



Eight Years After...



Torrential rain and a debris-blocked culvert here on Warren Brook spawned the 2005 Alstead Flood.

Early on the morning of October 9, 2005, Alstead was devastated by a flash flood that scoured the watershed of Warren Brook and the Cold River. Eight years later, much has been restored and rebuilt, including the waterways. Recently, the Cold River Local Advisory Committee (CRLAC) assessed the progress of those efforts. Walpole resident Fred Ernst joined CRLAC in 2009 at the invitation of Charlie Montgomery and Austen Hunter. Two other Walpole residents are also on the committee: Gary Speed and Kim Lewis. Ernst, currently committee chair, agreed to share the CRLAC's findings with the Clarion.

On October 24, representatives from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) met in Alstead alongside Warren Brook, a major tributary to the Cold River. Eight years ago the flood of these two water bodies caused significant property damage and cost the lives of four residents of Alstead and three from other towns.

The purpose of this meeting was to inspect geomorphology-based restoration/repair work done on Warren Brook in 2011 and to discuss additional repair work being planned for 2014. Hosts of the meeting were the Town of Alstead, Sean Sweeney (principal of Headwaters Hydrology, PLLC in Littleton, NH whose engineering firm is responsible for designing and overseeing the restoration work), and the Cold River Local Advisory Committee (CRLAC). CRLAC's members are volunteers from five towns in the Cold River watershed (Acworth, Alstead, Langdon, Lempster, and Walpole). The committee, as designated by State legislation, is asked to monitor the health of the river as a water, recreation, and wildlife resource.

The initial repair work done after the flood in 2005 essentially was intended to stabilize Warren Brook and the Cold

The Heroes Next Door

At one time or another, each of us has heard a wailing siren or seen the flashing lights as one - or more - of Walpole's fire engines has roared by. Most probably take a moment to say a little prayer for whomever it's racing to save, but how many worry about the men and women on that truck? The answer is probably more than you might think. There are 43 current members of the Walpole Fire/EMS (Emergency Medical Services), 27 of whom are also EMTs. Chances are everyone in town knows or is related to at least one member.

The earliest reference to the town's fire department notes the establishment of the Walpole Hose Company in January of 1916, with its chief, Warren Knowlton. The firehouse was located at the base of High Street in a barn that is now the tiny structure behind Walpole Artisans and The Village Blooms. In August of 1941, the department became the Walpole Fire District, officially responsible for the area defined as "all of Walpole south of Cold

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Congregational Church Faces Structural Issues

The First Congregational Church on the green, built between 1833 and 1834, has become a fixture of our community and is integral to many who live here today or who have passed through Walpole over the past 175 years. It is a resource for our town and its people for worship and outreach, with children's events, rummage sales, food pantry contributions for North Walpole, Alstead and Bellows Falls, Mistletoe Mart Christmas bazaar, CROP walks, chicken barbeques, winter clothes for orphans, blankets and supplies for the homeless shelter in North Walpole, and more.

Whether you're a regular attendee on Sunday or an occasional visitor, you may have noticed a "bounce" upon walking down the center aisle in the upstairs sanctuary. That is not a good thing. In addition, the ceiling in the Fellowship Hall underneath the sanctuary floor seemed to be sagging. The church has a structural and safety problem.

Continued on Page 2

Tax Bills Will be Late Again This Year.

Taxes will be due 30 days from the mailing date.

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Saving Hooper

Conservancy moves forward to protect open space in Walpole

The Conservancy's newest, and perhaps most surprising, project is conserving Walpole's Hooper Golf Course. That's right, we're doing a conservation easement on a golf course.

Anyone visiting Walpole in the past year is likely to have seen "Save Hooper" signs all over town. While the full story of why Hooper needs saving is too long for this newsletter, suffice it to say that the Town of Walpole, which owns the 134-acre property of which 50 acres is the golf course, is obliged to sell the parcel for reasons beyond its control. Recognizing that new development would be almost certain to follow the sale, a group of Walpole citizens proposed a solution: sell the property, but sell a conservation easement to the Monadnock Conservancy first.

Initially, we weren't wild to save a golf course. But in deciding whether to commit to the project, we reflected upon the very first directive of our new strategic plan, which states, "Protect the places that are highly meaningful to people and their communities by increasing conservation of locally-identified priorities and by supporting community-led outreach that leads to such conservation."

The Hooper land may not have been the Conservancy's top priority, but it was certainly Walpole's — few things have stirred such an impassioned outcry in town in recent memory. Most of Hooper's strongest advocates are not even golfers, but rather people who love the property as a place to go for a walk, ski, snowshoe or snowmobile in winter, or simply enjoy the open view as they drive by. And while the property hosts a golf course today, in 50 years it may feature a farm, a forest or a community park. What it won't feature is new buildings and pavement where there are now grass and trees. That's Walpole's goal, which makes it our goal too.

So the project is underway. The Walpole select board, after having a public hearing, supports the project and the state's Charitable Trusts Unit has approved the proposed transactions. The probate court next needs to approve the town's sale of the easement. Meanwhile, fundraising is ramping up.

— Ryan Owens

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 Monadnock Conservancy newsletter

Continued from Page 1 - Congregational Church

Contractors and a structural engineer have investigated these problems. They made holes in the ceiling and found that years ago the primary support posts of the timber joints in the center floor of the sanctuary went missing — they had been moved from their original positions. In addition, there are six layers of ceiling material and five layers of flooring. The seating capacity of the sanctuary is around 150 people, but we know that more than 200 people attend events in it.



An inspection revealed structural damage.

PHOTO: Warren Stevens

To address the immediate problem, temporary steel support posts were inserted at the weakened timber joints. A more permanent repair will be difficult and complex. The estimated cost is \$106,162, which will include an upgrade of out-of-code electrical and plumbing problems.

The church and Walpole have been blessed with benefactors who come forward financially when urgent needs arise. We have received an anonymous gift of \$50,000.00 which will be put toward the project. We are looking for contributions to help match this gift so we don't draw down our limited reserve funds.

Walpole is a generous town. Our churches are anchors of our community. Our strength comes from our people. Thank you for sharing in this appeal.

Contributions may be made to:
 First Congregational Church UCC
 Building Fund
 P.O. Box 393
 Walpole, NH 03608

— Dale Woodward, Chuck Shaw, Dave Westover

Walpole Seniors - Moving

The January and February meetings of The Walpole Seniors will be held in Town Hall due to the interior construction underway at the First Congregational Church. All are welcome to attend the third Monday of each month at noon.

— Ray Boas

The *Fall Mountain Scholarship Fund, Inc.* is a new non-profit organization formed to carry on the work of the FMRHS Chapter of Dollars for Scholars (an affiliate of Scholarship America) with the same goals and objectives.

Since 1969, when Lesley Hubbard organized the local chapter as The Citizens Scholarship Fund of Fall Mountain Regional School District and then affiliated with the Dollars for Scholars organization, this group has been providing needs-based scholarship aid to qualified FM graduates to pursue their further educational goals. Over the past 44 years, the local chapter has provided more than \$2.3 million in outright scholarship awards to more than 2400 FM graduates, including nearly \$140,000 to 130 graduates and post-graduates this year. The organization has benefitted greatly over the years from the strong support of the Hubbard family and related Hubbard entities, a strong working relationship with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation as well as the Administration of SAU 60 (especially the Fall Mountain High School staff and Guidance Department), and the generous donations of individuals in the Fall Mountain Community, especially

Walpoleans. In addition, as an all-volunteer organization, its keys to success have been strong leadership, talented Board members and many active and devoted supporters.

As a result of significant additional organizational and reporting requirements and increased dues being imposed on local chapters by Scholarship America, the local Board decided to sever ties with Scholarship America/DFS in order to maintain local control and focus – a difficult decision given the long history.

With the group entering its 45th year, completing the organizational transition over the next few months will pose challenges, especially in terms of fundraising. Your continued contributions over the years as an investment in the youth of the FM community have had a tremendous impact in enabling local

students to achieve their educational potential and career goals. The success of this program to date is a powerful example of how we all can make a difference in the lives of our young people.

We can each play a part in this effort by making a contribution in whatever amount. Scholarships in the name of a business, family legacy or special individual can also be arranged.

Please mail your tax deductible donation to: Fall Mountain Scholarship Fund, Inc.

Current board members are: Greg Macri, Robert Kasper, Chris Wheeler (Treasurer), Randall Rhoades, Nathan Chaffee, Tiffany French, Patrick St. Pierre, Lisa Ranauro, and student representatives Jordan Newcomb and Samantha Watson.

– Rich Nalevanko

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**NEW HOURS:
TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR**

Starting Thursday, January 2, 2014,
the office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector
will be open: **Monday**, 7AM to 4PM;

Tuesday, 7AM to 7PM;

Wednesday, 7AM to 8AM (for early
customers and then closed to work
undisturbed until 4 PM),
no evening hours on Wednesday;

Thursday, 7AM to 4PM.

The office will be closed on Fridays.

This change in hours has been
necessitated by the New Hampshire
Department of Motor Vehicles
which has changed its hours...
the Walpole office must coordinate
with them to provide service here.

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Horse Thieves

The *Horse Thieves'* annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall. These meetings are renowned for dispensing with a whole year's worth of business in as little as 12 minutes and for the friendly camaraderie that fills all the time that other organizations would spend doing something productive.

We draw our members' attention to three important facts about this meeting: First, it will lead by our new president, Sheldon Sawyer. Those with sharp memories will recall that Mr. Sawyer caused a huge commotion at the September 2012 *Horse Thieves'* banquet by riding to the occasion on one of his horses! He was surrounded by a hoard of paparazzi and one of the pictures of that event was featured in the January 2013 issue of the *Clarion*! The *Horse Thieves'* nominating committee and members enthusiastically applauded this and voted Mr. Sawyer in as the President at last year's annual meeting.

Second, Mr. Sawyer has introduced a shocking change by moving the annual meeting to 6:30 PM! He hopes that this development will help us fill our quorum of 12 members more easily. Last year we had to drag members away from their dinner tables to fill our quorum and spent more time waiting to fill the quorum than it took to conduct the business of our meeting. So remember to mark your calendars for this new time and join us at the town hall a few minutes early. Although Mr. Sawyer hasn't mentioned the possibility, we know he is capable of riding out and lassoing recalcitrant members if that's necessary

to fill the quorum. However, even more frightening, those who show up at 7 PM (the OLD time) for the meeting run the risk of finding themselves relegated to putting away chairs, or worse yet, being voted in as officers because they were not present to object to their nomination!

Third, those who carefully plot the many events in our town's busy life will already know that 2014 is the year for the *Horse Thieves'* biennial banquet. This banquet is one of the milestones in the town's life, primarily because it happens only once every two years. The banquets often fill the town hall to capacity by featuring interesting speakers, good food and fellowship with friends and neighbors who are sometimes as interesting as the speakers. However, discussion of the *Horse Thieves'* banquet always brings a spirited debate . . . for some reason the discussion of food seems to enliven the members. Two years ago when we had our annual meeting before the 2012 banquet we had what may have been a record attendance at one of our annual meetings: there were 29 present at the opening of the meeting and several others arrived shortly thereafter, probably reaching total attendance of ~35!

So mark your calendars for the *Horse Thieves'* 199th annual meeting on Saturday, January 17 at 6:30 PM in the town hall. Membership in the Walpole Horse Thieves society is open to any man 18 years or older who lives in Walpole, who pays a \$2 lifetime fee and signs the membership book. If you are interested in joining please contact Lewis LaClair, Clerk (756-0001, or LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com) or Sheldon Sawyer, President (756-3404) or show up (early!!) at the annual business meeting.

— Lewis LaClair

In the case of a thunderstorm, stand in the middle of the fairway
and hold up a one iron. Not even God can hit a one iron. — Lee Trevino

River, armoring their sides and beds in stone. The facts that the rush of water from the flood had straightened out the brook, had scoured the bed of the brook, lowering it by some six feet, and made the floodplains (which naturally slow the speed of the brook in flood conditions) inoperable, were not initially addressed. The design of the initial repair work was not a result of a geomorphic assessment and did not take into account natural stream form and function within the channel or immediately outside the channel on the floodplain. This initial phase of work was an emergency response to protect property from further damage and re-open bridges and sections of road impacted by the flooding.

The work done in 2011 and the work planned for 2014 are intended to restore the brook to the way it naturally functions based upon a thorough geomorphic assessment performed by Sean Sweeney from Headwaters Hydrology. In 2011, the stone armoring was removed and the

of channel and associated floodplain. Also, there are expected to be three vernal pools added into the floodplains to encourage amphibian and other semi-aquatic species to thrive. Sixty percent of the budget for this work will again come from a Watershed Assistance Grant from NHDES, with funding provided by the EPA and Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. These federal funds must be matched by 40% from non-federal sources. These matching funds, in-kind services, and donated materials have come from the NH Fish and Game Department, NH Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program, NH Charitable Foundation, Cold River Materials, Headwaters Hydrology PLLC, Alstead Conservation Commission, and CRLAC.

The CRLAC has been instrumental in raising these matching gifts, in obtaining permission from Stanley and Robin Kmiec and Michael Sweeney to allow this restoration work on their property, and helping to coordinate all of the interests involved.

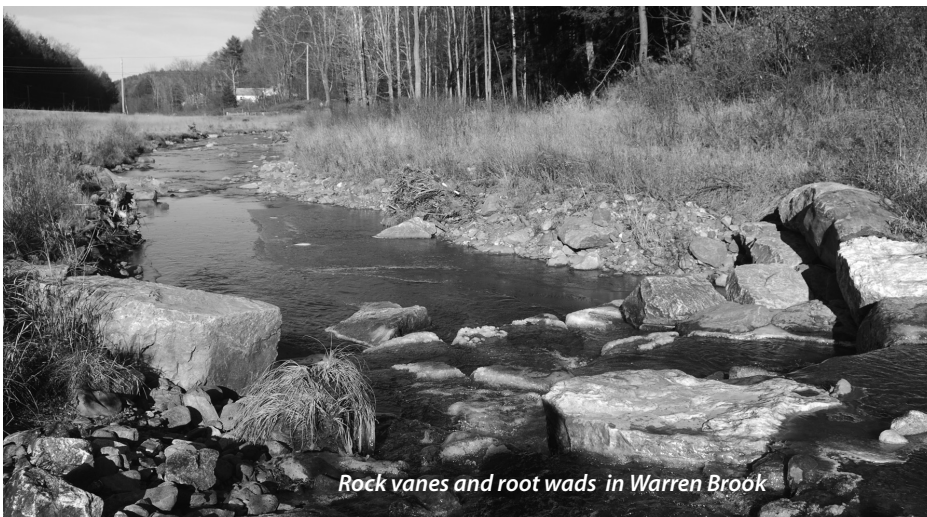
of aquatic life (fish and aquatic insects) to thrive once again. The measure of that success will be to have Warren Brook removed from the 303(d) list of impaired waters for New Hampshire. Currently, the brook fails to meet the designated uses of aquatic life due to the lingering impacts of flooding. NHDES is eager to document the ecological recovery within Warren Brook and document full restoration of aquatic life use once again.

– Fred Ernst

Village Blooms

The flower shop in downtown Walpole has blossomed with a new owner, a new look and delightful things inside the store - from fresh-cut flowers to lush plants, to delightful Christmas ornaments for the holiday season.

The Village Blooms is owned and operated by Walpole resident Andrea Daley, who has been practicing the art of flower-arranging since she was a youngster working in her mother's florist shop in Lincoln, Maine.



Rock vanes and root wads in Warren Brook

floodplain was lowered to adjust for the fact that the brook's bed is six feet lower. Curves or meanders were reintroduced to the brook's course and "vanes", consisting of large boulders and trees with root wads placed across the brook, were positioned to slow down the flow of the brook and create pools below the vanes that will support a variety of aquatic species. A variety of shrubs and trees were planted on the floodplains to stabilize the soil, promote settling of sediment and debris, and weaken flood flows. Furthermore, a large six-foot culvert was placed under the bridge at Griffin Hill Road to add additional flow capacity under extreme weather conditions when the brook accesses the floodplain.

In the 2014 plan, essentially the same strategy will be used to guide the flow of the brook through an additional 900 feet

It appears that this restoration work is happening none too soon, as there are already signs that the original stone armoring is beginning to be undermined. Steve Landry, Merrimack Watershed Supervisor for NHDES, who organized this field trip, described this restoration work as "leading-edge, which over time could become a model for how this region of the country, and perhaps the nation, deals with the effect of climate change."

NHDES approves 25 to 30 Watershed Assistance Grants each year to organizations and communities throughout New Hampshire for the development and implementation of watershed protection and restoration plans. The ultimate goal for this segment of Warren Brook is to restore proper stream form and function that will allow for a stable, healthy, and diverse population



Andrea Daley

PHOTO: Eric Merklein

Andrea believes that her customers deserve more than simply sticking flowers in a vase. "I love working with different flowers to combine a mixture of textures and colors that my customers will know were created just for them."

Tara Sad can testify to that. She asked Andrea to design a special arrangement to be presented to the NH Department of Agriculture in honor of their 100th anniversary celebration. "The flowers were breathtaking," Sad said. "All who attended the ceremony were so impressed."

With fresh arrivals delivered weekly from New York and Boston, as well as tasteful gifts and décor items, The Village Blooms is a wonderful addition to Walpole's shopping scene. Visit her Facebook page for photographs of some of her recent creations, and be sure to drop in and say 'hello'. The Village Blooms is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:30, Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM, with extended hours coming for the holidays.

– Eric Merklein

Walpole Worshipers

Drewsville 7th Day Adventist

Service: Saturday, 11 AM

First Congregational Church

Reverend Craig Breisemeister

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

Grace Bible Fellowship

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Service: Sunday 9:15 AM

St. Peter's Church (North Walpole)

Pastor, Reverend Steven M. Lepine

Mass: Mon. 8:30AM; Fri. 8:30AM;

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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Meltdown Challenge

In an effort to burn fat and feed the hungry, the Westminster Fit Body Boot Camp in Westminster, VT has announced a 1,000lb Meltdown Challenge with all proceeds going to benefit local food banks.

On November 11, the Boot Camp invited all members of the neighboring communities to participate in the 28-day fitness challenge dedicated to helping combat rising obesity statistics while supporting an important cause. Eighty-six people registered and in the first week alone have lost 50.4 pounds!

Lisa Dumont, owner and operator of Westminster Fit Body Boot Camp, says she is thrilled to be launching the 1,000lb Meltdown Challenge because she believes it's a great way to get people thinking about their health and fitness goals, as well as helping area families in need.

The fee to participate in Dumont's 1,000lb Meltdown Challenge is \$20 for the 28-day period, and all proceeds will be donated to the participant's choice of two local food banks – either the Fall Mountain Food Shelf or Our Place Drop-In Center.

There is still time to enter this challenge. Join Lisa and your neighbors in losing excess weight while helping out local food shelves. Don't wait to make it a New Year's resolution – lose the fat now!

To register, go to www.fitbodybootcamp.com/1000poundmeltdown/ or contact Lisa at (530) 320-4340, or healthcoach713@yahoo.com.

– Sarah Manning

**A hot dog at the game
beats roast beef
at the Ritz.**

– Humphrey Bogart

PHOTO: Charles Blount



Neighborhood kids decorated Walpole's Bandstand for Veterans Day. Pictured here are Anna Wullbrandt, Morgan Beauregard, Kaitlin Faulkner and Benjamin Wullbrandt. Walpole's Bandstand on the Town Green is a gift from Walpole resident Stuart Bailey in memory of his wife, Judy. It is decorated for Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day and other occasions where appropriate. Stuart Bailey, a Navy veteran of the submarine service, is sincerely appreciative of the dedication and sacrifice of all veterans, especially those who come from, or live in Walpole.

First Congregational

Breakfast with Santa

First Congregational Church UCC, will be hosting Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning, December 14, from 8:30 until 10:30. This is an annual "funraiser" for the children. Pancakes, sausages, juice and other breakfast goodies will be served. Santa will be here to listen to the children's wishes for Christmas. Free-will contributions will be received at the door. Come with your children and grandchildren, enjoy the holiday spirit that fills the air and join in this celebration of life and love and joy.

What a great month to celebrate!

Activities abound. **Communion** is December 1 with celebrants coming forward. **The Kurn Hattin Select Choir** will be performing during our service on Sunday, December 8. **The Children's Pageant** is Sunday, December 15, and the **Choir Cantata** is Sunday, December 22.

There will be two Christmas Eve services. The first will be at 4:30PM so families with young children can attend and get home early. The second will be at 7PM. Sunday, December 29, will be an all-music and readings service with hymn selections from our music committee as well as requests from the congregation.

– Ellie Shaw

St. John's Church

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6:30 PM.

The community is invited to join in this service which tells the story of Christmas in scripture and song and concludes with communion before being dismissed to participate in the living Nativity service on the Common. Everyone is invited.

Art After School

The Winter session begins Wednesday, January 8, 3:15. Open to all children in first grade and older. We'll be weaving, tying knots, creating "green" sculpture out of recycled materials, and learning how to draw and paint by studying the work of famous artists. There is no fee for the program, but registration is appreciated. To register, call 756-2962. – Susan Kershaw

Walpole Unitarian

Holiday Bake Sale

Walpole Unitarian Church's annual Holiday Food Sale will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 9 - 11:30 AM in front of the post office. Shoppers will find a number of wonderful home-made products for family and friends, including holiday cookies beautifully boxed for gift giving; a variety of yeast breads including special holiday breads and cinnamon rolls; preserves, candies, cakes, pies, chili, lasagna, and other delights.

Labyrinth of Lights

Feeling as though you need a rest from the busy times of this season? Please join us for a contemplative and peaceful journey through our holiday labyrinth. Walpole Unitarian Church hosts an Annual Labyrinth of Lights made of evergreen branches in the upstairs ballroom of the Hastings Memorial Parish House at 14 Union Street. The labyrinth will be open Sunday, Dec. 15, Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Monday, Dec. 23 from 5 - 7 PM, and on Christmas Eve from 2 - 4 PM. Please join us to experience the peace that this journey can bring. For questions or more details, visit our web site at www.walpoleunitarian.org or call 756-3961.

Christmas Eve Service

Please join us at 5 PM for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with special music, carols, silence and reflection on the miracle of Jesus' birth. Everyone is welcome!

Giving Tree Project

Each year, the congregations in Walpole - the Congregational Church, St. John's Episcopal, Walpole Unitarian Church and All Saints Parish in North Walpole - help to host our Giving Tree Project which supports struggling families in our community. This year, we will be offering 30 families and more than 80 children gifts, gas and food cards. There are Giving Trees located around town at the banks and our library. Please take a tag and purchase a gift to support one of these families. For more information, contact any of our clergy: Rev. Craig Breisemeister, Rev. Susan Kershaw or Rev. Telos Whitfield. If you would like to contribute to the Walpole Community Fund and the Giving Tree Project, please mail your contributions to the Walpole Unitarian Church, PO Box 849, Walpole, NH, 03608, Attn: Walpole Community Fund. We are grateful for your support and hope you have a blessed holiday.

- Telos Whitfield

Only the pure in heart
can make a good soup.

- Ludwig van Beethoven

All Saints Parish

Advent - A Time of Preparation

The Season of Advent begins Sunday, December 1 and concludes at Midnight on Christmas morning. In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time.

Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily. That's why Advent has traditionally been known as a "little Lent." As in Lent, Advent should be marked by increased prayer, fasting, and good works.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is held every Saturday from 3 - 3:45 PM in St. Peter Church and every Thursday in St. Catherine Church from 4:45 - 5:25 PM.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24,

St. Peter Church, North Walpole,
4 PM and 6:30 PM

Midnight Mass

St. Catherine of Siena Church,
Charlestown, 12:00 AM

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

St. Catherine of Siena Church,
Charlestown - 9:00 AM

Christmas Bazaar

The Altar & Rosary Society will hold its Annual Christmas Bazaar in St. Peter Church Hall from 10 AM - 2 PM, Saturday, Dec. 7: White Elephant, Everything New Sale Table, Christmas items, homemade food & baked goods, Chinese Auction, Money Drawing Prizes (\$700, \$200 & \$100). Lunch will be sold and served by All Saints Parish Youth Group. For more information, call JoAnn at 835-2183.

Knights of Columbus Fuel Oil Raffle

The Knights of Columbus are holding their annual Fuel Oil Raffle to benefit the Fall Mt. Food Shelf, with the drawing to be held on December 15. We are giving away four 100-gallon, delivered fuel oil prizes, graciously donated by HB Energy Solutions, Irving Oil Corp., James Heating Oil and Allen Brothers Oil Corp. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. For more information, call Paul Judd at 542-4897; tickets are available in town from Rob Kasper, 756-4200.

May you all have a very holy and Merry Christmas!

- Juanita Sweet

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FMRHS Computers

This year, Fall Mountain Regional High School has embarked upon a 1:1 initiative to equip every student with a mini netbook computer. This is a new program that was passed by the school board in 2011, a step which very few high schools have taken. Fall Mountain has completely changed how its students learn by adding these computers. In the spring semester of 2012, one class was given pilot iPads while another class was given pilot netbooks. The following year, the classes switched. After feedback and data from the students and teachers participating in the program was compiled, the board decided on the mini netbooks.

These small computers essentially operate the same way as a regular-sized laptop, but without the disk drive. Since the program's beginning, there have been only minor speed bumps along what has otherwise been a very smooth road. The high school has seen only minor issues with the computers, which were then quickly rectified. So far, only 7 out of the 498 computers in the program have had substantial issues. This is a very small percentage when the total number of computers in the program is taken into account. After only two months, the school can already tell how well this program is going to work in the future.

Thenetbooksarebeingusedsuccessfully in the classrooms. Throughout the school day, students in multiple classrooms can be seen using them. Whether they are typing essays, researching information, or using online study tools, their computers are constantly in use. In general, the way classes are taught has not changed much since the program began; however, in years to come, the computers will certainly be worked into the curriculum to a greater degree.

As time has passed and we find ourselves midway through the school year, the general consensus is that the computers are working great. There have been very few computer-use violations, and students seem to be respecting both the computers and the rules governing their use. It appears the only direction this program can be seen going is up.

– Simon Pierpont

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Walpole Library

Giftwrapping Workshop

Ever wonder why some people's presents look like works of art – and others like the cat has been at them?

On December 3, Susan Tollett will be hosting a giftwrapping workshop at the Walpole Library. Starting at 6:30 PM., Susan and Chris Burchstead will also help you create your own festive paper and tags. All materials supplied.

The workshop is free, but participants need to register ahead of time to make sure there are enough materials. To sign up, call Mary or Chris at 756-9806.

Poetry Reading

Four local poets will be reading at the Walpole Library on January 10 at 7 PM.

James Fowler, a 25-year Navy veteran, first became fascinated with Japanese poetry forms while stationed overseas. Fowler, who now teaches poetry at the Village Bookstore in Bellows Falls, will be reading works that reflect various Japanese poetic traditions, including prose poems, free verse and strict iambic forms.

Martha Carlson-Bradley has published five collections of poetry. She'll be reading from her most recent book, *Sea*

Called Fruitfulness (WordTech Editions, 2013), which was inspired by a 1651 map of the Moon.

Patricia Fagnoli, the New Hampshire Poet Laureate from 2006-2009, has published seven collections of poetry. She'll be reading selections from her latest book, *Winter* (Hobblebush Books, 2013), which explores the nature of winter – a time of looking to the beauties of nature, of memory, and of spiritual contemplation.

Kathleen Fagley's chapbook, *How You Came to Me*, was published in July 2012 by Finishing Line Press as a finalist in the New Women's Voices Series. She has had poetry published in *The Stillwater Review*, *Memoir Journal*, *Cutthroat*, *The Comstock Review* and others.

The reading is free and open all; refreshments will be served. For more information, call the library at 756-9806.

– Jennifer Kelly

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rise early, work hard,
strike oil.

– JP Getty

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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the sheep craze reached

its peak in Walpole between 1830 and 1840 with 16,000 sheep in town and barely 2,000 residents?

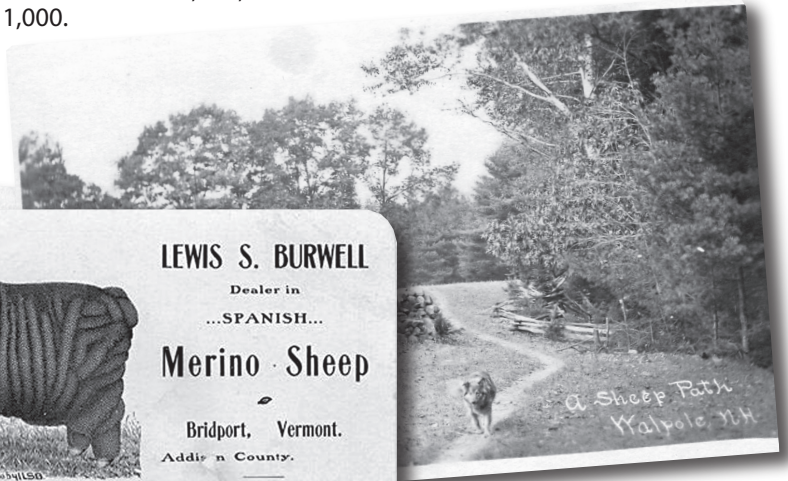
George Washington inspired Thomas Jefferson to raise sheep, and sheep accompanied Jefferson to the White House where they pastured on the grounds. Serving as Jefferson's consul to Portugal was William Jarvis. At that time, Spain did not allow exporting of sheep to maintain its price of fine wool, but when Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Spain, the exportation ban was lifted to save the prized sheep. Jarvis took advantage of

thousands of miles of stone walls were erected to contain the flocks.

Joseph Bellows, grandson of Walpole's founder, purchased a Merino buck from Jarvis for a reported \$1,500. Soon local farmers were breeding their stock with Merinos to improve the quality of their wool. Many in Walpole took up sheep husbandry including Samuel Grant, William Jennison and William T. Ramsay. Boggy Meadow farm had a herd of 1,000, and Grant also had 1,000.

The average flock size ranged from 500 to 1,000 head.

town was \$27,301. Martha Frizzell in *The History of Walpole* (1963) records 12,532 sheep in 1869. Interestingly, Walpole was the second largest producer of wool in the state in 1886, out-shorn only by Lyme. But by 1895, there were 2,759 sheep here, a population that dwindled to 120 sheep and goats in town in 1961. What is today's count? Please let the **Clarion** know who grazes in your yards so we can report the sheep population next month.



this unrest, and began importing Merino sheep in 1808 from Spain to the United States.

Jarvis was considering locating his sheep in Virginia, but family in Claremont, NH, suggested he purchase a farm in nearby Weathersfield, VT. He bought the farm and brought about 3,500 Merinos there along with shepherds and dogs. Merino sheep were known for fine wool, herding instincts and their hardiness. Their cleft lip enables them to graze just about anywhere, making the hilly terrain of Vermont and New Hampshire ideal even with poor rocky soil. Jarvis soon became the driving force behind the "sheep craze" in the US, and by 1840 there were about 1.7 million sheep in Vermont, and over 600,000 in New Hampshire.

"Merino mania" fed the growing demand for wool for the developing textile industry in New England, but this led to a change in farming practices. Large grazing areas were required, and the now larger farms became dependent upon one product - wool. In New Hampshire the southern two-thirds of the state were cleared of trees for pastures, and

Farmers out west were soon providing fierce competition to the New England wool producers, and changes in tariff laws contributed to declining prices for wool. By 1893, the tariffs on wool were completely removed. This impact was felt in Walpole. George Aldrich wrote that at the height of the craze (1830-1840) Walpole's sheep population was 16,000 (I did find the count at 20,000 in another source), but declined to 12,751 in 1854. When his book was published in 1880, the value of the 8,551 sheep in

News from Concord

It's been an unusually busy fall at the Statehouse. While our normal legislative year ends June 30, legislators were often back in Concord working on retained bills. A retained bill, due to its complexity, cannot be acted upon in committee before the deadline, therefore the committee comes back after the session is over to continue its deliberations. The committee that I chair (Environment & Agriculture) had 4 retained bills, one alone of which had 17 separate hearings and meetings. One committee (Commerce) had 21 retained bills. The deadline to report out retained bills was November 22.

There are also numerous study commissions that demand attendance. Lucy Weber serves on the Governor's Commission on Innovation, Efficiency and Transparency, which met regularly over the fall. This year the House and Senate were called back by the governor for a two-day special session to vote on Medicaid Expansion. So while the session year is six months long, your legislators have been busy.

Your representatives (Paul Berch, Bill Butynski, Lucy Weber and myself) wish all of you and your families a very happy holiday season.

- Tara Sad

FLORENTINE FILMS

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P.10 Cal.

P.11 Cal.

Hooper Hill Hoppers

Snowmobile Club

It's hard to believe but snowmobiles began showing up in Walpole around 1964. In 1966, several local residents formed the Hooper Hill Hoppers and in 1969 we became charter members of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA). Some 47 years later, the club is still active today. Trails are longer and wider, snowmobiles faster, and equipment to keep the trails groomed larger.

After many years, we finally have a place in town we can ride to for gasoline. Several club members worked on and off all summer extending the rail bed north to the field behind the new Jiffy Mart on Rte12. We only have access to and from the pumps by a single marked trail that will go between the Dollar Store and the Jiffy Mart, so please observe these trail markers. For those residents who use this rail bed for cross country skiing, snow-shoeing or hiking, please note state law requires that you have a 6' maximum-length lead on any pets traveling with you at all times while on the rail bed. We have several mushers that use this trail for approved dog sledding during the winter months, so we need to avoid any confrontations between animals.

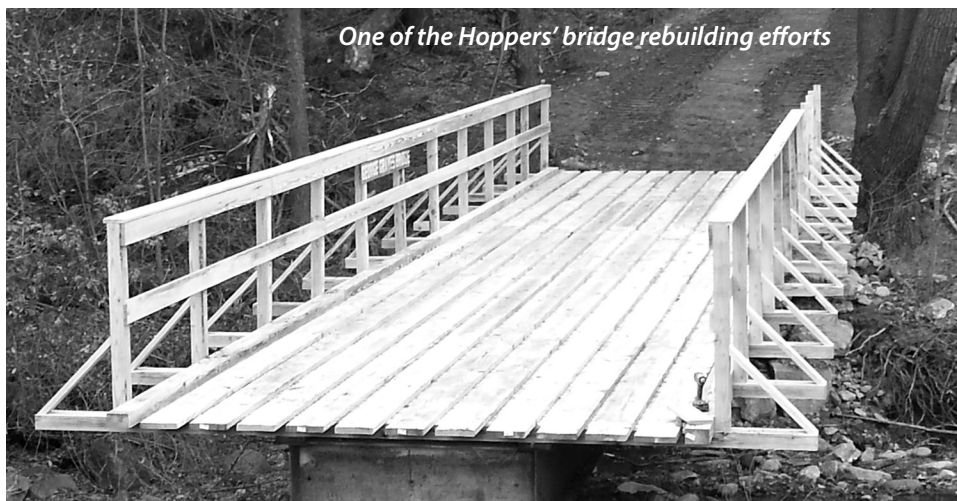
This fall the club has been busy repairing and re-planking many bridges as well as the usual brush-hogging and putting out our winter trail signs. Thanks go to all the people who have volunteered their time in this effort. We have been having our regular monthly meetings and the winter schedule is in place, so please visit our website, www.hooperhillhoppers.com, to keep up to date with all our events.

It goes without saying, but a big "Thank You" to all the landowners who have given us permission to construct trails and use their property. Without these generous neighbors we would not have all the trails we do today. Please support our club by joining it even if you use the trails for other recreational purposes. A membership application can be found on our website.

— Mike Powers

*Cherish forever
what makes you
unique,
cuz you're really
a ya'll if it goes.*

— Bette Midler



One of the Hoppers' bridge rebuilding efforts

Photo Provided

A Dream Come True

Katelyn Houghton's goal was to show at the Morgan Grand National and World Championship Horse Show in Oklahoma City before aging out of the Youth division. After many months of hard work, she and her horse AFF Nor'Easter qualified to do just that. With numerous wins throughout the New England circuit (including a unanimous win in the Youth Pleasure Driving division at the regional

championship), they were on their way to Oklahoma. After a week in Oklahoma City, Katelyn and "Stormy" returned home with a 7th place ribbon (out of twenty) in her Youth English Pleasure World Championship under saddle. She placed 4th in her Youth Pleasure Driving Championship (with fifth, third, and second place votes on the judges' cards). Congratulations on all your hard work and determination!

— Laura Palmer

Photo Provided



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A Walpole Christmas Tradition...

Tickets for the 2013 production of *A Christmas Carol* were printed on a hand-operated press with metal type.



The Walpole Players have excitedly begun rehearsals for their Sixth Annual production of Charles Dickens' classic tale *A Christmas Carol*. It will be presented Wednesday through Saturday, December 11, 12, 13 and 14, in the Helen Miller Theater at the Walpole Town Hall. Mr. Dickens arrives at 7 PM. As always, admission is free, but the Players ask that you make a cash donation at the door to benefit local food shelves. In its first five years, more than \$16,760 has been contributed, with 100% of all donations going to The Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center. Any expenses of the production are borne by the Players.

Co-directors, Tara Sad and Ray Boas, grew concerned as auditions approached. "We had so much interest early on, we knew we would have more people auditioning than available parts," Tara stated. "There are only so many speaking roles, particularly for children," Ray continued, "and we have so many of our junior players, who attend our summer theater camp, and have matured and were hoping to be cast in a speaking part." "When so many came to auditions we knew we had to do something – in the past we always cast everyone," Tara said. The perfect solution? Five of the children's roles will be shared by ten youngsters. "And," Tara happily concluded, "everyone was thrilled to be cast." Forty-four people are in this year's

The Walpole Players

Scrooge & the Ghost of Christmas Past.



cast, not including the carolers who will sing preceding Mr. Dickens' arrival.

Again, Ray has continued to make

minor adjustments to his adaptation of Dickens' tale. "The story stays the same, of course, but I can add and subtract to the vignettes providing some variety for our faithful audiences," Ray mentions, "and again we have added to our special effects for this year." The Walpole Players' production features Mr. Dickens reading (as he often did at public appearances and benefits) and more than a dozen scenes are acted out by the Players behind a magical scrim. "It continues to amaze us that so many are willing to give of their time for an intense five weeks during this busy time of year to raise funds to help those less fortunate," Tara said.

Tickets to the 7 PM production on December 11, 12, 13 and 14 are required because of limited space, and hold your seat until 6:45. "No one has ever been turned away at the door," Ray happily relates, "but I have had to put up additional chairs to accommodate additional guests." The free tickets are available in Walpole at Real to Reel; Galloway Real Estate; Costume Ladies; Murray's and Jake's; and, in Bellows Falls, at Village Square Booksellers.

For questions, call Ray Boas, 756-4545, or Tara Sad, 756-4861. Full details are on the Players' website www.thewalpoleplayers.org. *A Christmas Carol* has been read and performed since 1843 – and since 2008 in Walpole. Please mark your calendars to attend and be included in this tradition.

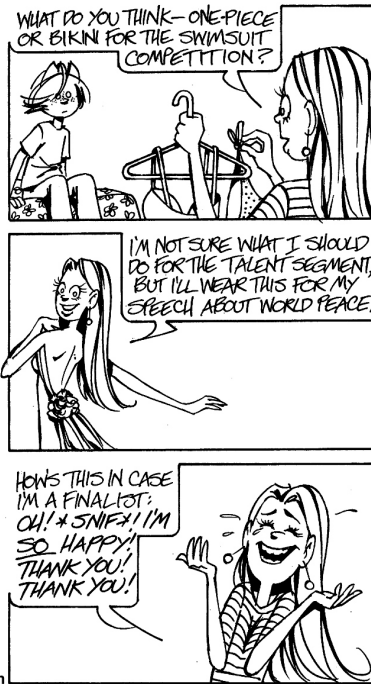
– Ray Boas

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Letters & Commentary

On behalf of myself and the family of Levi Benjamin Jacobs, I would like to extend a very (belated) heartfelt thank you to the Walpole-area community for all of the love and support shown surrounding the "Love for Levi" benefit held on June 14th at the Walpole Town Hall. The event was a huge success and has greatly helped Levi's family with the expenses incurred since his epilepsy began. The benefit would not have been possible without the help of family, friends, local businesses, and even complete strangers. We are so lucky to live in such a caring, generous town.

Thank you again to our community; our family greatly appreciates everything and plans to always pay it forward.

— Laura Palmer

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Article submissions should be sent to:
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Staff: Jan Kobeski
Barbara Kasper
Ray Boas
Rob Kasper

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River." According to Assistant Chief Mark Houghton, that area encompassed very nearly what the present-day district does, although the village of Drewsville is now included as well.

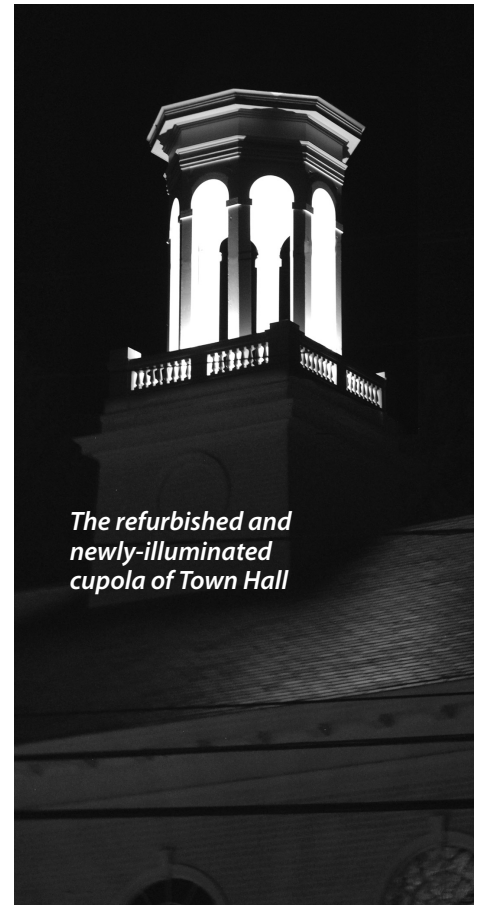
There are 9 officers at the firehouse, located north of the Mill Pond and just past Hicks Machine since 1991. District commissioners Tom Sawyer, Ernie Vose and Hurb Hurlbert appoint the chief each year; and he, in turn, appoints the assistant chief. A hiring committee comprised of five people interviews and appoints the remaining officers. George Hurlburt, who passed away in September, was a founding member of the Southwest New Hampshire District Fire Mutual Aid System. He was also chief from 1962 to 1985. His son, Dick, followed him and served until 1990 when Peter Smith was appointed. Smith was succeeded by Harry Boynton, who served from '95 to '01; then Dick was again appointed and has been chief since then. The department's longest-serving member is Bill Houghton, who joined in 1949 – 64 years ago.

While the "new" firehouse is much larger and more commodious than its immediate predecessor (the building now housing Ruggles & Hunt), Mark says

no one actually sleeps there – at least not by design. An all-volunteer force since its inception, the department's members are not on a daily schedule. They respond to 911 dispatches which average at least one call a day. Roughly a third of the calls are fire-related, while the remainder are usually medical emergencies and handled by EMS. A separate entity for many years, EMS joined with the fire department in 2001 and its two ambulances share space with two engines, two tankers, a heavy rescue truck (with two sets of "jaws," water rescue equipment, rigging and other specialized apparatus), a ladder truck and a brush truck.

These trucks have all seen their share of action. Mark notes their use in numerous very large fires, including the one that destroyed Flock Fiber in North Walpole in 1981; a bad one that razed the Star Hotel in Bellows Falls in 1981 (and in which two BF fire fighters lost their lives); and the blaze that devastated the Brooks House building in Brattleboro in 2011. One of the most memorable fires he recalls is the one that leveled the Westminster West church. "I was looking up at the steeple when the supports suddenly gave way and it fell straight down through the church. When I looked back up, I could

Continued on Page 18



The refurbished and newly-illuminated cupola of Town Hall



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Walpole Historical Society

Speaker Series Draws a Crowd

The Academy building, home to the Walpole Historical Society, had a full house on Saturday evening, Nov. 16, for the first of their new *Speaker Series*. Dr. Marcia Schmidt Blaine from Plymouth State University spoke to the group about Susannah Johnson, a settler at Fort No. 4 in nearby Charlestown, who was abducted by the Abenaki in 1754.

Learning of Susannah's ordeal (as revealed in her autobiography first published in Walpole), the audience discovered that Susannah and members of her family were used by the Abenaki and French for ransom and leverage with the English. Dr. Blaine's visit to Walpole was made possible by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council and was free and open to the public.

After a question and answer period with Dr. Blaine, the Academy visitors enjoyed coffee and dessert as Historical President Christie Winmill shared upcoming Speaker dates and topics.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014 at 7PM in the Hastings House, Adair Mulligan will be speaking about *New England Cellar Holes* and what archeological secrets they can reveal.

A New England cellar hole



Photo: New Hampshire Humanities Facebook

On Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7PM in the Hastings House, Gale Golec will discuss *Fables and Forensics: Identifying Historical Artifacts*.

Author and stone wall expert, Kevin Gardner will be presenting *Discovering New England's Stone Walls* in the Town Hall at 7PM on April 8.

All the Speaker Series events are free and the public is invited to attend.

— Andrea Goins

WRAP

Where Did Our Wheelabrator Go?

As you've probably heard, our Wheelabrator went away. Should it not be clearly lodged in your memory, Wheelabrator was the waste-to-energy plant in Claremont that processed Walpole's trash, all 600 tons which we amass every year. That probably seems like a sizable heap of trash, however it was only small peanuts from Wheelabrator's point of view.

In fact, it was lack of peanuts, so to speak, that did Wheelabrator in. Needing a full 200 tons of trash every single day, Wheelabrator just couldn't come up with enough refuse from our small area towns to continue to make a go of it.

To complete the picture of the demise, there were a few other issues. Wheelabrator always had special-interest groups nipping at its heels, in spite of the fact that it was fully compliant with federal emissions standards. Then, there was the falling price both of electricity and trash, which left the electricity produced by Wheelabrator at a non-competitive level.

With the closing of Wheelabrator, Walpole had only six weeks to find a new home for its 600 tons of stuff that nobody wants. Fortunately, things have worked out for the best, especially from a financial point of view. As pressures mount to make the world greener and greener, technologies emerge to reclaim (or at least more profitably process) municipal trash. In other words, the cost of trash is going down, which means that it costs us less to get rid of our 600 tons.

After a brief search, Walpole has signed a 3-year contract with NRRRA (Northeast Regional Recovery Association). We promise to give them three years of our trash. They, in turn, will handle all processing arrangements (i.e. trucking agents, processing agents, etc). The best news in all this is that Walpole should be saving about \$10,000 a year, which is no small peanuts to a small town.

— Joe Beer

Peace Light...

...from Bethlehem

On Sunday, December 15, Boy Scout Troop 229 will assist in spreading the continuous flame, Peace Light, from Bethlehem across the United States.

Since 1986, a child fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is then flown by Austrian Air, in miner's lamps, across Europe. The Peace Light first came to the US in 2001, brought by Canadian Scouts to Ground Zero. The tradition has continued with the Boy Scouts of America spreading the flame in the US. More details can be learned at www.peacelight.org

The scouts will be at The Walpole Firehouse from 8 to 10AM on Sunday, December 15, and encourage you to stop with an oil lantern or other safe conveyance to pick up the flame to carry to church, or elsewhere, to spread the message of peace. For additional information on Troop 229's efforts, contact jsterrell49@yahoo.com

— Ray Boas

Great River Co-op

Thanks to those who participated in the Great River Co-op's e-waste collection on October 12. The event raised more than \$1,000 to keep the development and planning work moving ahead. Those who stopped by the Co-op's Harvest Fair on October 26 found a well-stocked late-season farmers' market as well as snacks, hot drinks, friends, and conversation about the Co-op's progress."

'Tis the season to support your community... and yourself. A number of studies have shown that local purchases encourage more local purchases, keeping your dollars in the community for local reinvestment. Studies indicate that local non-profits receive 250% more support from local small businesses than from big businesses. Supporting local businesses develops a positive trend that in turn supports itself. Communities that value their unique businesses attract other unique businesses.

— Kim Mastrianni

*There are
not enough
Indians
in the
world
to defeat
the 7th
Cavalry.*

— Gen. George A. Custer

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Return to Santa's Land

Roadside Americana as it should be

In the September issue of the CLARION I reported the wonderful outing my grandson, Alex, and I had at *Santa's Land* in Putney, Vermont. I also shared that experience on my travel blog website, Shunpiking with Ray, and have had many thousands of search engine hits and visits by people wanting to learn about (and hopefully visit) this classic roadside attraction that has existed since 1957.

But it was in danger of extinction. About to close forever, Lillian Billewicz and her sons leased the park and opened it for 11 days in 2012. "We were in purchase negotiations, but the operation of the park was grandfathered. If it remained closed a full year it could never be re-opened," Michael Billewicz told me during my visit the other day. "To prevent that from happening we opened just those few days in 2012." The family now owns the park, thus preventing the loss of this local treasure. On July 7, the park was reopened for seven days a week during the summer.

PHOTOS: Ray Boas



I returned to *Santa's Land* this past weekend to see how they were doing. A good number of families were in attendance, and Santa had a waiting line of bright-eyed and hopeful visitors. The family is pleased with the attendance numbers, but the engineer of Santa's C. P. Huntington train ride that travels around the park said, "I look forward to again be running continuously with a full load of passengers."

And, we can help by visiting and starting family traditions, or continuing old ones. *Santa's Land* will be open 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM every Saturday and Sunday until December 22. Admission is \$10.00 for anyone 3 years old and older. Military personnel, National Guard members and veterans are free. Military families are half price. Santa is always present at the park, ready to greet everyone. Included

with admission are unlimited rides on the carousel, kiddie boats, kiddie cars, the Mushroom ride and the train. The huge Alpine Slide, which people go down on burlap bags, appears to be one of the most popular activities. Lillian has also expanded the menu of the snack shop (which was hopping while I was there). In the entrance building, there is a vast selection of toys, new Christmas inventory and Santa's Land 2013 ornaments.

Again, I encourage you to hurry to *Santa's Land* and spread the word. Even without a child in hand, I still thoroughly enjoyed watching the joy on the faces of the many visitors. Let's keep the simple life alive forever!

– Ray Boas

Women of Walpole

Our November fundraiser was a major success – thanks to our creative members and the support of local merchants and services. Those who did not attend missed a glorious showcase of the Holiday-decorated tables.

The Walpole Town Hall never looked so good. Our thanks to all those who attended.

– Nancy M. Shepard



PHOTO: Nancy Shepard

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– Maggie Smith

From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

A True Hunting Story

Foliage season is over; the leaf peepers have all gone home. Hunting season is in full swing, which means it is time to bring out the arsenal. It has been years since the primal urge to bring home the winter supply of meat has struck me. However, I still have hunting stories left over from past experiences.

Past arsenals for me consisted of a shotgun and a Winchester 32 Special. If I was hunting today I would own one of them automatic assault rifles with a 30-round magazine. Sure, why not? You know, one of them that if you see a deer you aim, fire and before it hits the ground it is field-dressed, skinned and quartered. Of course, there could be an overabundance of hamburger with some hair mixed in.

Bow hunting was never an option for me, and it is all because of fifth grade math. How so, you may ask? (But you know I am going to tell you.) We were studying compound interest and then compound fractions. I could not get it but got the dreaded "F" which was later compounded by the dreaded punishment at home. No hunting for a week. What? Pull out all my teeth; shave the hair off my head, but do not take away hunting for a week! From that day forward, I swore to never get involved with anything that was even remotely connected to the word "compound" such as a compound bow!

The following is my true story and I am sticking to it! I was 12; Dad had purchased a refurbished musket, powder and ball we called "Ol' Stonewall." I had learned how to load, aim and fire it and was getting pretty good. So Dad and my uncle dropped me off at a stand (a place deer are prone to travel past) and headed out to try and drive the deer into my area. As I prepared to load up Ol' Stonewall, two deer walked out in front of me, not

fifty feet away. Beads of sweat started trickling down my face, even in this 20-degree weather. With hands shaking, I began pouring black powder down the barrel, followed by the paper wad and the ramrod. I was in full "buck fever" mode. There was a huge explosion that rocked the ground and felled dead trees, and a kick that knocked me over backwards off the log I was sitting on.

By the time the smoke cleared and my ears stopped ringing, Dad and Uncle had arrived and were surveying the damage.

Apparently in my eagerness, I had overloaded the powder, forgot to put in the ball and left the ramrod in the barrel. The ramrod had gone through both deer and pinned them to a maple tree behind them. The kick from the recoil knocking me over backwards had caused the barrel of the rifle to strike a buck that had walked up behind me, right between the eyes, killing it.

Wow, three deer and not one ball wasted. Not bad for a first-timer. Oh, and for a bonus – the meat from the deer pinned nearest to the maple tree had a sweet maple taste to it.

That's my story and I am sticking to it!

Next time I will tell you about the bear hunt on Mt. Tabor.



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For here or to go.

Continued from Page 15- Heroes Next Door

still see its outline against the sky. I'm not sure what caused the effect – whether it was the gasses from the fire or an after-image in my vision – but it was eerie."

One of the oddest calls Mark can mention (without compromising confidentiality) came in one Halloween night during a party at the fire station. It was a motor vehicle accident on Route 12, and 24 firemen responded – in costume. Mark smiles as he recalls seeing Chief Hurlburt atop a guardrail shouting directions in a...well, in an interesting outfit.

With its daily calls, the department is *always* in need of new volunteers. All candidates must be EMTs or certified fire fighters, but preferably both. Both certifications require more than 200 hours of training. Host classes are often held in town, but the Fire Academy is in Concord, and there are EMT classes in Manchester and scattered throughout the state at various times. The department also includes a Junior Fire Fighter program, and is currently mentoring 4 young people. Mark says they learn procedures, are allowed limited participation in training, and that most continue with the department after they graduate.

Another component of Walpole Fire/EMS is the Auxiliary. Contrary to common belief, the group is open to anyone interested in supporting the department – not just spouses and relatives. It's a good way to help out if fire-fighting and EMS is not an option, and it can be lots of fun as well. The department is busy with more than emergency calls, too. It provides CPR training (see calendar), life guard training, the Walpole Wellness program and several other services to the community.

In fact, our fire department is one of the most vitally important, indispensable parts of our community. Thanks... to all of you.

– Barbara Kasper

PROGRESS WAS ALL RIGHT. ONLY IT WENT ON TOO LONG. – James Thurber



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Parks Place

What began in October as a conversation about Parks Place's need for a new ramp ended with a new one being constructed by the Bellows Falls Rotary Club a few weeks later. "That's what you call amazing," said Parks Place Director, Barbara Ternes. "Parks Place Board member and Rotarian, Eric Anderson, shared with the club our need and members responded. I am in awe of this club's spirit of support and generosity." Deterioration brought on by harsh Vermont winters necessitated a new ramp. Loose boards, stressed supports and missing spindles prompted action.

The project was made possible by volunteers who provided everything from the hauling away of the old ramp to construction to snacks. Volunteers included: Keith Clark, Bonnie Clark, Doreen Aldrich, Nick DuBois, Ed Dinnany, Mary Habig, Raynie Laware, Michael and Ginger Cook, Morgen and Travis Cook, Tom MacPhee, Eric Anderson, Hugh Haggerty, Bill Barbarow, Mike Smith and Ryan Ostebo. In addition, LaValley Building Supply, Inc. of Walpole provided lumber at a discount.

Parks Place is indebted to all those who donated their skills and supplies, to create a lovely, safe and sturdy ramp. When thousands walk up the new ramp and enter Parks Place, they'll be held up by a strong community spirit.

Founded in 1992 to address pressing health, education and human service needs of local families, Parks Place opened its doors in 1995 and became an independent, non-profit organization in 1998. Parks Place's mission is to open doors to opportunities by connecting people with the resources, information and education necessary to move their lives forward. Thirty-five providers from state agencies and non-profit organizations use Parks Place to ensure accessibility to services including mental health and substance abuse, unemployment, lead-poisoning prevention, parenting classes and adult learning.

If you wish to make a donation or learn more about our services, please contact Development Director Margaret Grisczenkow at 802-463-9927 x109, or mgrisczenkow@parksplacevt.org.

– Margaret Grisczenkow



Photo Provided

Happy Birthday: Joseph F. Bushway
Born December 5, 1915 in North Walpole. He lives in the same house where he was born. Holds the Boston Post Cane for the town of Walpole.

You can live to be 100
if you give up all the
things that make you
want to live to be 100.

– Woody Allen

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MILESTONES

- Passed: Joe Dion, November 6.

From the family of Joseph A. Dion

The passing of husband, father, and grandfather has left a huge hole in our lives. He valued this town and wanted to contribute all he could to it. He lived life passionately and greatly treasured the friendships he made here in Walpole.

Joe's most recent service was as a member of the Hooper Study Committee. Saving Hooper was dear to his heart and any donations in his memory should be made to the Monadnock Conservancy, specifically earmarked for the Hooper Preservation Fund. PO Box 337, Keene, NH 03431

The overwhelming support and acts of kindness we have received from so many is surely proof that people of Walpole cared about him as well.

We are indebted to all of you who have been so generous and thank you for all you have done to make this a little easier.

– Peggy Dion, children and grandchildren

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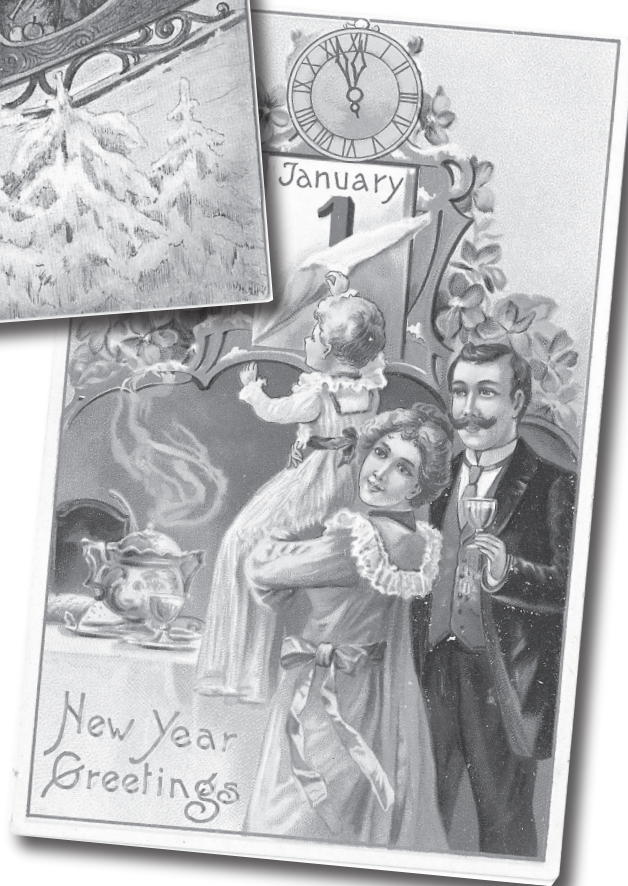
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The Bottom Line

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