



## Safari



PHOTO: KATHY REILLY

By Kathy Reilly

It started with the 10th Monadnock Humane Society's Hair Ball, the annual fund raiser for the animals of the Monadnock Region (of which Walpole is a part). There was an African Safari that was being auctioned off; there were people bidding back and forth waving their auction paddles; there was a bid accepted; there was buyer remorse...I was asked to step in so the funds wouldn't be lost. After some hesitancy, Becky Pearson convinced me it would be the trip of a lifetime, so I signed up and Becky agreed to join me.

The auction item was for 6 days and nights at a small private preserve just south east of Johannesburg, called Zulu Nyala. I actually know 2 other people who went to Zulu Nyala this year: one from Rhode Island who went in March, and the other from DC who traveled in July. They also won their trips at charity auctions of different varieties. They had a wonderful time and are anxious to hear how my trip went, but I wanted to tell the Clarion first.

We won't discuss the flight from New York to Johannesburg – not how it took 16 hours, nor how it is impossible to sleep sitting up even with the assistance of pharmaceuticals. We also won't discuss the flight delay after we got to J-berg on our way to Richard's Bay or how there were no real taxis at the airport, just people willing to give you a ride for cash.

South African currency is the rand. There are about \$9.40 to 100 rand. Easy you say, 10 to 1... but it gets confusing, especially at the Black Jack table, but that's a story for another day.

What we *will* talk about is the amazing animals and people of South Africa. You all just learned a lot about the culture when Nelson Mandela passed away. He was such an incredible human being.

Our guide was a Zulu with the Christian name of Philemon, which is a very, very short book in the Bible. Philemon grew up not too far from Zulu Nyala. He is a quiet man of amazing animal and bird knowledge with a sweet smile. We soon found out he was very adept at

## A Christmas Carol Donations Top \$20,000

More than 450 theater-goers "joined the party" and attended the four performances of The Walpole Players 6th Annual production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* – December 11th through 14th at the Helen Miller Theater. Held as a benefit for The Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center, the event collected more than \$3488 this year, bringing the six-year total to an astounding \$20,249. The cast of almost fifty not only spent four weeks in rehearsals and a full production week, but in addition contributed generously to the funds collected.

Many people commented that this was the best performance year yet. It was truly a well-matched cast. Cast members included several new people traveling from Springfield, Vermont and Winchester, Swanzey and Fitzwilliam in New Hampshire. Winchester's Peter Eisenstadter gave

understanding American sarcasm and idioms. He lives at Zulu Nyala when he is working – usually 10+ days in a row and then gets a break to see his two sons and his wife on his farm. He does talk to his family daily. Philemon shared with us that his father worked in the coal mines in Johannesburg and only was able to come home at Christmas, just once a year, and would bring money for the family. Philemon would like to come to America someday. Becky asked him what he would like to see most. He said, "Snow!"



*Weaver bird and nest*

We were in Philemon's jeep with 8 other people. They were all amazing and fun. Two couples from Connecticut celebrating their 20th anniversary (the couples had not met). One of the anniversary couples was joined by the husband's brother and sister-in-law from Chicago. The 9th and 10th people were a lovely retired couple from Virginia. We all got on fabulously. It seemed divine intervention had put us all together. For the whole lot of us to have all picked the same week of the year to visit is incredible. When you purchase the Photo Safari package, you have two years to use it. Philemon had to stop us from chattering and laughing on more than one occasion to keep the animals from getting anxious and running away.

We saw giraffes that could eat leaves from the top of your house. There were brown zebras – they had black stripes, but some of the white areas on their backsides were light brown. There were Cape buffalo, which are a little smaller than their water buffalo cousins. We also saw white rhinos – which look the same as the black rhinos, but they have different mouths. The whites eat grass on the ground and the blacks eat leaves on bushes. Unfortunately, the poachers aren't selective. They will kill either to harvest the rhino horn. Currently, it is worth more than gold on the black market.

The park employs anti-poachers that carry automatic weapons and machetes. They follow the rhinos and will shoot anyone they see at night to protect them. The park has lost 4 rhinos in the last few years. In 2011, there were almost 450 rhinos killed in South Africa. Sadly, some veterinarians who worked at one of the parks were involved. I am very sad to think that some of my colleagues would take such a turn for money. Save the Rhinos International is an organization dedicated to conservation and education. Zulu Nyala, as a private park, gets no government money to help protect its rhinos. Save the Rhinos helps private parks pay for rhino protection.

We saw elephants, lots of elephants. We traveled to another reserve – Huhluwe-Imfolozi. As that is hard to say, we just called it hoola hoop. There was a female elephant coming through some trees. We could see another elephant behind her...and maybe another. Suddenly she trumpeted and broke through the trees. We asked Philemon if perhaps he should move the jeep?! Behind her were 47 elephants: all ages – just following her lead. They walked in front of us and then down a hill. Philemon moved to a different position at the bottom of the hill. They stopped at a mud hole and covered their backs with mud to cool off. It was magical. We were all quiet (another miracle) observing the incredible sight.

The weather was great; it was late spring there. The temperature was 70-80, and it was their rainy season – a fact I was supposed to have researched when choosing the time of our visit. I was surprised when the driver who brought us to Zulu Nyala told us that...but not as surprised as Becky was. It was overcast, but we only saw a little rain. We did see an incredible lightning storm one night as we were going back to the lodge. We were able to put the side flaps down on the jeep and we had a roof, but it was very dark and a little scary. Becky said we were in Jurassic Park.

Continued on Page 17

*Baby zebra*




PHOTOS: KATHY REILLY

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Dear Neighbor:

Driving through our lovely town, one is sure to have noticed the Save Hooper signs displayed in front yards from one end of Walpole to the other. What began as a grassroots movement has grown to an organized effort – The Hooper Preservation Fund.

Our mission is to realize the town-approved recommendation of the Hooper Study Committee for the purchase of a conservation easement. **We have raised \$125,000 towards our \$600,000 goal, but we need your help to raise the remainder.**

A conservation easement will protect the Hooper land in perpetuity for the entire community. By first selling an easement and then the property itself, the Hooper Trust will have the money it needs to expand its programs and maintain its facilities; the town will have a property returned to the tax rolls, and all of us will have a new protected open space. This plan, approved by the NH Attorney General, is now under review with the Probate Court, and we fully expect the court's approval. After two years of research and consideration, we are **finally moving forward!**

Three Steps to Save Hooper:

Raise \$600,000 for the Monadnock Conservancy to purchase a conservation easement, which will protect 140 acres of the Hooper land in perpetuity for year-round recreational use: in the warmer months a 50-acre golf course, and in winter an ideal destination for cross-country skiing, sledding, walking, or snowmobiling in the woods.

1. With the conservation easement in place, sell the property at its appraised fair-market value. The easement ensures that the next owner may continue to operate a golf course, but all other commercial, residential, and industrial uses are prohibited – *forever*.
2. Through the sale of the easement and the land, the Hooper Trust will be enriched by approximately \$1.2 million, which will generate perpetual income for the Trust's original purposes: the Hooper Institute's programs of agricultural, botanical, forestry and environmental education for the youth of Walpole.

Can we Save Hooper? ***Yes we can!***

We are seeking a total of \$600,000 toward this effort from area residents, which includes the conservation easement purchase price, plus administrative costs including legal fees, appraising, surveying, the cost of fundraising, and an endowment for the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

Please make a donation today.

**Make your tax-deductible donation** to the Monadnock Conservancy online at [www.monadnockconservancy.org/support-us/donate-now.html#hooper](http://www.monadnockconservancy.org/support-us/donate-now.html#hooper) or calling Pat Payne at 603-357-0600 ext. 101.

Your gift also brings you a 2014 membership in the Monadnock Conservancy.  
Thank you in advance for your support,

Hooper Preservation Fund



Photo Courtesy of S. Dalessio



Photo Courtesy of Monadnock Conservancy



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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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# WALPOLE SOCIETY

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## HORSE THIEVES AND PILFERERS

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INCORPORATED 1835.

### Annual Meeting Date Corrected

You will understand my embarrassment  
when I started working on this article  
and discovered that the date I provided  
for the 2014 annual meeting in the  
November article . . . doesn't exist! We  
reported that the meeting would be on  
Saturday, January 17 at 6:30 PM in the  
Town Hall. However, as everyone who  
actually wrote this date on their calendar  
(or put it into their computer) knows,  
the third Saturday in January is the  
18th! However, that embarrassment was  
followed by shock that no one called or  
emailed me to alert me to this mistake!

So members of the Horse Thieves,  
please write this date in your calendar  
right now: Annual Horse Thieves  
meeting, Saturday, January 18 at 6:30 PM  
in the Town Hall . . . and make sure I got  
the right date this time!

I'm not sure any special attention is  
planned, but for those who are counting  
this is the 199th year of the W.S.F.B.T.J.H  
.T.A.P.O.H.R.A.C.L. (I can't write out the  
full name because it takes more room  
than the Clarion will allow). Just like all  
birthdays, this is just another year, but  
2015 and 2016 certainly deserve special  
celebrations to mark our 200th year.

At this year's meeting we will begin a  
new tradition of honoring the Society's  
"Riders." These are the members who  
would be the first to respond if a  
member's horse (or hen or clothesline)  
was stolen, and they would ride out at  
a furious clip to catch the thief. In any  
sensible organization this physically  
demanding task would be carried  
out by the youngest and most hardy

members, but in the Horse Thieves our  
newest "Riders" joined the organization in  
1962! Join us on January 18 to learn who  
makes up this special team as we honor  
them. And if we don't have a quorum of  
12 members at 6:30 PM we'll be putting  
the Riders to prompt use rounding up  
the missing! You certainly don't want to  
see one of the Riders at your front door  
with his lasso twirling, so mark the date  
on your calendar and show up before the  
Riders come looking for you!

In addition to our routine business,  
our January 18 annual meeting will also  
include a brief discussion of the 2014  
biennial banquet. We'll discuss ideas for  
the speaker, where to hold the banquet,  
menu, etc. The officers always take careful  
note of all the suggestions and do their  
best to follow the advice of the members,  
but in general we receive so many  
suggestions on all aspects of the banquet  
that it takes the wisdom of Solomon to  
navigate the process.

So mark your calendars for the "Horse  
Thieves" 199th annual meeting on  
Saturday, January 18 at 6:30 PM in the town  
hall. We will also have extra copies of our  
2012 poster available at the meeting for  
anyone that wants a copy.

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 at  
756-0001 (LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com),  
or Sheldon Sawyer at 756-3404, or show  
up (early!) at the annual business meeting.

— Lewis LaClair

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### Yoga Weekend

#### Benefits Hospice at HCS

YogaDay is expanding to YogaWeekend  
in 2014. The 2-day event is set for  
Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, January  
26. YogaWeekend is an opportunity for  
those new to yoga (as well as the more  
experienced student) to try a variety of  
yoga styles first-hand. All sessions will be  
held at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street, Keene.  
Doors open at 8 AM each day. Classes begin  
at 9 AM and the last class will start at 3 PM.

Highlights will include Kundalini Yoga  
and Meditation with Snamat Kaur and  
Sopurkh Singh Khalsa on the 25th. Kaur  
is a well-known singer/song writer who

performs Indian devotional music and  
tours the world as a peace activist. Jay  
Gupta, cofounder of Yoga Caps, will be  
the keynote speaker on Saturday. Robert  
Moses, yoga master and publisher of  
*Namarapu Magazine*, will be the featured  
speaker on Sunday.

Massage and Reiki will be available  
throughout each day. A raffle with many  
items donated from area businesses will  
be available both days.

All classes, massage, Reiki, and meals  
are by donation, with proceeds benefiting  
Hospice at HCS. Goodie bags are available  
for various donation levels.

For more information call HCS at 352-  
2253 or visit HCSservices.org. — Lara Larson



## Christmas Concerts Showcase Young Performers



Students from all 3 Walpole Schools performed for the community at the Elementary School on the nights of December 3 & 4. At top, an enthusiastic full house attended the K-4 concert. As this sampling shows, there was energy to spare on both evenings...



## Walpole Worships

### 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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### Library Hours

#### Bridge Memorial Library

Monday: 1:00 - 8 PM

Tuesday: 1:00 - 6 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM - Noon; 1:00 - 6 PM

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

## Hooper Institute

The high tunnel at the Walpole School has been producing lettuce, spinach and Swiss chard for the school cafeteria throughout the fall. The heaviest harvests have been in November and December despite the declining daylight. To extend the growing season, we've created "low tunnels" within the high tunnel. Wire hoops are bent over the four foot wide beds and draped with leftover plastic. This strategy has kept the plants from freezing despite some night time temperatures in the single numbers.

Student advisory groups are recording temperature data and picking greens on a daily basis. Although the lettuce has shown some freeze damage, the spinach and Swiss chard have tolerated conditions well. Some spinach planted in mid-November has even sprouted! By the time you read this, the Solstice will have passed and longer days lie ahead.

It's easy to make a slip of the tongue and call the high tunnel a greenhouse, for that's what it looks like from the outside. The major difference is inside the structure. Cold hardy crops are planted directly in the ground. There are no tables raised off the ground and no additional heat source other than the sun. Can such an approach work in our northern climate? There are folks here in Walpole who have

had success! We'll keep you informed how the project "grows." This collaborative project between the Hooper Institute and the Walpole School was made possible through a grant from the Cheshire County Conservation District.

The Hooper Institute has also collaborated with two other groups this autumn. In early October we led a hike to Derry Hill for the Walpole Parent Teacher Group (PTG) as part of its annual fundraiser, "Walpole Walks a Million". In mid-October, the Hooper Institute, the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) and seventh-graders collaborated on a clean-up of Mad Brook by the Walpole School.

Students rose to the challenge of excavating four old bicycles as well as glass, metal, textiles, plastic objects, even rubber tires. Getting all the "treasure" up the very steep hill was a group challenge. Thanks to Donna Drouin of the CRWC's Source to the Sea River Cleanup committee for her excellent organization.

Collaboration is a word we hear more often these days as groups attempt to draw attention to their programs by joining forces and not duplicating efforts. The Hooper Institute continues to partner with other Walpole groups interested in agriculture, forestry, botany, soils or environmental science.

— Eloise Clark

## St John's Church

### Art After School

Art After School begins its Winter Session on Wednesday, January 8, 3:15 - 5 PM, at St John's Episcopal Church. The program is free, thanks to generous donations from parents and community members. Any child in first grade or older is welcome to join in projects such as drawing and painting, sculptures and collages from recycled materials, beginning weaving, jewelry-making, macrame-knotting, and much more! Parents may register their children on January 8 (children who attended the Fall Session are already registered). Please contact Susan Kershaw for more information: 756-2962 or susankershaw54@gmail.com.

— Susan Kershaw

**Ambition**

is a dream with a V8 engine.

— Elvis Presley

## Thank You

to *Everyone* who contributed  
gifts and donations  
to our Giving Tree Project  
and

Walpole Community Fund  
this year!

We could offer "Christmas"  
to 35 families  
& about 85 children  
in our community  
through our project.

The parents were so grateful.

*We could not do this good work  
without your help.*

With gratitude,

Rev. Susan Kershaw,  
St. John's Episcopal Church

Rev. Craig Breisemeister,  
First Congregational Church

Rev. Telos Whitfield,  
Walpole Unitarian Church

All Saints Parish,  
North Walpole and Charlestown

## Pinnacleview 4-H Club

After a fantastic 2012-13 year of events, activities, showings at fairs and Eastern States Exposition, and much more, the Pinnacleview 4-H Club is excited to do it again. The new 4-H year has begun, and so far many plans have been established. Ideas pertaining to trips, community service, and various activities have been discussed to expand our knowledge and experience of agriculture, while also having fun. At the past three meetings we have elected new officers, introduced new members, planted bulbs at the fountain in town, and devised these plans for the future.

At last month's December meeting, club members made swags to put a smile on elders' faces who may not have family with whom to celebrate the holidays. At this month's meeting, we will be joining the other two 4-H Clubs in Walpole; the Bits and Bridles Club and the Long River Club, to have a potluck dinner and a normal business meeting beforehand. With spring approaching quickly, the club is excited for the various events that are soon to arrive.

— Chelsey Patch

## Walpole School Chorus

Led by Mrs. LeBlanc, the Walpole Chorus shone bright this holiday concert night. The president, Zoey Luopa, and vice president, Sadie Bursky, helped with the load. Luopa states, "We have come so far this year and I am very proud of everyone." With a set list containing Katy Perry, songs from Broadway, and an amazing mashup, the chorus was really better than ever. Mrs. LeBlanc closed the show saying, "Our chorus did an excellent job! Excellent harmony, volume, and tone made it extra special." Everyone is proud of our Walpole students and chorus.

The Walpole School Chorus is an inclusive group of dedicated students who develop strong singing skills as well as an appreciation for choral music. They perform in a variety of concerts for the public, notably the holiday and spring shows and The Kurn Hattin Invitational. A new event returning for its second year is the *Solo and Duets Night*, when students perform in small groups, as the title indicates.

The Walpole School Chorus also participates in the Fall Mountain Regional District Festival, a program taking place in March at Fall Mountain High School. At this event, middle school students get to meet fellow musicians from the district and high school choruses.

— Selma Watson



Photo Provided

## Community Garden

### Community Garden begins sixth season.

On Sunday, January 19, Walpole Community Garden members will gather for an organizational meeting and Pot Luck from 1-4PM.

Curious about our Community Garden? We welcome both current and potential garden members as we begin planning for our 6th growing season. Discussion will include how we can best serve the three villages that comprise Walpole, the nutrient value of the seeds we select, the importance of healthy soils, and renewing our commitment to a 20% donation of fresh, local foods to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, and Applewood Senior Housing.

We are the only "no-till" community garden in New Hampshire! Please RSVP to Martha Reynolds by January 10, 2014: marthapeytonreynolds@gmail.com

— Fritze Till

## Project Graduation

Fall Mountain Project Graduation is having a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, January 26, from 7-11AM at the Walpole Town Hall. We will also be having some raffles. Please join us!

Donations are greatly appreciated; thanks for your support! For more information, call 904-4087.

— Terry Zehr

## Walpole Wellness

A free CPR class will be held on Saturday, January 11, at the fire station from 9 AM to noon.

— Laura Palmer

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## Geography Bee

On Friday, December 20, Walpole Elementary School held a Geography Bee for students in grades five through eight. Four students were chosen for the Geo Bee from each grade, based on their scores from a preliminary round in social studies classes. The 16 finalists were Hamza Abadi (grade 7), Charlotte Briggs (5), Ella Bursky (5), Colin Diemer (7), Andrea Elsesser (8), Jacob Flynn (7), George Gowdy (7), Zoey Hall (8), Austin LaMontagne (7), Stuart Latham (8), Sean McAllister (6), Maria Mendez (6), Nick Peltier (5), Brendan Reagan (6), Hannah Sethi (6) and Aspen Trala (5).

Walpole social studies teacher and Geo Bee host Mr. Nick LeBail said, "On a scale of difficulty from 1 – 10, Geo Bee questions were 5 and up." The questions can test knowledge of physical features, cultures, locations, cities and climate. Some of the questions asked were: "Which state is larger in area, Montana or Wyoming? Which country has a larger coastline, China or Niger? The Hoover Dam is located

Photo Provided



Walpole School Geo Bee participants.

on what River? Atlantic City is located in which mid-Atlantic state? What state bordering the Pacific Ocean has the most fresh water withdrawals?

Once a contestant has two incorrect answers in a round, he or she is eliminated from the bee. The sixteen contestants were whittled down to three: Brendan Reagan, Sean McAllister and Stuart Latham. Then it came down to just McAllister and Reagan, both sixth-graders. Latham took third place. Sean McAllister won the championship round. Next, he will have to take a written test to be sent to The New Hampshire State Geography Bee facilitators. If he qualifies, he will participate in the state bee, and could qualify for the national geography bee, run by The National Geographic Foundation. This bee is hosted by Alex Trebec and is nationally televised. The winner of the national geo bee receives several thousand dollars in scholarship money.

Let's hope Sean goes all the way!

– Amanda Hodgkins & Autumn Cummings

## Poetry Reading

### Start the Year in Verse

Mark your calendars for an evening of mid-winter poetry at the Walpole Library, on Friday January 10 at 7 PM. The poets include:

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 Fargnoli, 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, 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 to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 756-9806.

– Jennifer Kelly

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JANUARY: MONTY PYTHON MANIA

January 1

*Monty Python & the Holy Grail*

January 8

*Life of Brian*

January 15

*The Meaning of Life*

January 22

*A Fish Called Wanda*

January 29

*Brazil*

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as he did at 20  
has wasted 30 years of his life.

– Muhammad Ali

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# Did You Know That...?

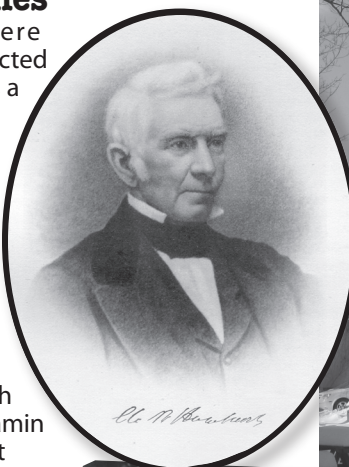
Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

## ...many of the iconic homes

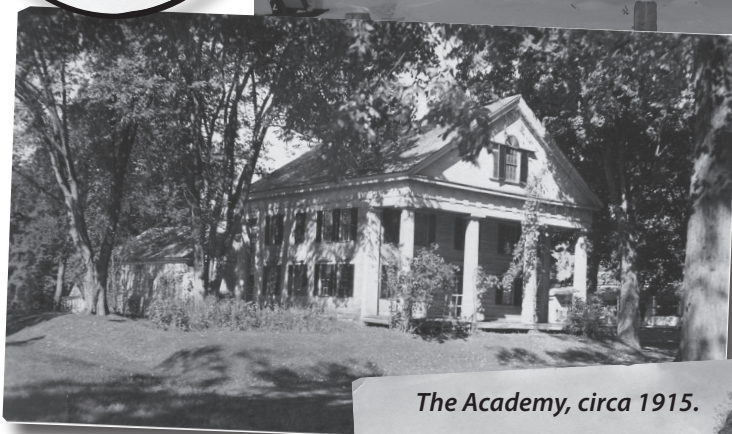
that make Walpole what it is were designed, influenced, and/or constructed by Aaron Prentiss Howland? He was a direct descendant in the sixth generation from John Howland, an indentured servant on the Mayflower. Aaron's father, Charles, settled in Walpole, moving from Massachusetts sometime between 1790 and 1800. Born in 1801, Aaron married Huldah Burke of Westminster in 1826. Their youngest son, Alfred Cornelius, was born in 1838 and would become a noted landscape painter, ranking with contemporaries Fitz Hugh Lane, Benjamin Champney and Winslow Homer – but that will be another story.

George Aldrich tells us Aaron "was early in life thrown upon his own resources for a livelihood, and learned the trade of a carpenter, to which he applied himself with diligence, never letting an opportunity slip where he could turn his labor or a penny to his advantage. Possessed of more than ordinary natural abilities, he early commenced doing business by contract, rather than laboring by the day for others." New Hampshire architecture expert, Bryant Tolles describes Aaron Howland as a "gifted master builder." Tolles further states that "among the rural areas, Walpole is remarkable for its Colonial, Federal, and early eclectic houses, many of which reflect the influence of Cheshire County's creative master builder, Aaron P. Howland." During this period, builders used detailed carpenters' guides and pattern books, but Howland went further by skillfully bringing his own interpretation of Greek Revival styles incorporating Gothic and classical embellishments.

In 1842, A. P. Howland purchased the property on the south corner of Elm and Pleasant Streets, constructing an "ornate cottage" for his own family. One of the best eclectic houses, it combines both Greek Revival (Corinthian columns) and Gothic Revival (pointed-arch louvered



Above, left: A.P. Howland; above: his "ornate cottage."

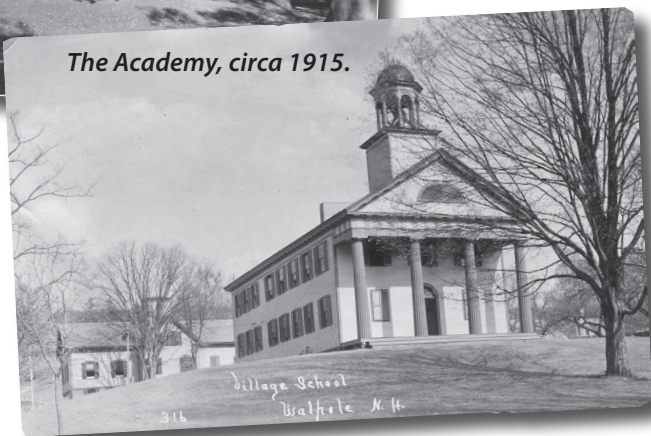


The Buffum house.

tops above the windows) elements. The cellar walls are exceptionally thick, and the exterior walls are brick-covered with clapboards. In the same time period he also built the brick house on Westminster Street that "Mr. Walpole," Guy Bemis, purchased in 1938.

Probably the most iconic structure in town is the Walpole Academy. Completed circa 1831, its design and construction has been attributed to Howland. The well-proportioned portico with four Doric columns is topped by a pediment with a large arched fan, a feature which is seen in many homes throughout Walpole. Across the street at the southern corner of Middle and Main Streets stands the Buffum House (owned by that family from the 1820s to 1946), probably built in the Georgian Style with a hipped roof about 1785. It was remodeled in the 1830s with a two-story Greek Doric portico on the east facing the Walpole Academy, and a partial portico on the west end. The style of the changes suggest that Howland was responsible.

The Academy, circa 1915.



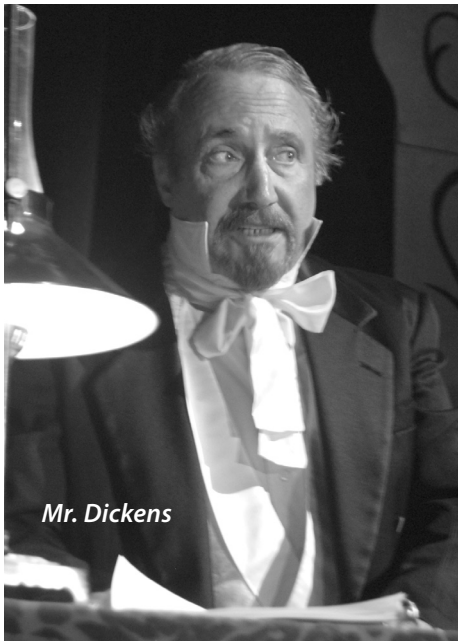
Continuing around town, architectural evidence implies Howland's work or influence in many places. The Louisa Bellows Hayward House (1833) on the east side of North Main Street features a seldom seen three-sided porch supported by Doric columns. And across the Drewsville Common from the old stone church, the Hope Lathrop Cottage, built in 1836, is very similar to Howland's family home at the corner of Elm and Pleasant Streets with its eclectic display of Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival details. Even when crossing the river into Bellows Falls, one stately home just shouts out Aaron P. Howland. I have always enjoyed looking at older homes with their architectural features, and encourage you to take a different look at the grand structures that make Walpole what it is.

## FLORENTINE FILMS

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**P.10 Cal.**

**P.11 Cal.**



*Mr. Dickens*



*Ebenezer Scrooge*



*The Ghost of Christmas Past*

Continued from Page 1: Christmas Carol

an exceptional performance showing a full transformation from miserly and mean Scrooge to a most charitable man. Long- time Walpole Player, Jim Baucom, as Scrooge's deceased partner Jacob Marley, again warned Scrooge of the fate he would suffer if he did not change his ways. Jim has carefully honed his performance in the past several years, leaving the stage after his scene with a round of applause. Over the years, some of our Junior Walpole Players have played many of Dickens characters. Appearing this year as The Ghost of Christmas Past, Quinn Perron has been in five of the six annual presentations, also having played Ignorance, Martha (twice), and the Street Urchin.

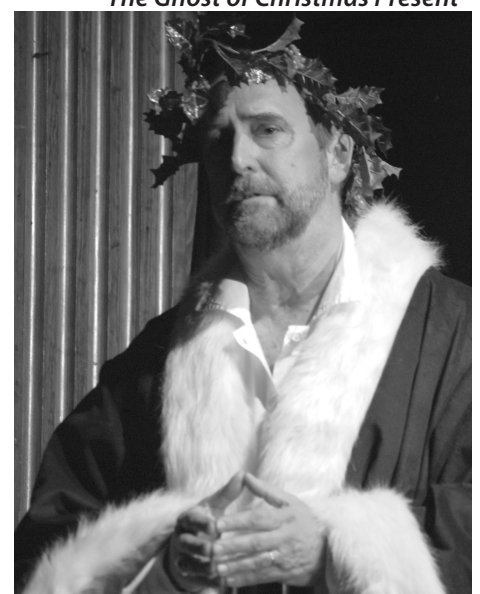
Audience members also came from Massachusetts, Vermont, and Concord, NH. For the first several years, most of the audience members were local faces.



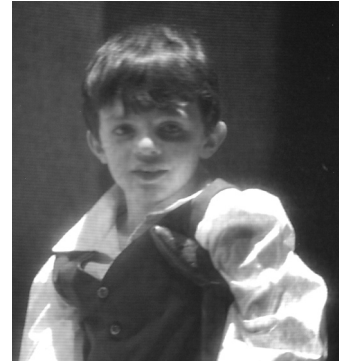
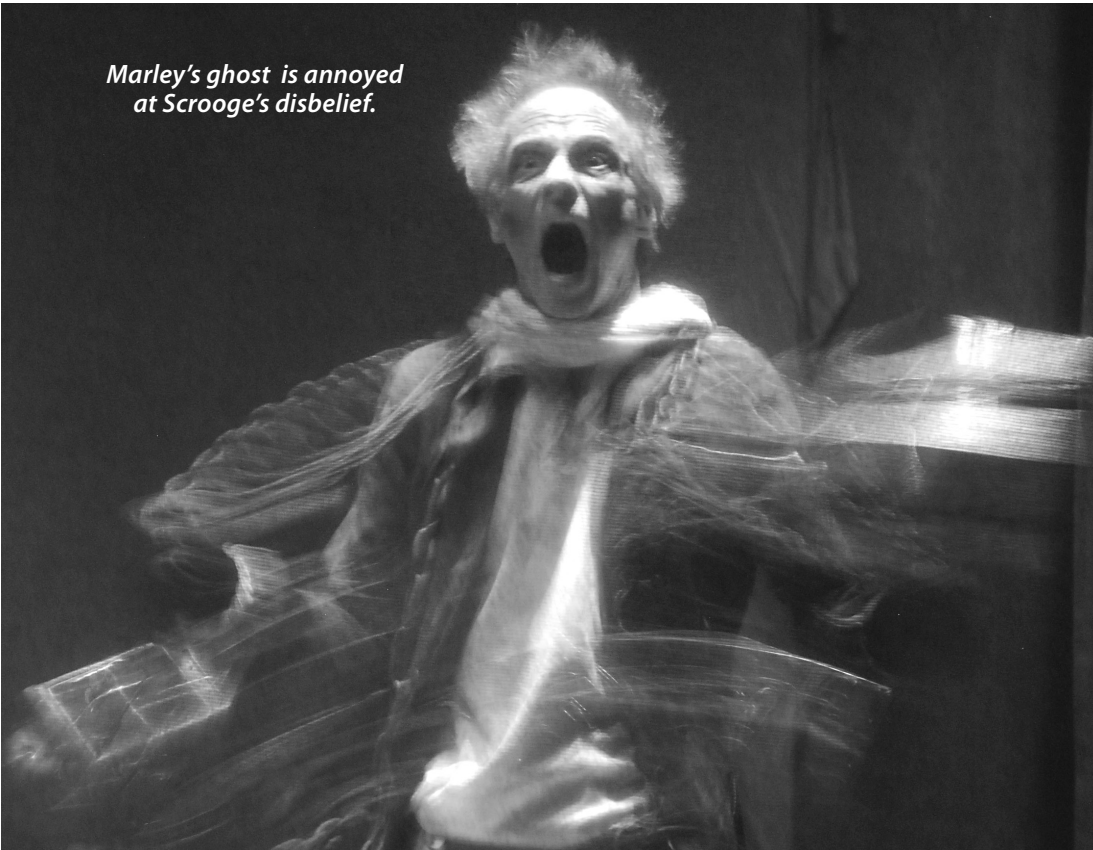
*A toast to Ebenezer Scrooge*



*The Ghost of Christmas Present*



*Marley's ghost is annoyed  
at Scrooge's disbelief.*



*Tiny Tim*

But in 2012 and 2013, it appeared a good many were first-time attendees.

It has been very gratifying for co-directors Tara Sad and Ray Boas to be reaching a wider audience – and particularly a younger crowd – showing them the lessons Ebenezer Scrooge learned in becoming a benevolent and charitable individual.

Each year, new effects are added and slight modifications made, so if you have not attended in awhile, it will be time to come visit again December 10-13, 2014. But you do not have to wait until next December when, in Dickens' words, "It is the time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt and Abundance rejoices" to help your less fortunate neighbors. Your tax-deductible contribution can be mailed anytime to The Fall Mountain Food Shelf, PO Box 191, Alstead, NH 03602, or to Our Place Drop-In Center, PO Box 852, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

– Ray Boas

*Old Joe pays a good price  
for Scrooge's effects.*

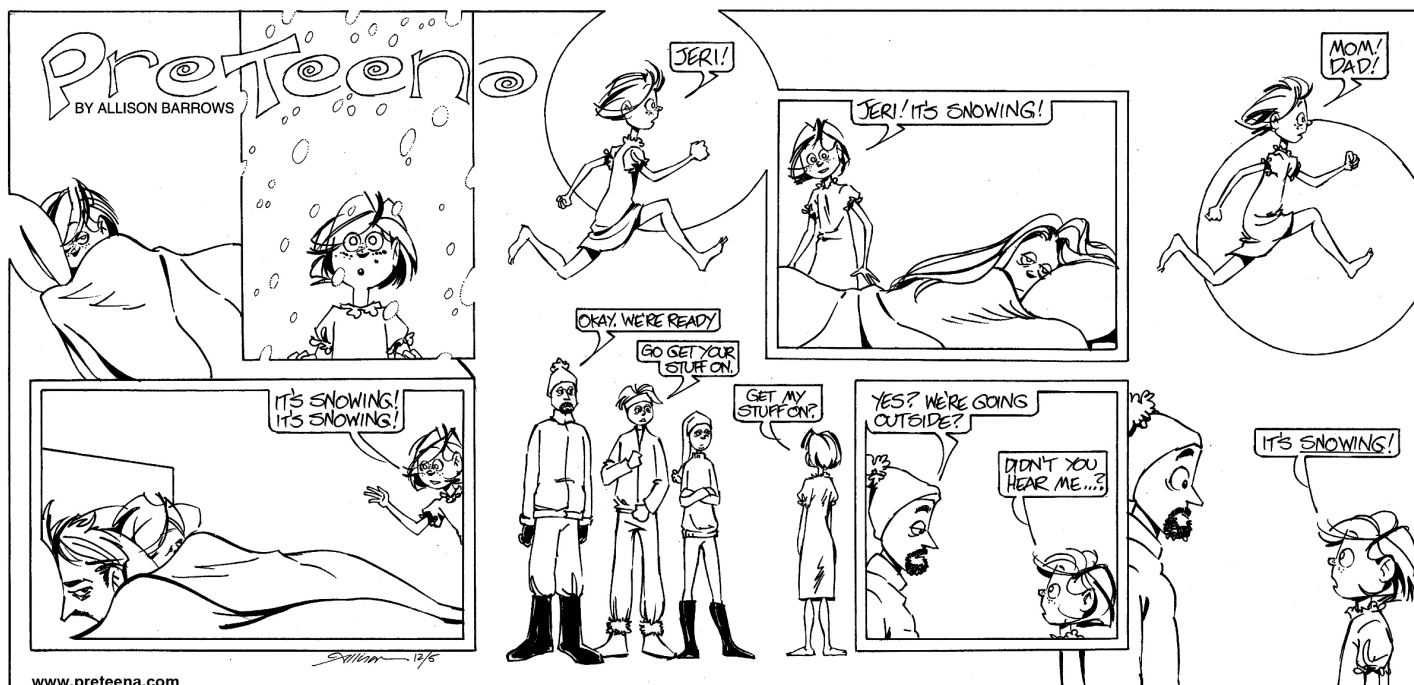


*Scrooge pleads with the Ghost  
of Christmas Future.*



**I OWE IT  
ALL TO LITTLE  
CHOCOLATE  
DONUTS.**

– John Belushi



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Walpole Old Home Days 2014**  
**June 25th - 29th**  
**Event Sponsors Needed!**

email: Kelley Hicks - Kelley@hicksmachine.com or Cindy Westover - cindy@gallowayservices.com



**The WALPOLE Clarion**

is published monthly for the Walpole community. Submissions about community events and achievements are encouraged for both the calendar and features. Article submissions should be sent to: walpoleclarion@gmail.com

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

**February issue deadline: January 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

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I don't  
 even know  
 what street  
 Canada  
 is on.

— Al Capone

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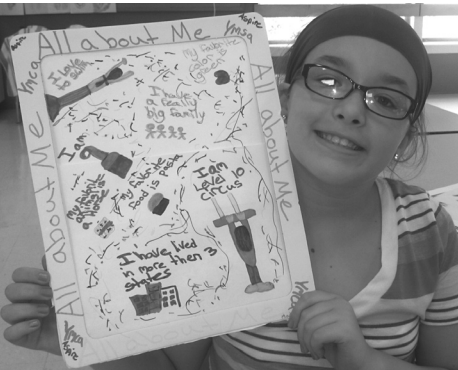
We will be happy to send the **Clarion** by first class mail each month to out-of-town addresses. New subscriptions: 3 months for \$4.50; 6 months for \$9; or a full year for \$18. (Current subscriptions continue at the original rate.) A check made payable to the **Clarion** along with address information can be mailed to PO Box 757, Walpole, NH 03608, or stop by Costume Ladies at 54 Main St.

## Y-ASPIRE

"It's hard to believe it's been four months already," Meeting Waters YMCA Executive Director Steve Fortier exclaims. "Four months ago we opened our Y-ASPIRE after-school program at the Walpole Schools. The school staff and entire community have been very supportive. It's a great partnership."

On the opening day of the 2013-14 school year, Meeting Waters YMCA's popular and respected after-school program began serving the three Walpole schools. ASPIRE (which stands for After-School Program for Inspiration, Recreation and Education) has served thousands of youth and parents over the past 15 years at program sites up and down the Vermont side of the Connecticut River. This is their first site in the Fall Mountain region, which is also part of the regional Y's service area.

Both children and parents are pleased with the quality of the staff and the curriculum. As one mother stated, "My daughter attends ASPIRE in Walpole five days a week and really enjoys it. Emily and Sean are incredibly kind. It's evident that they truly care for the children and do their best to make after-school care a fun



Maddie shows her "All About Me" self-portrait.

and educational place to be. I'm thankful that her father and I had the option of the ASPIRE program to care for our child."

In the first four months of the program, participants have been engaged in activities related to the monthly themes of "Building Our ASPIRE Community," "Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility," "Appreciating Diversity," and "Holidays Around the World." They've also hosted two service-learning projects to benefit the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center, as well as several Family Nights.

The Y-ASPIRE program runs after school for each of the 180 school days. It also runs for full days on all school vacations and most holidays, as well as for half-days on teacher in-service and other early release days. In all, the program operates for more

Photos Provided



At the October Family Night, Spencer led his mom through the "Potential Problem Pit," a trust-building and communication challenge.

than 210 days between the first day of school and the last. The program is based in the multi-purpose room at Walpole Primary School. Bussing is provided from North Walpole School and Y-ASPIRE staff walk Walpole Elementary students to the Primary School each day.

Enrollment in the program is ongoing. State child care financial assistance is accepted for payment. Meeting Waters YMCA also has its own financial assistance program built by generous donations to its Board's annual "Reach Out to Youth" fundraising drive, including earmarked contributions from the Walpole Foundation and private donors from Walpole.

For more information about Y-ASPIRE or other Meeting Waters YMCA services, visit [www.meetingwatersymca.org](http://www.meetingwatersymca.org) or call its main office at (802) 463-4769.

— Steve Fortier

## Walpole Senior Luncheon

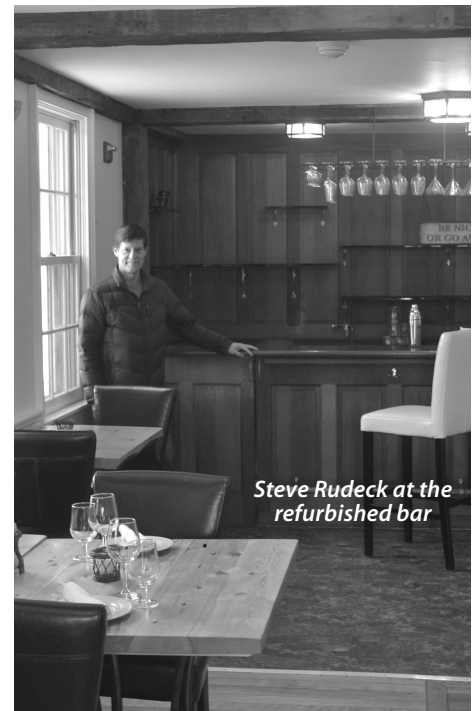
The Walpole Seniors will meet for potluck lunch at the town hall at noon on Monday, January 13. (Note date and location as there are renovations at the Church.) Everyone is asked to bring a contribution for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Bring a dish to share. All Walpole Seniors are welcome. Come for fun and good socialization.

— Lil DeCoste

**A genuine leader is not  
a searcher for consensus  
but a molder of consensus.**

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Benjamin's Bar



Steve Rudeck at the refurbished bar

PHOTO: RAY BOAS

Steve Rudek, owner of the Bellows Walpole Inn on Main Street is planning a Grand Opening Celebration of Benjamin's Bar and Lounge in the Inn on February 1st. "The new cocktail lounge will be hosting several soft opening events throughout January to refine menus and give incoming staff a chance to warm up for the Grand Opening Celebration," Steve recently said, "so watch our website for details." The bar area, with seating for about 25, features tables crafted by local artists from reclaimed Potato Barn boards. The Potato Barn is also owned by Rudek and undergoing renovation. Adjoining the bar, the front lounge room will seat another 15 patrons.

Planned is a bar food-oriented menu with soups, salads and sandwiches. "I would like this to be a new social place in Walpole where people will come to visit and talk in its historic setting," Steve excitedly stated. Watch the website, [www.bellowswalpoleinn.com](http://www.bellowswalpoleinn.com), for details as they develop, or call 756-3320.

— Ray Boas

  
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## W.R.A.P.

Remember the days when, as kids, we got up on Christmas morning at the first light of dawn for the excitement of seeing our tree and what Santa had left for us. We tiptoed, not making a sound lest we wake Mom and Dad; they'll surely come and spoil our adventure!

Well, Christmas is here again! As we prepare ourselves for the frightfully frenetic festivities ahead, let us all pause to give thanks for our many blessings. Let us all be thankful for our Walpole Recycling Program, a program respected throughout New Hampshire and admired by neighboring towns. Let us be thankful also for Paul Colburn and Paul's productive people who staff the Recycle Center – people who have created and innovated this past year to accommodate the needs of our town in the face of unforeseen events such as the demise of our local Wheelabrator plant in Claremont.

Let us be thankful as well, for all the Walpole people who have adopted a **Recycle** attitude, dumping the dreaded **dump** mentality. We are especially thankful for recyclers who carefully check out and **follow** the signs at the various recycling bins, not simply "dumping" a bag or box of miscellaneous "stuff" into the first bin they come to!

At the heart of all this is an understanding of what **RECYCLING** really means. When we have finished with our daily newspaper for example, we can take it to the Recycle Center where Paul's productive people find a **buyer** for your discarded paper. That buyer takes it to his plant where it is shredded, bleached, dried and, when combined with many other similar papers, is made back into rolls of fresh, clean paper that the buyer can then **sell** back to the newspaper. That's the whole idea: Paul finds buyers for stuff we no longer need and those buyers clean it, often reformatting it to suit another purpose, and **sell** it to a company that needs it – and everybody is happy. By selling recyclables, Paul saves us tax dollars, and by re-purposing those recyclables, the buyers hire people and make a living. And finally, if you were the Keene Sentinel (for example) would you rather buy your newsprint from a recycler (cheap), or cut down a couple hundred acres of trees (much more expensive to both your newspaper **and to the planet**)?

All this happy selling and buying activity, however, is based on the premise that what is being bought and sold has **not been contaminated**. A buyer for #2 plastic (milk jugs and the like) **will not buy** from us if what we offer has been contaminated with #1, #3, #5, etc. plastic.

Here's why: a big vat of "pure" #2 plastic can be cast into a very large number of nice, new milk jugs, but if the vat has been contaminated with #1, #3, etc. plastic, it just turns into glop and can't be cast into anything. The buyer suffers a huge loss and Walpole's Recycle Center is black-listed!

Follow those signs on the recycle bins – it's **very** important.

The same principle applies to slick magazine paper and "general office" paper. If it is "contaminated" we can't recycle it (can't find a buyer for it). Until recently, I had thought that "paper was paper." Well, it turns out that the big machines that clean and shred recycled paper, **can not** clean or shred **wrapping paper**. **Ribbon** clogs up the shredders and brings the whole operation to a halt. So, our Recycle Center has a rule: **No wrapping paper, No ribbon, No scotch tape or wrapping tape**. Just chuck that sort of stuff in your yellow Walpole Bag – not a big deal. If the buyers for our "general office" paper find our supply is contaminated with wrapping paper and ribbon, that **is** a big deal – for you and for me directly!

It's been an active, interesting year – a good year. We here in Walpole have a lot for which to be thankful. Do set aside some time this season for love, thoughtfulness, generosity and thankfulness – and don't lose sight of the "Reason for the Season."

– Charles Blount

## An App for That

A FMRHS School Connect app is now available. The app will help students, parents, and community members access the various types of information provided at FMRHS. Some of the information includes online grades, school contact information, winter weather cancellations, and emergency notifications, to name a few. Download the app today from the high school website: <https://sites.google.com/a/apps.sau60.org/fmrhs>.

– FMRHS Newsletter

## Walpole AED Locations

(Automated External Defibrillators)

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

### Locations:

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

**Walpole Town Pool**  
(during summer season)  
14 Bundy Lane

**Walpole School – Primary**  
18 Primary Lane

**North Walpole School**  
17 Cray Road, NW

**Walpole Town Hall**  
34 Elm Street

**Walpole Recycling Center**  
Rte 123, North Walpole

**Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Walpole Clinic**  
11 Westminster Street

**Benson's Woodworking**  
6 & 10 Blackjack Crossing Road

**LaValley's Building Supply**  
40 Meadow Access Lane

**Hooper Golf Course**  
166 Prospect Hill Road

**Congregational Church**  
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**I improve on misquotation.** – Cary Grant

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We saw monkeys playing and jumping through the trees. There were awkward-looking wildebeasts which ran every time we got close. There were small, ugly wart hogs with tusks that seemed too big, but with little cute babies. One time we scared a mom and she and two babies ran one way and another ran the other way. We wanted to rescue the baby and get her closer to mom. Philemon told us she would be fine. Mom would call her and the baby would run back.

Speaking of babies: spring is a fabulous time to be on safari. Baby elephants, baby zebras, baby giraffes, baby monkeys clinging to their mommas, and my favorite, the baby rhino. So cute – just a little nub for a horn.



There were two cheetahs in Zulu Nyala. The park is not big enough to support more. It is about 400 acres. Hoola hoop is 400,000 acres. The cheetahs eat small antelope called nyalas – too many cheetahs, too few nyalas. After mom takes care of her babies for several months, they are sold to other parks. It is sad but necessary. None of the animals are fed by the park. They are all on their own. Zulu Nyala does have some supplemental watering areas. A drought had been in



place for about 10 months and had just broken before we got there. Philemon said a lot of the animals were still thin and not as healthy because of the length of the drought.

There were several hippos at the park. We never saw them out of the water, which was disappointing, especially after I made Becky go on a special side trip to the St. Lucia River to see hippos. All we saw were ears and eyes. I did get one open-mouth shot our first night on our first drive.

There was an older male giraffe that lived near the lodge. He only has one horn. Philemon told us he lost it while fighting. Now he stays by himself, so the younger males won't challenge him. His name is George. None of the other animals had names. George was special and we saw him munching happily on the trees as we passed each morning.

One fascinating thing is that the female nyalas are a light brown color and have white stripes on their sides. The males are dark brown with white dots on both sides their noses, just between their eyes and beautiful twisted horns. How are they the same animal?

Another fascinating creature is the weaver bird. The male bird weaves the

small round nest out of grass and straw. If the female weaver doesn't like it, she kicks it down and the male has to start over. One of our jeep mates remarked, "Wouldn't it be easier just to get another wife?"

The most fascinating is the dung beetle. Have you heard of this creature? They fly to large piles of, well, dung, and the male forms a baseball-size dung ball. He then kicks it with his back legs to his nest. The female rides along on the side, spinning down the road. As he is kicking with his back legs, he needs to stop every once in a while to see where he is going. Philemon would be driving along and yell out, "Dung beetle!" stop the jeep and we would all hang over the edge and watch the little guys.

There was a larger antelope called a water buck. They have a white ring around their rump, encircling their tail. What is up with that?

We saw hyenas on a night drive. We couldn't see them without a spotlight. We got some pictures, but not great ones. We also saw a small carnivore called a genet, a relative of the mongoose but much better-looking. I would show you, but my picture only shows reflections from their ears.

I would definitely recommend traveling to South Africa to experience the magic of a safari. Maybe we will organize a slide show at the town hall to see the pictures a little bigger. I will never forget the people and the animals and the trip of a lifetime.

*Kathy is a Walpole Player who spends her time off the stage living and working as a veterinarian in North Swanzey, NH. She can also be found golfing at the Hooper when there is no snow.*

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*Sex at  
age 90  
is like  
trying  
to shoot  
pool  
with a  
rope.*

– George Burns

# From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

I know I promised a bear-hunting story last month but circumstances have caused me to put that off until next time. What, you may ask, could be more important than another truthful hunting story? Well, I met up with my friend, Elwud, at the local coffee stop and he looked like he had been hit by an exploding nova.

"What in the world happened to you?" I asked. "Don't ask," he stated and then added, "oh, too late! Well sir, it all started on Thanksgiving Day and went downhill from there through Christmas." I purchased an extra large latte and settled back for a saga-length tale.

"Wellsir," he starts, "you know Velma hasta invite all her sida the family ova for Thanksgiving dinner. And ya know how well we do not get along - them and me, not me and Velma. Well, they begun gangin' up on me as usual and just before the fight broke out I headed for the local big box store to hide out and kill some time. Well sir, time and a thousand irate women nearly killed me. I was standing in electronics lookin' ova one of them new-fangled gadgets that ya talk into, what ain't got no cord. Apparently they announced that for ten minutes this item, that I was holdin', was fifty-percent off and I didn't hear the announcement. At least five hundred women descended on the electronics department to scoop up all three of the devices on display, including the one I was holdin'. That accounts for the arm brace and the ankle cast. Then on December 23rd, Velma asks me if I got my Christmas shopping all done, to which I has to admit I ain't! I am figurin' that by Christmas Eve no one will be in the stores, so I headed out to do my shoppin'. Apparently this was also the tactic every male in a hundred-mile radius had in mind. We all descended on the auto and hardware section lookin' for that special gift for the little woman. Within five minutes an Ali vs Forman-

type brawl broke out which explains the missing teeth and the broken nose." When Elwud stopped to catch his breath, I asked, "What happened to cause your head to be all wrapped up?"

"Wellsir, that happened on Christmas Day right after Velma opened her gifts and read my enclosed note." Seeing my puzzled looked, he continued to explain. "The note said, 'ya can use this chain saw and double-bit axe to finish clearing the back forty and get in some more firewood'. Next thing I remember is that it is New Year's Day and I am in Cheshire Medical Center."

I just shook my head and said, "Well I sure hope you learned your lesson for next year."

"Yup," he says with a grin, "I ain't putting in no note and she can figure out for herself what the tools are for!"



## Garlands & Hoses...

The holiday crafts fair hosted by the Walpole Volunteer Fire Department was held Thanksgiving weekend - after the December Clarion went to press.

## Legislator Contact Information:

### Senator Molly Kelly

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Concord NH 03301  
(603) 271-2166  
molly.kelly@leg.state.nh.us  
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### Representative Paul Berch

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### Representative Bill Butynski

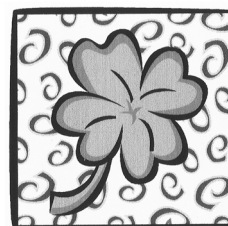
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tara.eric@gmail.com

### Representative Lucy Weber

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Walpole NH 03608  
lwmcv@comcast.net



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## Hooper Hill Hoppers

When is the last time you can remember snow on the ground before Christmas in this part of the state? We were some of the lucky ones who got 12" of snow on December 14 & 15, then another 4.5" on the 17th. *Woo Hoo!* I hope this is a good start for the winter to come. All our trails are open, but the riding is only fair due to the lightness of the snow we did get. Warmer weather late in the month should give us a good base when it refreezes. Most of the trails are well-marked with a few exceptions. This should be taken care of now that we have snow.

Our annual Christmas Party/Yankee Swap was held at Greg Patch's garage on Friday, December 13, attended by the most members I've ever seen for this event. Food was plentiful and it was standing room-only for a lot of latecomers. There were lots of oh's and ah's and a lot of "swapping" (stealing). Everyone had a great time. A big *Thank You* to Greg and Rosemarie for hosting the event.

I've noticed the trail to the Jiffy Mart is being used, and considering that their plows have covered some of our proposed trail, it seems to be working well. I would ask all who use the trail to please be considerate of drivers entering and exiting the parking lot. If you must enter the store after fueling, please move your sled away from the pumps first. Please also stay on the trail when approaching and leaving the store area.

We have many events and rides on tap this year, so check the schedule on the website: [www.hooperhillhoppers.com](http://www.hooperhillhoppers.com), and mark your calendars. The schedule is posted at several local businesses, but remember that it is subject to change. If in doubt, call one of the officers. You will also find grooming-fund cans at several places; don't be afraid to donate.

This will be Curt Congdon's last year as treasurer. Anne Davis is helping in a lot of areas, but we need someone to work with Curt and take over his position next year. I hope someone will step up to the plate. *Think snow!*

– Mike Powers



Photo Provided

## Wrapping up the holidays...

On December 3, Susan Tollett led a workshop on making your own gift wrap at the Walpole Library. Here Susan and a library patron are painting snowflakes on festive holiday paper.

## MILESTONES

- Born: Thomas Alexander Martin, November 10, to Ben & Nicole Martin.  
Grandparents are  
Gretchen Fowler, Larry & Lola Martin and George Graves
- Born: Allison Lucienne Vickers, December 10, to Craig & Jennifer Vickers.  
Grandparents are  
Wesley & Beth Vickers and Roger & Nancy Thibodeau

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

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– Daniel Webster

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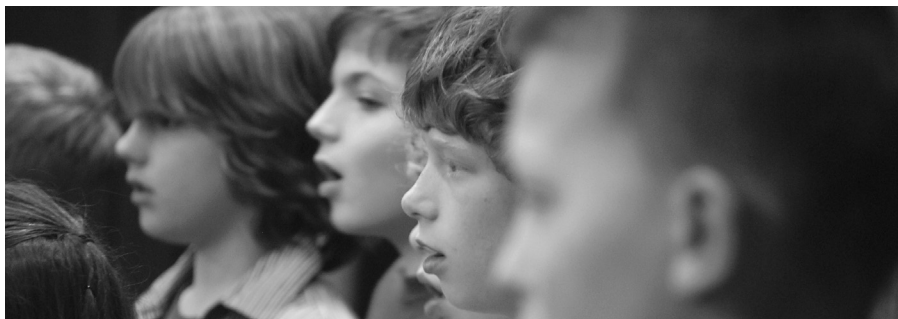
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*Walpole students performed  
at the annual Christmas Concerts  
over two evenings in December.  
See page 5.*



## The Bottom Line

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