

# A Hooper Golf Course Solution



*Walpole residents listen attentively to the Study Committee's report.*

"It's a Win, Win, Win," Peggy Pschirrer, chairperson of the Hooper Study Committee, told an audience of more than 120 on Saturday, August 17, Pschirrer presented the Hooper Study Committee's report at a public hearing held at The Walpole Middle School. The meeting lasted just over an hour.

(The committee's written report is reprinted in full, beginning on page 2.)

The committee recommends, "that the trustees, with the approval of the Director of Charitable Trusts, sell through private sale with encumbrances, the land occupied by the Hooper Golf Course and the surrounding timber land and all buildings." As this issue of the **Clarion** was being printed, the Selectmen were meeting to consider their recommendations. The next step will be for the courts to concur.

When the committee began its work in late 2011, it first established three goals: 1) to preserve the Hooper Institute; 2) save the golf course; and, 3) accomplish the first two goals without the use of

Continued on Page 2

## 2013-14 Leadership Academy

On behalf of the Walpole Grange and co-sponsor, The Walpole Foundation, we invite you to participate in an important program for the future of our town: the 2013/2014 class of the Walpole Grange Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy was founded in 2006 by Chuck and Sue Bingaman as a way of identifying potential leaders in our town and to introduce them to the people, groups and organizations that make Walpole the wonderful place that it is.

We hope our Academy participants will become interested in taking leadership roles in Walpole, in running for office in the future, and in being better informed about how our town works.

Members of past classes have been elected to serve on various boards, volunteer their skills and experience on appointed boards and volunteer for organizations in town.

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## Halloween Festival in Walpole

Something new is always happening in Walpole, and this fall it's the **Haunted Walpole Weekend**. Scheduled for the weekend just prior to Halloween, the series of events is being orchestrated by a collaboration of The Walpole Players and The Walpole Village School.

For the past two years, the Players have presented a **Haunted Corn Maze** with assistance from the Great Falls Co-Op and various student organizations. This year, the maze will open in its new location in the cornfield behind the Walpole Scoop Shop. The change in venue is expected to make attendees even happier with its close proximity to the best pizza and most delicious ice cream in the area. (After all, there's nothing like a good gut-wrenchingly terrifying scare to give you an appetite.) The maze will return to a 3-week schedule, but the first weekend, October 12 and 13, will feature only 2 shows: the Saturday night horror-fest and

Continued on Page 4

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Committee Chair Peggy Pschirrer explains the particulars of the Hooper Golf Course property.

any tax dollars. "This is the only solution that solves all three goals," Ms. Pschirrer concluded.

The golf course and surrounding lands are preserved, the buildings are preserved, and the Hooper Institute realizes the full cash value for the property to maintain its programs.

Committee members, besides its chair, include: Steve Dalessio; Joe Dion, Charles Lennon; Holly Gowdy, Peter Kenny, Jeff Miller, Sheldon Sawyer; Vicki Gohl; and, Jerry Galloway. In the course of discussion, Joe Dion emphasized that, "the State of New Hampshire said to solve the problem of this wasted asset or they would sell the property. Walpole's selectmen never said they would sell the course. That was simply rumor." The property with its buildings, golf course and timberland comprise about 140 acres.

At the conclusion of the committee's presentation, the floor was opened for questions. There was no dissention. Those attendees who spoke, instead of asking questions, complimented the committee for its hard work in solving all issues to everyone's satisfaction. It still remains to obtain the court's approval, raise money, and find the right buyer(s). But it appears that things are well underway for the top of Prospect Hill.

— Ray Boas

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**Hooper Committee Recommendations**  
THAT THE TRUSTEES, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHARITABLE TRUSTS, SELL THROUGH PRIVATE SALE WITH ENCUMBRANCES, THE LAND OCCUPIED BY THE HOOPER GOLF COURSE AND THE SURROUNDING TIMBERLAND AND ALL THE BUILDINGS.

The Hooper Study Committee believes we have a win-win-win solution.

The Town of Walpole wins because the property returns to the Tax roles with a conservation easement, which

is compatible with the purpose of the Trust.

The Hooper land is saved in perpetuity for year round recreation use – in season a golf course; in winter an ideal spot for cross country skiing, sledding, walking, and snow mobiling in the woods.

The Hooper Trust is enriched by approximately \$1,188,000 which will generate more income for education that promotes agriculture, botany, forestry and environmental studies.

#### Conservation Easement

In May the Board of Directors of the Monadnock Conservancy voted affirmatively to begin the process of granting a Conservation Easement on the Hooper Property encompassing the Hooper Golf Club and the surrounding timberland.

The Appraisal of these lands found the Fair Market Value to be \$1,188,000. The Market Value after donation of the easement is \$737,500. Thus, the Conservation Easement is \$450,500 plus administrative costs of approximately \$150,000. Adminstrated costs include lawyer's fees, the cost of raising the money, a fee for long-term oversight of the easement, DES fees, registration and transfer fees.

The Monadnock Conservancy has agreed to receive all gifts toward the purchase of the easement. Thus, gifts will be tax deductible.

#### Next Steps

The Select Board/Trustees will vote at the Select Board meeting scheduled for August 29, 2013 in Town Hall.

Following an affirmative vote the Trustees with the support of the Office of Charitable Trusts will petition the Probate Court to apply the Cy Pres Doctrine to the Trust to enable the encumbrance and subsequent sale of the property.



The Academy opens with a reception for participants and faculty on Monday evening September 16, at Burdick's Restaurant, and continues with two or three sessions each month through April with time out for the holidays. Many of the sessions meet "on location" ie: at the Walpole Fire Station or at the Town Hall during the normally scheduled meetings of the Selectmen, Planning Board and the Zoning Board. Other sessions will be held at the library. Each session is designed to help you learn exactly what these town boards do, what problems they work on and what volunteer leadership opportunities they present.

Leadership Academy classes are scheduled from this September through March, 2014. The first class on September 30 will be *How Town Government Works*, at 7 PM in the Town Library.

Because we enjoy the backing of our sponsors, we can organize and present The Leadership Academy for a tuition fee of only \$49.00. The cost includes everything: class materials, opening reception, thank you gifts for our volunteer faculty members and our closing session for faculty, participants and guest. It even covers a one-year membership in the Walpole Grange.

We hope you'll find the Academy experience a valuable insight into what makes Walpole such a wonderful place to live. We are seeking 10 – 12 participants in the 2013 – 2014 class and hope to fill the class quickly.

If you would like to join us, please make your registration check payable to The Walpole Grange/WLA and mail to 361 Valley Road, Walpole, NH 03608. If you would like to raise questions or otherwise discuss the Academy, please call evenings 445-5485, or days 542-8884 Ex. 202.

– Steve Dalessio, Jen Fabis, Andrea Johnson

### Scout Registration

Cubscout Pack 299 is holding registrations on September 4 and 5 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the cafeteria at the Walpole Elementary School.

There will also be Girl Scout registraion at the same time and place.

We are looking for adult volunteers for both Cubscouts and Girl Scouts. If interested, contact Deb Pawelczyk at 445-5475 or [mdjpawel@comcast.net](mailto:mdjpawel@comcast.net)

– Deb Pawelczyk

River Valley Animal Protection League

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Event and Dog Walk



Sunday Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
10am - 2pm

Student Conservation Association (SCA),  
RT. 12A, River Rd., N. Charlestown, NH

Dog Walk Raffles

Ice Cream

Snacks



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Scenes from the 2012 daytime Corn Maze.

## Mentoring Program

Sometimes, it does take a village...

School time is here once again and our kids are off to a new year of reading, writing, arithmetic, science, computers, and a whole lot more. And while most of the students will do just fine, there are children at the Walpole Primary School who desperately need a mentor and friend with whom to spend an hour or two after school. It could be a child whose mom is working two jobs in order to keep their home together. Or it could be a youngster left alone after school because of critical family problems.

School officials have cited that our fourth and fifth graders should be especially targeted for an after-school program, as these are the important, pivotal years in a youngster's development. Knowing that it does take a village to help these deserving children, a group of parents, teachers and volunteers have put together an after-school mentoring program focusing on those children who need an adult friend to be there for them.

Activities could include reading a book, helping with homework, throwing a ball, doing a puzzle or just hanging around and talking.

### Want to be a Mentor?

Someone out there needs you!

You don't have listen to music by Imagine Dragon or know how to use an iPad. You just have to be yourself and develop a trusting relationship with your after-school friend. And you have to be committed and reliable.

The Walpole Mentoring Program will start things off with a once-a-week, hour-long session held after school at the Walpole Elementary School. Big Brothers/Big Sisters will help by providing on-going guidance and a screening process for every mentor.

Solving every problem in this world is impossible, but you can make a huge difference in a child's life.

### Families of 4th and 5th Graders: please contact us!

If you have a youngster or know of another child in your family who would benefit from having an after-school "buddy," please contact the mentoring group and sign up for the new school year. Remember, every mentor will be screened by Big Brothers, and every mentor will love the opportunity to be a positive addition in a child's life.

Please join us!

Contact Natalia Gorawski: Ngorawski@chroma.com, or call 313-9414.

— Eric Merklein

Continued from Page 1 - Festival

the Sunday afternoon children's maze. The final two weekends will encompass all 4 shows each (Friday & Saturday nights, and Saturday & Sunday afternoons).

Last year, Walpole Village School hosted its first-ever *Spooktacula*, featuring a plethora of children's activities in the afternoon, and a haunted house and adult-themed events in the evening. It was so successful that event organizers Erinn Richardson and Heidi Gascoyne planned to reprise their efforts again this year. In conversation with Sarah Manning and Barbara Kasper, *Haunted Corn Maze* organizers, all parties realized the two separate events could be reorganized into a major happening over the entire weekend (loosely modeling the triennial Old Home Days weekend). The maze will have been up and running for the previous 2 weekends, but the last weekend is traditionally the most crowded and the large influx of visitors will have many more scary (and not-so-scary) activities from which to choose.

As currently planned, activities for the weekend will begin on Friday, October 25, with the third and final Friday night Haunted Corn Maze. Over the following 2 days, the schedule includes a cemetery tour, more corn maze activities, Great Falls Co-op harvest festival, and a hayride along a route featuring dozens of scarecrows decorated for competition. There will also be face-painting, cookie-decorating and crafting, a haunted house, dance and pumpkin auction at the WVS, and continuously-running horror films at a venue yet to be determined. Tickets purchased to one event will offer discounts for other events, and many activities will be offered free of charge. This promises to be an excitement-packed weekend for the Halloween-minded, so mark your calendars and keep an eye out for further information as October draws nearer.

— Barbara Kasper

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— Sophia Loren



## A Dog Story

The story begins with a young man and his dog. The young man is Jeff Pearson, the youngest son of Becky and Lee Pearson of Walpole. Jeff is a fourth-year student of Veterinary Medicine at the Kansas State university. In late June he was preparing to head back to school for his final year after a summer internship at home.

The dog is Snoop, a 4-year-old Blackmouth Cur Jeff had adopted in Indiana as a seven-month-old pup. It was love at first sight. Snoop was smart, affectionate and completely devoted to his master – a level of affection returned by Jeff. Far from home and family, stressed by the academic challenges of the DVM program, Jeff found Snoop to be the perfect companion. More than that, Jeff felt that Snoop helped him get through med school. He grew to be the classic one-man dog – wary of anyone who wasn't Jeff... except for Jeff's family, particularly Jeff's mom, Becky, who was only slightly less popular with Snoop than Jeff.

Friday, June 28, the night before Jeff and Snoop were to begin their cross-country drive back to Kansas, Jeff was invited to attend a Red Sox game at Fenway with his father and brothers. Though he debated passing on the invitation, Jeff arranged to have Snoop spend the evening at the home of a friend in Brighton and headed to the ballpark. At some point while Jeff watched the Sox beat the Blue Jays, Snoop bolted from the house. A door was left ajar... people were distracted... something went wrong, and Snoop was gone – out the door, into the street – one of hundreds in a large, strange place he did not know, frantic for Jeff. A hurried search of the neighborhood was fruitless. Snoop would not come to the voices that called to him -- voices he did not recognize in a world that was completely alien.

Jeff was devastated. He spent the night slowly driving the streets of Brighton... eventually sleeping on the porch of the house Snoop had fled, praying he would return. He blamed himself for leaving Snoop and couldn't help putting himself in his dog's place -- imagining his confusion, fear and sense of betrayal: where was Jeff and why had he gone away?

Jeff called home and announced he couldn't go back to school in the morning -- he had to stay in Boston until Snoop was found. The dog was tagged and had a microchip implanted. He would turn up soon, be identified and returned. How long could it take? Classes could wait. Becky was stunned. She counseled Jeff that he had to leave as planned, Snoop



PHOTO: Becky Pearson

or no Snoop. The semester would start the following Monday, and the work load would wait for no man – or dog. Jeopardizing his career was out of the question. She would hunt for Snoop. Jeff reluctantly agreed; though he spent Saturday searching, he headed for Kansas Sunday morning without his dog and sick with grief.

What unfolded over the next week was recorded in part on Facebook as family and friends shared information about the search, and as complete strangers began to become involved in the hunt for a lost dog that meant nothing to them. But that was only part of the story. Snoop's recovery is a testament to devotion: of dog to master and master to dog; of parent to child, and of family members to one another. Beyond that, it also speaks to the willingness of strangers -- hundreds of them throughout 3 Boston neighborhoods -- to spread the word, to be on the lookout, to phone and email sightings, to befriend a woman searching for her son's dog, to actually care about the fate of a brown dog with a black muzzle and floppy black ears.

Becky and company began in the usual way -- with home-made *Have You Seen This Dog?* posters that were attached to walls and poles across Brighton, and pressed into the hands of passers-by, along with an explanation of why this particular dog was so important. Unfortunately, Jeff's optimism about a quick resolution was disappointed. Snoop could be identified with ease, but he had to let someone do the identifying, and he wasn't inclined to let anyone but family approach him -- particularly in a strange place. Over those first few days, he may have been seen

once or twice, but never for long, and he never let anyone get close.

Along with a good deal of luck, finding Snoop was going to take legwork -- driving up and down streets following a tip that Snoop had been spotted, in Brighton and in Newton -- walking through neighborhoods, calling his name, and enlisting everyone Becky met along the way. (Afterward, she would recall that of all those she approached, only one man was indifferent.) Ultimately, she spent ten hours each day covering as much territory as she could.

Though Becky was confident he would turn up, she knew it was critical to get as many eyeballs looking for Snoop as possible. He would need food and water, and though he'd likely avoid strangers, his thirst and hunger would lead him where he would be seen -- as long as someone was looking. So Becky contacted folks who would be on the streets anyhow and who might be willing to keep an eye out for a stray dog: the police departments of Brighton, Newton and Watertown; the Boston College Police; UPS and Fed Ex delivery drivers; Post Office carriers and truck drivers; Boston DPW street sweeper and trash collection drivers. All asked for a flyer with his picture and promised to watch for him.

After that it was a matter of perseverance... and hustling to the often-widely-separated locations where Snoop was reported. Over the next 5 days:

- On Monday, frustration. A family in Brighton had seen Snoop on Saturday and Sunday. He appeared to have an injured leg and would not approach, but took the food and water the family left

Continued on Page 12



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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



*Brayden Ring waits for his pitch under the lights at Hubbard Park.*



## Cal Ripken Tournament

For one week in August, Hubbard Park played host to the baseball dreams of aspiring major leaguers from across New England. State champions from the Cal Ripken-Babe Ruth League competed for the 9-year-old Regional Tournament crown.

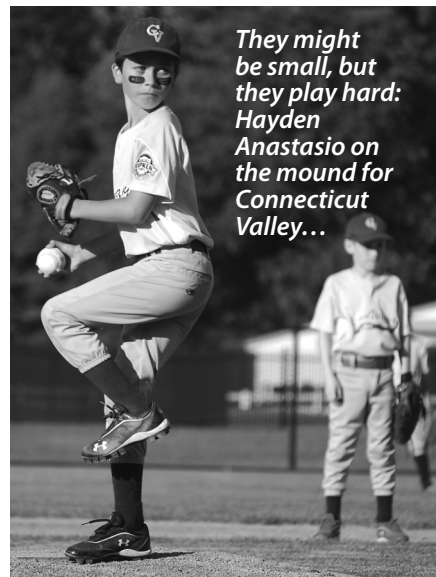
Teams from Skowhegan, Maine; Hartford, Vermont; Seacoast, New Hampshire; Plymouth, (East) Massachusetts; Frontier, (West) Massachusetts; Cranston, Rhode Island; and Danbury, Connecticut were joined by a local Cal Ripken all-star team, Connecticut Valley, in the double-elimination tournament.

Following opening ceremonies and baseball skills competition, the teams worked their way through winners and losers brackets to determine the finalists: Cranston and Plymouth. Cranston had been undefeated, but Plymouth won 9-4, and then took the if-necessary game 7-2 to win the championship.

The Connecticut Valley team gave its fans much to cheer about over three games. Coached by John Bergeron, Joshua Conley and Timothy Roy, CV's roster included: Hayden Anastasio, Colby Atwood, Ian Bergeron, Liam Conley, Cameron Fry, Zachary Patch, Nicholas Peltier, Brayden Ring, Lucas Roy, Xavier Russell, Finnegan Scott and Tyler Swain.

The team lost a hard-fought opener against Frontier, 10 -7, staging a thrilling late rally after falling behind early. Hartford, Vermont was the competition in an elimination game won by the home team, 12-6, and featuring a 9-run inning.

Connecticut Valley faced a second elimination game against Seacoast, NH, grabbing a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, but losing by a 11-1 score – getting runners on base, but never delivering the hit to drive them home. Connecticut Valley turned a double play late in the game, its first of the tournament. Looking back on the tournament, Coach Bergeron said, "Every one of our players should be proud of themselves [sic]." – Jan Kobeski



*They might be small, but they play hard: Hayden Anastasio on the mound for Connecticut Valley...*



*A Cranston runner beats the throw to 3rd...*

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Thursday: 1:00 - 6 PM  
Friday: 1:00 - 6 PM  
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### North Walpole Branch Library

Tuesday - Wednesday: 2 - 4 PM  
Saturday: 1 - 4 PM





Ryan Owens,  
Executive Director  
of Monadnock  
Conservancy and  
Walpole resident.

Continued from Page 2: Hooper Report

The Hooper Preservation Fund will actively begin to raise money for the purchase of the Conservation Easement. Everyone is encouraged to join them so that all can say "I helped save Hooper."

#### Facts of Interest

George L. Hooper, who died in 1916, left the residuum of his estate after the death of his wife in 1924, for the establishment of a school for the teaching of high branches of organized knowledge... where agriculture, forestry, botany, the development and improvement of the soil by planting and reaping, may be taught young men and women. And where right living and the clean and healthy diversions may be emphasized. The purpose of the Trust was reaffirmed and expanded in 1995 in a Consent Decree: The purposes for which these trusts exist are to foster and promote the teaching and learning of agriculture, forestry, botany, conservation, and environmental sciences.

The Charitable Trust Unit of the Attorney General's Office in the State of New Hampshire before and after the Consent Decree of 1995 have been engaged in a dialog with the Select Board who serve as Trustees of the Hooper Trust as to whether the land leased to the Hooper Golf Course met the purposes of the Trust and whether the rental was a fair market value. Following the Town Meeting in October, 2011, Select Board/Trustees appointed a Hooper Study Committee to resolve the issues.

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## CROP Walk

A Walpole Community CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Saturday, September 21. Looking to make a difference in these trying times, the Walpole Community CROP Hunger Walk has set a goal of 50 walkers and hopes to raise \$5,000 to help stop hunger and poverty here in our community and around the world through self-help initiatives. A portion of the funds raised here in Walpole will go to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Last year, 41 walkers raised more than \$3,543 in their locally-organized CROP Hunger Walk.

This year, Walpole and some 2,000 cities and towns nationwide are joining together in interfaith community CROP Hunger Walks around the theme *Ending Hunger One Step at a Time*. Many of the CROP walkers will be wearing T-shirts, proclaiming their solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live – as well as with the millions served by local food pantries, food banks, and meal sites here in the U.S. These local ministries share in the funds raised by CROP Hunger Walks.

Haiti is one part of the world where CROP Hunger Walks are making a big difference. In the aftermath of the killer earthquake, Church World Service was there with much-needed emergency assistance. With the recovery effort in full swing, CWS is helping families and communities to rebuild homes, food supplies and livelihoods.

CROP Hunger Walks also play a role in the U.S., helping communities ravaged by floods and tornadoes to recover.

For more information about the CROP Hunger Walk, contact Jana Sellarole at 756-4380 or Ellie Shaw at 756-4866.

– Peg Winnen

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– Bob Newhart



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## Child Advocacy Center

Walpole Police Sgt. Justin Sanctuary and Katrina Lee of The Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center (MRCAC) recently met with the **Clarion**. MRCAC is a program of the Granite State Children's Alliance. Established in 2007, the Center's director, Katrina Lee, recently told me, "We are a non-profit agency that pulls together a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) of professionals to investigate child sexual and physical abuse cases. The full team is comprised of state and local law enforcement agencies, the County Attorney's Office, the NH Division of Child, Youth and Families, the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention, and medical and therapeutic services. If a child discloses abuse during an interview, members of the team would then conduct the appropriate follow up investigation for their respective agency." Walpole Police Sgt. Justin Sanctuary added that the Walpole Police Department has, "utilized the Center's services, which saves the town about \$1300 per investigation, but more importantly, the Center is trained for this."

Nationwide, 1 of every 4 girls and 1 out of every 6 boys is sexually abused before their 18th birthday – one every 6 minutes. Having assumed the directorship in March, 2013, Katrina stated that more



## Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center

A program of the Granite State Children's Alliance

than 60 children have been interviewed in the Keene and Peterborough offices. The interviewers are highly trained in linguistic approaches for different age groups. "Age 12 is key," Katrina explained, "children over the age of 12 are less susceptible to suggestibility, thus the wording of questions is more imperative for the younger children." The local center's budget is \$150,000 per year which comes from gifts and grants including both county and federal funds.

Katrina and Sgt. Sanctuary are working together as part of the Community Leadership Council of the MRCAC, which is dedicated to fundraising efforts for the Center. "Our current project is the first Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center Dinner/Dance at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole on Friday, October 25, from 7 to 11PM," Sgt. Sanctuary concluded. Music will be provided by Eric Berube and his Lempster band, Wichita Jack. To further aid in fund-raising, there will be a raffle and silent auction. Tickets will be available at the Walpole Police Station. Full details will be in the October issue of the **Clarion**, but mark October 25 on your calendar now.

– Ray Boas

## 3RD ANNUAL Walpole Firefighters' Auxiliary, Inc. GOLF TOURNAMENT



Saturday September 21

Hooper Golf Course

8:00AM Shot-Gun Start  
Four Person Scramble

Sign Up sheets can be found  
at the Hooper Golf Course,  
or call 903-2627.

Sponsorship opportunities  
are still available.



# Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

## ...the Hooper Golf Club

was not the first golf course in town? Twenty-eight years earlier in July, 1898, the Homestead Golf Club was organized by Copley Amory, who purchased the Bellows Homestead in 1890 (see the July, 2012 *Clarion*). Among his many improvements to the property during his 35 years of ownership, the course was built "on the West side of the 'Valley Road' about one mile from Walpole Village." Also known as the Hubbard Road, this road we know now as the Old Drewsville Road offers delightful dirt meanderings.

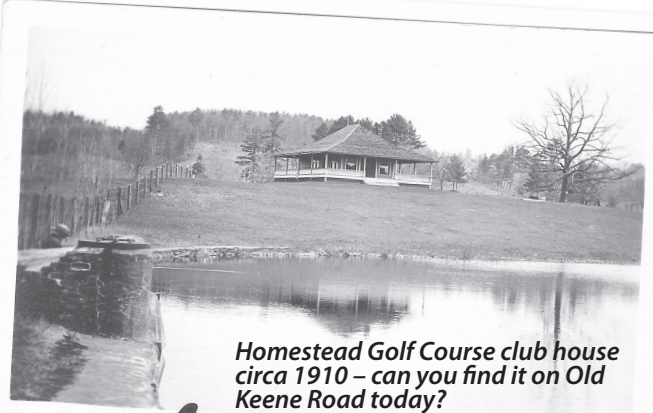
Changing its name to the Walpole County Club, the golf clubhouse was moved south of the village to land owned by Hudson E. Bridge.

Larger than town roads, the building was cut into several sections, and reassembled on the new site. Tennis courts were constructed, and for years Saturday night dinner dances alternated with Tuesday afternoon teas. In 1926 the clubhouse was sold to become a private residence when the club's members decided to "join forces" with folks planning the new Hooper Golf Club.

land he purchased in 1788 and 1794. This property remained in the Watkins family until 1859. The Hooper family took ownership in 1891.

When George L. Hooper died the property was willed to the Town of Walpole in trust with the stipulation that an institute be established to provide programs in the fields of agriculture, forestry, botany, soils and environmental science to Walpole's youth. A new building, The Hooper Institute was built on the site of the old meeting house. Formed June 26, 1926, the Hooper Golf Club (named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Hooper) proposed to the selectmen (trustees of the trust) to lease part of the property to build a golf course. A special meeting was held on July 10, 1926, and the proposal was accepted.

*Hooper club house from the 8th green, circa 1927.*



*Homestead Golf Course club house circa 1910 – can you find it on Old Keene Road today?*

*904 Home*

The course was constructed on leased pastures where the grazing of cows and sheep had created land ideal for building a course. Amory built a road (long gone now) from the Bellows Homestead to the course. A clubhouse, designed and built by T. Nelson Hastings, was dedicated on November 24, 1899.

Everything went nicely until 1914 when the owner of the land, who was receiving a nominal rent of \$1 a year, wanted his land back. Not able to find the right land to construct another golf course, the Homestead Golf Club dissolved.

The bucolic property atop Prospect Hill and looking south was originally on the Third New Hampshire Turnpike until about 1817 when the turnpike was rerouted along the current County Road (a tad easier to traverse by oxen and horses). Walpole's meeting house stood on this crest (until relocated to the growing village), and Alexander Watkins built a tavern across the roadway on

The old Watkins Tavern became the club house when the course officially opened at 10AM on July 2, 1927. That evening, 130 guests danced the night away at the club house following dinner. So things went for the next eighty-six years. And, if the courts approve, the status quo will remain in perpetuity.

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**P.10 Cal.**



**P.11 Cal.**

for him. However, they did not see the Snoop posters till Monday and he did not return.

- Becky visited the Brighton Dog Park several times each day and showed Snoop's picture to everyone with a dog. Everyone took a flyer and assured her that they and their pets would be on the lookout.

- Jeff's brother and his dad spent a day in Boston canvassing neighborhoods with the other family dogs, hoping Snoop would recognize him and might approach, but they never saw Snoop.

- While driving slowly through Brighton one morning, Becky was stopped by a police car; when she explained she was looking for a lost dog, the question was, "Are you looking for Snoop? So are we." Snoop's poster had been displayed at roll call.

- When Becky approached a building that proved to be a convent, the nun who answered the door offered to join her and eventually gave her access to grounds she could not otherwise have searched. Becky joked on Facebook that she had been praying for help and, "Sister Teresa appeared."

- There were no sightings on Tuesday or Wednesday, but on the 4th of July, a Brighton home owner called – she thought Snoop was getting water from an adjacent stream. Becky and her sister searched the neighborhood for hours without success. Reluctant to leave the area, they accepted the family's invitation and slept in their car in the driveway overnight.

And then, suddenly, it was over. Friday morning, Becky was awakened by a call from a jogger in Newton who thought she had seen Snoop at the town reservoir. Only minutes behind Snoop, Becky was on foot, approaching Commonwealth Avenue. She'd been calling his name for some time without success when she was tackled from behind by an ecstatic Snoop,



PHOTO: Becky Pearson

barking, whining and celebrating the reunion with all the canine joy he could muster after seven days of searching.

As Becky embraced Snoop amid tears and exhaustion, an UPS truck stopped across Commonwealth; its driver leaned out his door and yelled across traffic, "Is that Snoop?!" The UPS guy was the first to learn that the hunt was over. Phone, email, text and Facebook quickly spread the word to Jeff, family, and those who had helped... and cared.

- Becky's call to the BC police drew an immediate response – the officer who took the call announced to the rest of the room, "They found Snoop!" Becky could hear the cheering over the phone.

- Becky returned to Brighton recently to personally thank the individuals who had been particularly helpful. The woman whose family had first seen Snoop the day after he disappeared shared a surprising insight: She told Becky that hunting for Snoop had brought her entire neighborhood closer together. Everyone had been aware of the lost dog; they had all been searching; they were doing it as a community. Nothing like it had happened before.

And Snoop... Unaware of all the fuss and none the worse for wear, he would be driven to Kansas a few days later for an exuberant reunion with Jeff.

– Jan Kobeski

North Meadow Plaza, Rte 12, Walpole

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## Alyson's Orchard

Alyson's Orchard will host its annual Apple Festival and old-fashioned Apple Pie Competition on Sunday, September 29, complete with local judges, shiny ribbons and prizes. Bring your homemade pie to the Orchard by 11 AM for judging & prizes – both adult and child (12 years and under) categories.

Other events will include an old-fashioned cider-making demonstration, live music, PYO apples and tractor wagon rides, as well as face and body painting by Mona Frye. Starting at noon, the public will be able to taste too: apple & fruit wines, cider, ice cream, and apples. For lunch (11AM – 3PM,) savory BBQ from the Pit Stop Smokehouse in Westmoreland, and Walpole Creamery Ice Cream will be available for purchase. Don't miss Alyson's Farm Stand filled with fresh apple pies & local products.

Winners of our Scarecrow Contest will be announced at 1PM. Check Alyson's website for more details on the contest and other events: [www.alysonsorchar.com](http://www.alysonsorchar.com), or call 756-9800.

A Family Dance & Silent Auction for the benefit of Sophia's Hearth starts at 2PM in our big hall.

– Fran Imhoff

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## Wild Blue - Playoffs

After the strongest of season finishes and a stellar playoff presence, the Wild Blue season ended horribly in two separate ways, one much more so than the other. Sadly, the Blue came within two bases of walking off with the CRVBL Cup and the championship; and far worse, a Claremont player perished following an accident while driving home to Woodstock after the championship game. (See sidebar.)

The Blue started the season 1-3 when we could barely put two hits together, yet finished 10-4 in the league. In the playoffs, we beat the Keene Black Dawgs two straight in the first-round, best-of-three series, and then eliminated the Sunapee Old Lakers in a one-game semifinal, 7-2.

While we were taking care of business, the Claremont Cardinals – a team that seemed to implode in the final quarter of the season, dropping from 1st-place contention to 4th in the league – tore through the playoffs, upsetting 1st-seed Chester in its semifinal game.

On Sunday, Aug 18, at Hubbard Park, it was Claremont facing Walpole for all the CRVBL marbles. And it would prove to be an exciting game.

Joey Parrott started for the Blue. Joey had suffered a 3-1 loss to the Cards early in the season but struck out 17. In July, however, he shut them out at Claremont's Barnes Park.

The Cardinals couldn't hit him, but the pitching gods were against Joey that day; he hurt his arm on one of the first pitches of the game and labored through a two-run first inning. He gave the ball to Frank Brown, the Blue's veteran who finessed his way through the Claremont lineup.

Eight impressive innings later, Frank had let four more get across the plate, with only one or two of those runs earned. His performance for a guy only a few seasons away from 60 was nothing short of spectacular.

Meanwhile, Claremont's hurler Jon Nicholas wasn't having an easy time with Walpole's line-up. The Wild Blue scored a run here and there, seemingly breaking it open in the 4th with a bases-loaded single that left it 4-2. But runs were left on the table in several innings, and that would prove to be important.

Claremont was ahead 5-4 in this cat-and-mouse final going into the 9th. A Wild Blue error gave the Cards an insurance run heading into the bottom of the inning, but the Blue was at the top of its order.

Jed St. Pierre got on base; Drew Davis did too. Then came a pop-out, then a single by Joey to get Jed in and make it 6-5.



With runners on 2nd and 3rd, Nicholas opted to walk Blue catcher Kaian Wilkes to load the bases for a force. Gary Dennis then lofted a ball over second, headed for shallow-right, that looked like it might drop in. The second baseman raced back, made the catch and doubled-up the runner on 2nd.

Game over. The Cup went home to Claremont again this year. It was a crushing defeat and disappointment for what had looked to be the most exciting of baseball finishes for Walpole.

The Wild Blue thanks its fans and supporters throughout the 2013 season and looks forward to 2014. More thanks to Frank Brown/crew, Mike Hubbard/crew, the Donovan family and the Hubbard Park trustees for keeping a ridiculously beautiful ball field with concessions.

Special thanks to our 2013 sponsors: The Walpole Village Tavern, The Walpole Scoop Shop, Galloway Real Estate, Kasper & Associates, Connecticut River Bank, Dennis P. Pellegrino, DDS., Savings Bank of Walpole, Clark-Mortenson Insurance and Financial Services, and the Hubbard Foundation.

The Wild Blue roster at the end of the 2013 season: Gary Dennis (Manager), Shortstop; Frank Brown (Co-Manager, Bench Coach), Pitcher & Second base; Chris Ballou (Co-Manager, Bench Coach), Pitcher & Left field; Blake Gowen, Outfield & Infield; Drew Davis, Pitcher, Outfield & Infield; Joey Parrot, Pitcher, Outfield; Eric Baker, Third base; Jed St. Pierre, Outfield; Kaian Wilkes, Catcher, Outfield; Ryan Kohler, Infield; Brian Pickering, Pitcher & First base; Tom Murray, Team Support & Second base. Guys, you're the best. Thank you.

– Gary Dennis



### Jon Ferrero

Only hours after the Claremont Cardinals beat the Blue to win the championship, tragedy befell the repeat champions of the CRVBL Cup. Two of their players, rightfielder Justin Pierce and catcher Jon Ferrero, rolled a pickup truck in their hometown of Woodstock, VT, about two hours after the last out.

Pierce, who was driving, suffered broken bones and bruises, but Ferrero, a spunky presence behind the plate who smiled and joked his way through the championship game, died from his injuries.

The memorial service in Woodstock the following Friday was held at the high school ball field. After some emotional speakers (including Ferrero's mother), townspeople, the entire Claremont team and players from the CRVBL played three innings of pick-up baseball.

The heaviness of the day floated away as the ball made its way around the diamond. Jon's family, friends and teammates all agreed. He would have wanted this: everyone he knew laughing and playing ball in his honor was the best way to memorialize someone who ate, breathed and lived baseball. Farewell, Jon.

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PHOTO: Eric Merklein

*Mitchell Zehr (L) and Randy Hicks got into the spirit of the Historical Society's Vintage Golf Outing at the Hooper in August..*

## E-Trash Recycling

We want your e-trash. Bring your burned-out TVs and computers, worn-out electric shavers and food processors, frozen mice and old printers, useless cell phones and used-up copiers, and anything else with electronic parts.

Your e-junk will be collected by the member-owners and volunteers of the Great River Co-op. Disposal fees apply and all proceeds will support the development of our region's first and only community-owned food center.

When: Saturday, October 12, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Where: Behind the Walpole Scoop Shop on Route 12 in Walpole.

Can't come? We'll come to you! E-mail [bdaviss@comcast.net](mailto:bdaviss@comcast.net) or call 445-2200 before October 10 and we'll come to your home or business and pick up your cast-off electronics at no extra charge.

Thanks to Bensonwood and The Walpole Scoop Shop for hosting this event.

— Ben Daviss

## 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)

**October issue deadline: September 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)

## MILESTONES

- Passed: Evelyn Trask, August 16.

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

  
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**Finally, in conclusion, let me just say this.**

— Peter Sellers



## W.R.A.P.

Quiz question: What is a Wheelabrator? It sort of sounds like a piece of fancy exercise equipment to help you lose weight.

It turns out that Wheelabrator is a company that operates "waste-to-energy" plants. Wheelabrator is a pioneer in the waste-to-energy industry, having designed, built and operated the first commercially successful waste-to-energy plant in Saugus, MA in 1975. That plant is still in operation today.

The company currently operates 17 waste-to-energy plants with a combined capacity of more than 23,000 tons of municipal solid waste per day. Wheelabrator has a small plant in nearby Claremont that has been in operation for 27 years, but its capacity is only 200 tons of solid waste per day. That's where our yellow Walpole bags go – a little more than 800 Walpole bags per week. Wheelabrator announced that it intends to shut down this plant in Claremont, claiming that the plant is so small that the electricity it produces just isn't sufficient to cover its operating costs.

So, for us here in Walpole our choices are: 1. Try to convince Wheelabrator to keep the Claremont plant open; 2. Find another waste-to-energy plant not too far away; or 3. Find a place here in Walpole to bury over 800 Walpole bags of solid waste per week ("not in my back yard!!"). This third choice is the least attractive in terms of both cost and environmental damage! This is a tough nut to crack but our town officials and our Recycle Center Staff are working on it.

We all need to banish the "Take it to the dump" mentality and refocus on "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." It is ever more important that we take the time and effort to carefully follow the painted signs at the windows for the bins. We can *not*, for example, get a customer to *buy* our #1 PETE plastic if it is contaminated with #4


LDPE or #5 PP plastic. And, we will never have enough volunteers to go through everything in the bins to make sure each bin is "pure" #1 PETE or #2 HDPE. Please do follow those pictures!

Now some good news! The Hooper Institute sometimes has young students available to help our town. A few weeks ago, one of the Hooper students, Conner Tollett, took a brush and some donated paint and painted *all* the transfer carts!! What a difference!! Thank you, Hooper, and thank you, Conner!

Two quick anecdotes: One guy drove in to the Recycle Center and asked if this was the dump. We told him, "No, the dump is down the road about a half mile; this here is the Recycle Center!" *and*, a lady came in and dumped a big load of plastic water bottles in the bin. The volunteer advised her that the caps had to be removed – those caps are #5 PP and they belonged in her Walpole bag. The lady, looking at the pile of water bottles said, "Well, that's what they pay you for." Outrage! You couldn't *pay* a volunteer enough to work at the Recycle Center – they all *volunteer* their time for the love of Walpole people, our town and Planet Earth

– Charles Blount

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## W.O.W.

What is W.O.W.? The Women of Walpole is a service organization begun in 1978. At that time the group was associated with the churches in town and their project was the support of an international foster child. Over time, the group evolved and is now open to all women who reside in Walpole; it is no longer associated with the churches and it supports local projects that benefit the town and its citizens.




Below is a small sample of past and present projects:

- Raised funds for the Walpole Common Christmas tree and its continued lighting-
- Provides Christmas wreaths and candle lighting for the Town Hall-
- Provided darkening window shades for the Town Hall after renovation-
- Provided darkening window shades for the Walpole Historical Society Museum-
- Offers summer camp scholarships to elementary students-
- Participates in Old Home Days-
- Co-sponsored, with the Walpole Community Grange, Candidates Night-
- For many years produced the "Walpole Civic and Business Directory"-
- Purchases spring-flowering bulbs for various, public locations in the town-
- Planted shrubs and Lilac trees at the Walpole Historical Society-
- Contributed to the Hooper Institute's summer program-

All women in Walpole are encouraged to join our group, which meets monthly at members' homes. Dues are \$25 yearly. This month's meeting is on the 25th at 2 PM.

We encourage you to ask about joining us and hope you will support our fund-raising efforts every year. We have a special event happening this Fall so look for details to come.

– Pam Howard

		
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## Hooper Golf Club

September already, Wow! The good news is September is the best golf weather of the year and we are looking forward to a busy golf month. Before we talk about September a big thank you is due to all those who showed up at the school on August 17 and supported Hooper Golf Club. Glad to see we all agree that Hooper is one of Walpole's gems!

What else can you say but Firefighters Open. The Walpole Firefighters host one heck of a morning of golf on Saturday September 21, followed by one heck of a feast afterwards at the Fire House. All money raised goes to helping them serve us better. Stop in or call pro shop at 756-4080 for information on how you can play or support this event.

Also, on the evening of September 21st, *A Safe Place* in Brattleboro will be holding a night golf fundraiser. This event features nine holes just before dusk, dinner, then nine holes of glow-in-the-dark golf. Wow! *A Safe Place* is dedicated to helping victims of child abuse.

Don't put those clubs away just yet; instead, dig out the sweater vests and take advantage of this month's beautiful weather. See you out there!

### Pro's Tip:

In order to deliver leverage into the ball and hit farther, maintain the flex in your right knee throughout the swing, especially at impact!

— Ron Rosko

## Walpole Village School

The Walpole Village School starts its 36th year teaching our future on Tuesday, Sept 3. We still have a few openings in our preschool and pre-kindergarten classes. If you would like to sign up, or for more information, please call the school at 756-4246.

We offer before-care from 7:15 – 8:30 AM each morning, after which we will transport your school-age child to the Walpole primary school.

We also offer after-care from 3 – 5:30 PM each day. Again, we will pick your children up at the Walpole Public School and bring them to our school, where they can do home work, eat a snack and play until you are able to pick them up.

The cost for before- or after-care is \$6 per hour. We bill in 15 minute increments, so you are only charged if your child is at our school. Walpole Village School students will also be planting their winter crops in the greenhouse, so be on the lookout for fresh greens and spinach all winter long.

— Bethany Coursen

## Books Needed for Walpole Town Library Book & Tag Sale

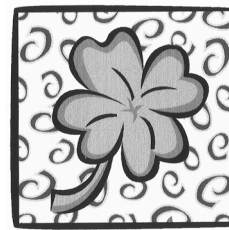
The Friends of the Walpole Town Library are gearing up for the Library's annual Used Book and Tag Sale: Saturday and Sunday, October 25, 26 & 27, in the Walpole Middle School Gymnasium.

The success of the sale depends on donations of gently used paperbacks, hardcover books, CDs, DVDs, records and children's books. **(No encyclopedias, text books, VHS tapes or tape cassettes please.)**

Donations are now being accepted & we need your help.

Please bring your book donations to the Walpole Town Library on Fridays, Saturdays, or Mondays. For information and questions, call the library at 756-9806.

Tables for the tag sale are available for a fee of \$25.00. To reserve a table for the sale, contact Pam at 756-4224.



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## Walpole Seniors

Walpole Seniors will meet for Pot Luck luncheon at the Congregational Church on Monday September 16, at noon. The speaker will be the Community Liason for Home Health Care and she will discuss Services in the Area. Please bring a contribution for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Newcomers welcome. Come for good food and good conversation.

— Jeanne A Jeffries

**The  
trouble  
with  
telling  
a good  
story  
is that it  
invariably  
reminds  
the other  
fellow  
of a  
dull  
one.**

— Sid Caesar

## 3rd Annual Walpole Walks a Million!

Our goal is to raise \$12,000  
for the Walpole Parent Teacher Group.

We did it before and we can do it again!  
We need your help!



**NEW! Walk Across America Challenge**

This is the one and only fundraiser for the year if we reach our goal. The fundraiser you love with some twists!

**NEW! Walk Across America Challenge**

**NEW! Online step log - track your progress**

**NEW! Sponsored Sneaker Fundraiser**

### WHAT'S the SAME...

- Pedometers for every student - Sept. 13th
- School-wide pep rally - Sept. 12th - 1:30 p.m.
- Wellness Fair Plus Bike Rodeo Sept. 14th 10-12
- Couch to 5K Club - It's back! - Details to come
- Annual 5K Fun Run & Walk - Oct. 19th
- Watch the Sneaker Meter RISE!

### NEW!

Raise money...

### Sponsor a Sneaker

Students, families, friends and neighbors sponsor a sneaker and help us reach our goal!

(details to come)



**Help raise  
the Sneaker  
Meter!**





## HCS Local Services

### Flu Clinics

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) will hold flu immunization clinics in Walpole on Friday, September 27. A clinic will be held at Applewood Senior Housing from 10-11 AM, and at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole from 11:30AM-1:00PM.

These clinics are open to the public aged 19 years or older. No appointment is needed. Medicare, Anthem BCBS, Harvard Pilgrim, and MVP insurances will be accepted, or there is a \$25 fee for the vaccine. People are encouraged to wear loose sleeves.

### Walk-in Hours

HCS welcomes residents of Walpole to *Walk-in Wednesdays*. The first Wednesday of every month, our staff members who specialize in home care, geriatric care management and hospice will be on hand to talk with you individually about your specific concerns. Drop by for completely free, off-the-record, no-commitment advice. Welcome to *Walk-in Wednesdays*, where worries lighten as you learn about ways we can help.

Walk-in Wednesdays will be held the first Wednesday of each month from 3-5PM at the HCS office in Charlestown, located in the Medical Center Building on Arborway off Elm Street, and at the Keene HCS office at 312 Marlboro Street. The next Walk-in Wednesdays are scheduled for September 4 and October 2. Those who are not able to stop by are encouraged to call 352-2253 for information any time.

HCS provides wellness services throughout southwestern New Hampshire. For a complete listing of clinics, visit [HCSservices.org](http://HCSservices.org), or call 352-2253.

— Lara Larson

Reality  
is the  
leading  
cause  
of stress  
among  
those  
in touch  
with it.

— Lily Tomlin

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# From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Some yarns are for knitting and some yarns are for spinnin'. This yarn is for spinnin'.

From the beginning of my life, when caught off guard I could never come up with a quick answer. When a teacher would ask the class if anyone had not done his homework, there was always at least one besides me who would raise his hand. "Why didn't you do your homework, Russell?" the teacher would ask. Good old Russell was ready with, "Our prize heifer was calving yesterday and we were up half the night with her!"

This being a farming community, the teacher always bought that as an acceptable excuse.

"And William, why isn't your homework finished?" I would stammer and stutter and blurt out something like, "My pet tom cat had kittens." This brought howls from my classmates, a call home and no recess for a week.

So, recently when Fran asked, "What do you have planned tomorrow?", it was like being back in school again. I only managed to stutter, "Why?"

Well, her plan was to do a complete house-cleaning from top to bottom. I mentioned the fact that we had done a thorough cleaning in the spring, which was not that long ago. Well, now I find out there is Spring Cleaning, Post-Spring Cleaning, Pre-Fall Cleaning, etc., etc.

So, after hours of going through bureaus, closets, attic crawl spaces and every nook and cranny in the house, we are nearly done. "Nearly done" means I still have to wash down the walls and do some touch-up painting.

Finally totally exhausted, I collapse in the favorite chair with a tall glass of iced tea. She walks in with a large box, which I recognize as my box of memorabilia (my sacred memories), or of junk (her opinion), that she seems to think should be thrown out.

"Why on God's green earth are you saving this pair of oversized dice from Wilbur Clarks Desert Inn in Las Vegas?"

"Are you kidding? Those remind of the time I spent a week in Vegas with the Jaycees in 1962!" I exclaim.

"Oh, to remind you of your carefree days before we were married. It that what you are saying?"

Pictures of six grade flashed before my eyes and I began to stutter and then I blurted out the only answer I could think of: "My tom cat had kittens!"

## Distant Hill Gardens

On Saturday, September 7, from 9 AM to 4 PM, Distant Hill Gardens will be hosting another 'Open Garden Saturday'. Join us for one or both of the events below or just come and tour the gardens.

From 10AM to noon, there will be a *Geology of Distant Hill* walk led by David Howell, a USGS research geologist emeritus, and John Dunham, a graduate student at Antioch University New England with a passion for geology, including the exploration and mapping of undocumented caves in New England. Distant Hill has a number of interesting geological features we will be investigating, including outcroppings of unique stretched pebble conglomerates, examples of crystal-laden granite pegmatite, and an exposed knoll of calcium-rich volcanic bedrock.

At 1PM, Michael Nerrie, designer and builder of Distant Hill Gardens, will present *Building Your Soil- a Garden's Foundation*. Learn tips on how to improve your soil and get the most out of your garden.

Distant Hill also has a boardwalk across a quaking bog and a nature play trail for the kids to explore. Entry to the gardens and all events are free, but donations to help cover expenses are much appreciated.

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

— Michael Nerrie

## Genealogy Workshop

The Walpole Historical Society will sponsor another free Genealogy Workshop on Saturday, September 14, from 10AM-12 noon. Jeanne & Peter Jeffries have studied Genealogy for more than 30 years and welcome beginners as well as experienced persons. Hints regarding research sources as well as stone walls will be shared. Call for reservation at 756-2933. More information can be found on the Walpole Historical Society web site: [walpolehistory.org](http://walpolehistory.org).

— Jeanne A Jeffries

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## Shunpiking with Ray

For a number of years I have shared my travel experiences in my on-line travel blog, *Shunpiking with Ray*. In my quest to learn from others, I have often found locals are unaware of or have not visited historical, educational or fun attractions nearby. In this series, I hope to tell you of area treasures, encouraging you to explore and enjoy. In July, I shared my day following Alstead's "Sestercentennial Town-Wide Tour." This month, I recommend you cross the Connecticut River and head south on US Route 5 towards Putney, Vermont, and stop at the newly-revived Santa's Land.

Fifty-Six years old, Santa's Land is an original roadside attraction dating to when vast numbers of Americans took to the road in the years following World War II. It has not changed since – truly a "shunpiker's" nostalgic journey. When grandson Alex (now eight) was born, we visited before Christmas one year, and had a wonderful time on the pine-covered, hilly grounds with their, charming North Pole buildings, animals, small tyke rides, and train ride through the woods.

What I did not know is that in the years since our visit, attendance dwindled and the park's condition entered darker days from a lack of attention. All that changed just months ago, when Lillian Billewicz and her sons, Johnathan and Michael became the proud new owners. Their purchase was in the nick of time, too, because if the park remained vacant for a year, the zoning grandfather clause allowing the park's existence would have lapsed, closing Santa's Land forever.

Alex wanted to spend time with me in July, and I planned a full four days of adventures. On a Monday we climbed

into *Blue Bell* and headed across the river and south on US Route 5 (the old road) rounding a bend moments later at this magical place. Michael greeted us with much enthusiasm, and as I am a veteran, he thanked me for my service and told me there was no admission charge for vets. What followed was a most enjoyable, long afternoon for grandfather and grandson.

The grounds and buildings have been meticulously cleaned and refurbished. Nestled under its sprawling pines you follow a path to the quaint North Pole village where Santa awaits. Animals are in residence to enjoy as you wander further up the path to the train station to board Santa's express through the now well-kept woods and past a deer preserve. Outside the station is a slide racing down the hillside. Continuing along the path, you arrive at a grouping of amusement rides for younger folks, including a traditional merry-go-round. Picnic areas are situated near the rides and in the village. Alex has been raised in

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the plastic, electronic Disney generation but loved our four-plus hours there. He cannot wait to go back – but maybe that's because Johnathan promised he would wax the slide for Alex.

I just called Lillian to confirm hours for the balance of 2013. She told me, "we are open daily until Labor Day, but weekends only after that through December 22. Hours are 10AM to 5PM." Admission is \$10 for anyone 3 years and older. Their website is under construction, but you can "like" the Santa's Land Facebook page.

For a gallery of images, visit *Shunpiking with Ray* and view my July 29 Santa's Land post. Ray Recommends: Hurry to Santa's Land in Putney: enjoy your nostalgic day, and spread the word. Let's keep the simple life alive forever!

– Ray Boas

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