

The WALPOLE Clarion

A Monthly Community Publication • Volume VI, Issue 3 • March, 2016

One Step Forward... Hooper Conservation Easement Consummated

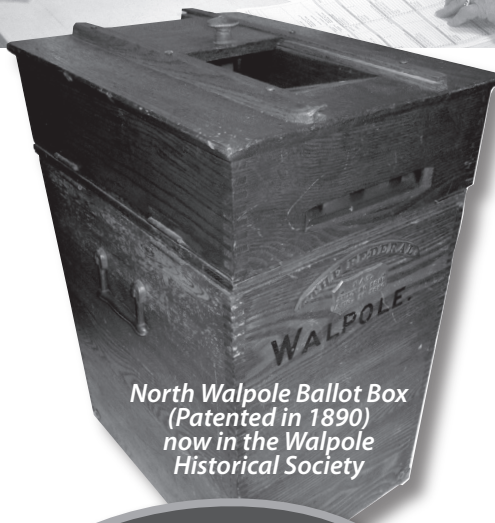


PHOTO: RAY BOAS

Almost five years of dedicated work by members of the Walpole community culminated on January 28, 2016 when the Trustees of the George L. Hooper Trust – Steve Dalessio, Whitney Aldrich and Peggy Pschirrer – signed documents with the Monadnock Conservancy, a Keene-based land conservation trust, placing a permanent conservation easement on the Hooper Golf Course property at the top of Prospect Hill in Walpole. A check for \$450,500 was presented to the Hooper Educational Trust to “seal the deal” and protect the golf course and surrounding woodlands. The land as you now see it will always be seen that way.

The \$450,500 value of the conservation easement was based upon the difference between a market appraisal of the land with its full present development potential as compared to the value when those development rights are extinguished. Because a conservation easement typically limits new residential development and commercial uses, a property encumbered by one generally

Continued on Page 11



**LOCAL ELECTION
ISSUE**
See pages 2-6

Town Meeting Time

Saturday, March 12 is Town Meeting Day in Walpole. Election of Town Officers first occurs Tuesday March 8, when the polls open at 8 AM. Also, on the ballot for Tuesday will be an article for a change to the Town's Zoning Ordinance. If approved, this change, unanimously recommended by the Planning Board and Selectboard, provides that recycling centers and/or transfer stations shall be permitted uses in the Industrial Zone "...provided such facilities are owned or operated by the Town for the transfer and/or recycling of solid waste generated in the Town..."

Continued on Page 3

*The Grange Meet the Candidates night
Wednesday, March 2 • 7PM • Town Hall.
Meet the folks running for town office:
selectman, planning board
and library trustee.
Refreshments will be served.*

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New Playground

2016 Warrant Article

In the first few days of February, a last-minute effort helped the Walpole New Playground Committee get a petitioned article on the Town Warrant.

And while it seems the effort – and warrant article – are starting to make it into conversation around town, the committee is working hard to make sure all the facts concerning the push for a new playground are correct.

The article as presented on February 1 with the necessary 25 registered Walpole voter signatures: *To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purpose of adding to a current fund drive aimed at buying and installing a new playground on the site of the current playground behind the Walpole Primary School.*

The Need

The committee believes there's need for replacement. The current structure is 27 years old – built after a grassroots effort by Walpole parents and residents in 1989. While it's gotten great use over its life, the wooden structure is starting to decay into what Principal Sam Jacobs has called "a splinterfest." Metalwork on the existing structure is also fatigued and rusty. There are elements of the structure that have just become unsafe.

The Money

A new structure, about the size of what currently exists and incorporating elements seen in modern playgrounds, will cost in the vicinity of \$80,000-\$90,000. These newer structures are made from composites that don't rot and steel that doesn't fail. They're not cheap, but some might argue there's no better place to make sure of quality material/structure than on something kids and grandkids will be climbing over for the next 20 years.

The committee is meeting with playground vendors and visiting nearby schools that have recently built new structures. The newer playground types and styles to review are truly endless.

The Fundraising

Jacobs reports \$25,000 has already been earmarked for the project out of Fall Mountain Regional School District capital reserve funds.

The committee is about to embark on a donor campaign where local businesses will be asked to give big on varying levels of sponsorship. A mailer, including a letter from Jacobs and the playground subcommittee asking all to contribute even a little, will show up in all Walpole resident mailboxes in mid-March.

A subcommittee is also focused on getting grants that could help finance the project.

While the committee is hopeful local businesses and residents will achieve the goal, the decision to ask town voters to approve money for the playground seemed obvious...the only playground in town will be used throughout the week by all residents – during school hours or not.

If funding is secured to buy the playground system, the committee will then start a "community build" effort to turn the weekend of the install into a town-wide event where all will be asked to come out and swing a hammer or just take part in celebrating the build.

Asking the town to contribute from the municipal side of the ledger just seemed the right thing to do.

The Rub

Selectmen have already run the petitioned article in front of legal counsel and have been advised there could be a procedural issue – can town money be spent on something located on school grounds. The committee believes the playground behind Walpole Primary gets as much "town use" as it does "school use," and has decided to go ahead with the article in hopes it will pass. Any legal hurdles will be dealt with as they come.

Expect a small presentation on the playground when the article comes up for discussion at Town Meeting on March 12. And, of course, the committee urges the town to vote "yea."

– The Walpole New Playground Committee



PHOTO PROVIDED

Town Meeting & Elections

Continued from Page 1: Town Meeting

In preparation for Meeting Day, a Budget Hearing was held on February 4. Sadly, only a handful of residents were in attendance. The proposed budget for the Town for 2016 is \$3,480,873, which represents a 4.92% increase over what was budgeted for 2015 (this does not include what funds must be raised for our schools and county assessment that also are included in Walpole's tax bills). The increase is essentially increased labor and insurance costs. Four elections, costing about \$4,000 each, will be held in 2016, adding to the increase. Making the presentation at the Budget Hearing, Selectman Steve Dalessio stated that "overall 2015 was a pretty good year." It was noted that our tax rates have gone up as a result of a decrease in the Town's Evaluation as determined by the State based upon home sales, decline in revenues received from the State, increases in school tax and increase in fire district tax. Often the Town's Reserve Fund can offset increases, but at this time the fund is lower than desired. In conclusion, Dalessio informed the attendees that the 2017 Budget will "face stresses." A complete salary review is planned, insurance costs will continue to be a problem, and delayed maintenance on town buildings and three "red listed bridges," all of which will need to be addressed.

Articles 3-13 will be voted upon Saturday March 12 at Town Meeting in Walpole's Town Hall at 1:00 PM. Article 3 is the Town Operating Budget, and the balance of the Articles are all fund-related for specific capital items, or to be placed in reserve funds towards future purchases. Article 13, a petition article submitted just before the deadline, involves \$30,000 "for the purpose of adding to a current fund drive aimed at buying and installing new playground on the site of the current playground behind the Walpole Primary School." You can read about this elsewhere in this issue.

We are fortunate in America to have the right to voice our opinions to be heard, and to exercise a vote. Doing so in a small town, such as Walpole, is even more meaningful and important because it becomes so obvious that your involvement and vote count. Vote at the polls on Tuesday, March 8, and attend Town Meeting on Saturday, March 12, to be heard.

— Ray Boas

Each election season when there are more candidates running for a position than vacancies for that spot, the *Clarion* has invited those individuals to provide a brief biography, and reasons why you should vote for them. For 2016, there are 11 candidates running for 6 positions (1 Selectman, 2 Planning Board and 3 Library Trustees) Candidate submissions begin on page 4.



Candidates for Town Office

Selectman

Three Year Term - Vote for One
Joseph Aldrich
John Pratt
Jamie Teague

Moderator

Two Year Term - Vote for One
Ernest D. Vose

Treasurer

One Year Term - Vote for One
Thomas Goins

Trustee of The Trust Funds

Three Year Term - Vote for One
Karen Galloway

Planning Board

Three Year Term - Vote for Two
Joanna Andros
Dennis Marcom
Robert Miller
Jeffrey White

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Three Year Term - Vote for Two
Jan Galloway-LeClerc
Myra Mansouri

Cemetery Trustee

Three Year Term - Vote for One
John L. Sheldon

Supervisor of Checklists

Six Year Term - Vote for One
Joanne H. Hurlburt

Supervisor of Checklists

Two Year Term - Vote for One
Gary T. McCormick

Library Trustee

Three Year Term - Vote for Three
Frederick V. Ernst
Jean Kobeski
Gail LaHaise
Christie Winmill

Are you in favor of the adoption of the following changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinance?

Add under Article IV General Provisions Section N Recycling and Transfer Stations:

a. In addition to the current Town recycling center at 207 Whitcomb Road, Route 123, Walpole, New Hampshire, recycling centers and/or transfer stations shall be permitted uses in the Industrial Zone subject to meeting the Town's site plan review regulations and shall be submitted to the Planning Board for site plan review; provided such facilities are owned or operated by the Town for the transfer and/or recycling of solid waste generated in the Town and provided further that the recycling center or transfer station is owned and operated by the Town or by a Regional Solid Waste District whose ownership or operation thereof is governed by an agreement entered into pursuant to RSA 149-M24.

By Petition. The Walpole Planning Board recommends this petition.

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 2 - To be Voted Upon at the Polls Tuesday March 8

Selectman

Joe Aldrich

My name is Joe Aldrich and I'm running for Select Board. I'm running because I've enjoyed growing up, living and hopefully retiring in Walpole. I will work hard on the Select Board to keep those as options for any citizen of any economic status.

The Select Board is the path I chose two years ago as my way of giving back and staying engaged. I am committed to this position and will work hard for you as long as you'll have me.

As for the candidates: you've already had what's behind door number one, and you've already had what's behind door number two. They both chose to walk away from the Select Board. Please use your vote to give me a turn on the Select Board and I'll bring you an energy and commitment no other choice can.

See you March 8th!

.....

Jack Pratt

I'm Jack Pratt, and I am running for Selectman. Over the past twenty years, the people of Walpole have greatly honored me by choosing me to serve as their Selectman, State Representative and County Commissioner. I have also served as the President of the Walpole Seniors and the Walpole Players, as a member of the Vestry of St. John's Church and as a 20 year volunteer at the Walpole Recycling Center.

I believe I have the experience to oversee departments, create zero-based budgets, work harmoniously with the other two members of the Board, and negotiate, when necessary, with state and county agencies. And, being retired, I can devote as much time to the task of being a Selectman as is required.

Walpole is a town of extraordinary beauty and growing diversity. Preserving the best of our past while embracing new residents and new ideas requires a delicate balance. I believe I have the experience, the maturity and the vision to achieve that balance.

I ask for your vote on March 8.

.....

Jamie Teague

By now, most of you know why I stepped away from the Selectboard 2 years ago; alas my father passed and my sister is now doing very well. As I have said before, family is very important to me. My reasons for rerunning for Selectboard have not changed. I feel

strongly it's important to have a diverse board with people from different socioeconomic backgrounds and demographics. Diversity brings about good decision making. I come from a New England born and bred, blue collar, military family where hard work, treating people fair and equitable and honoring one's promises was taught at a young age.

Walpole is a very diverse town. We have a lively mix of farmers, entrepreneurs, working class folks, successful business people, artisans and many retirees both born and raised here as well as those choosing to make this special place their home from far-away places. We have many different properties as well; I live in the Village in North Walpole (approximately 16 years) right on Church Street, which is much different than living up in the hilly terrain or in the river valley area of Walpole proper. We need to be sure to keep the town a viable, affordable option for everyone wanting to live here. This means keeping our minds and hearts open to potential changes and finding the proper balance for those changes to keep rural life affordable.

Everyone is struggling to keep up with aging infrastructures on shoestring budgets. We all need to brainstorm and welcome "out of the box" ideas including working cooperatively with others around us on how to accomplish affordable upgrades without compromising quality. We need to be sure to preserve our assets while at the same time keeping our tax rate stable.

I think it's great the taxpayers of Walpole have a choice in who they want to represent them. I want to wish everyone who is running on March 8th the best of luck. No matter what happens, I will continue to be an active member of our community.

Planning Board

Joanna Andros

My name is Joanna Andros, and I am running for a seat on the planning board.

I grew up in Walpole, but left after high school to attend college. Though jobs led me elsewhere, I always returned to visit my family. In 1987 I moved back to NH to be closer to family and settled in Keene, where I raised my own family. In 2007, I moved back to Walpole to live with my mother, and help her in her final years. I was able to participate in the Walpole Leadership Academy, which provided an introduction to the town government.

Over the past 8 years, I have grown to love Walpole, not just as a place to visit, but a place to live. The town has grown and changed in many ways, but has retained its small town atmosphere and participation in town government. Many acres of land have been put into conservation for the enjoyment of the public, and I've gotten to know places I never saw as a child, such as High Blue, The Faulkner Loop, Boy Scout Walk, and Mill Pond trails. My interest in the planning board comes from a desire to preserve what is best in Walpole for the long term. For me that means retaining as much farm land as possible for those who want to farm, while allowing the kinds of development and business that are compatible with our town way of life. The Planning and Zoning boards are extremely important in shaping the kind of development that occurs. Planning ahead is crucial, so plans need to be updated on a regular basis. It is easy for large companies to seek out places which lack proper zoning. Some of us still remember the effort to put a pulp mill in Walpole. Towns like Walpole

Continues on Page 5

VOTE MARCH 8TH!!!

Joe Aldrich for Select Board

Out with the old, in with the new!

PAID FOR BY CANDIDATE

need to be prepared. The town needs to attract business, but can be careful to attract business which do not have a negative impact on our natural beauty and environment. Since I have strong feelings about our beautiful town, I decided I should be willing to serve on one of the boards that oversees development.

.....

Dennis Marcom

A bit about me:

I settled into this territory in 1976. I've been a timber frame carpenter at Benson Woodworking, since in 1980, where I've led the timber frame group for something like the last 20 of my years. I'm also the Safety Director for the company and an owner of the business. Three years ago, after 'auditing' the meetings of the Planning Board for some time, I sought, and won, a seat on our Planning Board. Now I seek a second term.

Why I'm running for this position:

I feel very fortunate to be a citizen of our fine town. I suspect that most of us who live here feel very much the same. I have said this before, but believe it bears repeating, that a place like Walpole doesn't happen by accident. The town

we live in today is, to a great extent, the result of the actions and decisions of the people who have settled here over the past 270 years or so. Including not only individual citizens but also, of course, the actions and decisions of the Select, Zoning, and Planning boards. From my own experience on the Planning Board I know, for sure, that there are challenges and that there remains much good work to do. I continue to believe that I can play a positive role moving our town forward.

I expect our town to continue to thrive and grow in the future as it has in the past. I believe that Walpole can move forward into that future in a way that is in keeping with the values that have served this town so well in the past.

I ask for your vote on Tuesday, March 8th

.....

Robert Miller

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Town of Walpole as a member of the Planning Board for the past 21 years.

With your consideration and vote on March 8, I will continue to work for our town to:

Preserve and enhance our town's classic New England character.

Protect and preserve all of our natural resources.

Plan for balanced and orderly growth.

Make decisions that protect the public health, safety and welfare for all of Walpole.

Enhance our Zoning Regulations.

.....

Jeff White

I'm Jeff White, a Walpole resident of twelve years. As an alternate on the Planning Board for the past eight, I've maintained a steady presence and excellent attendance record. Having been called upon much more often, I feel that it's time for me to seek an elected seat.

I've witnessed a good deal of development in Walpole; some wonderful, and some not in our best interests. I've actively observed this growth; attending the PB's work sessions, visiting various sites, making suggestions and raising concerns to improve upon issues that came before us. As an elected member of the board, I hope to continue efforts to craft a truly proactive Master Plan.

Continues on Page 6



***Experience
Leadership
Dedication***

Vote for **JOHN 'JACK' PRATT** *Walpole Selectman*

Pratt has experience...

Jack Pratt served:

- *ten years as a member of the House of Representatives,*
- *eight years as a Cheshire County Commissioner*
- *three years as a Walpole Selectman*

Pratt has demonstrated leadership...

Over the past two decades, Jack served as:

- *Chairman of the Cheshire County Delegation*
- *President of the Walpole Seniors*
- *Democratic Whip of the NH House of Representatives*
- *President of the Walpole Players*

PAID FOR BY CANDIDATE

Sensitive and sensible development will maintain Walpole's beautiful rural character while welcoming beneficial companies and projects to our vibrant community. My goals as an elected Planning Board member are threefold: establish guidelines for future growth, increase citizen involvement, and improve communication between town boards and the applicants that come before them.

I have a BS in Business and over 43 years in manufacturing. Currently I am a full-time mechanical inspector with a local engineering firm. Many years of volunteer experience in the field of recycling/solid waste round out my credentials.

A strong spirit of volunteerism is Walpole's foundation. I've freely dedicated my time over the past eight years as an alternate. I humbly ask you for your vote so that I may take my long-term commitment to Walpole's future to a more meaningful level. Thank you.

Library Trustee

Frederick Ernst

I am pleased to be a candidate for the Walpole Library Board of Trustees. My wife, Ellie, and I have been residents of Walpole since 2000 after I retired as President of MacMillan Bloedel Packaging Inc, a large manufacturer of corrugated boxes.

We have four children and nine grandchildren scattered from Connecticut to Texas. Our daughter has taught for many years and is now enrolled in an ALA Accredited School Library program.

I have been a member of the Cold River Local Advisory Committee for a number of years and am now its chair. Our mission is to protect the health of the river and its wildlife habitat. I have been involved in Keene with SCORE, "counselors of America's small business", and with managing property for wildlife in Acworth. For several years after retirement I was a member of the vestry of St Stephen's Church in Ridgefield, Ct and its Senior Warden.

I was asked in 2010 by the Chair of the Walpole Library Board of Trustees to help evaluate the library program as it compared with the library in Londonderry, VT, and to propose changes that might be considered at our library. I am interested in participating in the forward planning currently being undertaken by the library board to define the mission and to set goals for future direction.

I believe that libraries should be the center of cultural activity in towns. The role of libraries is changing with our electronic age and social net working. I would like to help make that change successful.



Jean Kobeski

I am seeking a position on the Walpole Library Board of Trustees. As a parent and retired educator, I've gained valuable experience to bring to the position.

As a graduate of the Walpole Grange Leadership Academy, I see the opportunities for community involvement, and because of my love for literature, the Library is where I would like to devote my energy.

When my children were of elementary age, I joined several other young mothers to create children's programs at the Library: preschool story and craft hours, a summer reading program, and special holiday programs. We worked with the Friends of the Library to stage the Taste of Walpole fundraiser and write grants to bring quality storytellers, magicians and puppeteers to Walpole.

As an educator, I embraced the joy and importance of literature. During a sabbatical leave awarded by the Fall Mountain School District, I researched and published an annotated bibliography of children's literature aligned with our K-5 curriculum.

As a Faculty Fellow at Keene State College, I shared my knowledge of children's literature and how to effectively use it in the classroom.

As a member of the National Council of Teachers of Social Studies and the Children's Book Council, I reviewed newly published children's books and served on the committee which selected the winners of the Notable Book award in the field of Social Studies.

The Library is a vital hub of community activities for all ages, and I would very much like to be involved with them.

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Gail LaHaise

I decided to run for the library board for a few reasons. I was a reading specialist for over 30 years, so I feel this illustrates the importance I put on reading. Creating a love of reading and books for children is so important. Even with today's emphasis on technology, a child who is a successful reader is a successful student.

I have a personal love of reading and have been an avid reader since I was a child.

As a participant in the knitting group that meets at the library, I understand the importance of the library for special programs. Now that we have a full time library director, there are untold possibilities for utilizing the library as a community center. It is very apparent that the library needs more space. I want to be a part of developing the process and plan for that growth.

Also, I have been a member of the Friends of the Library for several years and in the past have helped with their annual book sale.



Christie Winmill

I love libraries! In Walpole, we are fortunate to have a beautiful library that has been well supported for so many years. As a library trustee, I will do what I can to contribute to the continued care and success of this valued Walpole treasure. Please vote for me on March 8.

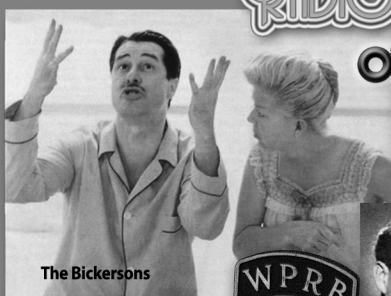
Half of the American people
have never read a newspaper.
Half never voted for President.
One hopes it is the same half.

— Gore Vidal

There was Humor before Seinfeld!

(or Letterman or Belushi or Carey or Newhart or even Homer Simpson...)

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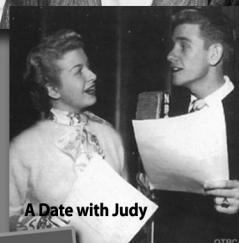
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Burns & Allen



Bob & Ray



A Date with Judy



Fibber & Molly



ALL NEW
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ONE SHOW ONLY!

Bring your own
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and linger after the show!

WALPOLE TOWN HALL
SATURDAY, MARCH 12
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00
"ON THE AIR" AT 7:00
TICKETS: \$5.00

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT GALLOWAY REAL ESTATE & JOANIE JOAN'S

The Walpole Players

Radio Follies

Keep the Evening of March 12 Free

It's time to tune in to W.P.R.B! Sit back and listen to radio skits, songs and commercials from days gone by. Do you remember listening to George Burns and Gracie Allen? Or maybe Fibber McGee and Molly? On Saturday, March 12, at 6 PM, the Golden Age of Radio will come to life once again.

Go to the Helen Miller Theater (upstairs in the Town Hall) with your picnic dinner and choice of libations, and join your friends and family members for a night of food, drinks and laughs (maybe a little dancing too!) The doors open at 6PM, with the show starting at 7PM.

To get tickets in advance or to reserve your table, stop by Joanie Joan's Bake Shop or Galloway's Real Estate Office. Tables are filling up fast, so come and reserve your table soon (at press time, we have only nine tables left).

For more information on this fun-filled evening, or to reserve your table, please contact Joan Balla at 499-1027

— Joan Balla

Hooper Institute

2016 Summer Work Program

Hello Walpole teens! It's time to apply for the Hooper Institute Summer Work Program. Students currently in grades 8 through 11 are eligible. Hooper sponsors teens to work at local farms doing chores and caring for a variety of animals. There are also opportunities to work with plants by helping at an apple orchard, vineyard, produce farm, landscaping and a floral shop. Students can also work at the Town Recycling Center.

The work is not for everyone! It is usually dirty and hard, but for the right person it is fun and satisfying. There are also a few positions open to be a counselor at the Hooper Summer Camps for two weeks at the end of June.

If you think you would like the challenge, call the Institute at 756-4382 and leave your contact information. Clearly state your name and telephone number. You may

also e-mail us at HOOPERINSTITUTE@myfairpoint.net.

Applications are due by April 30. Along with the application, you must complete two interviews - one with the Hooper Institute committee and the second with your potential employer. The program begins on the last day of school in June and runs until the end of the week before school begins in August. Over the past 17 summers of the work program, over 200 Walpole students have worked about 26,000 hours in the community.

— Eloise Clark



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First Congregational Church

Reverend Craig Breisemeister

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

Grace Bible Fellowship

756-4837 • www.gb4hisglory.com

Service: Sunday 9:15 AM

All Saints Parish

Pastor, Reverend Steven M. Lepine

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

Sat., 4PM; Sun., 8:30AM

St. Peter Church, North Walpole;

Tues. 8AM, Thurs. 5:30PM, Sun. 8:30AM

St. Catherine's Church, Charlestown

Confessions: Thurs., 4:45-5:20 PM,

St. Catherine's; Sat., 3-3:45PM, St. Peter

St. John's Episcopal Church

Rector, Reverend Susan de Puy Kershaw

Communion Service: Wednesday, NOON

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

Walpole Unitarian Church

Reverend Lisa Mobayed, M.Div.

Service: Sunday 10 AM

Friendly Friday

Come to the Congregational Church March 18, 5:30-7:30PM, ready for fun and great food when you join Rev. Craig and his family at Friendly Friday. We'll learn about Easter (hint: there's more to it than chocolate bunnies!) and create some art together that will decorate the church during Easter Week. Bring a side or main dish to share. Church provides drinks and dessert. For more information, "like" Friendly Fridays on Facebook or contact the church: 756-4075, walpolechurch@yahoo.com.

— Jenn Breisemeister

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First Congregational

Welcomes New Organist/Music Director

Beginning December 2015, the Walpole Congregational Church has a new music director. Karen Kitchen comes to the Walpole church from her childhood years in Sanford, Maine via Durham, England, where she learned her organ skills. In between, she served as organist, accompanist and music director for churches in New York before starting her work in England.

Graduating magna cum laude from Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York, with a BA in Organ Performance, Karen went on to England to learn organ building and tuning. For ten years, she traveled most of England and Scotland, tuning and repairing organs. Along the way she served as music director to several churches before settling in Hawick, Scotland, as music director of the Wilton Parish Church.

Karen returned to the U.S., where she was hired by Steve Russell, renowned organ builder, and he suggested she talk to Walpole Congregational Church about the music director's position.

Her other music skills include directing adult and children's choirs, teaching piano, building, repairing and tuning organs.

Karen lives in Saxton's River with her whippet/retriever, Ginger, and her cat, Brie. She has two grown children, Aaron and Lise. How fortunate for Walpole to have such a talented musician. Welcome, Karen.

— Kathy Yardley

Easter Schedule

February 10, marked the beginning of Lent, the 40 days Jesus went into isolation in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry and triumphant arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He was tried, convicted and executed. So we are in that period preceding Easter, the most important event in Christianity. It is

a period of penitence, fasting, reflection, and contemplation in preparation for Easter Sunday. First Congregational welcomes the faithful and the questioning, the joyful and the painful, the successful and the hurt. There is something meaningful here.

Palm Sunday, March 20, Service at 10AM in the sanctuary. Palms will be distributed to all by the children.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday, March 24, in Fellowship Hall. Tenebrae service of candles at 7PM. It includes readings and music recounting the Last Supper. Holy Communion is part of the service.

Good Friday, March 25, Prayer Vigil. At least one person spends thirty minutes in prayer and reflection in the sanctuary from 6AM through 6PM. Come anytime.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, March 27, 6:15AM, at Hooper Golf Course. Please join us for a short service celebrating the risen Christ.

Easter breakfast, March 27, in Fellowship Hall around 7AM. A breakfast of coffee, juice, eggs, ham and baked goods. You are welcome even if you don't attend the Sunrise Service.

Easter Service, March 27, 10AM in the sanctuary. Please, join us. Get your spiritual battery recharged in a warm, welcoming and peaceful environment.

— Chuck Shaw

St. John's Episcopal

Holy Week Schedule

March 20: Holy Communion/Palm Sunday, 10 AM The service begins with the beautiful liturgy of the Blessing and Procession of the Palms. The Passion Narrative will be read in a dramatic form.

March 23: Holy Wednesday Communion, Noon. The lessons encourage us to walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem.

March 24: Maundy Thursday service with Communion, 7PM The liturgy invites us to consider the Last Supper and Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

March 25: Good Friday service, Noon. The beautiful liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer directs our prayers to the Cross.

March 27: Easter Day, 10 AM A glorious service celebrating the Resurrection.

St John's Church is a welcoming and affirming parish in the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire. Everyone is invited to participate in the sacrament of Communion. Please check our website for more information: www.stjohnswalpole.org.

— Susan Kershaw

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Update

A Light For Zimbabwe

Many of you may remember that on September 19, 2015, a 20-foot container was loaded in Keene with boxes of supplies to be shipped to Zimbabwe. Our church participated in that project, and with the help of the Walpole School and members of the Walpole community, we shipped 64 boxes (from Walpole alone!) to Zimbabwe. Finally the container reached its destination in early January, and I am pleased to report that our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe received their shipment. Please see the pictures attached.

– Ellie Shaw

Walpole Village School

In February the Walpole Village School students were given the opportunity to profess their admiration to each other. It looks as though we have some hopeless romantics on our hands, as their poems proved to look outside the box when it comes to their writing.

We've created our own Valentine poem, inspired by our next fundraiser:

*Pancakes are fluffy,
Syrup is Sweet,
When you come to the Pancake Breakfast,
You will be in for a treat.*

This month we will be hosting the annual Pancake Breakfast, Palm Sunday, March 20, from 8 - 11AM at Town Hall. Participants will enjoy delicious pancakes. This is a recipe that has been hailed as one of the best, and has been perfected through the years. Our pancake flippers consider it serious business, recording the temperature of each burner so the pancakes will be perfectly browned. In addition this year, our pancakes will be served with sausage, hand-made by Burdick's Vaughn Metcalf. Combined with donations of local maple syrup, you won't find a better Sunday breakfast. For more information, go to our website at www.walpolevillageschool.org, or on Facebook, or call the school at 756-4246.

– Andrea Vickers-Sivret

Spring Rummage Sale:

Mark your calendars for the Spring Rummage Sale to be held at the First Congregational Church on Friday, April 29, 4:00 to 6:00 PM, and Saturday, April 30, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. More information will be coming in the April issue of The Clarion, but in the meantime, start cleaning out your closets as we will be accepting donations of clean, gently used spring and summer clothing, as well as tag sale items.

– Ellie Shaw



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pinnacle View 4-H Club

Caring Youngsters

I am eating lunch - the doorbell rings. A young lady is at the door holding a colorful package. I know what is happening, because last year The Pinnacle View 4-H Club stopped with some Valentine's Day Cookies - and here they are again. Overwhelmed, I brought the young lady in to see the card they gave me last year, still hanging on my refrigerator. "You have made my day," I exclaimed.

Last year, I assumed that the caring 4-H youngsters somehow knew who no longer had a Valentine sweetheart at home, and stopped to brighten the day with their love. But, the next day, Charley Blount called me asking, "Ray, what do you know about the Pinnacle View 4-H Club? They brought me Valentine's Day treats yesterday." "Interesting," I replied, "because you still have a Valentine at home."

Charley got the answer from Sharlene Beaudry (faculty advisor of the club). This year some 80 cards and treats were delivered in town, more than usual since they made some stops at Applewood this year. Sharlene told Charley the list of recipients was generated to honor those "who have helped out in the community,"

Such acts, especially from our future leaders, cannot go without being acknowledged. On behalf of everyone whose "day you made," thank you, and may you have many more Happy Valentine Days.

– Ray Boas

**IF GOD
WANTED US TO VOTE,
HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN US
CANDIDATES.**

–Jay Leno

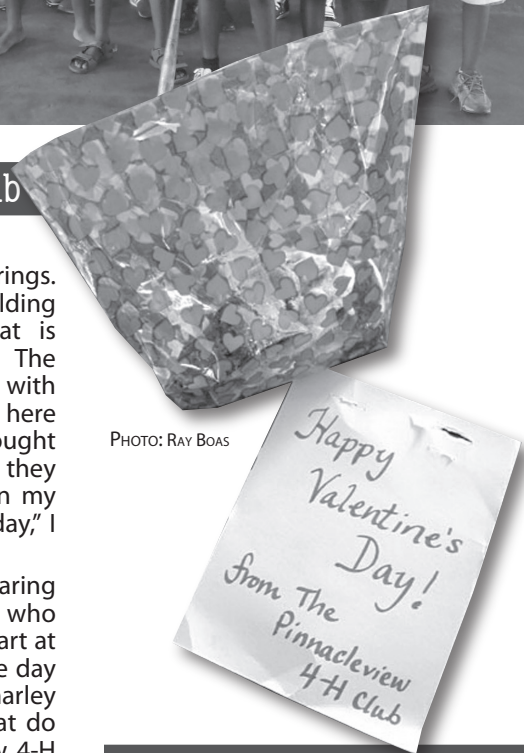


PHOTO: RAY BOAS

The Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will meet at the First Congregational Church in Walpole at noon on Monday, March 21 for a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish to share with the members. Everyone is asked to bring a craft project they are working on or a hobby collection to share with the members. Discussion will continue on ideas for some outstanding trips for 2016. Bring a friend and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

– Jan Martin



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PHOTO PROVIDED

Bellows Falls Y

Day Camp Programming Expands to Meet Community Needs

With 51 summers of camp and over 12,000 area youth served, leaders of Meeting Waters YMCA are excited about some community-responsive changes they're making this year.

The regional Y is adding a ninth week of camp, one more than in the past. They'll also be offering before- and after-camp programs for the first time to provide greater supports for working parents.

The regional Y offers four different camp experiences. Its Y Day Camp for 6-13 year-olds offers nine one-week sessions between June 20 and August 19. The Y's Leader-in-Training program provides a week of leadership development (June 27-31) with youth leadership author and consultant Steve Fortier, followed by three weeks working alongside camp staff. Family Camp takes place on Saturday July 23. KinderCamp provides children entering kindergarten in the fall with a confidence-building experience from August 15 through 19.

All camps are based at the regional Y's 52-acre Lewis Day Camp facility, located on Route 5 in Springfield, just off I-91. Bus service is provided to and from camp each day from Walpole, North Walpole and Charlestown, as well as six towns in Vermont.

The regional Y's camps participate in the federal Summer Food Program. All campers – regardless of town of residence or family income – qualify for a free, healthy lunch each day.

Registration for the upcoming camp season has begun. To ensure that all youth have the chance to experience camp, the regional Y offers financial assistance from donations to its Reach Out to Youth fundraising campaign, and accepts state childcare financial assistance from both New Hampshire and Vermont.

A Camp Open House will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM at the Y's Lewis Day Camp facility on Missing Link Road/Route 5 in Springfield. For more information or to enroll, visit www.meetingwatersymca.org or call the Y office at 802-463-4769.

– Steve Fortier

Town Of Walpole

Town Office Positions Available

Administrative Assistant

This position provides assistance and administrative support to the Selectboard, is responsible for overseeing the daily operation of the Board office, administering personnel and operational policies under the jurisdiction of the Selectboard and serve as a general resource for the citizens of Walpole. The Administrative Assistant receives general supervision and policy direction from the Selectboard, exercises a considerable degree of independent judgement and is evaluated by the Board based upon the achievement of assigned goals and objectives.

Interested candidates must possess essential computer skills and have strong interpersonal and leadership skills. A college degree is preferred but not required. Municipal experience a plus. For a detailed job description contact the Town of Walpole at 756-3672.

To apply, submit a Town of Walpole application, resume and cover letter by mail to the Town of Walpole Selectboard Office, PO Box 729, Walpole, NH 03608, or via email to ledkins@walpolenh.us. Applications must be received no later than March 2, 2016.

Part Time Office Assistant

The Town of Walpole is seeking a highly motivated Individual to fill a part time 20 hour a week Office Assistant position in the Town of Walpole Selectboard Office. This position reports to the Administrative Assistant and assists in daily operation of the Selectboard office. This Office Assistant position is responsible for a variety of administrative tasks. He/she will maintain the office environment by greeting the public, answering phones, filing, performing data entry/word processing and executing other related duties as assigned.

Candidates must possess a cheerful presence, people skills and have good oral and written communication skills. This person must exhibit the ability to work independently, have the ability to follow direction and must also be willing to maintain a professional work ethic.

This position is available immediately. To apply, submit an application, resume and cover letter to Janet Clough at the Town of Walpole, PO Box 729, Walpole, NH 03608 or via email to tojclough@walpolenh.us. The deadline for applications is March 2, 2016.

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has a lower market value. This process is advantageous in keeping the cost of farm land down so cash-strapped farmers may acquire or expand a farm, as well as preserve the natural beauty of the parcels. Future purchasers of the Hooper Mansion, golf course and adjacent forest may find a similar bargain due to the conservation easement, but they will also have to abide by the easement's terms in perpetuity. The Hooper easement is unique in that it permits the operation of a commercial golf course, in addition to the more commonly allowed commercial agriculture and forestry.

Also present for the execution of the conservation easement was Tom Beaudry, Chairman of the Walpole Conservation Commission. The Commission has provided funds for the costs of the transaction, including monies to support the Monadnock Conservancy's perpetual oversight and enforcement of the easement. The Conservancy managed the project and handled the mechanics for the community's fundraising efforts, which raised more than \$548,000 for the easement purchase and associated expenses. In fact, \$20,000 of the total raised was turned over to the Hooper Educational Trust as reimbursement for its costs in developing and implementing the Hooper "solution."

As the ink was drying, Peggy Pschirrer stated that the Town, "owed a great debt to the Monadnock Conservancy for their involvement since 2012." Ryan Owens (the executive director of the Conservancy and a Walpole resident) and Anne McBride (Conservancy land protection director and manager of the Hooper project) were in attendance along with Stephen Gehlbach, Conservancy board president. Owens commented that early on he "realized that we were not just protecting a golf course, but also a community resource and asset." He



Peggy Pschirrer, Hooper Trustee, signing away

PHOTO: RAY BOAS

continued, "land trusts around the nation are watching with interest as Walpole redefines how land conservation can benefit a town."

The sale of the golf course and mansion is still in the works. It is hoped that a sale will occur soon so golf and other activities may continue in 2016.

— Ray Boas

**It ain't what
you don't know
that gets you
into trouble.
It's what you
know for sure
that just ain't so.**

— Mark Twain

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Household Hints

After Water Damage...What?

When facing a water damage, understanding what type of water you are dealing with is critical to ensure proper cleanup. There are three types of water. **Clean water** is water from a broken pipe, or other water source; rainwater is also considered clean. The term **gray water** is used to classify slightly contaminated water. Clean water becomes gray water when it is left untreated allowing bacteria and other contaminants to begin growing, making the water hazardous. **Black water** is highly contaminated and filled with fungi, bacteria, chemicals and more. Black water is typically caused by sewage damage, flooding or any type of natural disaster. Black water should always be handled by trained professionals. When you have a water damage, don't leave your property to chance. Call a professional. Next month: precautions to help minimize damage or prevent further damage while waiting for help to arrive.

SERVPRO of Cheshire Co., NH and Windham and Windsor Co., VT hopes you stay warm, safe and dry this winter.

12 cal.

13 cal.

Non-Fiction Book Club

March and April Selections

Attendance at the Library's February Non-Fiction Book Club meeting increased by 50%, and the discussion was spirited. The March 1 meeting will also focus on the "Great Decisions" handout covering the current situation in Syria and Iraq, and its implications for the West. This 12-page handout is very accessible, and provides essential background to the media coverage we see or read every day. Anyone not able to attend the February meeting is welcome to come and discuss the "Great Decisions" handout. The group agreed that there was much left to be addressed.

Another vital component of understanding the situation in the Middle East is geography. As a result, the March 1 meeting will also include a discussion of Chapter XIII ("The Iranian Pivot") and Chapter XIV ("The Former Ottoman Empire") of Robert D. Kaplan's *The Revenge of Geography*, a fascinating and clearly-written book by a best-selling author. Nowhere has the impact of geography been more essential to understanding the politics of an area than in the Middle East, and yet it is so often ignored.

To quote Kaplan: "...the region...is in the midst of a crisis of central authority. The old order of autocracies has become untenable, even as the path toward stable democratization is tortuous. The first phase of this great upheaval has featured the defeat of geography through the power of new communications technologies...But, as the revolt goes on, each country has developed its own narrative, which, in turn is influenced by its own deep history and geography."

The selection for the April 5 meeting is a short piece by Cole Bunzel, *From Paper State to Caliphate*, The Brookings Institution, March 2015.

All meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the Library, which will supply all readings for distribution or check out.

— Marya W. Holcombe

Project Graduation

Upcoming Fundraisers

On Saturday, March 26, from 5 to 7 PM at the Walpole Town Hall, there will be an ice cream social and games fundraiser for the Fall Mountain graduating class and Project Graduation. Please come by, have fun and show your support.

And then on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 to 3:00 PM, there will be an indoor yard sale and bake sale fundraiser at the Charlestown Middle School Gym. We have started to collect items for our yard sale. Please donate your items. We have a storage area for them.

Questions or donations: Terry Zehr, FMRHS Project Grad Advisor, 904-4087 terry_zehr@yahoo.co

— Terry Zehr

North Walpole Library

Name That Tune

Rose Werden, Librarian, and Steve Damon, saxophonist and music teacher, provided yet another afternoon of fun at the North Walpole Library on February 2. We forgot all about groundhogs! *Name That Tune* was Jazz oriented, which intimidated me. However, Steve concentrated on tunes that can be, and are, jazzed up. He treated us to full songs. Rose treated us to snacks, and no one was whispering as we laughed and sang Steve's tunes, reminiscing over lots of old times and old songs. Rose and Steve are making library visits very interesting!

— Pam O'Hara

HCS

Wellness Clinic in Walpole

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services will hold a Nurse Is In clinic in Walpole on Friday, March 25. An HCS wellness nurse will be at Applewood Senior Housing from 10-11 AM to check blood pressures and answer questions about home care and any health concerns you may have. These screenings are open to the public of all ages and are free of charge. No appointment necessary.

For a complete list of area clinics or for more information, visit www.HCSservices.org or call HCS at 352-2253.

— Susan Ashworth

Chimney & Venting Safety

Winter months mean closed-up houses and heating systems running more or less constantly. Here are some tips to keep your house safe in the winter months.

The products of combustion from heating have to be vented from a house. Exhausts from oil, gas pellet and wood appliances can have unhealthy components such as carbon monoxide, aromatic compounds and irritants with varying degrees of toxicity.

Wood burning appliances are too often associated with unfortunate occurrences such as structural and/or chimney fires. Fireplaces in older homes usually do not conform to modern standards. Also, the age and degradation of older masonry chimneys can further accelerate the possibility of fire hazards. In addition, there can be deteriorating flue liners, soot build-up, debris clogging the passageway, and animal or bird nests obstructing chimney flues. -

Did you know that your clothes dryer is a vented heating appliance? Electricity or a gas fire creates the energy to remove moisture from clothes through a vent to the outside. An obstructed dryer vent can cause products of combustion – like lint – to linger in the home. It can also cause drying time to be drastically increased. It is vitally important that all chimneys and vents are properly installed and operate in a manner that conveys exhaust gasses and vapors out of the building envelope.

Spring is a great time to ensure that all your chimneys and vents are maintained and functioning properly to avoid potential problems during the frigid winter months when heating systems are working overtime.

— Ian Conway

**The one thing that doesn't abide
by majority rule
is a person's conscience.**

— Harper Lee

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Gleanings

From the Town Minutes

These items of interest come from the February 9 meeting of the Walpole Planning Board:

Modular Condos In The Village?

The Beehive (former Schoolhouse Apartments): Mr. Jack Franks came to the meeting to talk about an idea he had for the Bee Hive on School Street. He said in his estimation the buildings were in such disarray that it would take an enormous amount of money to rehab them – maybe \$1.3 million. Structurally it's in very tough shape. It's also a place the police department visits on a regular basis.

This is very preliminary. It would need a survey and engineering design. The setbacks seem okay.

His plan, which is just a rough draft of what he might do, is to make it into 16 condominiums, about a 1,000 square feet, with two bedrooms with 2 baths. The building would be modular with two stories with parking in a downtown setting. There would be 30 percent green space. It would about a housing development. There are 10 units now and it's a bit of an increase but it's

better than putting a band-aid on the building. I think that there's a market for it. It would be good for the tax base of Walpole. It would be all sprinkled so the fire department wouldn't have an issue.

Mr. Ed Potter asked if he would be selling these. Mr. Franks said yes but that he may hold on to one or two for himself.

Mr. Potter said he thought that the town voted a couple of years ago not to have condominiums in the village district. It was down by Woodward Florist. It may have been 10 years ago. Board Chairman Jeff Miller said it was a different layout. Those were cluster houses.

Mr. Franks said that the land is in the Commercial District and he had a Letter of Intent with the landowner.

Ms. Myra Mansouri said that she thought the landowner had declared bankruptcy and that the bank owned the property. Mr. Franks said that was true but it was eventually sold to Elm Grove Properties in Manchester.

She said she was also concerned about the narrow street and it's already crowded with Applewood.

Mr. Franks said it's a two-lane road. He also invited the Planning and Zoning Boards to come down and look at the units being built behind Tractor Supply."

Potato Barn Update

Matt Blanc of Blanc & Bailey provided an update on the plans for the Potato Barn. With him was Kevin Dunn of Sacramento, CA., who was hired by the barn's owner, Steve Rudek, to consult on the project.

Access from Route 12 is still in question. It appears that federal funding had been provided for the bypass around the village in the early 1960s with a proviso that there would be no access from South Street to where Main Street rejoins at the Agway store. However, in the recent past, State approval had been granted for a Town Road to be cut in from Route 12 to the barn. Until the Town Road plan can be finally resolved, the current plan is to widen the current driveway off Main Street from 15 to 24 feet. Because of traffic concerns on Main Street, Mr. Miller stated that access from "Route 12 was advantageous and had town support."

The Walpole Fire Department is requiring the entire structure to be installed with sprinklers. It was further discussed that, "the intended use of the building has been changed to possibly four apartments on the upper level, also with parking and access at the upper level. The lower level would be light commercial, possibly a distillery or a commercial bakery."

.....

W.R.A.P.

The Compost Is Coming!

For those of you who are excited about compost, and who wouldn't be, there are about 150 cubic yards of compost just about ready for sale. Once the weather begins to act like spring, the compost will need to be screened and then it will, indeed, be ready to go. A small pickup load will cost about \$10.00 and a large pick load about \$20.00. Naturally the price includes the loading. The sale of the compost is more of a community service than a money maker; the center needs only to recoup its expenses. Once the recycling center has sorted out its costs, the final prices for the compost will be set. Given past history, the entire allotment of compost will be sold out before too long, so keep an ear to the compost.

Also coming soon will be a sign diagramming the proper traffic pattern for dropping off yellow bags and recycling materials. Occasionally, even in the midst of traffic, a customer will pull a U-turn from the compactor over to the recycling bays. A bit of a head scratcher there, but it happens. An equally troublesome maneuver involves backing up across traffic from the compactor to

the bays. One accident ensued from such risky driving and there are always a number of close calls with arch looks. Good thing road-rage hasn't made it to the Recycling Center, yet. The recycling folks will be asking us, if there is any traffic, to take a spin around the island rather than to fight across traffic to get from the compactor to the bays or vice versa. Thank you for helping with this.

The new face at the Center belongs to Wayne Croteau, a Walpole resident. Wayne, who was hired about two months ago, has been a volunteer in the past and is quickly on his way in getting up to recycling speed. Say hi to Wayne.

On a final note, don't be shy, readers. Come on down to the Recycling Center. We like nothing more than welcoming new volunteers. Most volunteers work a two hour shift at the recycling bays, but there are other community service opportunities available. You can stop in at the Center to inquire; or give a call: 445-5197; or send an email: transfer@myfairpoint.net; or visit the web site to get the scoop: <https://walpolerecycling.com>.

— Joe Beer

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Community Garden

Save the date! On Saturday, March 26 at 10AM, the Walpole Community Garden will be hosting those interested in knowing more about this jewel of the community. Join us at the Hooper Institute, 165 Prospect Hill Rd, across from the golf course.

Perhaps you are new to gardening or to organic gardening? Perhaps you are downsizing from a large garden and would prefer a smaller plot? Perhaps you are an ambitious gardener who needs a bit more space? All gardening levels are welcome. Our membership has a diverse background of growing experiences. We love to share what we've learned with others and would love to learn what you have to share. Perhaps this is the year for you to participate in this really fun and satisfying pursuit?

Come to tour our peaceful garden site, overlooking the Hooper Institute meadow and pond. Learn about our unique "no till" organic practices that continuously improve the garden soil and tilth. See the heirloom apple orchard with its supportive plant guilds. Understand the expectations for membership, as there are communal chores that help the plants thrive. Plan to bring lots of questions for our veteran gardeners.

New member sign-ups will take place at the Community Garden meeting. We look forward to seeing you there! Membership dues are \$20 per family. If you have any questions, please call the Hooper Institute at 756-4382 or e-mail us at HOOPERINSTITUTE@myfairpoint.net.

– Eloise Clark & Rebecca Whippie

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A politician should have three hats.
One for throwing into the ring,
one for talking through,
and one for pulling rabbits out of if elected.

– Carl Sandburg



The shelves are restocked and the Children's Reading Room is back together again after replacement of asbestos flooring.

Walpole Library

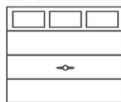
How to Build a Book

Join us at the library on March 10, at 6:30PM for a presentation by local children's book author, Jim Skofield. He'll be talking about how a children's picture book is made, from writing numerous drafts to how the pages fit together and are bound to make a physical book. This is a great presentation for children and adults alike. The library will provide light refreshments. Visit or call the library if you have any questions at 756-9806. See you there!

– Justine Rogers



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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...Walpole's first cannon

was stolen three times before being destroyed by wadding with too much green grass?

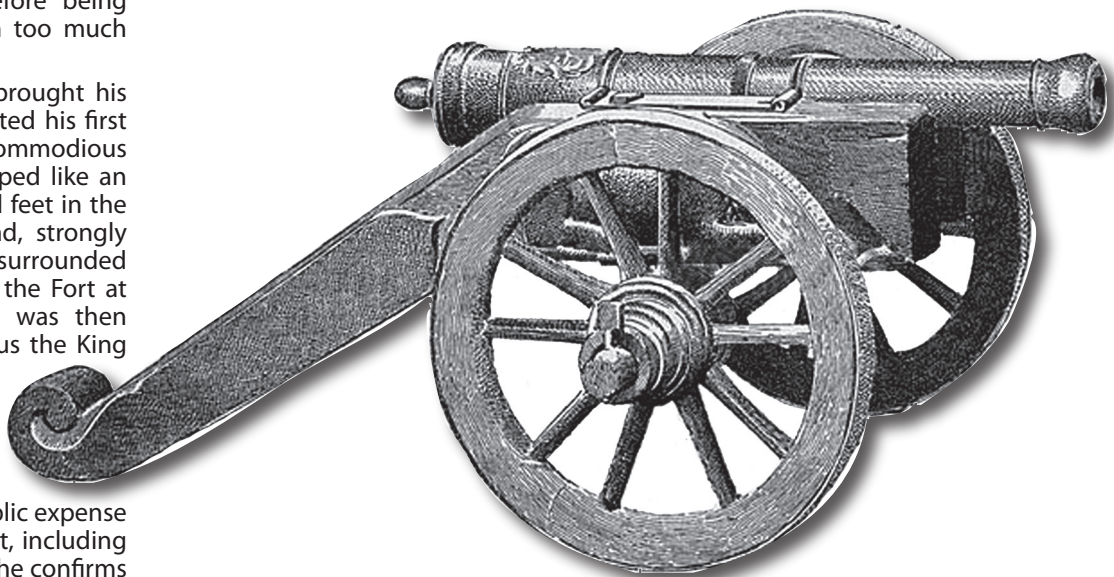
When Benjamin Bellows brought his family here in 1753, he erected his first dwelling, "...sufficiently commodious to be called a fort, and shaped like an 'L', being about one hundred feet in the arms and twenty feet broad, strongly built of logs and earth, and surrounded by a palisade." This became the Fort at Number Three, as Walpole was then known. Aldrich (1880) tells us the King of England gave Bellows a "heavy iron cannon" for protection of the fort. Frizzell (1963) in the town history wrote, "It appears that Col. Bellows drew at public expense men and supplies for his fort, including a heavy iron cannon." Later she confirms the cannon was a gift from the King.

Regardless of its origin, fifty-plus years later, the cannon held a position on Main Street in the village, until a group of miscreants from Keene decided they would remove the cannon for their Fourth of July celebrations. Late the night before the 4th, they scurried it south. Outraged, the citizens of Walpole promptly arrested the delinquents and brought them to trial in the County Court. But Chief Justice Smith decided "that said cannon was not the property of the town of Walpole, and the defendants were discharged." The cannon remained hidden in a granary in Keene.

But, Walpoleans take action, no matter what the circumstances. Plans for the cannon's repatriation commenced the evening of the Fourth in 1809 when "they hired a stage driver to go to Keene with a heavy wagon after a load of grain."

Bargaining was done, and wanting to get an early start in the morning, the driver was able to secure the key to the granary. Later, outside of Keene, he met "a cavalcade of about thirty stalwart fellows, mounted on spirited horses, commanded by an officer of high rank." They removed to the granary to release the cannon. But so much noise was made in moving the heavy piece that the fire alarms were rung. The entire town of Keene was in a panic not knowing the reason for the clamor. But by then the cannon was heading back to Walpole. Upon discovering what had happened, the citizens of Keene, intent on stopping the theft, took a wrong road in the chase. A terrible conflict was avoided, and Walpole's cannon heralded the Fourth of July, 1809, in Walpole where it belonged.

Later on, the citizens of Westminster, Vermont, wanted to get into the cannon-stealing act. They "borrowed" the cannon for their own celebration. Learning of the theft, "eighty stalwart fellows, none of



whom weighed less than one hundred and sixty pounds, started, with the selectmen at their head, for Westminster for the purpose of retaking it at all hazards."

Leaving the main road, the Walpole heroes approached the village from the east where they were concealed by a "high board fence." Firing the cannon, the brave but misguided Vermonters were heard to yell, "Do you hear that, Walpoleans?" Pushing over the fence, the Walpoleans replied, "Yes, we do hear it!" And, as Aldrich reported, our ancestors "without parley, pounced on the cannon, wrested it from the Vermonters and brought it away in triumph."

Not to be outdone, Alstead's men were next to make off with Walpole's cannon. "On firing it, being loaded heavily, with green grass for wadding, it spoke for the last time, and its fragments were gathered and converted into implements of peace at a neighboring foundry." There is no record of shrapnel penetrating flesh.

What fun was had two hundred years ago.

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! WARNING !
Next month's Clarion will be our April Fool's issue, so don't believe everything you read, and feel free to submit some fun of your own if you're so inclined!

Roaring '20s Dance

To Benefit Our Place

Flapper dresses and boater hats are being dug out of the depths of closets or fashioned from thrift store finds as preparations begin for the Roaring Twenties dance Saturday, March 19, to benefit Our Place Drop-in Center.

The Bluebird Orchestra will play at the Walpole Town Hall beginning at 7 PM, with doors opening at 6:30 PM. Bluebird members Donald Saaf (guitar and vocals), Matthew Sharff (stand up bass, and vocals), Rick Contino (pedal steel and banjo), Riley Goodemote (trombone), and Paul McTaggart (drums), have appeared extensively throughout the area.

Tickets at \$20 for adults and \$15 for students will be on sale at the door. It's BYOB for adults, with munchies provided.

Prizes will be given for the outfits that best carry out the Roaring Twenties theme of flappers, mobsters, good-time Charlies, Gatsby-esque dudes and other fun-loving characters.

Further information is available by contacting Our Place at (802) 463-2217, on line at www.ourplacevt.org, on Facebook or at ourplace@sover.net.

The proceeds from the dance will provide funds for the work of the daytime shelter and food pantry, located at 4 Island Street, whose mission is to connect people to food and each other. It serves sfamilies in Rockingham and the surrounding areas in Vermont, and in Walpole and North Walpole.

– Louise Luring

Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.

– Abraham Lincoln

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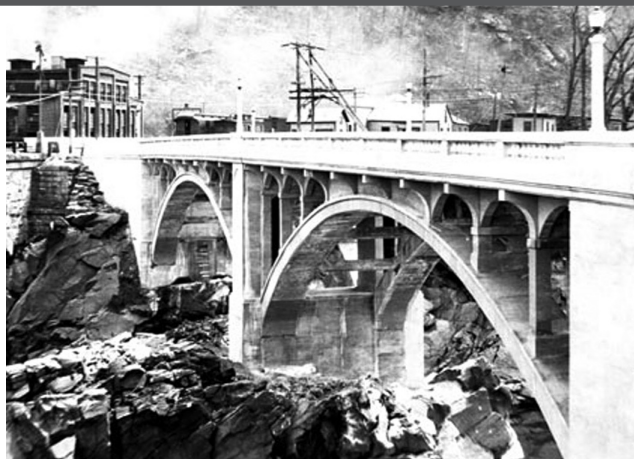
Vilas Bridge

A Crumbling Memory

The State of New Hampshire has removed the Vilas Bridge from its ten-year priority list for repairs or replacement. Funding of infrastructure nationwide is a serious financial problem, and repair of the Vilas Bridge is now totally off the list since there are two other crossings to Vermont in close proximity.

According to NH DOT Public Information Officer, Bill Boynton, the 10-year plan is reviewed every two years. Since the bridge closed on March 19, 2009, Bellows Falls merchants have reported a downturn in business activity as drivers to Vermont no long can cross the Connecticut River right into downtown.

There are concerns for pedestrian use of the bridge due to holes in the bridge's decking. Of concern also should be Walpole's sewer line, which is under the



Vilas Bridge in late 1930s looking toward Fall Mountain and the Round House. Now a crumbling memory.

bridge to move waste from the Walpole Town Water system to the Bellows Falls Water Treatment Plant, located on the river just south of downtown Bellows Falls. The review process will continue, but in the meantime the Vilas Bridge will continue to crumble and become more of a financial problem.

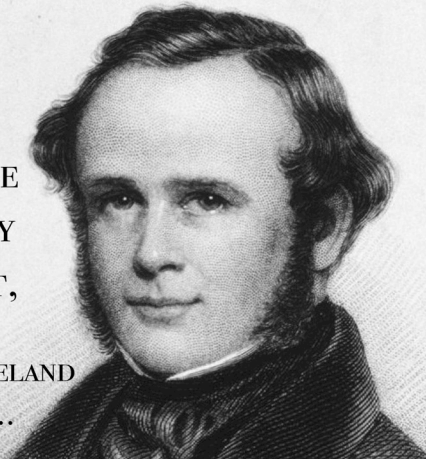
– Ray Boas

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Walpole Town Hall...Free and All Invited



What's Happening in Walpole Schools



Basketball

Teams Post Strong Finishes

In the last games of the season, the Walpole Elementary School boys' and girls' Basketball teams finished the season out with a bang.

The girls' squad finished the season with a record of 13-2 before cruising through the postseason and claiming the Middle School Championship. The Lady Chicks' began their successful run in their last couple of regular season games, which were fought with great power and ambition for more. The girls won all of their final games, which tied them for the first seed in the postseason tournament.

When tournament day began, the girls endured hard practices and continued to work hard. The Lady Chicks' first opponents were the Marlboro Dukes, the eighth seed, who the girls had already beaten twice. Walpole stuck to the game plan, and came roaring out with a victory. On February 6, in the next round of the tournament, Walpole played the Westmoreland Bulldogs, who they had also previously defeated twice. The Lady Chicks fought with great power and remained relentless. Following the win, the girls were headed to the Championship.

The Hinsdale girls' team, which had split their series with Walpole during the regular season, defeated Chesterfield to advance to the Championship game. Walpole hosted the Championship game against the Hinsdale Pacers. The game would be a classic.

The Lady Chicks trailed the Pacers at times throughout the first three quarters of play. Heading into the fourth and final quarter of play, Walpole maintained a slim, two-point lead. The Walpole Lady Chicks capped their comeback by

outscored their opponents by going on a nearly twenty-point run to claim the Championship. The crowd was excited with parents, friends, teachers, and students all cheering on their teams. The WES girls' team coaches, Michelle O'Brien and Ray Bushee, helped lead the Lady Chicks to a championship season. Some of the key players in the postseason included 8th graders Amanda Hodgkins, Autumn Cumming, Ella Bushee, Meghan Spaulding, Olivia Dunnigan, and Taylor Hill, who were great team leaders. For the 7th grade, Erin Brady, Hillary Berry, Kaitlin Faulkner, Kaylee Lintner, Morgan Beauregard, Paige Moody, and Shea Pickering also contributed to the season and will be great leaders for the 2016-17 basketball team.

The Walpole boys' Basketball team also had a strong season, earning a 5th seed for the postseason tournament. In the first round, the Chicks played the 4th-seeded Kurn Hattin, who they had played the following week and lost to. The boys defeated the higher-seeded Kurn Hattin, launching them into the semi-finals against the top-ranked Marlboro Dukes, who finished the season unbeaten at 21-0. Despite the Walpole boys' loss, they had put up a good fight during the entire season and seemed to always get better every time they played. Both Walpole teams had focused on improvement throughout each game of the season, and their hard work paid off in the end.

— Kaylee Lintner

Walpole Youth Baseball Foundation

Baseball/Softball Sign-ups
Tuesday, 3/1 & Thursday, 3/3 • 6-7 PM
WES Cafeteria & Conference Room
\$20 per family member

A parent/guardian must sign the registration form. Bring a copy of the child's birth certificate (if one is not on file) and the registration fee.

Softball: Girls, grades 3-6

Baseball: Boys or Girls
age 5 by 4/30/16

(and not older than 12 on 4/30/16)

Students must be residents of Walpole, North Walpole or Drewsville to be eligible.

Call Steve Corey with any questions,
756-9569.

This is not a school-sponsored activity.

The Food Shelf

Two years ago, a few of the eighth graders from Walpole Elementary School decided to raise money for the Food Shelf by holding a dance at the end of the year. When the eighth graders delivered the check to the Food Shelf, the grateful workers asked the students if, while they were there, they wanted to do some volunteer work. The students helped out on that day, and realized how much they had enjoyed it.

They had liked getting a short respite from the school day during lunch and study hall, but they also liked helping others and working for the community. They gave free food for people who may be less fortunate. After the first visit, the students could not wait to go back. More students, having heard of the joy of serving and helping, asked to go as well, and a group of students began regularly going during the free periods of the school day.

Students today go to the Food Shelf every Wednesday for about an hour, along with Mr. Stan, the school's guidance counselor. Many of the jobs are in the warehouse, taking food out of vans and pickup trucks. They stack the food and bring it up to the store, which is where the people that are less fortunate come in and take the food they need for their family and for themselves. Students also refill the shelves and there is a lot of moving boxes. The weekly trips are teaching the students to know what it is like to do something for other people, to volunteer, and, at times, to empathize.

— Kaitlin Faulkner

*Logic will get you from A to B.
Imagination will take you
Everywhere.*

— Albert Einstein

Tuesday, March 8
Vote **Yes to Article 2**
Zoning Ordinance Change
for Local Control
of Solid Waste

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Ski Squad

Even in a snow-starved winter, the Fall Mountain Ski team raced hard. The Walpole Elementary School participants had strong finishes to their season at the Middle School State Nordic Championships on February 15th.

The members from Walpole include eighth graders Brendan Reagan, Gabe Andrus, and Jake Dennis. Andrus has had one of the strongest seasons of his career; with a number of top ten finishes recorded just this year. The seventh grade representatives include Emily Heath, Maeve Perron, Rachel Watson, and Spencer Herrington.

Andrus led the Fall Mountain squad with a 17th-place finish, and a time of 14:35 to earn his team 84 points. Dennis finished in 41st place with a time of 17:59 and earning his team 61 points. Two other Fall Mountain skiers, Ian MacLachlan and Noah Blake, earned team points to help the boys' squad finish in 6th place overall, out of 19 teams, with a total score of 292 points.

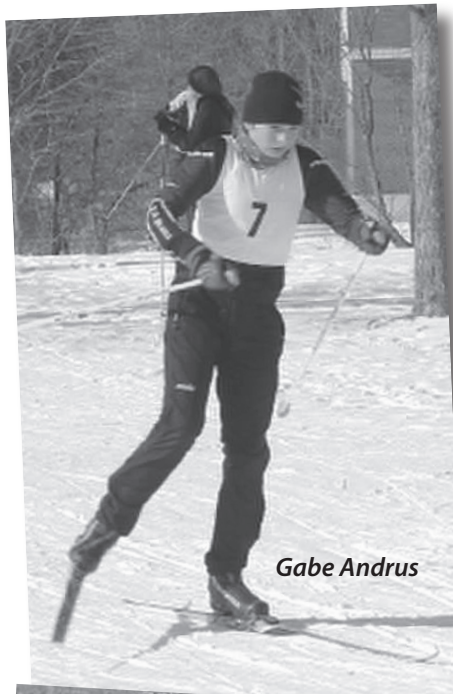
The girls' team, led by a number of athletes outside of Walpole, finished in 13th place. Watson contributed to the total team score of 231.5 points with a strong run at 20:36.

Winter Sports Pep Rally

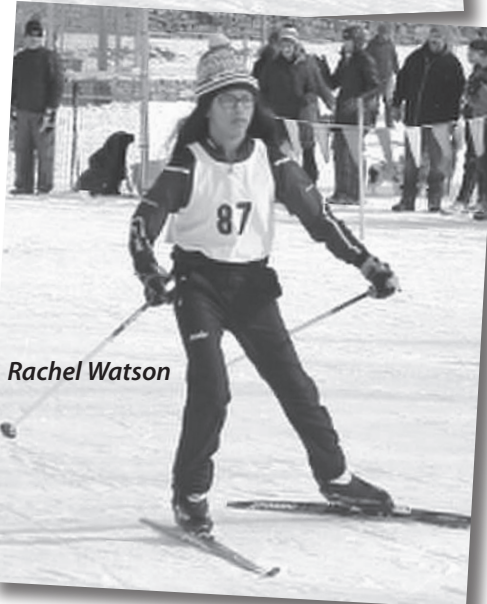
Now for the moment we all have been waiting for: *the pep rally!* On Thursday, February 4, Walpole Elementary School held a pep rally to honor and show support for the Chicks' winter sports teams.

The event began with the National Anthem performed by the school band, along with the recently rediscovered Walpole fight song and theme song for the National Football League. Walpole's Math Team was then honored for their strong outing in a recent competition.

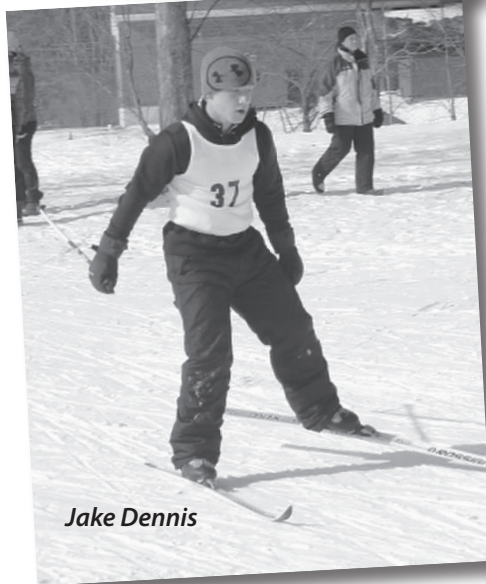
Next, the sports teams were called out to the front of the gymnasium, and each player was introduced individually. Before the actual games could begin, there was a lay-up competition between the boys' and girls' basketball teams. The teams had to shoot two lay-ups in two different hoops. The girls' squad narrowly defeated the boys' team, with both showing their sportsmanship by cheering one another on. —————→



Gabe Andrus



Rachel Watson



Jake Dennis

Penny Wars

Walpole Elementary School Raises Funds for Good Causes

The week of December 14, as most around town were preparing for the holiday season, the Walpole Elementary School held a fundraiser. Only it was not just any fundraiser - this was a war.

The objective of this good-natured “war” was to raise money in pennies for nonprofit organizations. In past years, students have raised money for the Keene Humane Society and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

The penny war lasts one week. Each homeroom in the school is given a jar on display in the front hallway of the school. Each penny put into the jar, gives that homeroom a positive penny. For every other coin or dollar bill placed in a homeroom's jar, that group goes into negative pennies; the catch is that one dollar is not equal to one hundred pennies but it is equal to negative one hundred pennies.

During that week people bring in pennies to put into their homerooms jar. Students can also bring in dollar bills to sabotage other homerooms. This competition accumulates money not just by the pocket change of students, parents, and staff, but also by friendly rivalries between homerooms that try to push one another into negative pennies or points. It is a fun way to teach a wonderful lesson in the spirit of the holidays.

This year, Mrs. Gay and the Skill Center won, and decided to donate the funds raised by the school to the Animal Shelter in Charlestown and the Alstead Food Shelf.

– Charlotte Briggs

The events consisted of balloon popping with your bodies and a relay race containing the following wacky mini-games - knocking down water bottles with tennis balls, quickly removing tissues from a tissue box, blowing out red solo cups using air from a balloon, jump rope, and, finally, a run across the gymnasium after ten spins with a wiffle-ball bat. The Pep Rally racked up school spirit for not only the teams but all the students, too.

– Emily Heath

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Reader Commentary

I have served on a few board with Joseph Aldrich and my experience with him on those boards makes me know he will make the best candidate to serve on the Select Board. He always put in the effort to give an honest opinion based off of fact, while keeping a calm demeanor. He never shied away from tough topics but gathered information to help come up with plausible solutions to best serve all parties even if not the majority choice. He is a great person and wants Walpole to be a place people can continue to grow in, live in and retire in and will put in the time to make that happen. So vote with me for Joseph Aldrich.

Sincerely,

– Sarah Manning

To the Voters of Walpole,

Ten years ago, we were invited to the home of then-State Representative Jack Pratt, where he told us he was retiring from the House of Representatives after ten years, and asked us both to run in his place. We both agreed, but we soon learned that we had very big shoes to fill.

Jack has lived a life of service. Trained as both a minister and as an attorney, he spent his early years fighting in the civil rights movement in the South. He brings valuable experience at all levels of government: town, county and state.

As a State Representative, Jack served on the Finance Committee and on the Judiciary Committee. He is remembered to this day as a champion of civil liberties, and as one of the few people who could, with a single speech on the House floor, change the minds of many of the 400 Representatives. Prior to his service as a Representative, Jack served our town as a Selectman. Most recently, he served for eight years as one of our three County Commissioners, overseeing all the functions of Cheshire County government.

Jack is now ready once again to devote his impressive intelligence and abilities to our town. To Walpole's Select Board, he will bring his knowledge of the town, the county, the state government, the federal process, and the law--a lifetime of experience that no other small town could hope to match. We hope that you will join us in supporting his candidacy for this position which is so important to our town.

Please vote for our friend and mentor, Jack Pratt, for selectman on March 8th. Thank you.

– Tara Sad and Lucy Weber

To the town of Walpole,

One would be hard-pressed to find an organization that would not benefit from counting Joe Aldrich among its number. That assessment is not mine alone. Joe's impressive abilities have been celebrated throughout the Department of the Navy and Department of Defense.

Joe and I served together on board the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise (CVN 65), where I was Joe's department head, and he displayed his standard of excellence. Joe was unanimously selected by me and the rest of my department's leadership echelon, out of a pool of 21 sailors, to be an independent-duty mass communication specialist on the cruiser, USS San Jacinto (CG 56). In this capacity, which was two pay-grades above the one he held at the time, he reported directly to the Command Master Chief, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer.

Adaptive and professional, Joe was celebrated by USS San Jacinto's leadership and crew for the world-class support he provided; as well as his seamless integration into the ship's culture, and his ability to deftly interact with peers as well as sailors and officers – men and women – junior and senior to him in age and rank.

Joe had his druthers of places to go when he completed his naval service; but, he always knew his heart was with the people and town of Walpole, and that is where he and his wife, Samaira, chose to establish their roots.

If elected to be a Select Board representative, Joe will bring with him, to that office, his love for Walpole; his professionalism; and his energy. His qualities will be made manifest in the form of growing Walpole and its services while responsibly managing its budget. His commitment will resonate with longstanding residents, while his vibrancy will do the same for millennials, encouraging their increased involvement in the town.

During the course of my 24 years of naval service, I learned a great deal about leadership, experiencing many brilliant examples in peacetime and war. I am extremely impressed by the standard Joe sets. He is a beacon of dedication to selfless service for all to emulate.

In sum: Joe is exactly what Walpole needs. He will be an outstanding addition to the Select Board triumvirate if elected, and I'm confident he will serve with distinction, honor, and compassion.

– Ohene O. Gyapong

The WALPOLE Clarion

published monthly for the Walpole community.

Ray Boas, Publisher
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walpoleclarion@gmail.com

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PUBLISHER'S CORNER

This year, 2016, is packed with elections. March signals Walpole's Annual Town Meeting and Elections, which have filled a number of pages in this issue. One of my pleasures, having now lived here a tad under fourteen years, is being able to really understand what is going on within the town, being involved with what is going on, and hopefully contributing positively to that process.

This issue is packed with Election News, and I encourage you to take the time to carefully read those pages so you can make informed decisions when you vote. I do not recall so many individuals before coming forward in one year to contribute their expertise to the operation of the Town. There are 11 candidates vying for 6 positions. The **Clarion** in the past has – when there are more candidates than open positions – offered space for each to tell us why we should vote for them. All eleven shared their reasons, and I encourage you to read each of their stories. See you at the Polls on the 8th, and Town Meeting on the 12th.

– Ray Boas, Publisher

From the Far Side of **Waipole**

Observations by William Moses

Bumped into my friend Elwud, and noted that Spring was nearly here in as much as this was March. Elwud shook his head and started cussin'. "What is the matter?" I asked.

"Did you know that ten different groups claim March as their month? One of them is National Frozen Food Month! Besides that, March has seventy holidays for one thing or another. March is the month that caused me to nearly fail and get expelled from school. Because of two of those holidays. One was Pie Day and the other is the high Tides of March. Yes sir, March 14 and 15 are the two days that were my downfall in the Spring.

"You do know that March 14 is National Pi Day?" "No sir, I did not know that", I replied. "Yes sir, we was sittin' in mathematics class one day and Miss Pickens was discussin' circles. I heard her say, 'Pi R Square,' and I jumped out my desk and said, 'Oh no Ma'am, Pies are round!' Well sir, right there and then I gets sent to the principal's office and my

Ma gets called. 'What's the problem,' Ma asks. She was tolt, and she turns about and says, 'Well any darn fool knows pies is round!' We was on a twelve person party line so every lady in town called the school to confirm that pies are round!

"Then, to make matters even worse, the next day we was in Foreign History class. We was studying that ancient Roman history stuff, which I found borin', so I was sneakin' a little nap. Mr. Gomaine, our Ancient History teacher, who is old enough to have been born during Caesars' time, decides to drop a oral test upon us. Now I do recollect a tad about this Caesar fella, so when he asked about the date and causes behind Caesars death; well sir I raised my hand.

"Did you know that Caesar was not at the beach when he died, and did not die from the high Tides of March. Seems I

mighta got him mixed up with some guy from the Bible named Moses. Only he didn't drown, he wave a big stick and the sea parted and he walked to the other side without getting' wet. His sandals weren't even muddy. Do you believe that? Anyhow, I digest!"

I had to jump in here and correct him. I said, "You mean you digress". Elwud glared at me and replied, "Whatever! Anyhow that's why I do not like March!"

Well, I said, "You must be looking forward to at least one day in March."

"What day that be?" Elwud asks.

"The 22nd," I respond. "Why the 22nd?" he says.

"Because," I laugh, "it is National Goof Off Day!"

Elwud didn't even say good-bye, just walked away, shaking his head.

MILESTONES

Engaged: Nicholas Carter Kranowski & Hannah Mohan
of Eden Prairie, MN, to be wed summer, 2016.

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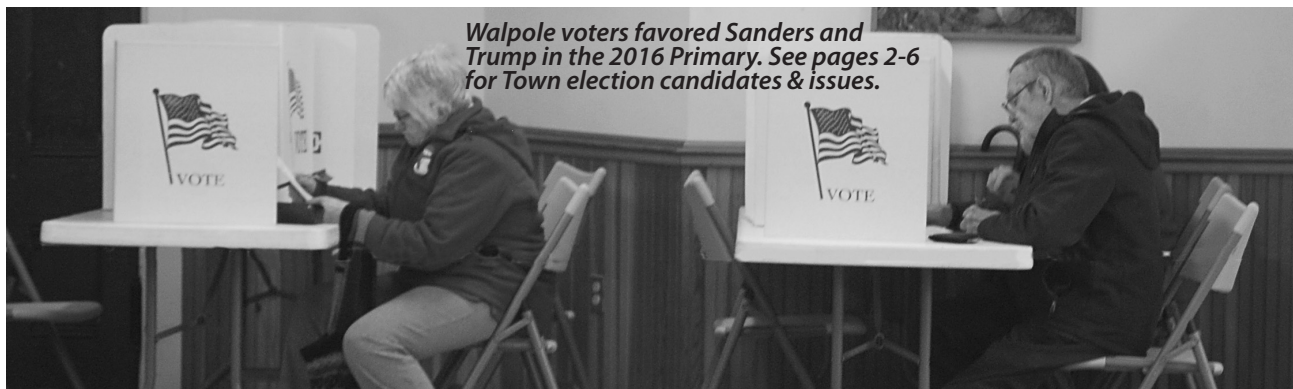


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Walpole voters favored Sanders and Trump in the 2016 Primary. See pages 2-6 for Town election candidates & issues.