



Preparing for Town Meeting

It is time for the annual event exercising true democracy that sets New England apart. Steeped in tradition, the town meeting allows the community to take part in helping determine the direction the town will take to provide for everyone's welfare. In compliance with his Charter for the town, Col. Benjamin Bellows moderated the first Town Meeting on the third Wednesday of March, 1752. Theodore Atkinson, Joseph Blanchard and Benjamin Bellows were then elected as Selectmen. There was not much town business then. Things have changed.

On Tuesday, March 12th, the Annual Meeting will be called to order when polling places open for the election of town officers including: Selectman, Treasurer, Trustee of Trust Funds, two Zoning Board of Adjustment members, two Planning Board members, three Library Trustees and a Cemetery Trustee, along with several warrant articles.

When the polls close, the Town Meeting is adjourned until 1PM, Saturday March 16th, when the meeting will reconvene to discuss and vote on the annual budget and remaining warrant articles. For months, the Selectboard works with various departments in developing the town's budget and determining other needs. But, did you realize their work is presented prior to Town Meeting?

On Wednesday, February 6th a public meeting will be held at 6PM at Town Hall for a Bond Hearing for needed renovations to preserve Town Hall. Rebuilt in 1918 after a disastrous fire the prior year, the building has developed serious problems with the roof which must be corrected.

At 6:30PM, the annual Budget Hearing will be held to discuss the town's financial needs for the coming year. At its conclusion, the Selectboard's weekly meeting will follow, taking the place of the regular Thursday night meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the presentations on February 6th, to vote on March 12th, and to attend Town Meeting on March 16th.

— Ray Boas



Great Brook Farm

Route 12 Condos

The legal action regarding the proposed apartment complex behind Tractor Supply on Route 12 brought by 22 Walpole residents, *Flammia v. Town of Walpole*, has been scheduled for hearing on April 2, 2013 at 9 AM in the Cheshire County Superior Court.

On January 9, 2013, attorney Gary Kinyon filed a motion to intervene in the case on behalf of Avanru Development. The Court has required the Town of Walpole to file a response along with a certified copy of the complete record of previous proceedings in the matter on or before March 4. This intervention by the developer, which was consented to by the Town of Walpole, is a normal legal maneuver allowing Avanru to be represented in the pending action in order to protect its economic interest in the outcome.

The main issue to be decided in the case is whether Avanru's change from a condominium project (limited by recorded condominium by-laws, rules and restrictions to residents over 55 years of age) to an apartment complex (with no such written and recorded limitations in occupancy) is a change of use requiring a new land use application on the part of the developer.

— Jan Kobeski

Note: Commentary from Avanru's Jack Franks regarding pending litigation is printed in full in the *Clarion's* Letters section on page 14.

Conservancy Acquires Easement Over Great Brook Farm

Owned and operated by the Graves family for 251 years, Great Brook Farm is a cherished local landmark in Walpole. It's where locals pick up raw milk, maple syrup and ice cream from the Milkhouse. Now it's also a place that is in part protected forever thanks to a conservation easement purchase by the Monadnock Conservancy.

"This is a story about the preservation of a community's heritage," said Rocci Aguirre, conservation project manager for the Conservancy. "It's also a bonus that the property offers prime agricultural soils and riparian wildlife habitat."

The protected property is fairly typical of New Hampshire countryside in the Connecticut River Valley. There is a blend of woods, pastures and crop fields. Great Brook flows through the heart of the property, and road frontage offers passersby a scenic look at a working dairy farm. A popular snowmobile trail crosses the property, and the conservation easement ensures that the public will have access to it during the snowmobiling season.

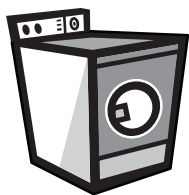
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Hooper Institute

How are you weathering winter at this midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox? Groundhog Day marks that point on the calendar. As New Englanders, we become as animated about few topics as the weather! Students in Hooper Institute classes learn to be weather predictors by being weather observers. By paying attention to the wind direction and types of clouds, short-term forecasting can be quite successful. Best of all, by getting outdoors and looking skyward we connect with nature in our surroundings, the most basic form of environmental education.

Groundhog Day also offers an appropriate prompt to discuss woodchucks, other native animals and their strategies for survival. Wildlife has adapted well to elements of winter weather with its challenges of cold, wind, snow and ice. Cold is handled by thicker fur or a layer of fluffy down feathers beside the skin. Deer fur is so efficient at insulation that snow is not melted when deer bed down in it!

Snow is an insulator as well, as any gardener knows. A "blanket" of snow provides a uniform temperature under which perennial plants thrive as well as voles and other denizens of this "sub-nivean" layer. Some animals leave the food chain altogether by either migrating or hibernating, for which the groundhog is famous. Bird feeders, mammal tracks and snowshoeing are all on tap for the coming weeks ahead.

With thoughts turning to spring, Walpole residents should consider two Hooper Institute programs. Walpole families are invited to become members of the Family Gardens at the Walpole Middle School. These 4 x 12' raised beds are filled with rich compost and waiting for your gardening gloves. If you're new to gardening or would like to try as a family, this is the spot for you. The size of the beds is very manageable. With some effort on your part, the rewards should be very satisfying and delicious. Instruction is provided! Contact the Institute at 756-4382 if you are interested.

In other Hooper news, the summer high school work program will be distributing applications in early March. Students are placed at farms or agricultural enterprises in Walpole. You might know one of the 181 kids who have worked over the past sixteen summers. If you are a Walpole resident contact the Institute at 756-4382 to get on the mailing list.

— Eloise Clark

Walpole Police

Dear Community,

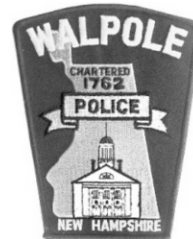
The Walpole Police Department is cognizant of the increased sensitivity on the issue of firearm ownership in the United States. I would like to notify those in our community that the Department recognizes our people's rights.

However, as a reminder to those who do carry a handgun concealed, the State of New Hampshire has certain laws which must be obeyed in order to remain in compliance with state regulations.

In order to carry a handgun concealed both on one's person and when off one's property, the state requires a concealed carry permit to be issued by the Chief of Police in the community in which the citizen resides. The application forms are available here at the Department or on the State of New Hampshire website. Our agency can also assist people with information on firearms laws, gun safety classes and trigger locks for home storage.

We recognize this is an emotional topic for some of our citizens. Our agency strongly encourages gun safety and education for the community; if you have any questions or concerns please contact us here at the Walpole Police Department.

Respectfully,
Chief Michael J. Paquette II
Walpole Police Department



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YMCA Fundraiser

For Youth Scholarship Fund

Volunteers on the Meeting Waters YMCA's Board of Directors are hosting a spaghetti dinner in Charlestown to raise funds for its *Reach Out to Youth* scholarship fund. The event will take place on Saturday, March 9th from 5-7PM at the Charlestown Senior Center on Old Springfield Road. For \$10, supporters will enjoy a healthy meal consisting of multi-grain pasta, salad, unsweetened drink and dessert.

The regional Y provides a variety of youth development programs in the Fall Mountain, Springfield, Bellows Falls and Brattleboro regions. The *Reach Out to Youth* scholarship fund provides those who otherwise could not afford to participate with access to life-enriching afterschool and summer programs that cultivate the values, relationships and skills kids need to thrive.

According to the event's organizer, Meeting Waters YMCA Board member Martha Zabielski, this event is just one way that the Board is working to serve as many children as possible with meaningful, high-quality afterschool and summer programming. "By all of us doing our part, we can not only keep children safer, but also help provide them with lasting benefits, including healthier lifestyles, improved social skills and an enhanced academic performance."

Executive Director Steve Fortier agrees. "Studies show participation in afterschool programs helps boost school attendance and academic performance and reduces gaps in academic achievement among children from disadvantaged households," Fortier adds. "Research also tells us that the summer is, for far too many kids, a time of learning loss and weight gain. The Reach Out to Youth fund is an opportunity for all community members to invest in helping kids thrive. It ensures that our great programs are accessible to all."

Meeting Waters Y serves nearly 400 youth each year through its Y-ASPIRE afterschool program and summer camps. Last year, 49% of these young people and their families received financial assistance.

To order tickets for the spaghetti dinner, call 802 463-4769, or send a check to PO Box 511, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. It is suggested that tickets be bought ahead of time since seating is limited.

Meeting Waters YMCA is a charitable, non-profit, social service organization founded in 1895. The Y's Board President is Diane Myers-Miller of Walpole. To learn more, visit them at www.meetingwatersymca.org or on Facebook.

– Diane Myers-Miller



Area 4Hers participate in the Dairy Quiz Bowl during the 4H Animal Science Bonanza at Walpole Elementary in January..

4H Bonanza

The 4-H Animal Science Bonanza took place on Saturday, January 12th at the Walpole Elementary School. One hundred and thirty 4-H members from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut took part in this event. 4-H members had the opportunity to participate in quiz bowls, skillathons, and workshops focusing on beef, sheep, goats, poultry, dairy and horse.

In addition to the morning activities, participants could attend afternoon workshops on nutrition, Scrapie (a disease that affects sheep and goats), marketing, meats, and dairy judging. Members also

had the opportunity to view various displays from the New Hampshire Farm Bureau, New Hampshire Ag in the Classroom, and Blue Seal Feeds.

One 4-H member commented, "It was a great event where I got to learn new things about beef animals in the skillathon. I really liked competing in the beef quiz bowl."

The event was organized by a committee of volunteers and youth from Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties.

For more information about 4-H, contact your local UNH Cooperative Extension, or go to extension.unh.edu.

– UNH Cooperative Extension

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Dogs: Sleeping on Our Beds for 15,000 Years

The following is the first segment of a lengthy article about "Man's Best Friend" and how we got there...

What I love about dogs is that it is like having a slice of the wild right in your very own house, but without the threat of it suddenly getting hungry and biting your face off. We have two dogs in our small house but they are our buddies, our companions, our door alarm and our pride and joy. They steal the couch, roll in poop, and occasionally chase the cats, but we love them.

The two couldn't be more opposite—which is why they illustrate the diversity of dogs so well. One is big, one is small; one is white, one is black; one's a girl, one's a boy. This is, of course, due to their different breeds, and they provide wonderful examples of forms' relationship to function.

Floyd, a German Shepherd/Black Lab mix, is 60 lbs of boundless energy. Lithe and nimble, he's four coiled springs on feet. He is all black but has the athletic Shepherd frame designed to chase down wayward flock animals, and has the stamina to do that all day. Rita, a Great Pyrenees (one of the oldest breeds in the world) is a flock-guarding dog. She is a 105 lb, white fluffy tank. Her physique and personality reflect her duty to be vigilant, powerful and protective. This girl is a bouncer.

The two breeds harken back to a time when humans, particularly farmers, relied on dogs for the protection of their livelihoods. In a modern world of lap dogs and bandy-legged goofballs, it seems trite to say that dogs are being

morphed to fit our lifestyle but that has always been true. Dogs exist because of humans and we humans exist in our modern state because of dogs. That is not anthropomorphic hyperbole but an evolutionary fact.

The history of dogs begins with the wolf, the animal from which all dogs are descended. How and when that happened has been the subject of debate and research for wildlife biologists, geneticists and anthropologists for quite some time. What makes a dog a dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and not a wolf (*Canis lupus lupus*)? Wildlife biologists as well as anthropologists and other scientists have wondered if nature or nurture turned a once terrifying enemy into an indispensable counterpart to our modern success as the most dominant species on the planet. If we study the relationship based on the facts, it makes no sense, dogs shouldn't exist. The wolf from which they are derived was so loathed and reviled that at one point in our history in New England there was a bounty on the wolf's head. So successful was this extermination campaign that by the turn of the 18th century, they were all but a distant memory, a colorful anecdote in the tales of the first European settlers in the area.

Dogs are used to this day to help humans hunt for sport and subsistence. In places like Papua New Guinea and across the Sahara, people rely on their dogs to help track, chase and tree food that would otherwise be too difficult for humans to catch. These cultures have respect for the relationship they have with their dogs. While not quite the pets we see them as in this country, dogs in these cultures have a status of sorts. They are respected and cared for and definitely part of the community. This type of relationship was probably what the earliest dog-human relationship looked like.

— Gail Golec

To Be Continued in March

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The easement, which covers 34.6 acres of the farm, is the first phase of a multiyear effort to conserve Great Brook Farm. Concurrent with the easement purchase, the Conservancy also acquired an option to purchase an additional conservation easement on another 60 acres if sufficient funds can be raised by 2015.

An adjacent landowner, whose fields are used by Great Brook Farm for growing corn and hay, has also pledged to donate a conservation easement in the near future. In total, the project has the potential to protect nearly 170 acres of contiguous farmland within three years.

Great Brook Farm is primarily a dairy operation with significant acreage devoted to growing corn and hay to feed the cows, as well as providing space to perform the other operations associated with traditional farming.

Peter Graves, the primary owner and operator, is the ninth-generation family member to earn a living on this property. His parents, Bob and Peggy Graves, and his sister, Cindy Westover, are all intimately involved with the running of the farm. Westover runs the Milkhouse, and her son (the 10th generation) runs the sugaring operation on the farm during the spring.

"I felt the responsibility of carrying on the family name and business," said Peter Graves. "Protecting the farm was something that fit with our family's stewardship of the land over the generations."

"When such a recognized family name as the Graves shows their neighbors and fellow town members that they believe in conservation and the value of easements, it speaks volumes for why others should pay heed and learn from their decision," said Tom Beaudry, chair of the Walpole Conservation Commission. "It is our hope that this easement will inspire other landowners in the surrounding area to consider similar measures to conserve their property for generations to come."

The Town of Walpole funded the project's transaction costs through its conservation commission. Funding for the easement purchase came from the 1772 Foundation and from many individuals, local businesses and other private donors. The closing was handled by Kasper & Associates, PLLC in Walpole.

The Monadnock Conservancy is an accredited land trust and the only one dedicated exclusively to the 35 towns in the Monadnock Region. It has protected 17,000 acres of forest, farmland, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreation trails in the region. For more information, call 357-0600 or visit www.MonadnockConservancy.org.



R.N. Johnson

R.N. Johnson, a long-standing Walpole business landmark, received unwelcome news from its major supplier of farm equipment last month, as explained on the R.N. Johnson website:

"On Monday, January 7th, 2013, at 4:15 PM, John Deere cancelled our contract. They are in the process of removing their machine inventory. We are saddened by this unfortunate turn of events. Eighty-four years of history and tradition has come to an abrupt end, along with our tenure as one of the three or four oldest John Deere dealers in the world. This day has been coming for close to a decade. We... have been fighting tooth and nail to prevent it, but in the end there was nothing else we could do. It has been John Deere's corporate philosophy and mission to eliminate all small single location dealers nation-wide. We are just the latest casualty.

We will continue to serve our many loyal John Deere customers with parts and service, just as we have for years. We have already secured sources for John Deere parts and will be able to continue providing parts without changing our competitive pricing. When necessary, we will assist our customers with newer equipment to secure warranty service from a neighboring dealer.

Be assured, we are committed to continuing in business without John Deere. We will continue to represent the other equipment lines we have like Kuhn, Ariens, Echo and Stihl. We will also begin working to secure a new tractor line to replace John Deere.

We appreciate your patience and continued business as we steer our way through the changes this brings to our business. Please bear with us, as there will be unavoidable hiccups as we digest the impact of losing the John Deere line."

For a non-local perspective on John Deere's behavior, go to The New Hampshire Union Leader website: www.unionleader.com/article/20130109/NEWS02/130119951

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St. Peter's Church (North Walpole)
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Sat. 4PM; Sun. 8:30AM
Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
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Walpole Unitarian Church
Reverend Telos Whitfield
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Bereavement Support

Hospice at HCS offers a grief support group in the Walpole area for anyone who has recently experienced the loss of a loved one. The group will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 4:30pm to 6:00pm at the First Congregational Church on the Common in Walpole. Discussions are facilitated by Mary Souzzi, LICSW. The next meetings will be February 6 and February 20.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is required. To register, call Lynn Anne Palmer at 352-2253. For more information visit www.HCSservices.org.

Hospice at HCS is a comprehensive non-profit hospice program, providing end of life care to patients and support to family members. Care is offered at home, in assisted living facilities or in nursing homes throughout southwestern New Hampshire.

— Lara Larson

All Saints Parish

On Friday, January 25, our pastor, Father Steve Lepine, and seven parishioners of All Saints Parish joined hundreds of thousands from all over the United States in Marching for Life. Tuesday, January 22, 2013 marked the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which brought about the legalization of abortion. We pray that we will soon see the end of abortion and recognition of the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to natural death.

We have begun the liturgical year with Ordinary Time until Ash Wednesday, February 13th. During this time before Lent may our hearts continue to seek the fullness of God's love and healing through the Sacrifice of Holy Mass, the Sacraments, and our service to God's people.

We will be having our annual Pilgrimage to Canada from August 6-9, 2013. The cost is \$395 per person double occupancy which includes two meals a day, accommodations with private facilities, and transportation from St. Mary Church, Claremont. We will visit the shrines of St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, St. Anne De Beaupre, and St. Benoit du Lac. For more information, contact Juanita Sweet at 826-4486 or email: juanitajoy@comcast.net.

God's Blessings to you all! Log onto our website at www.allsaintsnh.net.

*We can complain because
rose bushes have thorns,
or rejoice because thorn bushes
have roses.* — Abraham Lincoln

Women of Walpole

The next meeting of the Women of Walpole will be held at Applewood on February 27th. A short program beginning at 2 will be followed by tea.

The Women of Walpole had a successful 2012. We continue to serve Walpole by donating to the local food shelf, by supporting a middle school student to attend a local summer camp and by enhancing the beautification of Walpole. Look for some spring blooms at the historical society, the library, the town hall, and the community gardens. Shrubs were planted around the sign at the historical society and Christmas wreaths were hung on the north doors of the town hall.

All women who reside in Walpole, North Walpole, or Drewsville are welcome to become members. More information may be obtained by calling 756-9580.

Cabaret

There will be a Cabaret at the First Congregational Church on Saturday, February 2, at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to a fun evening of entertainment for a variety of ages. Refreshments will be served. Donation: \$5 for adults and \$3 for school-age children.

Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will meet for a potluck lunch at the Congregational Church on the Walpole Common at noon on Monday, February 18, 2013. The speaker will be David Howard, Architectural Designer on "The Way We Live In Villages". Everyone is asked to bring a contribution for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Bring a dish to share. Trip Planning information will be available. All Walpole Seniors are welcome. Come for fun and good socialization.

— Jeanne A Jeffries

Library Hours

Bridge Memorial Library

Monday: 1:30 - 8 PM

Tuesday: 1:30 - 6 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM - Noon; 1:30 - 6 PM

Thursday: 1:30 - 6 PM

Friday: 1:30 - 5 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

North Walpole Branch Library

Tuesday - Wednesday: 2 - 4 PM

Saturday: 1 - 4 PM

St John's Church:

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper: Feb. 12

It's the last day of Mardi Gras and a day for eating pancakes! Come to St. John's at 6PM and enjoy pancakes, waffles, sausage, applesauce and great fun! Everyone is welcome.

Ash Wednesday: Feb. 13

Service with Imposition of Ashes, Noon and 6:30 PM. The liturgy is one of the most solemn of the year. The mark of the cross with the ashes symbolizes that we truly are dust, and to dust we shall return. Everyone is welcome.

Art After School

Each Wednesday, 3:15 - 5 PM in St. John's Church, Parish Hall. Art After School is very busy this Winter. The Parish Hall is full each Wednesday with kids in grades one or older who are busy making Zentangles, drawing in the style of Paul Klee or Escher, making wood sculpture, and many more creative projects. AAS is preparing for an art show on May 22. We have a new blog: walpoleartafterschool.wordpress.com. Samples of the artwork produced are shown there each week. New young artists are always welcome. Call Susan Kershaw, 756-2962, for more information.

Walpole Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, June 8, 9 AM - 2 PM, Walpole Town Hall. St. John's Church is excited about the upcoming Walpole Spring Craft fair. Artisans in all media are sought to display and sell their craft. Interested crafters and artisans may contact the church for more information, 756-4533 or rector@stjohnswalpole.org.

– Susan Kershaw

Vacation Camp

February Vacation Camp at Walpole Village School will run from Feb 18 - 22, 8AM - 4PM each day. The cost is \$175 for the week or \$40 for the day. Families can call the school at 756-4246 to sign up or check on availability. During the week kids will be spending time inside playing games and doing projects. They will go outside and play as much as possible too (ice skating, sledding etc).

– Walpole Village School

Genealogy Workshop

A free Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the Walpole Historical Society will be offered Saturday February 9, from 10 AM to noon. Sharing information about how to start or how to solve problems will be Jeanne and Peter Jeffries with over 30 years of research experience. Reservations required. Call 756-2933.

– Jeanne A Jeffries

Age in Motion

Age in Motion (AIM), an exercise program designed for older adults, has resumed in Walpole this winter and will be held every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00AM at the Walpole Town Hall. New members are welcome to join at any time.

A trained instructor with Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services will lead the sessions. Both men and women are encouraged to attend this program to increase strength, flexibility and balance, and everyone is encouraged to progress at their own rate. Older adults from any area town are welcome to participate. A donation of \$2.00 is requested for each session.

Physician approval is required to join. Call Denise at Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) at 352-2253 for a registration packet.

– Lara Larson

Claiming Creativity

Claiming Creativity is a new artists' collaborative that seeks to help everyone explore their inner creativity. Everyone has a creative spark...sometimes dormant and well hidden, other times worn out and in need of renewal. Claiming Creativity's workshops will help you find that creative spark. Racheal Scott, fiber artist and Walpole Artisan, and Susan Kershaw, painter and priest, invite you to join them in this intriguing journey.

On February 23, Claiming Creativity is presenting "Meandering with God: Creating Mixed Media Prayer Journals." Participants will create books that unfold and experiment with the use of inks, paint and papers, filling the pages with abstract images that speak to them of paths in life.

The Claiming Creativity Workshop: Saturday, Feb 23, 10 AM - 2 PM, hosted by St. John's Church, meeting in the Parish Hall.

It's fun! Come out and experiment with the media and explore and claim your creativity. Bring your lunch. Beverages supplied. Fee for the workshop is \$15 per person. Registration: please contact Susan at claimingcreativity@gmail.com or 756-2962. Check out our blog: claimingcreativity.wordpress.com

– Susan Kershaw

WRAP Meetings

The monthly meetings of WRAP have been changed from the second Thursday of the month to the third Thursday. Thus WRAP's next meeting will be Thursday, February, 21.

– Dodie Ransome

Walpole AED Locations

(Automated External Defibrillators)

This information could save a life.

Do you know where to find the closest AED in town in the event of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) emergency?

Locations:

Walpole School – Elementary
(during school season)
8 Bemis Lane

Walpole Town Pool
(during summer season)
14 Bundy Lane

Walpole School – Primary
18 Primary Lane

North Walpole School
17 Cray Road, NW

Walpole Town Hall
34 Elm Street

Walpole Recycling Center
Rte 123, North Walpole

Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Walpole Clinic
11 Westminster Street

Benson's Woodworking
6 & 10 Blackjack Crossing Road

LaValley's Building Supply
40 Meadow Access Lane

Hooper Golf Course
166 Prospect Hill Road

Congregational Church
15 Washington Street

RN Johnson's
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Phone: 499-3800, or on Facebook.

P.8 Cal.

P.9 Cal.

Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...Walpole's Town Common, and animal pound, was originally at the top of Prospect Hill, and was not relocated to the Village until the early 19th century?

Most people can readily conjure an image of the quintessential New England town common or green. A green is defined as "a common" or a "village green." A green is always a common, but a common is not necessarily a green (stay with me here). A common in colonial times referred often to an upland pasture with no houses around it where villagers could pasture their cattle or sheep. A green was the center of the community and more compact surrounded by houses, shops possibly, and the ubiquitous meeting house. But as common land, it, too, was often used for grazing. Adding to the nomenclature confusion, today's Walpole Town Common, or green, was originally named Washington Square.

In the early nineteenth century village, commons and greens emerged with the development of a village center, usually adjacent to the meeting house lot. The meeting house, with its steeple, soon

became the focal point of a community. The townspeople would meet there to decide on a wide range of public affairs. On Sundays, non-denominational religious services were held in the same place.

Walpole's Meeting House and *The Church in Walpole* was first established at the top of Old North Main Street in the 1760s, but in 1786 it was voted to build a new meeting house on Prospect Hill opposite Watkins Tavern where the Hooper Institute stands today. Three years later it was decided to build it with a dome instead of a steeple. A Revere bell was purchased in 1798 for the dome.

By 1818 there was growing interest in moving the meeting house down the hill to the expanding village, with its homes, taverns, businesses and lodgings now converging on the crossroads. This coincided with the separation of churches from town affairs that was taking place in all communities. On October 27, 1825, it was finally voted to move the building down the hill within a year. Abel Bellows in 1826 deeded the plot of land for the

new location stipulating that the "Town shall hold this land for as long it is used for the usual purposes of a meeting house and sheds."

Now here is where I find Walpole to be a tad different from the norm. Since Walpole Village was fairly well developed (not much different from today), there was no open land in what was known as the Village Square. The lot Abel Bellows provided was to the west, on the road to the bridge to Vermont. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, roads were laid and homes were built in the area. Our town common was to develop here, away from the business center. "The Church in Walpole" divided in 1825/26 with the Independent Congregational Society (now the First Congregational Church of Walpole) moving to the new common, and the Town Congregation and Church of Walpole (the Walpole Unitarian Church) relocating to Main Street. The foundations of what we see today were now laid. The church on the new common was first built in 1832 and then raised, adding the lower floor in 1873. The 1843 Unitarian Church collapsed in 1920 and was rebuilt two years later. The Town House stood tall on the northwest corner of Washington Square (in all likelihood named for the late President) until it burned in 1917, consuming even the Revere bell. The main part of today's town hall was rebuilt in 1918.

Some records of activities on Washington Square exist. In 1873 a road still cut diagonally northwest across the square from Middle Street, but soon all roads on the square were abandoned. Over the next decade, tennis matches were held, but due to complaints about baseball players being too loud, baseball was banned. An article was passed prohibiting circus exhibitions and the firing of cannons on the common. A sign is still extant advising to keep horses off the common. And adding to the record, I feel blessed to be living on Washington Square - Walpole's Village Green, or Green, or Town Common, or most affectionately, the Common.



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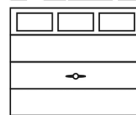
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Congratulations are in order for a number of Walpole cross country skiers. Competing at the Connecticut Valley Conference Nordic Ski Championships held at Strafford Nordic Center on January 19, Fall Mountain Regional's **Levi Frye** led the way by winning the 6K classical race.

Levi finished the race in 18 minutes, 6 seconds, closely followed by teammates **Simon Pierpont** (4th, 18:47), **Tristan Phillips** (9th, 20:0) and **Sean Kelly**, who also finished in the top 10. All are Walpole residents.

In the girls' race, Fall Mountain's **Maddie Beaudry**, also of Walpole, placed second in 22:51. Congratulations to all..

Walpole Schools

DOMAIN

Fall Mountain School District has changed domain names to **fmrstd.org** – for email, website and the PowerSchool portal. The new bookmarks are:

ParentPortal/StudentPortal

<https://powerschool.fmrstd.org/public>

Website: www.fmrstd.org

Email: name@fmrstd.org

PORTION STANDARDS

Due to an overwhelming response from parents, students and school administrators, the USDA is relaxing the new healthier portion standards for school food. The daily and weekly maximums on grains and proteins for this school year have been suspended. The maximums limited portion sizes and calories to science-based nutrition standards. Fall Mountain Regional School District will reevaluate their menus and portion sizes, adjusting accordingly. More time is needed for training, education and support to make USDA compatible meals that are delicious and satisfying. Call Kim Burton, Food Services Director, at kburton@fmrstd.org or 835-2447 with questions, comments or suggestions.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2013, please call Deb Clark at 756-4241 to register for kindergarten.

CONTACT

Walpole Primary, Grades K-1
Telephone 756-4241
Hours 8:20-3:05

North Walpole, Grades 2-4
Telephone 445-545
Hours 8:20-2:55

Walpole Elementary, Grades 5-8
Telephone 756-4728
Hours 8:20-3:10

Fall Mountain R.H.S.

There is a new procedure for visitors to FMRHS. **All** visitors **must** have a scheduled appointment, sign in at the receptionists desk in the lobby, and receive a Visitor's Pass.

When a guest arrives at the lobby doors:

1) The individual will push the button to speak with the receptionist.

2) The receptionist will request the individual show a photo ID and state their reason for visiting.

3) The receptionist will check the daily Visitor Calendar for their scheduled appointment. If the individual's name is not on the list, the receptionist will call the staff member the individual is requesting to see. This will allow the receptionist to verify the person's reason for visiting **before** allowing them into the lobby. Once verified, the individual will be allowed into the lobby to sign-in. When a visit is not verified, the individual will not be permitted to enter the lobby.

– Elaine Maney

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The Village Archaeologist



My Science Boyfriend: Neil deGrasse Tyson

As an archaeologist, I walk a fine line on the continuum between what is considered "hard" and "soft" science. In the world of career science, as in every other profession, there is a hierarchy of relative legitimacy. In layman's terms, the "legitimacy" of your scientific endeavors often boils down to whether you are a "hard" science (chemistry, physics, biology) or a "soft" science (anthropology and by extension, archaeology, psychiatry, mixology). In a twist of irony, the distinction between these nerd-driven worlds is really more of a comment on "relative coolness". Those in the hard sciences tend to scoff at those of us in the soft science camp. Hard science is measured and gives you hard data: *drop a chunk of potassium in water and it explodes; $E=mc^2$; the rat in the experiment gained .05 grams of weight over a two week period.* Data from soft science is no less accurate but perhaps a little less tangible, as it comes from an individual's observation: *historical maps indicate there was once a brick factory somewhere on this property; subject reported feeling sad today; add just a splash of bitters.*

This internal divide in science, much like modern politics, ends up serving no one but the loudest voices on either side. There are self-congratulatory conferences where you go and **present** to others in your field. While science is by its nature only beneficial when it is shared with others, I find it works best when shared with a broader audience and does so via an integrative approach of all sciences. It is probably no accident that an archaeologist has come to admire this approach. We study humans. Human life is multifaceted and so, therefore, must

be our approach of study. We utilize all branches of science in our work: chemistry and physics for our radio carbon dating; anthropology for our background research and interpretation; biology to identify human and animal remains; and we would be nothing without good old on-site excavation and data recovery.

No one takes such an integrative approach better than my science boyfriend, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist and current Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth and Space, and research associate in astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Dr. Tyson is a fantastic communicator of science. He understands that, while his branch of astrophysics is fascinating all on its own, it becomes exponentially amazing when it becomes integrated with the other sciences. Chemistry explains the reactions taking place on the sun. Physics explains the existence universe and even predicts types of matter we have yet find. Biology explains why life may or may not exist on other planets. Anthropology explains our modern fascination with and historical reliance on the stars, as bodies of wonder and a means of guidance.

Science is a human pursuit and it is worthless unless humans can understand it and themselves, and integrate it. Dr. Tyson works toward that end, to make science accessible to us all, not just to other physics colleagues. I encourage anyone who is interested in his work to check out his podcast: Star Talk Radio at www.startalkradio.net. Here he invites famous people, usually some comedians and another member of the scientific community to come and talk about new discoveries in space. This is also an integrative approach with comedy and science and it is entertaining and informative. It is a bit free-form and silly

but as Abraham Lincoln once said "Its the kind of thing you'd like if you like that kind of thing". The show also has a very interesting backlog of one-on-one interviews Dr. Tyson has done with people like Nichelle Nichols from the original cast of Star Trek, Morgan Freeman and a wonderful tribute to astronaut Neil Armstrong. All incorporate stories of how planetary science influenced those people individually and the country and culture as a whole.

I love science. It is unpredictable and exciting. In this day and age, that you can log on to the internet and learn about absolutely anything you want is simply amazing. I can learn about wildflowers, butterflies, watch a video explaining Einstein's theory of relativity or watch a live satellite image of earth on NASA's site. All of this takes very little effort. It's a great time to be a lover of science and I thank Dr. Tyson for spreading his knowledge and his nutty enthusiasm for learning. That's why he is my science boyfriend. He is smart, funny and cute.

What more could a girl ask?

— Gail Golec

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The Walpole Players

Cabin Fever Radio Follies

Something new to anticipate as the winter continues will be a fun-packed variety evening presented by The Walpole Players on Saturday, March 23rd. Starting at 6:30, attendees may bring their own beverages, snacks or even dinner, and settle in next to a radio at their table. The Players go "on the air" at 7PM. Tickets, priced at \$5, will be available in mid-February.

You will be carried back to the 1930s, 40s, and 50s listening to the announcer introducing such favorites as *Amos and Andy*, *Gunsmoke*, *The Bickersons*, *Jack Benny* and *Burns & Allen* (just to name a few). There will also be classic commercials and musical accompaniments. The stage will be set as a radio studio, complete with an authentic sound effects table. As you enjoy your beverages and goodies, you can watch the action as it is broadcast. Guaranteed to be a grand experience (and maybe a new tradition), *Cabin Fever Radio Follies* will be an event you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars, and plan to attend on March 23rd.



The first two weekends in May will again bring The Walpole Players spring production. This year, *Cabaret*, based on the play by John Van Druten and stories by Christopher Isherwood, will be The Players' musical offering. The scene is a night club in Berlin, as the 1920s are drawing to a close. The Master of Ceremonies welcomes the audience to the show and assures them that, whatever their troubles, they will forget them at the Cabaret. Auditions for *Cabaret* will be held on March 10th and 11th with rehearsals starting right away.

If you would like to be part of either production, please visit The Players' website at <http://thewalpoleplayers.org/> for more information or call Ray Boas at 756-4545. Additional details will be in next month's issue of the *Clarion*.

— Ray Boas

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THE WALPOLE Clarion

is published monthly for the Walpole community. Submissions about community events and achievements are encouraged for both the calendar and features.

Article submissions should be sent to:
walpoleclarion@gmail.com

Ad submissions should be sent to:
Ads@walpoleclarion.com

March issue deadline: February 22

Staff: Jan Kobeski
Barbara Kasper
Ray Boas
Rob Kasper

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Photos Wanted for Town Report

Janet Clough has been working hard to improve Walpole's Annual Town Report, and would like your help. You may remember her addition of photographs last year, but she recently notified the *Clarion* that, "Anyone who has a photo taken this year in Walpole, of events, historical buildings, etc... I would love to try and fit them in the Town Report!" If you have images you would like to have considered, email them to Janet (jclough@walpolenh.us). The deadline for photographs is February 11th, at which time the town report will go to press.

— Ray Boas

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Letters & Commentary

Rte 12 Condominiums

It's important that the people of Walpole and surrounding communities understand and are aware that the development project on Rt.12, next to the Tractor Supply, has always been open and transparent since this discussion and process started nearly three years ago. Neither comments from Jack Pratt who recently coined it a "classic bait and switch" at the November Planning Board meeting, or Chuck Bingham's comment of a "rental scheme", recently in the Eagle Times, can negate or detract from the fact that this is and always has been an age 55 plus senior housing development designed to serve the needs of our region.

When this process of development started, we'd anticipated selling (48) two bedroom condo's for age 55 plus seniors. Unfortunately, we weren't able to pre-sell the number needed to start the project, partly because of the economy and partly because so many buyers needed to sell the home they were in first in order to buy a new condo. What we were able to ascertain during this process, was the enormous need for adequate housing with amenities for seniors.

Our real estate agent took dozens of calls from seniors in our region, who wanted to rent or lease these units. So, instead of trying to force something to happen with the condo sales, we decided to meet with area providers of such services and gained valuable insight and advice. We met with Westminster Cares, contacted the Legere Group and met with Keith Thibault from Southwest Community

Services, all of whom provide much needed services and housing to seniors. We realized quickly that we could aid in the service of these needs by changing this to leased senior housing instead of condominiums for sale. In fact, we spent months gathering the most recent and updated demographics from Southwest Community Services, Westminster Cares and the State of New Hampshire, which clearly outlined the best choice for us to make.

We changed direction from (48) two bedroom condo's, to (60) single bedrooms and (7) two bedroom units, all within the exact same footprint of buildings we were already approved for. By not changing the size of the building, we were able to lower the impact of water and power consumption.

Modeled after other senior housing complexes in the region, it reflects the exact same ratio of single bedroom and two bedroom units currently used by Southwest Community Services and others that have done extensive research in that area.

Most of you are aware that there are (22) individuals that have filed an appeal against the Planning Board to stop this project. This select group of individuals has the right to appeal, but the taxpayers of Walpole need to know this is going to cost the town a substantial amount of money to defend the Planning Boards legitimate decision. It's unfortunate for the town and all parties involved that this choice was made, as it is a needless expense that could have been avoided.

This select group of (22) has made comments in the paper recently about how this is going to be any age housing, with "kids riding bikes up and down Rt. 12", "an accident waiting to happen", and "how taxes will go up because more children will be in our schools". They've worked hard at misinforming and distorting the facts and truth while attempting to paint this to be something it's not. The fact is, these units were designed specifically for seniors. It has a combination of all the great amenities that a lot of other senior housing complexes lack, and each unit is considerably larger than other facilities offer. This complex has wide hallways and larger doors to accommodate wheel chairs, elevators, washer/dryer hook ups in each unit as well as multiple community rooms. We have planned areas for gardening and large patio areas to take in the sights and sun.

When asked by a member of the audience at a Planning Board meeting in November if we (ADG) could lease/rent to anyone we wanted to, our Attorney told the truth and said "The applicant (ADG) can do whatever they want with it". We (ADG) haven't "baited and switched or schemed" anything. We told the truth. We've met the requirements to become an age 55 plus senior housing facility and will continue to do so. We adapted from condo's for sale to leased units, to meet the needs of the most deserving members in our community and region, our seniors.

— Jack Franks - Avanru Development Group

**Legislator
Contact Information:**

Senator Molly Kelly
107 N. Main St.
Room 120
Concord NH 03301
(603) 271-2166
molly.kelly@leg.state.nh.us
www.mollykelly.com

Representative Tara Sad
82 North Road
Walpole, NH 03608-4705
(603) 756-4861
tara.eric@gmail.com

Representative Lucy Weber
217 Old Keene Road
Walpole NH 03608
lwmcv@comcast.net

All
great change
in Amercia
begins at the
dinner table.

— Ronald Reagan

MILESTONES

- Passed: Constance E. Rollins, January 6

*Family milestones submitted to The Clarion
will be published free of charge.*

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***ADULT TRUTH #1** Sometimes I'll look at my watch 3 consecutive times
and still not know what time it is...

The Bottom Line

Look for the **WALPOLE Clarion** at: Galloway Real Estate, Jake's Market & Deli, Murray's Restaurant, Walpole Wash 'N Dry, Real to Reel, Costume Ladies, Kasper Law Offices, Walpole Town Hall & Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls.