2630 and leave a message or email metcalfucc@gmail.com

More holiday events are still in the planning process and we will be sending out a Christmas letter with times, dates and special details in the coming weeks. Look for it in the mail, on the "L" and the "L"ternative.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AT THE METCALF CHAPEL

FREE FOOD FRIDAYS AT THE CHAPEL starts at 11 AM

The food that comes on Friday, thanks to Cliff Fournier and others, usually includes frozen meats as well as bakery goods and produce, so come check it out. We don't actually "close" until all the food is gone, but the selection is always best early.

As the winter weather begins to close in, we will be trying to make arrangements to continue in a safe and accessible manner.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Nonperishable food, personal hygiene items and household cleaning supplies are collected in the front hall of the Chapel. **Disposable diapers, personal & 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.

SHEETS, PILLOW CASES AND OTHER LINENS There is a box in the front hall of the Chapel for these items for the **Franklin Emergency Shelter** in Greenfield.

Warwick School Renewal News - December 2021

Tom Wyatt, Warwick Education Committee

What's happening at the Warwick Community School (WCS):

On November 18th, Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) School Committee unanimously approved a **motion to accept, on a tuition basis, Warwick students** in grades 7-12 at the PVRS junior/senior high school in Northfield. This statement of intent is a key step forward and sufficient at this stage for Warwick's plan to become an independent school district. A formal tuition agreement will continue to be developed as well as a transition agreement between Warwick and the district.

In the next few weeks, Warwick will finalize its **submission to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)**. We sent the last two draft sections of the town's long-range educational plan and received more feedback. On November 10th Warwick officials met with DESE officials and reviewed our budget spreadsheets with them. The town is at a critical juncture. Convincing DESE that our small rural town deserves to form our own district and reopen our elementary school is an uphill battle. We have received some unexpected hurdles and need your help by:

Signing this petition at: https://chng.it/rwrHZ4fw9t for our school reopening.

Sending support letters for Warwick's initiative to DESE. We have a sample letter to download at https://www.school-redesign.com/what-s-new-1 or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE Commissioner Jest commissioner letter to download at https://www.school-redesign.com/what-s-new-1 or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE Commissioner Jest commissioner Jest commissioner Jest commissioner Jest commissioner John Sullivan and Assistant DESE Commissioner John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE Commissioner John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: DESE John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: John Sullivan or you can write your own. Please email them to: John Sullivan or you can write you can w

Spread the word – share and ask others to sign the petition, send support letters.

Warwick officials have been working the last couple years with the **Six Town Regional Planning Board** (STRPB), with Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick. This group is exploring a combined school district. Assuming that Warwick completes its transition to an independent one-town school district, **the town would still be involved**. Warwick students in grades 7-12 tuitioned to PVRSD, would become be part of a larger district. STRPB is now seeking input from the students, parents, school staff, community, and officials of the towns. There will be a series of focus groups (both in person and via ZOOM). Schedule:

1) for Town officials & staff on November 29 at 7:00pm via ZOOM,

2) for Teachers/school staff on November 30 at 4 or 6 pm via ZOOM.

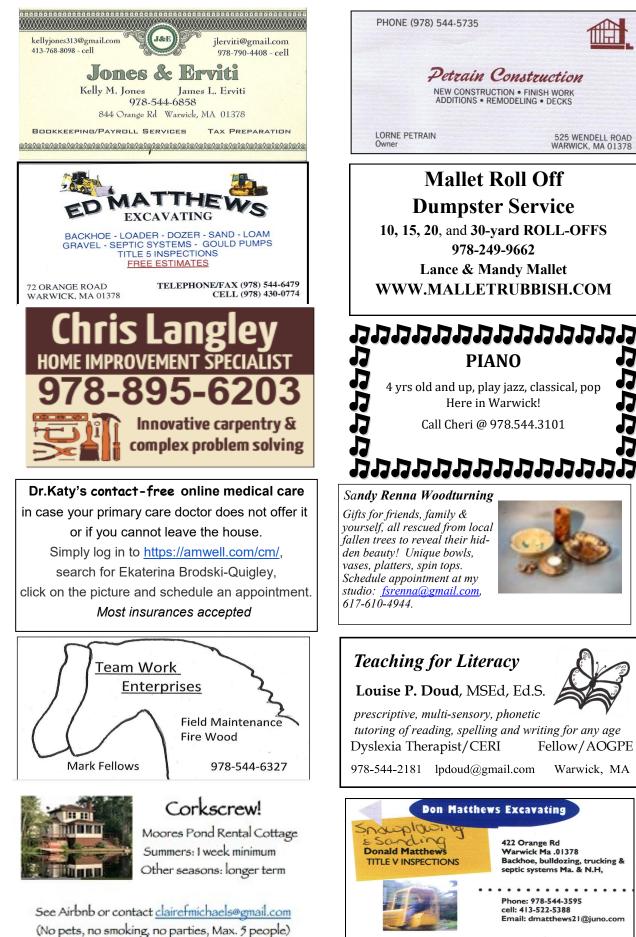
3) for parents/general public on December 6 from 2 – 6pm at Warwick Community School

Request ZOOM invites from Mary Broderick mary-broderick@att.net or 860-608-1763

While the construction of the <u>Pavilion/Amphitheater and Outdoor Classroom</u> won't happen until the spring, committee members are working on a new design to fit our needs. The Pavilion fund appeal, begun last December, continues. It has already raised over \$9000! Many thanks to the numerous Warwick residents and supporters from near and far! Interested in supporting the <u>pavilion project</u>? Make checks payable to: *Town of Warwick – Pavilion* Please mail to: Town of Warwick, Pavilion Project 41 Winchester Rd, Warwick, MA 01378.

Want to be updated on Warwick's School Renewal? Visit our website: <u>https://www.school-redesign.com/</u> or <u>facebook page</u>. Or Contact Adam Holloway: 978-501-0609 or Tom Wyatt 413-768-8641 or email: <u>school-redesign@town.warwick.ma.us.</u> With a "chorus of support" Warwick can re-open its elementary school!

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			l Movie "Mission Joy" 7pm	2 Library 5-8pm	3 Free Food Friday 11:00	4 Transfer Station 8-3 Library 10-12:30 Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30
5 Worship Service 10:00	6 School Fucus Group 2-6	7 Library 1- 8pm Women's Guild Ipm	8 Book Club 10 at Library	9 Library 5-8pm	10 Foot Clinic Free Food Friday 11:00	11 Transfer Station 8-3 Library 10-12:30 Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30
12 Worship Service 10:00	13 Library 10-4	14 Library 1- 8pm	15	16 Library 5-8pm Short Story Hour 7:30	17 Free Food Friday 11:00	18 Transfer Station 8-3 Library 10-12:30 Climate Vigil 11:30-12:30 Kahler Memorial
19 Worship Service 10:00	20 Library 10-4	21 Library 1- 8pm Winter Begins	22	23 Library 5-8pm	24 Free Food Friday 11:00	25 Christmas
26 Worship Service 10:00	27 Library 10-4	28 Library 1- 8pm	29	30 Library 5-8pm	31 Free Food Friday 11:00 New Year's Eve	

DECEMBER, 2021

WARWICK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER 32 Athol Road Warwick, MA 01378

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Don't Miss these DECEMBER events WOMEN'S GUILD –DECEMBER 7 POETRY READING—DECEMBER 7 SHORT STORY HOUR —DECEMBER 16