

# A Playground by the Common...or Not?

James Michener, the noted author, described Walpole as the quintessential New England village when he resided on the Common while writing his novel *Hawaii*. However, that near-perfect, 19th century village charm he praised could be marred. The view across the Common Michener so enjoyed may be drastically altered by a splash of 21st century, vibrant color and plastic.

In March, Washington Street residents Charlie and Sheila Lennon observed a number of people measuring the open space between their residence and the telephone building (just east of the Common and north of the Walpole Congregational Church), which is owned by The Walpole Foundation. Upon enquiry, Cindy Maak of Site Specifics (playground designers from Rochester, Massachusetts, [www.sitespecifics.net](http://www.sitespecifics.net)), told Lennon a playground was being planned. When Lennon expressed concern that the area might become an attractive nuisance for teenagers at night, Maak noted that special playground features could be added, including, "noxious odors and sound emission both particularly unpleasant for teens." Maak further indicated that there could be a light activation feature.

Concerned about the safety of children in this busy area, and liability issues for the town, Foundation, and abutters, Charlie Lennon read a letter to the Selectboard at its April 4th meeting, regarding the Lennons "hearing indirectly that construction of a playground has been proposed on the lot owned by Eleven Westminster Street, LLC." Unable to obtain exact information of the proposal, letter signatories Sheila and Charlie Lennon, Ellie and Fred Ernst, Carole and John Cramer and Fred Dill asked that, "1) A public hearing be held so all concerned residents have an opportunity to learn what the actual plans for the playground involve, and the opportunity to voice [their] opinions as to [the] appropriateness of a playground on this site, and 2) A Site Plan Review be done by the Planning Board."



## Zoning Amendment Clarified

On April 8, Ben Daviss submitted a letter to the Walpole planning board to clarify the intent of the hazardous waste ordinance recently passed by the Town's voters. In it he stated:

"As the board considers how to implement the amendment to the zoning ordinance that requires companies handling hazardous materials to submit soil and water protection plans, it might be useful for the board to know the intentions of the Walpoleans who drafted the amendment (copy attached).

1. All sections A through E of the provision are intended to be read together. At least one critic has insisted that, for example, item D of the amendment does not relate to item A. The intention of the drafters is that sections A through E are to be read as a whole with each section to be read and applied in conjunction with each of the others.

2. As indicated by the amendment's Section A, the amendment is intended to apply only to businesses coming before the planning board for a site plan review. Any enterprise not requiring a site plan review falls outside the jurisdiction of this amendment.

## An Open Letter to the Residents of Walpole

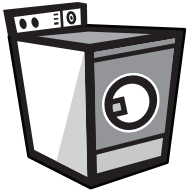
You may be aware of our interest in establishing a play area in the village of Walpole; a space with a minimal footprint that would be easily accessible and within walking distance from the village center for children 12 and under. Beginning late this winter, we began work developing a concept for this space that would be introduced to the community. We envisioned an area located within the village proper where young families enjoying a walk could have a place to rest while the kids explored their own magical world of play; where parents had a place to visit and meet other parents; and where children could enjoy the positive experiences of being with other children. Certainly, we thought, this would add to the quality of life for not only young families, but for people of all ages, to have a pleasant place to gather and enjoy the special atmosphere that is Walpole. Our public spaces, and some private spaces, are provided for the enjoyment of all the citizens of Walpole, not just those fortunate enough to live near it.

However, before we even had the opportunity to complete a draft of a plan to share with the community and town decision makers, a few individuals in significant opposition to any kind of plan began an uncompromising preemptive strike. We were taken completely by surprise--without a plan of some kind to share, there would be nothing for supporters or those in opposition to respond to. It is dismaying that a small but highly vocal group in opposition, composed of those in close proximity to our public spaces, sought to immediately derail the project before it was formed into a concept ready for public discussion.

We object to the tone, innuendo, and personal nature of many of the statements we have seen and heard, the nature of which appear in striking contrast to the very values and spirit of small town life

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Continued from Page 1: Zoning

3. The amendment, as passed by the voters, deliberately uses the terms "any business...shall". The amendment is intended to apply to all businesses of any size, character, or ownership governed by the provisions in Section D. No exceptions were intended to be allowed and the wording of the amendment as passed does not allow for exceptions.

4. The term "town aquifer" is intended to mean "an aquifer from which the town draws a public water supply".

5. The phrase "land above a town aquifer" is intended to designate land that falls within any wellhead protection area or aquifer boundary area or aquifer protection area as outlined on official town maps and-or described in town ordinances.

6. Section D of the amendment is intended to define "hazardous materials" and "hazardous waste" as items regulated as such by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and-or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These agencies maintain lists of substances that the agencies define as dangerous and that trigger regulation by these agencies. The intent of the amendment is that if a company proposes to handle materials on these lists in such a way or in such volume that the handling triggers regulation by either of these agencies, then the zoning amendment would apply. Substances not on these lists are not intended to trigger the amendment's jurisdiction.

7. The term "independent engineer" is intended to mean a licensed engineer with experience specifically relevant to the proposed project that qualifies the engineer to expertly review the proposed soil and water protection plans. The term also is intended to specify an engineer with no financial interest in the specific project being reviewed or its outcome. The amendment is *not* intended to exclude any engineer that has past dealings with an applicant or might have future dealings with an applicant. The universe of qualified engineers is too small to expect permanent exclusion to be realistic."

During a telephone interview, Mr. Daviss indicated that the establishment of enforcement procedures still needs to be adopted by the Planning Board. In particular, a system for collection of the additional fees required for the independent engineer's review prior to the issuance of a building permit by the Selectboard must be devised. In addition, Mark Houghton, the Town's Superintendent for water and sewer, is concerned that the ordinance's reference to "land above a town aquifer" as written

## Trash Day

On Saturday, April 20th, more than 60 volunteers participated in Walpole's first official "Clean Up Day." Volunteering families came from all over town, and included members of the 4H Club, Girl Scout Troop 20018, and Boy Scout Troop 229. The blue bags for holding trash were donated by New Hampshire the Beautiful, a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping roadsides in New Hampshire clean.



In three hours, the volunteers covered almost 20 miles of road, collecting trash that included 33 tires, 188 pounds of mixed metals, 2 1/2 gallons of antifreeze, piles of cans and bottles – and an entire toilet! Used diapers, box springs and mailboxes are just some of the more unusual items found.

Organizers of the day's event were Boy Scout Adam Terrell (who also cooked a mean chili everyone enjoyed), Recycling/Transfer Station Manager Paul Colburn and State Representative Tara Sad.

When collections were finished, prizes were awarded for Most Trash Collected, Most Unusual Item Found, Heaviest Bag, and Most Tires, among others. Coupons were gratefully received from the Real to Reel Ice Cream Shop and the Walpole Scoop Shop. Also awarded were coupons from Murray's Restaurant, coffee mugs with gift certificates inside from Burdick's Chocolate, and packs of Walpole trash bags donated by the Walpole Recycling/Transfer Station. Everyone went home a winner.

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who drove the trash to the recycling center, and the dedicated folks at the Center who took responsibility for sorting and disposing of all that was delivered to them.

We look forward to another great day next year when we can once again get together as a community to spiff up for spring the best town in the world!

– Eric Merklein



# Letters from Afghanistan

*Paul Mercier and Demere Kasper, local service members on duty in Afghanistan, continue to share their letters home.*

## Paul Mercier

Good morning from Afghanistan!

My wife, Betsy, said you would like clarification on the literacy program. The program is specific to Central Work Shop (CWS), which is the national maintenance depot situated on the inner outskirts of Kabul.

Against typical Afghan tradition, women are employed at the shop for specific tasks. They are mainly in the Sewing (canvas repair), small parts assembly sections and the Chow hall. Due to Afghan traditions, they are segregated and secluded behind curtains or closed doors to prevent being seen without a Burka or a face scarf. In Afghan culture, trust is a hard thing to earn, if it ever is. We have earned the trust to be able to interact with the women on a limited basis for this event.

The program targets 10-20 women at a time to help establish basic literacy skills. The goal is to attain at least a 3rd grade level (of U.S. Standard) for literacy. Though this number sounds small, in the past, especially under Taliban rule, women were not allowed to have any literacy training. As most of the women work in the "Services" division, LTC Zia is the oversight owner of the program.

In the past, any supplies we receive personally or are sent specifically for the program, are personally delivered and given out to the women. The Afghan culture is complicated and convoluted. Every person, family, tribe and region has different values and practices, which one must learn very quickly to enable a good exchange between them and us.

I hope this is of assistance.

– Paul Mercier, Jr

## Demere Kasper

Hello, all.

We have kept fairly busy over the month of March. After International Women's Day, we planned a Village Veterinary Outreach Program (VVOP). The Kentucky National Guard Agricultural and Development Team have a vet tech and large animal vet and they travel over most of southern Afghanistan, providing first limited vet training to locals, then conducting vet calls in villages. I had planned for this to last for three days – days 1 and 3 at the district center, and the interim day in the Zamto valley. The vet was able to bring two Afghan paravets, which was better than I hoped as the paravets taught the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP), Afghan National Army (ANA) medics and Afghan Local Police (ALP) basic medication administration on livestock. The next day, we held a vet call just outside the district center and about 150 animals were treated.

The District Chief of Police (DCOP) wanted to move one of the district center days to another village farther to the east. We were onboard, but another mission suddenly prevented U.S. participation. The DCOP then conducted the vet call independently (with the paravets and trained AUP/ALP/ANA), which ended up being a huge success as we are trying to enable Afghan sustainable endeavors with minimal Coalition Force aid. The next day we still went into Zamto valley (many of us are itching to get off the base), but U.S. help was hardly needed. The event received a lot of attention because Mya Neshin has no veterinary capability at all. With the training, the district now has a limited ability to treat animals - and the

training was Afghan-led! There was even a press release in the Afghan newspapers about the event. Nakibullah is a young boy whom we often see when we are down in Zamto.

Later in the month Susan and I had planned for emergency birth training for local "midwives." Another CST member, Sarah (a certified nurse midwife), came out to Mya Neshin and trained us, the Civil Affairs medic, regular infantry medic, and SOF team medic on emergency birthing for our own knowledge (there's an eight month pregnant woman in a village right outside the DSP who keeps claiming she's coming to us for her baby's birth...). Also, Sarah's tour ends soon and I hope to fill the gap she will leave. In fact, early next week I will meet with her to watch how she conducts the training. I will assist so I can provide the training to other CSTs or even other SOF teams that do not have CSTs and want more female engagement.

The plan was for her to conduct more training for local "midwives" the day after she taught the U.S. personnel, but the weather stepped in. It was rainy all day and we were unable to leave the base. As it transpired, it was very fortunate Sarah had to remain as a young woman was brought to the DSP clinic with a retained placenta after her first birth. The umbilical cord had detached from the placenta, and they were unable to remove the placenta. So, Sarah went to work; I assisted and learned *a lot*. The woman left in much better condition after a few hours. We also had one woman visit who was four months pregnant. Sarah had brought her Doppler, so we found the fetal heart rate. It certainly was a useful trip.

A Rule of Law shura was held that same week. The plan was for provincial judicial experts to come out and train the district leadership on judicial proceedings and settling village disputes. However, the Provincial Minister of Public Health (PMoPH) and the NGO\* who assists the PMoPH, Afghanistan Health and Development Services (AHDS) were both in attendance and the entire event ended up being a forum for complaints regarding quality of treatment at the Zamto clinic. We were able to supply the PMoPH and the AHDS provincial manager with midwifery training supplies that Sarah had brought.

Later that day, as the Rule of Law participants were waiting for their return flight, we received a resupply convoy which, serendipitously, had four 20' shipping containers on it. What were those shipping containers for, you ask? Well, AHDS had told us on numerous

\*NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION/OFFICIAL



*Distribution of supplies*

## Hooper Appraisal

According to Peggy Pschirrer, the Chairman of the Hooper Study Committee, efforts to preserve the historic Watkins Tavern and the Hooper golf course continue to progress. The Hooper Study Committee, originally formed in October, 2011, by the Town Selectmen, is continuing to follow up on its recommendations that were first reported in the November, 2012 edition of the Clarion.

A survey of the two Hooper trust parcels on the west side of Prospect Hill Road containing the Hooper golf course and the Watkins Tavern, and a new market appraisal of the property are now complete. The survey set the total size of the two parcels at 132 acres, more or less. The appraisal has set the current market value for the land and buildings at \$1,188,000.

Ms. Pschirrer reports that the rental cottage property has been separated

from the golf course and has been rented for \$1,000 per month, with \$300 of that going to the Town of Walpole for property taxes and the remaining \$700 being paid into the Hooper Trust. According to the Town of Walpole Selectmen's minutes, a new lease has also been executed between the Trustees of the Hooper Trust and the Hooper Golf Association that excludes the Watkins Tavern, gives credits to the Association for the improvements it has made to the property, and that also provides for the payment of property taxes to the Town.

In the near future, the Committee hopes to receive a commitment from the Monadnock Conservancy to purchase the development rights for the entire 132 acres, less the buildings and the 2-3 acres surrounding them, for approximately \$500,000. That money would be paid into the Hooper Trust to provide additional funding for the Hooper Institute and academic scholarships for Walpole students.

Ms. Pschirrer also indicated that The Committee has identified an anonymous local group that would form a limited liability company to purchase the entire acreage after the removal of the development rights for the remaining \$688,000 of the appraised value. That buyer is then willing to lease the golf course portion of the property to the Hooper Golf Association.

The Committee's plan for the purchase of the development rights by the Monadnock Conservancy is dependent on the approval of the Conservancy's board of directors and the ability of the Committee to raise \$500,000 from local citizens interested in preserving the Hooper property as it is. Ms. Pschirrer said that, if the Conservancy is willing to move forward, her committee members would be contacting all those with "Save the Hooper" signs in an effort to raise the \$500,000 in donations the Conservancy would need to make the preservation of the Hooper property a reality.

— Rob Kasper

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## Upstaged Premiere Garners Rave Reviews

Encore! The locally written, acted, filmed and produced sitcom pilot was screened to enthusiastic approbation April 18 at the BF Opera House. Author Gail Golec, the cast, and the technical crew were all available to answer questions from the approximately 200 attendees, who laughed and clapped spontaneously throughout the hour-long showing. Ms. Golec was visibly moved by the audience's keen appreciation of her work, and frequently deflected the compliments paid her to her cast and crew.

When asked if there would be more to come, Golec responded that she had 10 additional episodes written. The pilot, filmed and edited by the Stradling brothers of Fact8 Television, has been submitted to NBC. In response to the myriad requests for another screening for many who missed the first, Upstaged will be shown in Walpole on Wednesday, May 22 at 7PM in the Town Hall. Once again, admission is free, and a Q&A session will follow.

— Barbara Kasper

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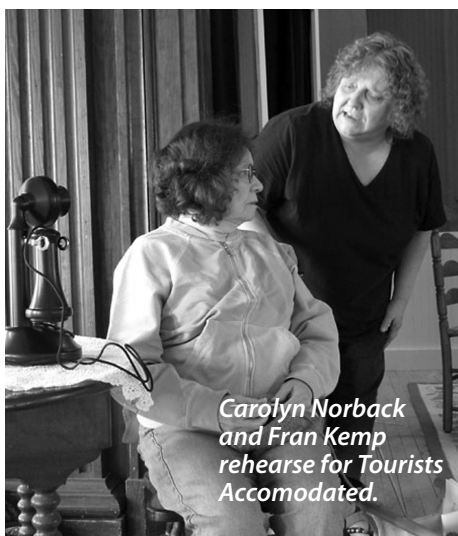
— Harry S Truman



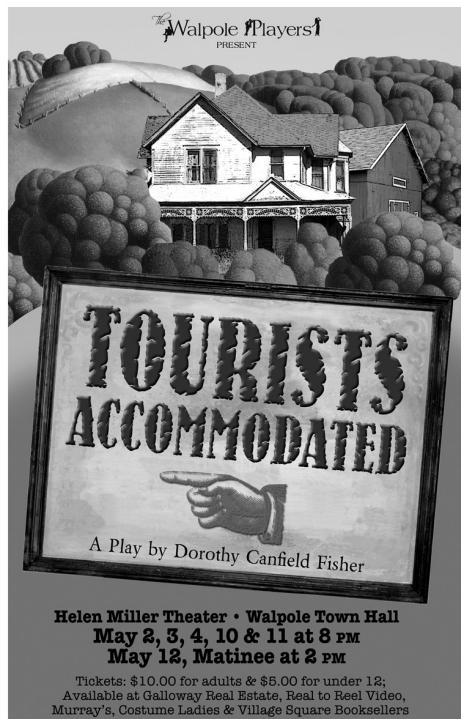
## Tourists Accommodated

Interested to know what it's like to run a bed and breakfast, and have unique guests? The Walpole Players will show you at 8PM, Thursday through Saturday, May 2 - 4, Friday & Saturday, May 10 & 11, and 2 PM on Sunday, May 12 when the curtain rises on *Tourists Accommodated* at the Helen Miller Theater at Town Hall.

This is a gentle comedy about a Vermont family taking in summer tourists in the early 1930s to raise money to send their daughter to college. Wryly observing the ways of travelers and the absurdities of city life the play includes a host of characters familiar to us all, when eight completely different groups of tourists stay with the Lyman family at their farmstead.



Carolyn Norback and Fran Kemp rehearse for *Tourists Accommodated*.



Helen Miller Theater • Walpole Town Hall  
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May 12, Matinee at 2 PM

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*Tourists Accommodated* was written by Dorothy Canfield Fisher, of Arlington, Vermont, following a gathering of her friends in 1930. Several had begun taking in summer tourists, who were finding their way north, providing them with beds and meals. One hilarious, true story followed another, until someone finally said, "We ought to make a play out of all this." Dorothy, a best-selling author, but not a playwright, took up the challenge. This seldom-seen, side-tickling play was the result.

Directed by Ray Boas, the cast of thirty-one includes: Whit Aldrich, Jean Kobeski, Gail Golec, Carolyn Norback, Fran Kemp, Dave Adams, Tom Durnford, Joan Balla, Sarah Manning, Kathy Reilly, Jim Baucom, Laurel Perron, Tara Sad, Stacey Allen, Deb Robarge, Becky Pearson, Mike Delaney, Gail Connelly, Anna Kendall, and Cameron Tollett. Rob Kasper stands in for Mike Delaney on May 4. Several Walpole Junior Players are also featured: Maeve Perron, Ben Robison, Kaylie Lintner, Anya Bierweiler-Franks, Sophia Bruzgis, Madeleine Manning, Kathleen Dole, Isabella Smith, Brendon Reagan, Patrick Manning and, Holden Perron.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, and are available at Galloway Real Estate, Real to Reel, Murray's and Costume Ladies in Walpole; and at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls. For more information, call 756-4545 or visit [thewalpoleplayers.org](http://thewalpoleplayers.org)

— Ray Boas

## From the Far Side

### Deliberative vs. Debilitative!

For most, the budget season and town, village and school meetings are over for this year. However, for some towns, villages and school districts are still meeting to set the year's budgets and tax rates. Everyone is worried about the economy and rising expenses and taxes.

Therefore, I was not surprised when I met up with my friend, Elwud, who was looking more depressed than the last time I met him. Back then, he was down in the dumps on hearing that the days were getting longer.

"What seems to be the root of your sadness, today?" I asked. "Well sir," he says, "I just come from the local debilitative session on the town and school budgets."

"I think you mean the deliberative sessions," I remark, correcting his misuse of words.

"Deliberative sessions are where the citizens of the district get together to carefully consider the budgets and counsel in a slow and cautious manner to reach an agreeable decision that everyone can live with. I believe that is what you attended."

"Well sir," Elwud said, "after they finished carefully considering the budget and set the amounts to be raised by taxes, they announced the new – and I must add – higher tax rate. As you can see, I am feeling rather feeble, weakened and down-right languid."

"Now you may call them deliberative sessions but I stand by my previous description that I attended a debilitative session!"

Considering Elwud's comments and having recently attended similar meetings, I believe that we should change the name of the meetings from deliberative to debilitative sessions!

— William Moses

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Service: Sunday, 10 AM

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Service: Sunday 9:15 AM

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Sat. 4PM; Sun. 8:30AM

Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 PM

### St. John's Episcopal Church

Rector, Reverend Susan de Puy Kershaw

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

### Walpole Unitarian Church

Reverend Telos Whitfield

Service: Sunday 10 AM



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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

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At the regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting on April 9th, Mr. Lennon addressed the same concerns expressing a desire for more information. According to the draft minutes of the meeting, Jeff Miller was noted as disclosing that "about a month or so [ago] Mr. Red Smith called... up with this conceptual plan about some kind of playground apparatus to be built there, but Miller's first reaction was that... abutters and the village people would have concerns about what this would mean to their well-being." He suggested "it should be treated as a Site Plan with a Public Hearing so that questions could be answered." Chairman Miller concluded, "It is a unique fit for the lot but will have an impact on the Village/Town." Myra Mansouri, Chairman of the Zoning Board, stated, "the playground is proposed in a Commercial District but it has to have adequate parking requirements, so they will have to go before the Zoning Board of Adjustment." Joe Dion stated, "now that the word [has] got out about the playground, they (the Foundation) have to do the right thing. This should be open to the taxpayers and not just the abutters."

The Walpole Foundation is well-known for its generous and sensitive restoration of many Village buildings to their 19th century charm, helping to retain much of the Village's century-old appearance. The old fire house was given a new purpose while preserving its classic lines. The Walpole Tavern retains the charm of earlier stores in its structure; while the building to its west was tastefully preserved as office and residential space. This is all in keeping with the Master Plan of The Walpole Foundation, whose purpose is to "preserve and protect the existing historic features...of the Walpole community." "Another primary goal of the Foundation is to preserve and protect the character and landscape of the Town of Walpole as an historic Connecticut River Valley farming community." The Action Steps for these Guiding Principles include: "Acquire and renovate historic buildings for current and future uses"; and, "Develop landscape plan for Walpole village, including landscaping around buildings and parking areas, walkways, lighting and green spaces." A playground, especially a 21st century version, seems inconsistent with the Foundation's mission and past aesthetic achievements.

A month after writing to The Walpole Foundation's attorneys, Mr. Lennon received a two-line reply indicating a statement would be submitted to the **Clarion** for publication in its May issue. The Open Letter arrived just after our deadline.

- Ray Boas

Continued from Page 1: Open Letter

espoused by those who have protested our undertaking. In light of the harsh commentary that is circulating, we feel compelled to respond and to clarify the misperceptions regarding our intentions.

While the immediate and harsh language of the opposition to our idea took us aback, we were determined to find out the degree of support for a play area. We ventured forth to conduct a survey of residents near by to the proposed site and found that a significant majority was in favor of this project. Our intent all along was to reach out to the immediate abutters, to those in closest proximity, and to as many in the village of Walpole as we could engage to determine the will of the citizenry of Walpole. We would not have moved forward without the appropriate approvals and public input.

For those of you who have been in town for any length of time, we trust that you know that the Walpole Foundation has been committed to supporting improvements to our village that are favored by a majority of our residents, and that those of us involved in this playground project take tremendous pride in the integrity of our efforts. While we have faith in our good judgment and intent, we recognize that even with the endorsement of the majority, plans sometimes need to be altered in light of disproportionate negativity that arises, and so, we will abandon this current version of our project. In the larger sense, we are disappointed that a vocal and determined minority can have such a strong influence in the decision making for all of us, but this propensity appears to be an unwanted trend in our society.

This letter will hopefully provide some clarification of this issue from our perspective. For those of you who agree that a play area for the children of Walpole would be an asset to the community, and might wish to pursue the idea, we certainly encourage you to share your ideas with us.

- Raynie Laware & Julie Burns

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## Walpole Skiers

The Fall Mountain Regional H. S. Cross Country Ski team has always been one of the most competitive teams in the state of New Hampshire. Year after year, Coach Larry Sayres, the wood working and metals instructor at Fall Mountain, has produced one of the top teams in the state.

With skiers from Walpole making up more than three fourths of its members, the team has always been a close-knit group of friends. (Both boys' and girls' teams draw heavily from the Walpole Junior High cross country ski team coached by Chris Northcott.) Led this year by captain Levi Frye (Walpole), the ski team placed third at the state meet in Gilford, NH. In previous years, the team has been second at the state meet and state champions of Division III multiple times.

Scoring in cross country skiing is much different from other team sports. In skiing, only the top four skiers from each team score in the races, and the scores decrease as they move farther away from the first position. For instance, first place overall would be awarded 100 points, second place 99 points, third place 98 points, and so on through the remaining racers.

There are two racing styles: Classic and Skating, and the state meet stages a race for each. Classic skiing is the kind that one normally thinks of when they think about cross country skiing – where the skier moves his skis in a straight line. Skating technique resembles the way one moves while ice skating – with more of an outward diagonal motion.



Levi Frye

Photo: Whitney Wyman

At this year's state meet, the top four scorers for Fall Mountain's ski team were all from Walpole. Levi Frye, Simon Pierpont, Sean Kelly, and Tristan Phillips, finishing in that order. These four student athletes were followed by Walpole's Sean Chamberlain and Justin Vosteen, along with Acworth's Caleb Loiselle and Alstead's Gus Bittenbender. (Due to the scoring system in place, Chamberlain, Vosteen, Loiselle, and Bittenbender did not score at the state meet.) However,

injury or equipment problems for any of their teammates would have meant one or more of these skiers would have been included in the team score.

Among those who were on the team but did not compete at the state meet were Walpole's Spencer Bogar, Paul Beliveau and Charlestown's Kris Hewes.

All members of the Fall Mountain ski team are also outstanding members of both the student body and the community. All maintain good grades; many are on the honor roll and take AP classes. Some athletes have part time jobs while others participate in organizations in the community such as Boy Scouts, Interact, and community drama performances. Every representative of the Fall Mountain ski team maintains a very high level of social and educational activities.

After this season, the team will lose Seniors Sean Chamberlain, Levi Frye, Sean Kelly, Kris Hewes, Justin Vosteen, and Caleb Loiselle. Their loss means the team has a lot of rebuilding ahead of it. However, thanks to the dedication of Coach Sayres and the remainder of the team, they should not have too much trouble recruiting new members and continuing a winning tradition.

– Simon Pierpont

*Contributor Simon Pierpont's ski season almost did not happen: he underwent bilateral leg surgery in October to correct a condition called exertional compartment syndrome, in which excessive pressure and constriction builds up in a muscle compartment causing pain and numbness. Simon had to cut his cross country running season short due to the surgery and recovery time but was able to participate fully in the cross country ski season.*

## Historical Society Annual Meeting

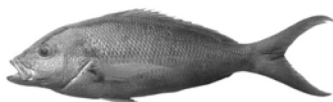
The Walpole Historical Society is pleased to announce Steve Taylor will speak on *The Great Sheep Boom and its Enduring Legacy on the New Hampshire Landscape* at the Society's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at the Walpole Town Hall. This public offering begins at 7 PM and there is no admission charge.

Mr. Taylor was for twenty-five years the New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture and was the founding Executive Director of the New Hampshire Humanities Council. He particularly recommends this talk to the Historical Society because of the immediate and still apparent effects of the "Sheep Boom" on the Walpole area.

This presentation is wholly underwritten by the NH Humanities Council, and was arranged by Historical Society Vice President Christie Winmill.

– Donna Drouin

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In my favorite fantasy, nobody ever loves me for my mind.

– Nora Ephron

## How Men Think

Will women ever truly understand male thoughts? Is it possible for women to think from a male point of view? Be careful what you wish for as the all-male comedy show *How Men Think (or Do They?)* is a hilarious peek inside the male mind. The comedy tour premieres at Alyson's Orchard on Saturday, May 18.

The line-up for the show features Dave Rattigan as host, Abhishek Shah, winner of several local stand-up competitions, Chris D., Mac Livingston and show favorite Mike Cote (known nationally for his Mitt Romney impersonation in GOP TV commercials).

Says host Rattigan, "We all work at comedy clubs, but when we're together with this theme, and this expectation from the audience, it creates a very different vibe from what you get in a comedy club. After the show, I'll often have women come up to me in the lobby and tell me about something one of us said that mirrors behavior they've observed in the past from a boyfriend, husband, father or some other friend in their lives."

The show features a revolving lineup of male standup comedians who share different (but very male) observations on the world around them. Over the course of 95 minutes, they share their points of view on wives, mothers, friends, kids, careers, neighbors, growing older, love, lust, Internet dating and other things you won't believe they've wasted time thinking about.

Tickets are \$25 for the show. A light-fare menu will be available along with a cash bar. Doors open at 7 PM and the show starts at 8 PM. Advance tickets can be purchased at [www.drinkwaterproductions.com](http://www.drinkwaterproductions.com).

— Fran Imhoff

## Cruise Night

The Real Twist Soft Serve Ice Cream stand, will hold its first Classic Car Cruise Night of the season, weather permitting, on Sunday, May 19th, from 5PM till dark. Here's a chance for the whole family to enjoy a Sunday evening looking at old and antique cars, while enjoying a soft serve ice cream or frozen yogurt. There will be live music by Doc Vinnie Dibernardo (vet on-call duties permitting). Anyone who brings his classic car to show will get a free regular-sized sundae. Everyone visiting can get free jimmies, diptop or flavorburst with any cup or cone. Make sure to enter the drawing for gift certificates to the Real Twist or Real to Reel!

The Real Twist is located next to Real to Reel Video at the North Meadow Plaza in Walpole. It is open noon – 9PM, seven days a week. Enjoy your ice cream outside, in the lovely garden or under the porch.

Future Cruise Nights are scheduled for June 16th, July 14th, August 11th, and September 1st.

— Gale Davis

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Continued from Page 2: Zoning

applies to all land above "any water bearing structure" – i.e. any land that could produce a water well. If applied in this manner, the ordinance would encompass the entire land area in the Town of Walpole. He is also concerned that the new ordinance is not clearly integrated into the Walpole's 2004 Town Well Source Protection Ordinance, as amended, that currently protects designated lands in the recharge areas of the two town wells.

The Planning Board will consider procedures for the implementation of the ordinance at its April 23 planning session.

— Rob Kasper



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Dennis S. Harris, son of Patti Neal and Dennis Harris, and grandson of Harold Harris, Hector and Shirley Swain, has been promoted to Captain in the Army. He spent a tour in Iraq, then was assigned to Hawaii for 3 years. He is now spending a year in South Korea. His wife, Ann Louise, and 4 children, Clayton, Austin, Bronwen and Gillian, stayed in Hawaii. His mailing address is: Captain Dennis S. Harris, HHB 35th ADA, PSC 3 Box 4012, APO AP 96266 if you want to write to him. He enjoys mail.

— Shirley Swain



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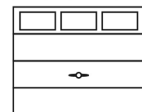
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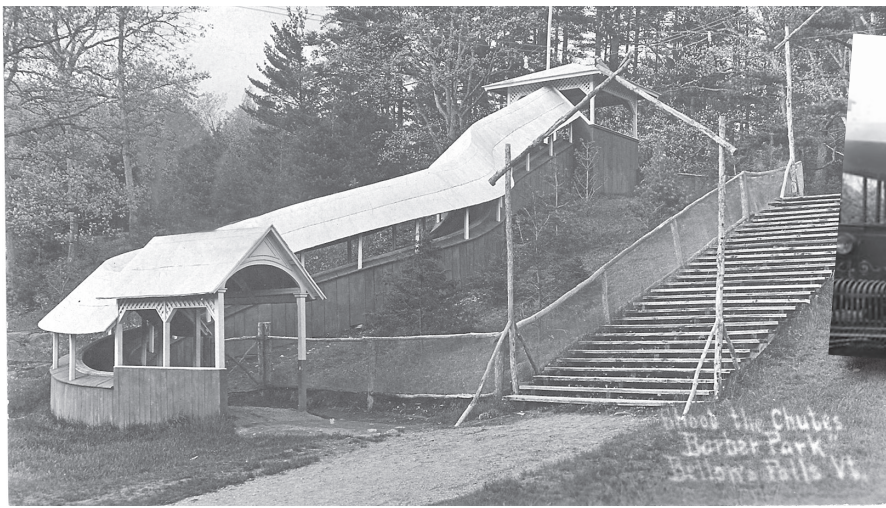
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*Above: Trolleys at the Barber Park Station  
Left: Shoot the Chutes and entrance steps to Park*

## Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

**...in the early part of the 20th** century you could take a train from Walpole to Bellows Falls, transfer to a trolley, and go to an Amusement Park? When electric trolley lines began to run, they often also established picnic grounds or amusement parks to increase ridership and utilize the electric power that was already being generated. When the Bellows Falls & Saxtons River Street Railway began service in 1900, Barber Park was also established midway on its 6.25 mile route from Bellows Falls to Saxtons River.

Organized in 1892, the Bellows Falls & Saxtons River Street Railway began construction along the Saxtons River in 1899, and trolleys soon replaced the stage line connecting the towns. Calvin (Cal) Barber, who came to Bellows Falls around 1870 (building his home at the corner of Atkinson and Henry Streets), donated some of the family farm along the river half-way between the two towns to serve as a "trolley park." He envisioned a family park for picnics, ballgames, concerts, dances and similar activities. The park was built with terraced gardens, a theater and dance pavilion, tennis courts, playground, ball and polo fields and a small zoo. There were also some summer cottages and tent sites. The big amusement attraction was the Shoot the Chutes, a waxed, tunneled slide which came down the hill, alongside the steps to the park. Barber placed two restrictions on his gift of land: no intoxicating beverages were to be sold; and if the railway abandoned the property, it would revert to his heirs.

Mr. Barber was excited to see the completion of the line, but fell gravely ill before the final sections of track were laid. Specifically so Barber could see the line operate, the company energized the

line and ran a newly-arrived car from the depot to his home on June 13, 1900. Days later he died at age 57, and on June 20th a trolley car carried his body to the Barber Farm. Since the trolley bridge was not yet completed, his coffin was removed to a horse-drawn vehicle for interment in the Saxtons River cemetery.

On July 1, 1900, the full line officially opened. Passenger fares between the two towns were 25 cents for a round-trip or 15 cents one-way. In addition, there was equipment for the hauling of freight. The line, however, was never profitable, and following a bad fire in the car barn in 1924 it ceased operations. The failure of the trolley line, along with competition from other forms of entertainment which were becoming the vogue, led to the collapse of Barber Park. The park soon closed, its buildings demolished or moved, and the land reverted to its former use as a farm. However, for twenty-five years, Barber Park was a primary source of summer entertainment that Walpole residents were sure to have enjoyed.

## Distant Hill Gardens

On Saturday, May 4, Distant Hill Gardens will host a Vernal Pool Walk from 10-11:30AM, led by naturalist Jeff Littleton. Jeff is an adjunct professor of environmental sciences at Antioch University New England in Keene and runs Moosewood Ecological, an environmental and conservation consulting firm in Chesterfield, NH. On this easy-to-moderate walk, you will explore a number of these unique wetlands. Learn to recognize these often-overlooked pools and their habitat value as critical breeding grounds to several amphibian species.

Also, from 1-2PM, Michael Nerrie, the designer and builder of Distant Hill Gardens, will offer a Shrub and Tree Pruning demonstration. You will learn the basics of pruning, including when, where, and how to prune woody plants effectively.

Admission is free. Visit [www.distanthill.org](http://www.distanthill.org) for more information, or call 756-4179.

NOTE: The hours for 'Open Garden Saturdays' have changed. The Garden will be open from 9AM to 4PM (not 3PM) the first Saturday of each month (May to October).

— Michael Nerrie

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**P.10 Cal.**



**P.11 Cal.**

## St. John's Events

### Spring Craft Fair

Crafters wanted! Reserve your booth space now! St. John's Episcopal Church will host its rain-or-shine Spring Craft Fair at the Walpole Town Hall on Saturday, June 8th, from 9 AM to 2 PM.

A cafe will be hosted by St. John's parishioners for crafters seeking breakfast beverages, baked goods, or a light lunch.

The exhibitor's fee is \$25 per space. More information and a registration form are available on the St. John's Web site ([www.stjohnswalpole.org](http://www.stjohnswalpole.org)). Download, complete, and return your registration form today! Help us ensure high quality and minimize duplication by enclosing one or more pictures with a representative sampling of your wares.

The registration deadline is May 22nd. You can also register by contacting the exhibitor coordinator, Susan Kershaw, by phone at 756-2962, or by e-mail at [susankershaw54@gmail.com](mailto:susankershaw54@gmail.com).

### Art After School Art Show

Young artists who have participated in St John's Church Art After School program will display their art at the annual year-end Art Show. Please join us on Wednesday, May 22, at 5 PM. The artists, who range in age from grade 1 through grade 6, are proud of the work they've done and will be displaying drawings, painting, sculptures, pottery, and prints. Come and see their work and enjoy some light refreshments. Your presence at the show will mean a great deal to a great bunch of kids!

### Unity in Diversity Quilt Workshop

On Saturday, May 18, 10 AM. - 2 PM, Claiming Creativity coaches Racheal Scott and Susan Kershaw will lead a workshop featuring a unique quilt project in the Parish Hall. Each participant will use the amazingly simple yet beautiful *Fruit of the Spirit Quilt* method to create a 36" x 36" table cover or wall hanging. Participants are assigned a color for a fabric when they sign up for the workshop. Each participant will bring nine pre-cut 12" squares, all of the same fabric. Participants keep one square, and share the other squares with the rest of the workshop participants.

This quilt method is simple and is ideal for new quilters or for experienced quilters seeking a fun experience. Brochures are available with a materials list and further details. Workshop fee: \$20. Bring lunch. Space is limited, so please call Susan, 756-2962, or email, [claimingcreativity@gmail.com](mailto:claimingcreativity@gmail.com). Come out and nurture your creativity.

— Mary Schoppmeyer

*The end of an era...  
hundreds gathered on April 20th  
for the day-long liquidation auction  
that ended R.N. Johnson's 84 years  
of operation in Walpole.*



## Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will meet for a potluck lunch at the Congregational Church on the Walpole Common at noon on Monday, May 20. Richard Michelman will be the speaker discussing Antique Appraisals. Members may bring 1 or 2 items for discussion. Everyone is asked to bring a contribution for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Bring a dish to share. All Walpole Seniors are welcome. Come for fun and good socialization. Trip Planning information will be available.

— Jeanne A Jeffries

## Walpole Grange

Walpole Grange will meet on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30PM at the town hall. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Jeanne Sable, who will present a program on GMOs. This meeting is open to the public. We are always looking for program ideas, so if you have a suggestion about a program you would like to see or a topic which interests you, please let us know. To learn more about Grange, you may contact Gwen Yardley at 756-3677, or visit [www.nationalgrange.org](http://www.nationalgrange.org).

### Grange Leadership Academy

As many of you have no doubt heard, Chuck and Sue Bingaman are planning to depart Walpole to join family in California.

Among their many contributions while here, Chuck and Sue inspired and operated the Walpole Grange Leadership Academy, which also received generous support from the Walpole Foundation. Briefly, this very worthwhile service holds classes over a period of time to teach how the various departments and boards administer and operate the Town of Walpole. One might call it Civics 101 for adults.

The Grange and graduates of the program feel it has been so beneficial that it should continue and therefore are seeking two new co-chairs to replace Chuck and Sue, as hard as that might be. The Bingamans will be here for some time and have most graciously offered to work with the new team to get them off to a good start. If you are interested in this very worthwhile project, please contact Grange Master Gwen Yardley at 756-3677.

— Myra Mansouri

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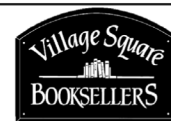
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## A Man Who Cares

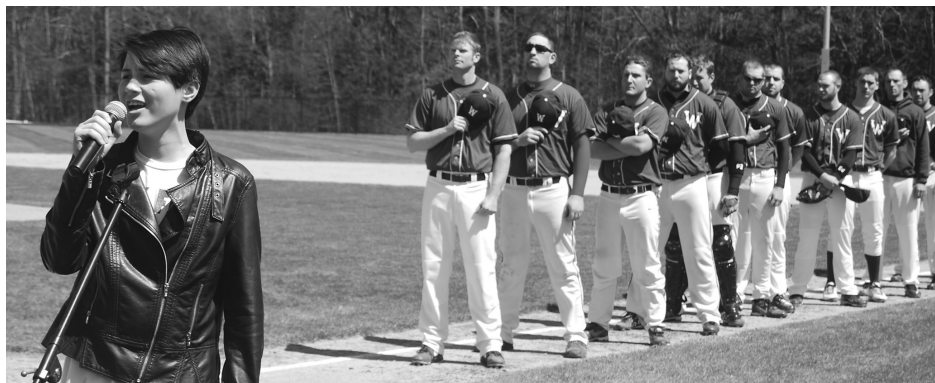
Bridge-Wilson Post 77, American Legion, recently honored George Gage with a fifty-year membership award. George joined the local post in 1962 and participated with other members in converting the aging house at 73 Main Street into a functioning clubhouse with a restaurant-style kitchen, a serviceable bar and a large seating area that worked well for meetings, meals and dances. George served in a variety of positions within the Legion culminating in serving as Commander on three different occasions.

His first concern has been service to the community, and he found he was able to combine his love for baseball and his management talents to develop a strong Legion baseball program for the youngsters of Walpole. In the mid to late 1960s, he participated in the building of a new baseball field behind the Hubbard hatchery on the upper road to Drewsville. This field, later to be known as the Ball-Roentsch Legion Field, became George's special passion. As the Post 77 Athletic Director, he was responsible for providing the coaches and players with the support they needed to perform at the highest level. He raised money, manicured the field, supervised concessions and was always there to solve any problems that arose.

George reflects on those busy days of the 1960s through the 1980s as a high point for Legion activities in support of the community. As the members have aged, their interests have changed and their efforts to serve the community have taken different directions. However, the planning, fundraising and development of the Walpole Veteran's Memorial shows that community service still lives in Post 77, and the Memorial Day activities of the Post will be in evidence again this year.

Thank you, George, for 50 full and productive years as a member of Bridge-Wilson Post 77.

— Bruce Martin



*Izzy Patterson sings the National Anthem.*

## Walpole Wild Blue

The Wild Blue opened up its 2013 season with a 12-4 victory over the Brattleboro River Rats on April 21. Even with the mercury hovering around 50 breezy degrees, the Blue's home opener brought out about 150 faithful fans.

Producer/director and notable Walpole resident Ken Burns threw out the first pitch. A flawless National Anthem was sung by Izzy Patterson, the 12-year-old winner of the WOOL FM Radioke Finale held in Bellows Falls, last month.

The Blue encountered early-inning pitching trouble with starter Joey Parrott. Between walks and hits, the Blue was playing defensively with loaded bases and down 3-0 after the first half inning.

Veteran pitcher Frank Brown came in during the second and shut Brattleboro down for six innings. Defensively, great plays came from a diving Ryan Kohler at third base and Blake Gowen in rightfield who threw out a runner at second.

Walpole even took advantage of a double-steal situation with shortstop Gary Dennis cutting off an Adam Kobeski throw to second to throw a runner out at home. "The best part about that play is we managed to pull that off having not practiced it and with no signals...just a few head nods between me, Kobeski and Kohler," Dennis said. "It went off perfectly

and took the wind out of the Rats' sails that inning."

Chris Ballou pitched the 8th inning and knuckleballer Drew Davis finished off the game in the 9th.

Offensively, Gowen got hold of several pitches from both sides of the plate and Frank Brown drove in four RBIs in his five at-bats. In all, it was a 16-hit outing with other hits coming from Davis, Dennis, Ballou, Kobeski, Parrot, Brown and Kohler.

Wild Blue newcomers Jed St. Pierre and Kaian Wilkes (who are driving from Plymouth State College to make games until the semester is done) also had strong at-bats and took turns playing first base.

May games include four at home and one away for the Blue: Saturday, May 4, 1PM vs. Claremont Cardinals; Monday night, May 6, 6PM vs. Landmark College (non-league); Friday night, May 17, 6PM vs. Newport Polar Bears; Tuesday night, May 28, 6PM vs. McGill Sugar House (exhibition). Walpole will travel Sunday May 12, for an 11AM game at Sunapee Lake Monsters.

The Wild Blue is sponsored by: The Walpole Village Tavern, The Walpole Scoop Shop, Galloway Real Estate, Kasper & Associates, Connecticut River Bank, Dennis P. Pellegrino, DDS. and Athens Pizza & Family Restaurant. Special thanks to sponsors: Savings Bank of Walpole; Clark-Mortenson Insurance and Financial Services; and the Hubbard Foundation.

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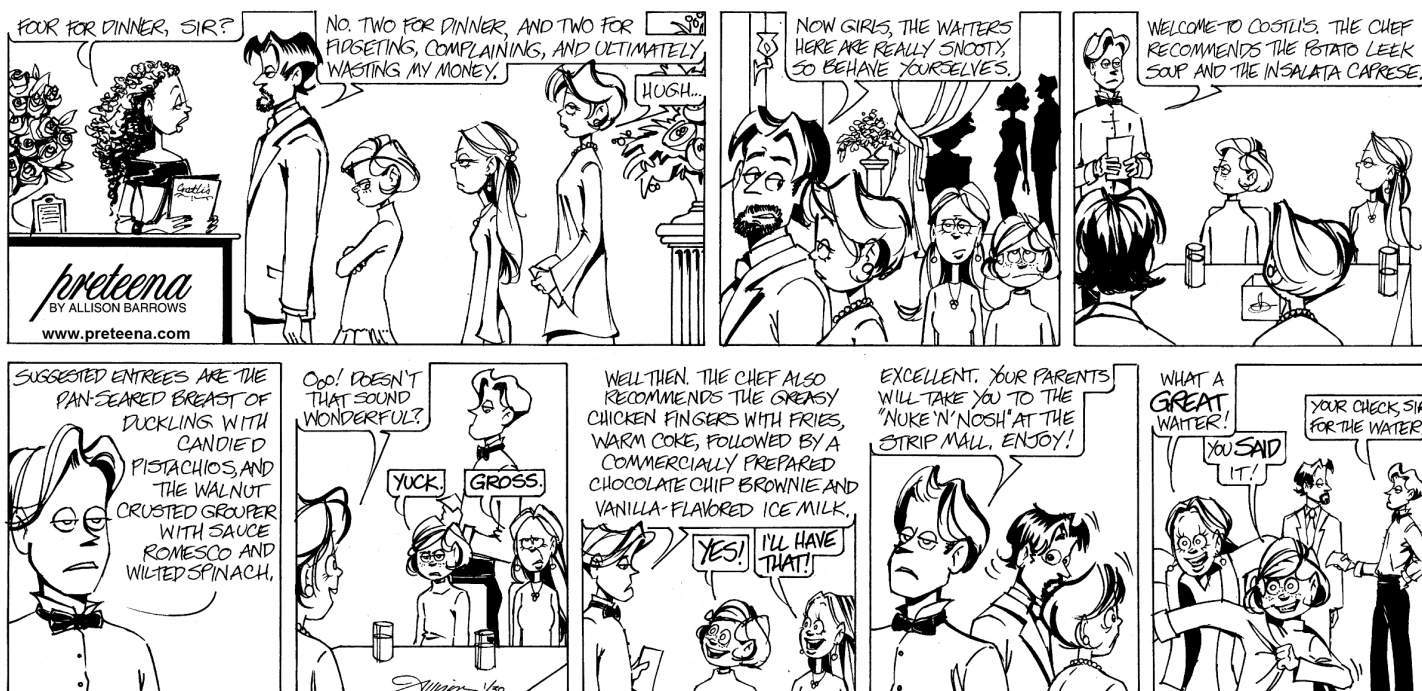
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## Letters & Commentary

To the residents of Walpole,

We, the neighbors and property owners closest to the proposed playground/ playspace, who live and work in the Village, attended the April 4, 2013 Selectboard Meeting to present our concerns about this possible project.

At this meeting, Sheila and Charlie Lennon, Carole and John Cramer, Ellie and Fred Ernst, and Fred Dill, shared with the Selectboard that in general, we all support public playgrounds. This particular proposed site, though, is not suitable for childrens safety because it is located near a busy parking lot, two busy public streets, and a communications building that has large utility trucks backing in and out of their driveway next to the site. We also expressed concern about the usual and customary noise that can be generated from public playgrounds in a residential neighborhood, where we live and where two of the abutters work professionally from their home/office. This proposed project will have numerous impacts on the abutters, the neighborhood, and public safety.

The Selectman received our concerns and agreed to contact us if they receive any information from the group proposing a playground at this site. We also asked that a public hearing be held and site plan review be done by the Planning Board if this proposed project moves forward.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with all the residents of Walpole as well.

– Sheila and Charlie Lennon

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While most of us believe that Walpole is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, there are children in our town who are desperately in need of a mentor and friend.

Knowing that it does take a village to help these deserving children, a group of parents, teachers and volunteers began meeting last year to explore ways in which we could raise to the occasion, focusing on those children who may have special needs resulting from a poor home environment.

We would like to begin a mentoring program, focusing on fourth and fifth graders – a pivotal time in a child's development.

### 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](mailto:walpoleclarion@gmail.com)

Ad submissions should be sent to:  
[Ads@walpoleclarion.com](mailto:Ads@walpoleclarion.com)

**June issue deadline: May 23**

Staff: Jan Kobeski  
Barbara Kasper  
Ray Boas  
Rob Kasper

An electronic version of the Clarion can be found at our website:

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

We will start things off with a once-a-week, hour long, session held after school at the Walpole Elementary School. We will partner our efforts with Big Brothers Big Sisters who will provide not only guidance but a clearing house process for those of us working with children for the first time.

You don't have know how to 'Tweet', how to use an iPad or know the songs on Justin Bieber's latest CD. You just have to be yourself and develop a trusting relationship with your student. And you have to be committed and reliable.

Activities could include reading a book, assisting with homework, playing a game, doing a puzzle or just hanging around and talking.

Each volunteer will be given mentoring training and ample guidance. And you will learn about wonderful success stories from mentors who worked with Walpole children on their own. Please join us in the most worthy endeavor. They need you.

For information, call Natalia Gorawski at 313-9414 or [Ngorawski@chroma.com](mailto:Ngorawski@chroma.com)

– The Walpole Mentoring Group

Walpole Cubscout Pack 299

Would like to Thank everyone who attended our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Walpole Historical Society. We would like to also take this opportunity to say a huge Thank You to the Walpole Scoop Shop and the Real Twist for their generous donations of prizes for this event.

Thank You Everyone

– Cubscout Pack 299



## Theater Camp

The Walpole Players will once again be running a summer theater camp for area kids during the second and third weeks of July, 2013 at the Walpole Town Hall. Each week will run for four days, from Monday through Thursday.

### *The* Walpole Players

Dates and times are as follows:

**Junior Summer Theater Camp** (for kids entering second - fourth grades) :

Monday, July 8 - Thursday, July 11 from 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM.

**Senior Summer Theater Camp** (for kids entering fifth - eighth grades) :

Monday, July 8 - Thursday, July 11 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Monday, July 15 - Thursday, July 18 from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Each camp session will use games, improvisations and coaching to develop campers' theater skills, with the final day of each session featuring a performance for campers' families and friends. The camp will be conducted by senior counselors Carolyn Norback and Jim Skofield, with assistance from other Walpole Players.

Since this is an intensive workshop experience, enrollment is limited to 15 campers, and experience has shown that places for the camp will fill up fast!

Two junior counselor positions are open to former campers this year; to apply, or to enroll in the camp, call 756-9077.

- Carolyn Norback & Jim Skofield

**People who throw kisses  
are hopelessly lazy.**

- Bob Hope

## Farmers Market

The Walpole Farmers Market (WFM) summer season begins on Friday, May 10th, just in time for Mother's Day. There will be a free raffle again this year to celebrate the opening. Shoppers will have the opportunity to put their names in the drawing for an envelope of gift certificates from market vendors. Raffle tickets will be available throughout the market at vendors' booths.

One lucky shopper will win a wide sampling of market goods: fresh produce, various meats, cheese, breads, baked treats, seedlings for the garden, handmade wasters, soap, jam, diverse crafts and more. It's a lotta loot! Great gobs of gifts! Particularly plentiful pickins!

We have a great line up of vendors again this year with lots of familiar faces and a few new ones. The website has an up-to-date list of WFM vendors ([walpolefarmersmarket.com/vendors/](http://walpolefarmersmarket.com/vendors/)).

The summer markets are on Fridays from May 10 through October 11, from 4 to 6 pm, mostly on the Common. On days like May 17, when there is a wedding booked on the Common, the market will be elsewhere, possibly in the field behind St. John's Episcopal Church.

For more information, see the WFM website ([walpolefarmersmarket.com](http://walpolefarmersmarket.com)), look up the market on Facebook, email [jill@walpolefarmersmarket.com](mailto:jill@walpolefarmersmarket.com) or call 756-3168.

- Jill Robinson

## Yoga in Walpole

Yoga is alive and well in Walpole. On Thursday at 5PM there is a gentle yoga class, followed by a vigorous class at 6:30 PM. On Friday mornings at 10 AM another vigorous yoga class is scheduled. All classes are held at the Hastings House. Bring a mat and join your neighbors in getting fit and healthy. For more information, call 352-1684.

- Josephine Russell

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occasions it would provide all the equipment for the clinic --once we had a building for it. We managed to procure those containers to turn them into a Basic Health Center!! Finally ~ a clinic at the district center and at no cost to the U.S. government! (Of course, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is not paying for it either, but one step at a time.) The containers were moved into place last week, and now we are just waiting to install electricity and find a way to get running water. I've been in touch with another NGO, Spirit of America, to try to obtain piping and sinks. The rep is coming out in a few days to do a site visit and determine what they can provide. But, I digress.

With 83\* days left here, Susan and I are trying to come up with other ways to engage the local women. We have five more community health radio messages to translate, record and air. We're also hoping to get a home garden project up and running. We want to teach women what veggies to grow here so as to increase vegetable consumption. We need to train them in food preservation so they can have many of these vegetables during the winter. Their diet is severely unbalanced and lacks hydration. That's a huge uphill battle as most people tell us when they drink water they feel as though they will throw up, or that they have no desire to drink water. We also want to conduct the emergency-birth training. Both these endeavors will have to wait a bit, however, as the new SOF team is transitioning in while the other is leaving.

We recently helped treat five ANA who were involved in a vehicle rollover. Both Susan and I were able to assist with suturing. One of the ANA had a broken jaw and broken femur, another had a broken nose and shattered patella. Lastly, we had another gunshot wound brought to the DSP. This one was a through-and-through and we stabilized him before sending him up to the hospital in a nearby district.

It was spring for a little while here with the almond trees blooming, but we

have had a brief spell of colder weather – 60s or so. Every evening we have a thunderstorm roll through. Susan and I spent the first week of April at Kandahar Air Field (KAF – the KAF from my address, actually). KAF is just north of Kandahar City and southwest of Mya Neshin. We were hoping for a bit of R&R but wound up quite busy. We met with many people to discuss CST lessons learned, best employment and best practices, conducted some necessary training and applied for another computer account. It was nice to be able to take warm showers and eat salads for a week, though. Since KAF is a NATO base, there is a plethora of “ethnic” dining options. Susan and I hit up the fish & chips at the British dining hall on Friday, and went there for almost every breakfast. The water pump at our DSP is broken so the only shower time is 1700-2200, and the hot water runs out at about 1900. Susan and I have taken to warming water bottles by the heater at night so we can take warm “showers” after we exercise each morning. It works. And who really needs to shower every day anyway?? I took 2 showers a day while at KAF...it was glorious.

I hope everything is well there, and that you're all finally enjoying spring. I miss you all!

\*67 DAYS AS OF MAY 1

– Demere Kasper



Nakibullah, a boy from Zamto.

So, the containers arrived in perfect time to show the PMoPH and AHDS what we have accomplished: there will be a Basic Health Center here in Mya Neshin, hopefully by May. I cannot tell you all how *happy* I am it will be completed before Susan and I end our tour! Clinic grand opening pictures will be included in future emails.

March 21st was the Afghan New Year. We, along with some of the team guys, were invited over to the district center for a New Year's dinner party. Since Susan and I had received some Afghan dress attire as a gift from the Deputy DCOP, we decided this was the perfect opportunity to wear it. The dinner party was quite an experience. We have both been to many dinners, but this one had dancing and music. Oh by the way, we were the only women there. Everyone with a camera phone was trying to take our picture (which was a bit creepy). Most of the attendees knew us from the clinic, but I guess we were quite a sight in our sparkly attire. Perhaps we should have worn our burkas.



Senator Bradley addresses Walpole Republicans.

## Walpole Republicans

On Saturday, April 6, the New Hampshire Senate Majority Leader, Senator Jeb Bradley, visited Walpole for a town hall meeting with the Walpole Republican committee which was followed by a fixed price dinner at Burdick's. Senator Bradley fielded numerous questions from those in attendance at the town hall meeting including how 70 million dollars from an as yet unapproved gambling casino could be used to balance the state's budget. There were also questions about New Hampshire House of Representatives legislation revoking “stand your ground”

and increasing the business enterprise tax and the business profits tax. He indicated that the New Hampshire Senate would not be supportive of those legislative initiatives. Senator Bradley was also questioned about “gay marriage” and he indicated that any attempts to change the law in New Hampshire were “non-starters.” The Walpole Republicans next meeting will be at the annual Lincoln Day dinner at the Keene Country Club on Friday, May 3, featuring former Massachusetts Senator, Scott Brown.

– Rob Kasper



## Hooper Golf Club

Hooper Golf Club opened for the 2013 season on March 30th. It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces as they walked through the door to embark on their first loop around the Hoop. By all accounts, the course wintered well.

On Sunday, April 14th, Ned Murtagh, Chris McLaughlin, Joe Goodhue, & Keith Fiorey won our Men's Opening Scramble with a score of 63. Congratulations!

Hooper Golf Club will hold a Save Hooper Fundraising tournament on Sunday, June 30th. This inaugural event is critical to saving Hooper from recent financial stress. All Hooper enthusiasts please save this date and make sure to participate. In the coming days, details will be finalized and in the coming weeks promotion of the event will begin. This is a great way to take part and make a difference for this Walpole landmark.

New members can join Hooper Golf Club this year for a special low price of \$600. Greens Fees for 2013: Mon.-Fri, 9 Holes, \$18; 18 Holes, \$35; After 2 PM, 18 Holes, \$32; After 5 PM, 9 Holes, \$15; Sat.-Sun. & Holiday, 9 Holes, \$22; 18 Holes, \$39; After 2 PM, 18 Holes, \$35; After 5 PM, 9 Holes, \$17. Carts: 9 Holes, \$10 per rider; 18 Holes, \$18 per rider.

The Tuesday Morning League Ladies will be kicking into high gear come the beginning of May.

### Pro's Tip of the Month:

Although movement and overt effort seem like the logical way to hit the ball a long way, I suggest a movement that focuses on a quiet lower body on the backswing (keep both feet still). Your shoulders should turn to face the target and wrists should hinge all the while, providing as much space between your chest and wrists as possible. After achieving this top of swing position,

initiate the downswing by finishing with all of your weight on your front foot and just the toes of your back foot on the ground. By now, you should be saying to yourself, "very little lower body movement on backswing, then active lower body with weight shifting onto the front foot on downswing." At first, just make practice swings focusing on these keys, then when comfortable, hit golf balls.

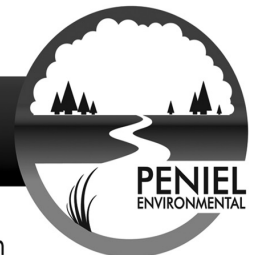
Please like us on Facebook and call 756-4080 for all things Hooper. – Ron Rosko

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## Hooper Institute

May is the final month of meteorological spring, and offers the climax of the slow progression toward warmth and new life we experience in New England. The peepers will soon be joined by the rambunctious trill of toads in the ponds. The "gunk" sound of green frogs will soon punctuate the low rumble of the bullfrogs. Migrants return from distant forests to our own, bobolinks and butterflies to our fields and gardens. Activity accelerates in our lives after the slower pace of winter; we seek any excuse to breathe in Spring.

By no coincidence, activity intensifies in Hooper Institute school programs as well. It's planting time in the gardens of either short season crops to harvest before summer break or longer season crops to greet students when they return in late August. In daily outdoor excursions round the school yard, we find examples of emerging life. Students prepare for end of the year field trips including visits to local farm and forestry operations. The sixth grade has been learning about the history of the Connecticut River valley, the features of a watershed, the life of a river and the habitats it provides. This is all in preparation for a two-day canoe trip on the Connecticut River in early June for the entire class.

In other news, the Hooper Institute was awarded a grant from the Cheshire County Conservation District for the materials to erect a high tunnel greenhouse at the Middle School garden. High tunnels are unheated structures that extend the growing season at both ends. The garden site of the Middle School is by the brick wall of the gym. The wall acts as a heat sink that creates a very warm microclimate on its south side. We have had excellent success this past fall growing cold-resistant greens such as spinach and lettuce until late fall. We will be curious to see if we can grow greens with the high tunnel through the entire winter. Plans are to enclose five raised beds and a picnic table, so students can have classes inside the high tunnel on sunny winter days.

The summer camp for Walpole youth will be offered mornings, June 24-28 and July 1-3. Pick up a schedule from our drop box by the front door of the Institute at 165 Prospect Hill Road.

—Eloise Clark

## Genealogy Workshop

A free Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the Walpole Historical Society will be offered Tuesday May 14, 2013 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 at 756-2933.

—Jeanne A Jeffries

## WRAP

Did you ever think of the Walpole Recycling Center as the first step in the reincarnation of many tons of Walpole's waste? What we produce is the material manufacturers use to make new products.

One of the problems we face is educating people about the proper way to prepare recyclables for recycling. There is a right way and a wrong way. The right way results in that material continuing its journey to becoming a new product; the wrong way is a one way ticket to a landfill or incinerator, thus increasing our costs.

The volunteers that work the sorting bins handle hundreds of bottles, jars and cans that come to the Center each day. A split second judgement is made - is this container suitable to become the material for a new product? If the container is clean, bingo! If the jars of spaghetti, mayonnaise and peanut butter or cans of dog or cat food still contain residue, the answer is no. It's that simple. If you take the trouble to recycle in the first place, always rinse your containers before you bring them to the Center.

Remember the three "R's" of recycling: *Remove* caps and lids, *Rinse* containers and *Recycle* clean, cap-free containers.

Fritze Till is looking for a handful of volunteers to help plant small, native trees and shrubs at the George Watkins memorial garden at the Recycling Center on May 4th at 8:00 AM. Fritze knows her gardening stuff so bring your shovel and questions. Many hands make light work. Please give her a call at 445-5283.

— Richard Ransome

## Women of Walpole

By the time this issue of the Clarion is distributed, the daffodils donated by the Women of Walpole and planted at the library, town hall, historical society and community gardens should be at their very best! We look forward to some additional spring color around town.

The Women of Walpole meet every 4th Wednesday of the month at the homes of its members. All women residing in Walpole, North Walpole and Drewsville are welcome to join. Call 756-9480.

— Pam Howard

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## Memorial Garden

Planting Date for the George Watkins Memorial Garden: Saturday, May 4th, from 9AM until finished. Volunteers are needed to plant shrubs and two small flowering trees (also, placement of garden benches designed by Bob Grenier, and a boulder courtesy of Cold River Materials). Planting diagram and instruction will be provided. Thanks to the Recycling Center staff, and Walpole Highway Department for site preparation. Bring shovels, energy, and humor, and join in this tribute to George.

— Fritze Till



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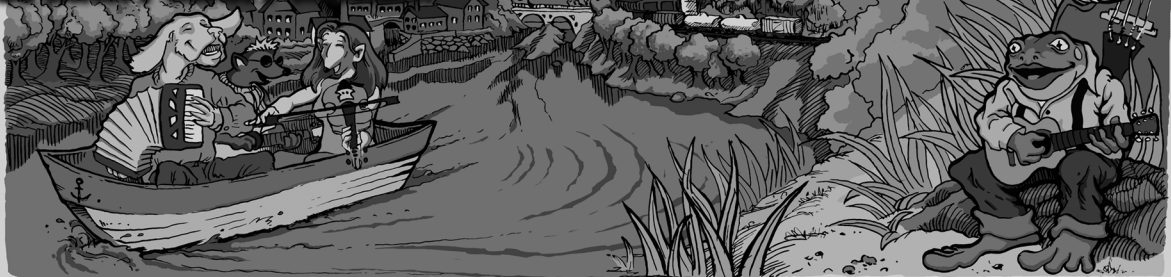


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# ROOTS ON THE RIVER 2013

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### Roots on the River

Music feeds the soul, but this year the Roots on the River Music Festival will also help to feed the body as well. Ray Massucco, Vermont Festivals LLC producer, announced that this year's non-profit partner for the Roots on the River Music Festival is the Vermont Foodbank.

Southern Vermont's premiere music festival will be held this year from June 6 – 9, at venues throughout the town, and will feature nearly two dozen acts.

"The Vermont Foodbank is honored to be this year's beneficiary of Roots on the River's generous support," Peter Stamm, a member of the board of trustees of the Foodbank, said. "One strives to nourish the community's body, the other, its soul."

Through a network of 270 food shelves, meals sites, senior centers, shelters, after-school programs, the Vermont Foodbank runs programs that help feed as many as 86,000 Vermonters in need of food assistance. The agricultural programs, including a statewide crop-gleaning project, help to increase the amount of locally-sourced produce.

Massucco said he wanted to reach a larger community who would benefit from his annual Roots on the River Festival partnership, and quickly focused on the Vermont Foodbank.

"As a long time supporter myself, the choice seemed obvious," Massucco said. "Vermonters have been hit hard by the recession and the Foodbank is a frontline safety net for thousands of our neighbors on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. We are proud to be affiliated with them."

This will be the last year perennial headliner Fred Eaglesmith and his Traveling Steam Show will perform at the festival; and an incredible four days of music is planned to honor his send-off, including performances by Dave Alvin and the Guilty Ones, Mary Gauthier, and The Steel Wheels.

The lineup this year begins on Thursday night at 33 Bridge St. with The Cold River Ranters, Sean Rowe, and Girls Guns and Glory.

Friday, the music starts at noon in downtown Bellows Falls with performances sprinkled throughout the Square. Look for Poor Old Shine, Bellows Falls' own Milkhouse Heaters, After the Rodeo, and Skumm & Oats. The Bellows Falls Farmers' Market will feature the Heather Maloney Band and Sam Creigh.

The evening will continue under the Big Tent at the Rodeway Inn with performances by Grant Peeples, Shelley King, and Alvin.

Saturday's exquisite lineup includes: The Sea The Sea, Dan Weber, Roger Marin Band, David Wax Museum, Zoe Muth and the Lost High Rollers, The Steel Wheels, and Carolyn Mark. The evening will round out with Eaglesmith and his Traveling Steam Show.

The weekend will wind down on Sunday at the Rockingham Meeting House with the ever-popular pairing of Eaglesmith with Mary Gauthier. The two artists have co-written songs together and their duets in the old venue are always deeply moving. This show is close to selling out, so be advised to move quickly if you would like to attend.

Following the traditional street hockey game, the Farewell Ball will be held at Café Loco with the Ray Mason Band.

The festival is smoke-free and family- and dog-friendly, with a special staffed children's tent on the Saturday of the festival.

There is limited seating under the big tent, so plan to come early or bring a small lawn chair or blanket. Vendors will be on-site to provide food and beverages.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please go to <http://www.vermontfestivalsllc.com/>

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