

# The WALPOLE Clarion

A Monthly Community Publication • Volume VI, Issue 1 • December, 2016

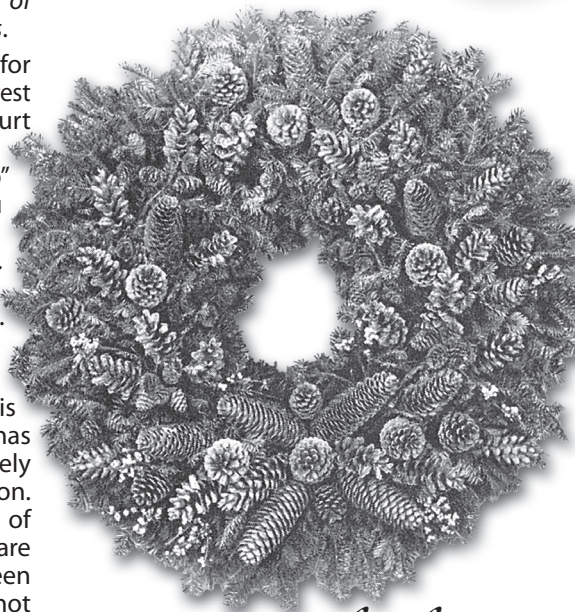
## Honoring Herb...

*Herb Hurlburt, Walpole resident, master electrician and pillar of the Walpole Fire Department, passed on November 8 – at home and after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). On November 12 more than 300 family, friends and first responders gathered at the Walpole Fire Station to honor Herb and his memory. Our thanks to Fire Captain Mike Flynn for allowing the Clarion to share portions of his comments that day with our readers.*

I would like to thank everyone for coming today, and to express my sincerest gratitude on behalf of the Hurlburt Family for all of you joining us today in this Celebration Of Life for George "Herb" Hurlburt Jr. At the family's request you will find that this celebration has been designed to be a casual gathering. Many of us are honoring Herb by simply wearing our basic job shirts and jeans.

We have come to celebrate a truly amazing man simply referred to as Herb. No matter where Herb went he left his mark... one way or another. Herb has obviously touched many of you, likely why you're joining us this afternoon. Today is meant to be a celebration of who he was, and an opportunity to share with others how we may have been blessed to know him. Herb would not have wanted us to sit around and mourn him or ponder how will we ever get by without him. I believe he would want us to tell stories of the days we all have had together. I believe that he would want us to remember the good, the bad, and maybe even some of the ugly moments.

Continued on Page 5



*A Walpole  
Christmas wreath  
for Calvin  
see page 14*

## Property Revaluation

The Town of Walpole, NH has contracted with Avitar Associates of New England to conduct a revaluation that includes the measuring and listing of all properties in the Town. Statute, specifically RSA 75:8-a, requires that municipalities conduct a revaluation at least once every five years.

Having started on Monday, November 14, Avitar Associates' assessing representatives will be visiting every home in Walpole with the goal of attempting to inspect upon arrival.

If no one is home, Avitar assessors will simply measure the exterior of all structures. After the initial visit, taxpayers will receive a letter with Avitar Associates' contact information for arranging interior home inspections.

If you have any questions regarding the town-wide property revaluation project, please visit or contact the Selectboard Office at 756-3672 for more information.

– Sarah Downing

**Taxes Due  
December 19th**

**See page 4**



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## Complete Streets

### Town of Walpole and Planning Commission Partner to Promote Safer Streets

Starting this winter, the Town of Walpole Planning Board will be working with the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) to explore ways to increase the safety of streets in Walpole for walkers, bicyclists, people taking transit, and others. This project, called *Complete Streets*, is part of a larger initiative led by Healthy Monadnock called the *Partnerships to Improve Community Health*, or *PICH*. The goal of *PICH* is to increase access to healthy food, tobacco cessation resources, and physical activity opportunities for residents of Cheshire County. Implementing *Complete Streets* will help to promote physical activity by ensuring that people feel safe when they walk, bike, or use other forms of active transportation.

The goal of the Walpole *Complete Streets* project is to create a plan or policy that would, over time, result in a safer and more well-connected transportation system that is welcoming and friendly to walkers, bicyclists, and transit users of all ages and abilities. This could include installing more sidewalks, crosswalks, bike racks, benches, street landscaping, or paved shoulders in strategic locations. In addition, SWRPC has some funding to provide free bike racks to local businesses and institutions as a way to promote bicycling as a viable form of transportation. This project has the support of the Walpole Selectboard.

The first Walpole *Complete Streets* meeting took place at the Walpole Planning Board workshop meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2016. The schedule of future meetings will be announced when they are planned.

– Ben Daviss

## Christmas Party

American Legion Post #77 will hold its annual Christmas Party at St. Johns Church, Friday, December 2. Again this year you need not be a member of the Post to attend - any veteran is welcome to come. A potluck dinner follows the social time beginning at 5:30 PM. Dinner begins at 6:00 PM, with a Yankee Swap following. To participate in the Yankee Swap, a male guest brings a male gift, and a female brings a female gift. Gifts should be about \$5.00. All vets and their guests are welcomed. Please RSVP to Whitney Aldrich at 756-9055.

– Whitney Aldrich



*More than 40 well-wishers gathered at Town Hall November 17 as Charmian Trundle was presented with the Boston Cane, honoring her as the oldest resident of Walpole.*

*The cane has been a New England tradition since 1909, when The Boston Post first presented the gold-topped cane for this purpose. Charmian also received a certificate from Selectman Steve Dalessio. The cane will remain on display in Town Hall.*

PHOTO: RAY BOAS

## WES Gardens

### No Squashing the Squash

A fun thing about gardens is the grower never quite knows what will do well. This growing season we've had several spectacular surprises. Here's a picture of one.

One bed at the Walpole elementary school produced 92 butternut squashes! Students helped tally their weight. Most averaged about two pounds. Students helped load my vehicle for a trip to the Fall Mt. Food Shelf. I delivered 40 squash weighing 104 pounds! There are more ripening in the high tunnel and we hope another 50 pounds will be donated. The rest of the squashes are being used in the school lunch program.

– Eloise Clark

## Historical Society

### Holiday Reception and Open House

This year, **everyone** is cordially invited to join the festivities at the Walpole Historical Society's Annual Holiday Reception. This year's event will be held on Sunday, December 11, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the Walpole Heritage Museum at 32 Main Street. If you haven't been to the museum recently, or perhaps you'd like to make this happy occasion your very first visit, this would be the perfect time to see what's happening at Walpole's landmark at the top the hill.

A tradition for as long as anyone can remember, the holiday season in Walpole really cannot get underway until this festive annual gathering happens with its boost of holiday spirit. With a pathway of luminarias lighting the way to the museum's festivities, you can expect good cheer, conversation, and delicious party fare.

This year has an added treat; Burdick's Restaurant is offering an \$18 prix fixe lunch with a glass of wine for those who shop at the museum's gift shop the evening of the reception. With your gift shop receipt, you can enjoy your Burdick's prix fixe lunch Tuesdays through Saturdays, Jan. 3rd - 31st!

For additional information, please visit the Society's website at [www.walpolehistory.org](http://www.walpolehistory.org).

— Andrea Goins

## Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will hold their annual Christmas Luncheon at 12:00 noon on December 5 at Nick's Restaurant, Route 10 South in Swanzey. Car-pooling from the church has been suggested. Let's get the holidays off on a festive note and enjoy some holiday music, great food and fellowship. Please join us.

— Jan Martin

## Bellows Falls Hydro

### Plant Changes Hands Again

On November 3, Great River Hydro, an affiliate of Boston-based ArchLight Capital Partners, announced the signing of an agreement to purchase 13 hydroelectric plants on the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers from their current Canadian owners since 2006, TransCanada. Included in the deal is the Bellows Falls Hydro plant and dam just across the old Villas Bridge from Walpole.

For the Village of Bellows Falls and the larger Town of Rockingham, this is yet another twist in a history of tax assessment disputes dating to power industry deregulation in the 1990s. More than once the disputes have ended up in court. As recently as 2012, the assessment dispute reached the Vermont Supreme Court which ruled in favor of the Town. For most of its history, however, the plant was locally owned and there were no disputes with the Village nor Town.

In September 1885, Fall Mountain Paper Company installed a dynamo to power lights in its paper mill. In 1900, they formed the Fall Mountain Electric Light and Power Company, and by 1908 they were supplying power locally to surrounding areas of Vermont, and Walpole and Alstead in New Hampshire. When the paper mill shut down in 1926, the power company built the existing plant and dam that opened in 1928, and for the next 70 years the Town enjoyed a period of no challenges to its assessment.

Then US Gen, a subsidiary of Pacific Gas and Electric, bought the plant in 1999. It immediately challenged the assessment, starting what became a long and bitter court battle. Pacific Gas and Electric went bankrupt in 2003, and US Gen's assets went up for sale. A resulting court settlement allowed the Town of Rockingham a chance to purchase the plant and dam for \$72 million. If the town owned the plant and dam, then there would be no more assessment battles, and electricity sold above what was needed to offset taxes could be put aside in a "rainy day" fund or used for large capital projects for the Town.

The Town, however, was not able to secure a bond that large for the purchase. The best deal that could be found was for two willing Canadian power companies, Brascan and Emra, to partner in a plan

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where they would put up the \$72 million for the right to run the operation, taking all the proceeds except a fixed yearly payment in lieu of taxes for up to 75 years. A bitter, hard fought referendum battle ensued, resulting in two separate votes with the "No Dam Deal" side winning. TransCanada then acquired the Bellows Falls plant and dam as part of their acquisition of US Gen's plants in the area. After a year or two disagreement between the owners and the Town over the assessment led to another protracted court battle.

So now new owners, new challenge and new court battles? Will history repeat itself again in Bellows Falls?

*\* Recent and past articles in the "Brattleboro Reformer" were researched for historical details in this article.*

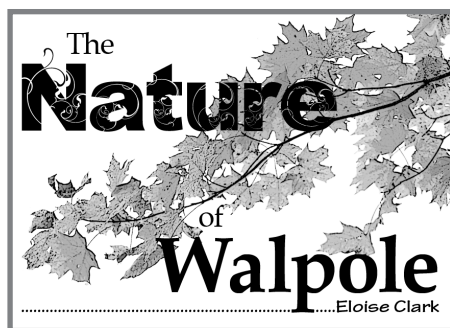
— Bill Lockwood



Evergreens color the landscape as this first month of meteorological winter begins. We bring trees into our homes; hang wreaths on our doors and overall "deck the halls." Let's focus on the native evergreen trees one finds in the mixed woodlands of Walpole. We say "mixed" because most of our forests are a mix of deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in autumn) and evergreens.

The two most common evergreens are white pine and hemlock. Each has different requirements for growth. White pine prefers sun and well-drained soils. If you don't mow your yard for three years, white pine seedlings will begin to sprout. This pine can be identified by its soft bunches of needles, five in a bundle. White pine can grow straight and tall for more than 100 feet. It is the most common tree harvested from our woodlands.

Hemlock, by contrast, is adapted to shade and damper soils. This slow growing but persistent species can live 500 years. Its canopy of dark shade suppresses growth beneath it. The tiny half-inch long needles intercept and hold snow. This makes it easier for deer to navigate under the canopy and munch its vitamin C rich needles. The half-inch long needles are attached by a single stalk to the branch. Two white stripes on



the underside help with identification. Hemlocks are often festooned with their tiny cones, about one inch long. No, they're not "baby pine cones"; they're hemlock cones!

Walpole is home to two unusual evergreen tree communities. When you climb to Table Rock on Fall Mountain, notice the pitch pine along the cliffs. It's not a tall tree like the white pine. Bent by the westerly winds, pitch pine clings to the face of the mountain. Its roots slide around rocks to find crevasses of soil. It will withstand dry conditions, even fire. In days past, fires would erupt from sparks of the coal-fired locomotives in the valley and then sweep up the face of Fall Mountain. The fires helped the pitch pine cones to open. Blueberries beneath them flourish as well. The pitch pine can be identified by three needles in a cluster, 3-4 inches long and stiff to the touch.

At the very highest elevations in Walpole we find the "lowland spruce-fir" forest. On the rocky ridgelines of High Blue and the nearby Faulkner tract, good sized red spruce and balsam fir are the dominant trees. This community is common at elevations above 1,000 feet above sea level, so Walpole's heights are just able to support this community. The forest floor is fragile here. Please stay on the trails to admire the hobblebush, bunchberry, trillium and sphagnum moss that give this forest a very magical feel.

Then there are manmade plantations in town. Red pine (two needles per bundle) was planted after the hurricane of '38. The hope was to generate income from the devastated woodlands and old fields. However, these future telephone poles were quickly out-competed for the job by the more vigorous southern yellow pine. The Hooper woodlot still has a remnant stand of red pine. The color of the bark is another clue to its identity.

Christmas trees plantations were the next big boom in the 1970's and '80. Scotch pine, balsam fir, white and red spruce were set out in pastures and fields. While providing some income, many grew so quickly they soon became too big to sell. They have since been supplanted by newer fashionable species such as Frazier fir from the west. Here's hoping you find the perfect evergreen for your home this holiday season.

## Taxes Due...and What You Should Know

Walpole real estate taxes are due December 19. I hold the somewhat dubious honor of being the first to pay my taxes in June; and now in November. I was surprised at the increase in my final bill for 2016, and will explain. But, first I need to first share the new form you have received.

The format of the yellow bill has changed. The new format now also includes on the front RSA 76:11-a, explaining procedures for applying for an "elderly, disabled, blind, a veteran, or veteran's spouse ... exemption, credit, abatement, or deferral." Previously the bill had three sections, but now has been reduced to two, and with larger print. If you plan to pay your taxes in person, bring the entire form to the Town Clerk's Office. The top part will be validated with your payment, and the Town Clerk will remove and keep the bottom third. If mailing your payment, detach the bottom third, and include it with your check.

Important to remember is that the first tax bill you receive in the year is 1/2 of the previous year's final rate. The second and final bill for the year takes into

account all aspects of the year's budget and money warrant articles approved at both Town and Walpole Fire District meetings in March. In addition, at the end of the year, the Town receives new tax rates for State Education, the County, school district and fire district. Thus, as you know, your bill at the end of the year is usually greater than what you paid in the first half. In my case, my check for the second half of the year was 13.7 % greater than what I paid earlier in the year. Overall, however, for the tax year I paid 6.5% more in 2016 than in 2015, but when comparing the final tax rates for those years (\$23.97 in 2015 and \$25.53 for 2016), taxpayers in Walpole experienced only a 6.5% increase.

Looking ahead, in 2017 the town will experience employee benefit and retirement increases, plus the cost of a town wide re-evaluation that we have no control over. These will all impact our final bill for December 2017 once those costs become known. As the 2017 budget cycle begins in February, the public is invited to become involved as these issues and warrant articles are

discussed, leading to the town tax rate. All things considered, however, I know of no other place I would want to live, and hopefully you feel the same way.

— Ray Boas



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Continued from Page 1: Herb

I would like to take a minute to express some of the things I have come to know and love about Herb. Herb was truly an amazing man, "one of kind" in so many ways. Herb has been so many things to each of us. To his family he was a loving son, an older brother, a dedicated husband, a supportive father, and a caring grandfather. To the rest of us Herb was a friend, a mentor, a colleague, a leader, often just a pain in the ass, but through it all a brother to many of us.

I was blessed to have known him, and can honestly say that I stand here a better man for having known him. Whether it was the public chewing out that I got for doing something stupid, or him pushing me sometimes literally through a burning building, or the times he would pull me aside and encouraged me to carry on despite whatever adversity we or I faced at the time, he always would push for me to be better than I was. As I thought about what to say about Herb, one moment stood out.

It was shortly after I joined the Fire Department. He pulled me aside one night at training and said to me, "Your're part of a family now Flynn, remember that, and don't \*\*\*\* it up," then he simply walked away. In the moment it didn't register, but it did over time.

It didn't matter if you were related by blood or not, everyone was family to Herb. That is why so many of us are here today. We are all part of Herb's great big family. Whether it was serving his community through the Lions Clubs, or working with Habitat for Humanity to build houses, it was family! His countless hours and dedication to this Fire department during the good times and through all of the bad times: it was family!

When he went to New York after 911 it was because they were family!



Now we all know that family is not always pretty or comes to you with comforting words. Gods know I have gotten many a word from Herb that might not have felt comforting at the moment. But sitting back and looking at it, it was all because I was part of his family. Herb always wanted the best for his family. He wanted us to be the best at whatever we chose to be or do. He would push us to grow and better ourselves over and over. He would only strive to provide the best of things to us. Above all else he wanted us to be safe and be part of his family.

Yeah he may have chewed us out publicly, or even chased you up the ladder truck screaming the whole way. But we all know it was a fact that he was the first to run into the burning building and the last to come out... and not because he thought he was the only one who could handle it. It was because he needed to know his family would be safe. I wanted to think of some profound message that Herb would have said to us all to wrap this up. I came across a poem from an unknown author that I believe carries the message that Herb would have for his family:

*As firemen we understand  
That death's a card dealt in our hand  
A card we hope we never play  
But one we hold there anyway  
That card is something we ignore  
As we crawl across a weakened floor  
For we know that we're the only prayer  
For anyone that might be there  
So remember as you wipe your tears  
The joy I knew throughout the years  
As I did the job I loved to do  
I pray that thought will see you through  
Carry on my brothers  
Carry on.*

.....





## Warren Brook

### Walpole Students Help Complete Final Phase of Restoration

It has taken 11 years of planning and hard work, but the restoration of the Cold River watershed is complete. And the final effort involved the participation of area students.

On November 2, The Cold River Local Advisory Committee deployed 100 6th, 7th and 8th grade science students and their teachers from Acworth, Alstead, Charlestown, Langdon, Lempster and Walpole. Beginning at 10 AM, the students carefully planted 1100 "live stake" shrubs and trees on the flood plains of Warren Brook. These students represented each of the towns in the Cold River watershed. Approximately 25 teams of students worked steadily for two hours to plant dogwood and willow stakes. Spirits were high as the work progressed, and upon completion, students were treated to a fish electroshocking demonstration as NHDES took their baseline fish census on this newly restored part of the river. This completes the 900-foot restoration project on Warren Brook, the major tributary to the Cold River.



*Fred Ernst, CRLAC chairman and project leader, addresses the student work force*

PHOTO: SUE LIGHTY

PHOTO: KIM LEWIS



*From left, Jen Morello, teacher Heather Brown, and Taylor Roy from Walpole School*



*Students at work on the river banks.*

PHOTO: SUE LIGHTY

Project design and permitting was funded through an existing NHDES Watershed Restoration Grant as well as matching funds/donations from the Alstead Conservation Commission, NH Fish and Game, a "Moose Plate" Grant, NH Corporate Wetlands

Partnership, NH Charitable Foundation, Headwaters Hydrology (project designer), and the Cold River Local Advisory Committee which brought the project together. An in-kind grant of stone was given by Cold River Materials and the work was performed by Bazin Brothers.

The Cold River Local Advisory Committee is very proud of this project and encourages

everyone to visit the area right between Kmiec's Garage and Route 123A. Students' participation in this project symbolizes the final unifying efforts of the entire watershed to heal the devastation of the 2005 Alstead flood.

— The Cold River Local Advisory Committee

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The original restoration, after the devastating 2005 flood, essentially stabilized the brook. The intent of this new project was to improve aquatic and riparian habitats and the long term stability of the brook and surrounding area. This new work has restored the winding nature of the brook. It has also lowered the flood plain around the brook so that it can once again absorb high flows of water in the spring and during major rain events. These two alterations will help slow the brook down at high flows and make it safer. It will also make possible the restoration of fish and other aquatic wildlife that cannot withstand the current during high, unrestrained water flows. Three large vernal pools were also created to support the aquatic life.

One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

— Andy Rooney



## Library Events

### Cook Book Challenge Group

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 3. (No December meeting because of the Holidays.) We will be doing both a pot luck lunch *and* dinner on January 3. Lunch will be served at 11:30AM and dinner at 6PM. You are welcome to join us for one meal or both! We'll be selecting recipes from *The Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays: 140 Step-by-Step Recipes for Simple, Scrumptious Celebrations* by Ree Drummons. The library will have multiple copies of the book starting November 30. Everyone is welcome to check out a book, make a dish and join us. Please sign up for a recipe at the library and be sure to bring your own place setting to the pot luck.

### Edible Christmas Tree Decorating

Kids in grades 6 through 12 are invited to drop by the library and decorate an edible Christmas Tree Forest! **Sign ups are required** so that we have enough supplies, but the trees can be decorated anytime between 3 and 6PM on December 20. Contact the library to sign up by phone at 756-9806 or e-mail Justine at [jrogers@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jrogers@walpoletownlibrary.org). The program is free and all supplies (frosting, ice cream cones, sprinkles, etc.) are provided.



PHOTO PROVIDED

### Wrapping Night at the Library

Join us Wednesday December 21 from 6PM to 8PM for last minute gift wrapping! Bring your presents that need to be wrapped and any gift bags or wrapping paper you may need. We'll have tape, scissors, gift tags and some wrapping paper as well as cookies, coffee, tea and music! All ages are welcome. Justine and Julie will be available to help little ones if they don't want parents to see certain presents!

Coming in 2017 – Speaker series, Masterpiece Theater Film Group, book delivery volunteer opportunity, and much more! Contact Justine at the library with any questions [jrogers@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jrogers@walpoletownlibrary.org) and watch for more information in the January edition of the Clarion.

– Justine Rogers

## Civic & Business Directory

### Project Update

The Connecticut River Village Project, a group of townspeople interested in starting an aging-in-place organization in Walpole, is in the process of updating and expanding the very popular but outdated Civic & Business Directory, previously compiled and distributed by the Grange's Leadership Academy. In addition to the wealth of local information to which we all referred regularly, this updated directory will feature a section with contacts of interest to seniors.

If you would like to be included in the services or businesses sections, let us know. Send us your name, business name, service provided (if applicable) and telephone number by the first of January. This is a free service to the people of Walpole, and there is no charge for a listing. Email your information to [tara.eric@gmail.com](mailto:tara.eric@gmail.com), or call 756-4861.

– Tara Sad

The Great River 4H group will be caroling on the common Thursday, December 15, 6-7PM.

Sylvan Hill Antiques will close the door forever on December 31, 2016. Since October, everything in the shop has been priced at cost or lower. I still have a large inventory of 18th century furniture, paintings, oriental carpet, brass, copper and decorative accessories.

If you would like to pay a visit, please call ahead. I will make every effort to be here seven days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM. I look forward to seeing you.

~ Thelma Zak



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## Live Nativity

The Christmas Eve Live Nativity on the Walpole common is nearing quickly. We are still looking for actors, both young and old, to participate in this wonderful community event. Volunteers are needed for: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the three wisemen, shepherds, and angels. The part of baby Jesus has typically been played by a 3-6 month old and the angels by 4-10 year olds.

We are also in search of volunteers to make and serve Hot Chocolate to the spectators before and after the event. If you are interested in participating please contact Erinn Richardson at richardsonerinn@gmail.com or Heidi Gascoyne at hgascoyne74@gmail.com.

The nativity tableau will begin following the 7PM candlelight service at the 1st Congregational Church.

– Erinn Richardson

Walpole Church seeks part-time

## MUSIC DIRECTOR



Candidate will be responsible for all aspects of church music. Keyboard and directing skills required.

For further information:  
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mudiseco@gmail.com

## All Saints Parish

### Advent Penance Service

All Saints Parish will join St. Charles Church for an Advent Penance Service, at St. Charles Church, Bellows Falls on Sunday, December 18 at 3:00PM.

### Christmas Mass Schedule:

Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 4 PM and 6:30 PM in St. Peter's Church, North Walpole.

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25, 9 AM in St. Catherine's Church, Charlestown.

We at All Saints Parish wish all of you a very Holy Advent and a blessed, joyous Christmas. God Bless you. For more information log onto: [www.allsaintsnh.net](http://www.allsaintsnh.net)

– Juanita Sweet

## Art After School

Art After School breaks for Christmas on December 21. This creative program for young artists in first through fifth grades resumes on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. For more information, go to the website, [www.walpoleartafterschool.org](http://www.walpoleartafterschool.org), or contact Susan Kershaw, [info@walpoleartafterschool.org](mailto:info@walpoleartafterschool.org).

– Susan Kershaw

## St. John's

### Giving Tree Project

The Giving Tree Project (our annual effort to assist local families with Christmas gifts) is underway. The great community effort is sponsored by All Saints Parish, the Walpole Seniors group, First Congregational Church, and St John's Episcopal Church. Thank you to the Savings Bank of Walpole and the Walpole Library for being tree sites. The deadline for returning gifts to one of these locations is Wednesday, December 7.

Many people help make this project a success. More than 25 parents and youth made 300 tags in November, and will do the shopping and wrapping for leftover tags on December 11. The Giving Tree is one of the reasons Walpole is such a caring community. Thank you, all! Please contact Susan Kershaw if you have a question, 756-2962 or [rector@stjohnswalpole.org](mailto:rector@stjohnswalpole.org).

### Advent and Christmas Events

Advent is a beautiful time of expectation, culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. St John's Episcopal Church invites you to experience the wonder of the season:

Sunday, November 27, 10 AM: First Sunday of Advent: Worship and Holy Communion, followed by Second Hour activities for children and adults.

Sunday, December 4, 10 AM: Second Sunday of Advent: Worship and Holy Communion, followed by an Advent Potluck meal with an activity: make an Advent wreath to take home.

Sunday, December 11, 10 AM: Third Sunday of Advent: Worship featuring the children's Christmas Play. Come hear how God transformed lives through the birth of the Messiah!

Sunday, December 18, 4 PM: Fourth Sunday of Advent: the traditional Lessons & Carols service, telling the awesome story of God's love for humanity. Sing carols amidst the beauty of candlelight. Note: there is no 10 AM service December 18.

Saturday, December 24, 6:30 PM: Christmas Eve Communion. All are welcome to hear the Christmas story and celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior. For unto us a child is born!

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day. No formal service. Merry Christmas!

Sunday, January 1: New Year's Day, 10:00 AM. Begin 2017 by praising God!

### Narnia After School

The second weekly session of the after school programs sponsored by St John's begins Thursday, January 19, 3:30 PM, in the Parish Hall, 26 Elm Street. Participants will explore C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* through arts and crafts, book discussion, and other activities. There is no fee, thanks to a very generous grant from the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire. Group size is limited, so please contact Susan Kershaw soon: [rector@stjohnswalpole.org](mailto:rector@stjohnswalpole.org) or 756-2962. Reading ability is recommended but not necessary if parents will read the weekly assignments with their children. This program will have family activities. Sign up today!

– Susan Kershaw

## Walpole Unitarian

The Unitarian Church's annual Christmas Eve service is Saturday, December 24 at 4:30PM. This is a traditional service of New Testament readings and carols celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Many UUs have a relationship with Christianity, and our faith tradition grew from Christianity. One of the six sources of our worship and religious education is "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves." We are a welcoming and liberal religious community, and we invite you to join us on Christmas Eve.

Call Antonia at 756-9036 for more information.

– Antonia Andreoli

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## First Congregational

All are invited to partake in the holiday excitement. Here is what is going on:

**Breakfast with Santa:** Saturday, December 10, 8 – 10 AM, hosted by the Deacons. Breakfast of pancakes, sausage and breakfast casseroles while the children visit and share their wishes with Santa. No charge, but donations gratefully accepted.

**Christmas Wishes by Candlelight:** Hosted by the Women's Fellowship, Wednesday, December 14, 7 PM. Contact Peg Winnen at 313-9291.

**Mitten Tree & Cookie Walk:** Sunday, December 11. Mittens, hats, gloves and scarves will be collected for distribution to children on reservations or in group homes. Donations are welcome. Cookie Walk after the service. Tins are provided and you're encouraged to fill them. You pay by the pound.

**Children's Pageant:** Sunday, December 18, during the regular service at 10 AM.

**Christmas Eve:** Rev. Christine Boardman will conduct two services. The 4 PM service is designed for people and families with evening obligations and children who need to go to bed early. The traditional 7 PM candlelight service is followed by the living nativity on the common.

**Christmas Day:** With Christmas on a Sunday, Rev. Boardman will conduct the regular service at 10 AM in the sanctuary.

– Chuck Shaw

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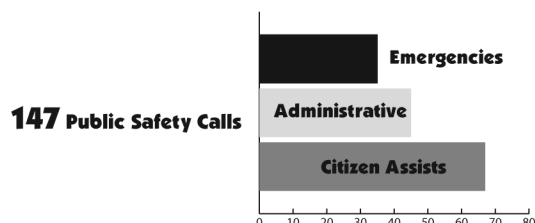
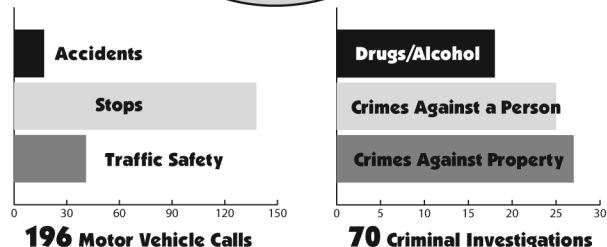
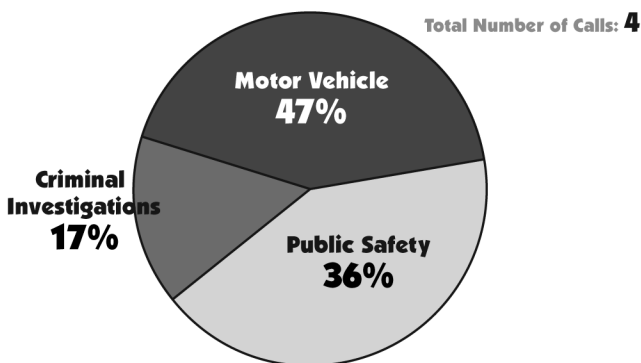


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## Walpole Police Department

Calls for Service: October 16, 2016 - November 15, 2016

Total Number of Calls: 413



## Police Log

Since September, the Walpole Police Department has been providing the Walpole Selectboard, and The Clarion, with a monthly breakdown of Calls for Service. On November 18, I sat with Chief Paquette and Sgt. Sanctuary to delve into specifics about those calls reported this past month. The chart, with over 400 calls, reflects only half of the department's interface with others. In addition, there are about 100 phone calls or visits to the office per week. These other calls (taking a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes time each) include questions about civil matters and calls from other agencies following up on investigations.

The 138 motor vehicle stops shown include speeding, defective equipment, and running stop signs. These stops often lead to other findings, and possible arrest, including: driving with a suspended license, open arrest warrant, or drugs in a car. In the six days prior to our discussion, the department had made 9 arrests, over half drug related. Other arrests resulted from warrants from other jurisdictions and custody issues.

A potential "crime against property" was averted on Old Drewsville Road. An alert homeowner noticed an unfamiliar car with out of state plates, coming down

her long drive. Inside were two young men wearing hooded black sweatshirts. While she was dialing 911, the car left. A check on the vehicle's plates showed the owner was known for criminal activity. Break-ins and burglaries occur in the rural areas of our community on back roads. Break-ins have been low recently, and during this reporting period there have been less than ten such robberies, most involving minimal loss since cash was the target. But the damage of entering the home and tearing things apart is more costly to the victim, not to mention the personal violation. Both Chief Paquette and Sgt. Sanctuary urged the entire community to be vigilant, and, if something does not seem right, to call 911, or the dispatch office at 355-2000, thus saving a few moments.

Drug usage, and the resultant need for cash, has prompted many of these burglaries, but the incidence is falling. One possible reason is with more and more drug use, users are becoming dealers, and selling drugs to pay for their use. The demand is up, and so is the supply, with prices dropping – simple economics at work.

Our police force is here to serve; we can all assist by being watchful, and reporting what is amiss in our community.

– Ray Boas







# Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

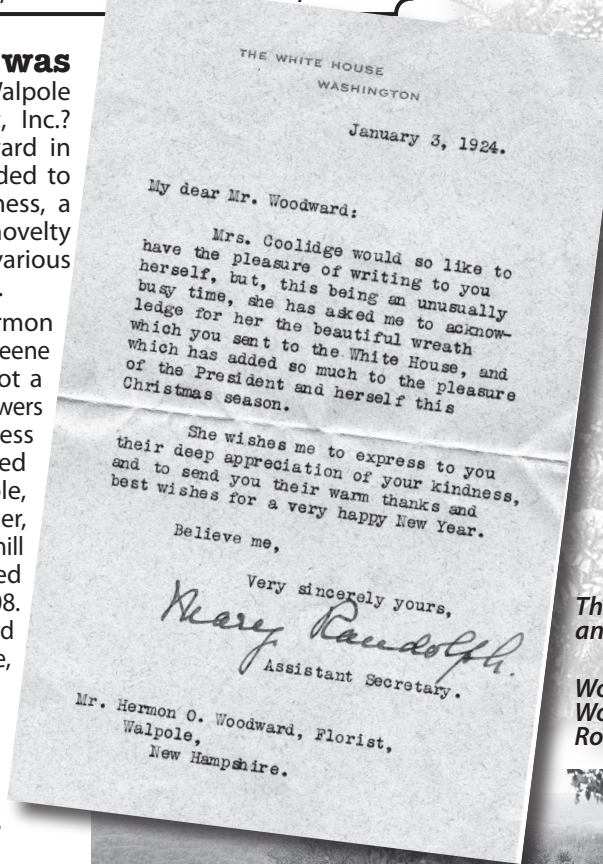
**...a Christmas wreath was** sent to the White House from Walpole each year by Woodward Florist, Inc.? Founded by Hermon O. Woodward in 1908, the family business expanded to include, besides the Floral business, a winter greens division, and a novelty woodworking shop making various floral containers and centerpieces.

Born in Plainfield in 1880, Hermon began working in a florist's shop in Keene at age 15. It was there that he got a creative idea for new effects with flowers that would eventually bring success to the boy who only had completed the eighth grade. He came to Walpole, becoming the Bridge Estate gardener, saving enough money to purchase a "hill farm" in Westminster. There he started his Christmas greens business in 1908. For a number of summers, Woodward continued his work on the Bridge Estate, attending to his greens come fall. In 1917, he and his wife, Alice, bought their home on Main Street, just south of the Unitarian Church, building a shop on the property. There they employed as many as 30 people making Christmas greens.

Outgrowing his Main Street spaces, Woodward purchased the Abenaki Machine Shop complex, just across the Westminster Bridge, following Abenaki's bankruptcy in 1921. Built in a low-lying plain prone to flooding, the flood of 1927 caused \$7,000 to \$8,000 in damage. Woodward rebuilt. Eighty people were employed preparing Christmas greens in November 1930. In the spring, the seasonal employees were brought back to make Memorial Day wreaths and greens. The flood of March 1936 was harsher than the previous flood, and ripped a hole in the dyke at

the north end of the property, depositing up to ten inches of silt in the buildings. One building with most of his wreath stock was a complete wreck, two other buildings collapsed, and one barn floor dropped 20 feet, taking with it a fairly new truck and a car. Not wanting to face that heavy damage again, Mr. Woodward decided to bring his plant back to higher Walpole ground. At the time of the move, he had five full time employees, and for making greens in the fall would add 40 men and 75 women. The annual payroll was around \$15,000.

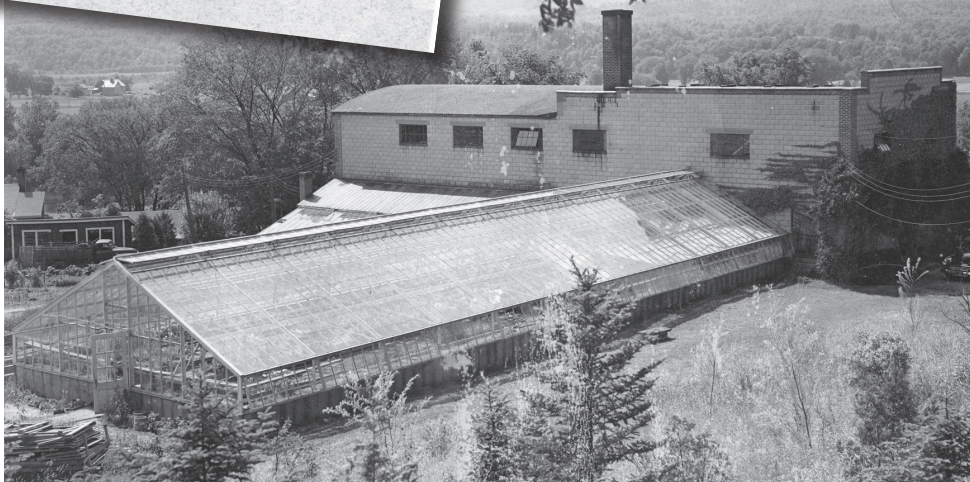
Woodward bought the field to the south of Depot Hill Road from Fanny Mason. There he built a 60 by 100 foot cement block building, with a 30 by 100 foot greenhouse attached. The greenhouse doubled in the winter as a workroom for 100 or more employees working on Christmas greens. The plant was opened to the public March 20, 1937.



Thank you note sent on behalf of President and Mrs. Coolidge

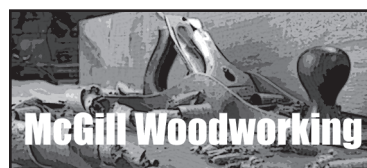
Woodward Florist and Greenhouse in 1945. Wood buildings on left demolished for new Route 12.

IMAGES COURTESY OF DALE WOODWARD



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Woodward Greens ready for shipment; and loaded aboard boxcars at the Walpole Railroad Station



Alice worked with Hermon along with their three children. Philip was away studying horticulture, but returned home to work in the flower and greens business. Elliot, graduating with a degree in geology, headed the woodworking facility. The eldest, Dorothy, an art school graduate, contributed ideas for product development.

The State took the western part of the Woodward Florist property in the early 1960s for the new Route 12 bypass, demolishing the woodworking shop buildings, which were close to the railroad tracks. New buildings were built behind Alice and Hermon's home, but burned in 1971. A new building was then built on Flat Street for the woodworking division. The family sold their business in 1973.

.....

# CHRISTMAS

## ON THE AIR

*The Walpole Players!*  
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### Christmas on the Air

The Walpole players will present *Christmas on the Air* – a step back in time featuring highlights from the golden age of radio, radio plays, skits, carols, and gags – at the Walpole Town Hall, Helen Miller Theater Friday December 16 at 7:00 PM.

In the old time golden radio skits the Bickersons will be back celebrating Christmas Eve, Art Linkletter may be making an appearance with his kids, Our Miss Brooks will be hanging lots of mistletoe, and Fibber McGee will bring home his Christmas tree. Songs of the season and other merriment will also be included.

The holiday entertainment will be presented in similar format to the players popular *Cabin Fever Radio Follies* that

they have preformed the Saturday after Town Meeting for the last four years. The performers will be the *Radio Follies* crew and others. Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the audience is seated at round tables of eight. You may bring your dinner, snacks, beverages of choice, and friends and take a break from the stress of the holidays. You may make it a party and linger after the show.

Tickets are \$10 each and all proceeds go to Our place Drop in Center and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. They are available at Galloway Real Estate and Joanie Joan's Bakery. Table Reservations may be made at Joanie Joan's Bakery on Westminster Street in Walpole. For additional information call Ray Boas at 756-4545.

– Bill Lockwood



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## Hoop Shoot

The Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #1619 will again sponsor their annual 'Hoop Shoot' at the Walpole Middle School Gym on Saturday, December 10. Registration for both boys and girls will begin at 1:00 PM for this spectacular basketball event. The contest will consist of 25 free throws (or foul shots), starting at 1:15 PM. The fun-filled competition is open to 'all boys and girls ages 8-13 as of April 1, 2017. (However, if you have already participated elsewhere, you cannot shoot at this event).

The boys and girls will shoot against each other in their age division. All potential competitors from; Charlestown, North Walpole, Alstead, Walpole, Kurn Hattan Homes, Rockingham, Compass School, and Bellows Falls are invited to participate.

First place winners are invited to the district event on January 9, 2017, at Windsor High School. If you have any questions, please contact Elk Directors Ric Aumand or Smokey Aumand at 802-463-4555.

— Smokey Aumand

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# POINTS



*of Interest*

Local Perspectives by Bill Lockwood

## Chestnut Trees and Hazelnut Bushes in Walpole

"Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands..." starts the classic old poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1842. You can't get much more Americana than that.

Walpole is still pretty "Americana" today, but all the chestnut trees are gone. A blight was introduced into the US from Japan in 1904. First discovered in the Zoological Garden of the Bronx Zoo, it spread until, at the end of the first quarter of the 21st. Century, an estimated four billion chestnut trees had died. By 1950, they were all gone.


Walpole resident Daniel Hartigan has been studying nut-producing trees. He says all we have left of the once plentiful chestnuts around here are some suckers growing from dead chestnut tree stumps. Chestnut trees were especially good for the environment, being known for their more than average carbon dioxide-to-oxygen conversion and for putting nitrogen into the soil. Also they were a good source of nutrition when they were eaten. Luckily, their near relatives - the hazelnut trees and bushes with nuts known to us as filberts - do the same.

Daniel recently visited the Badgersett Research Farm in Canton, Minnesota, with support of Walpole's Hooper Foundation. He wrote about his experience in this September's Clarion, but now, what will happen with that knowledge and experience here in Walpole? Daniel explains Phillip Rutter, founder of the


American Chestnut Foundation, and Badgersett's research is creating a new hybrid hazelnut bush that will restore the environmentally-friendly properties of the old chestnut trees to the US. There are European hazelnut trees that do not grow in our climate, and there are native American bushes. The hybrid version of bushes that combines these two will hopefully grow well in our climate. Daniel has a patch of hybrid hazelnut bushes on his farm, and this month he took soil samples at the Hooper Institute looking into the feasibility of planting a demonstration project this coming spring.

"Beside the spreading hazelnut bush, the auto mechanic stands" just doesn't have the ring of Longfellow's poem. If the study results are a "go" we could be on the cutting edge of something big, nutwise that is, right here in Walpole. The nut bushes will be environmental, economic, and aesthetic, too. Daniel Hartigan is also coordinator of the Bellows Falls Farmer's Market, and he sings in various venues from time to time.

.....



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 Kathy Schoemer*



## Firewood Exchange

Do you need firewood? Or do you have extra wood you can't use? Come to the Walpole Transfer Station's new Firewood Exchange. The station is collecting stove and fireplace wood, split or unsplit, green or dry, stove length or longer. If you need wood, come see what's there and take home what you want. If you have extra that will rot or go soft before you can burn it, bring it in and help others keep warm this winter. Before leaving wood, see Paul at the transfer station for instructions. Thanks to Jackson Daviss for this good idea.

- Ben Daviss



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Pistachio paste is the secret ingredient in many European desserts. Subtle yet distinctive, the uniquely rich flavor of pistachios turns a basic butter cookie or vanilla ice cream into a sophisticated treat.

Pistachios aren't just delicious. They're high in protein and fiber and loaded with potassium and vitamin C (among other beneficial vitamins, minerals, and healthy fats). In fact, the distinctive green hue of pistachios comes from antioxidants. Adding a scoop of pistachio paste (available at the Walpole Grocery) to your smoothie boosts the flavor and nutrition.

Here's an easy recipe for a crisp, buttery pistachio cookie. For a sophisticated dessert, serve these with pistachio gelato. For the kids, squeeze a little scoop of softened gelato between two cookies to make Italian ice cream sandwiches.

### Pistachio Butter Cookies

(Adapted from a recipe in Bon Appetit)

#### Ingredients:

- 2¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- ½ cup pistachio paste
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, room temperature

#### Method:

- Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Mix the first four ingredients in a medium bowl.
- In a large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat the butter, pistachio paste, and sugar until light and fluffy.
- Beat in the eggs, one at a time, then add the vanilla.
- With the mixer on low, gradually mix in the dry ingredients until just combined.
- Scoop heaping tablespoonfuls of dough onto parchment-lined baking sheets, spacing 3" apart. Bake cookies until golden, 12-15 minutes.
- Let cookies cool on the baking sheets for 5 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack.

Buon Appetito!

- Paula Burdick



# What's Happening in Walpole Schools



## Halloween

### Tips and Tricks

Halloween: Everyone is getting into their costumes and going out and asking for free candy. It is an exciting time of year for fight and mischief. These are a few tips and tricks for having a spooktacular Halloween while trick-or-treating in Walpole.

First off you need a scary costume to look great. In Walpole, there is a great costume shop where you can get many different types of costumes. Also, there are many places in Keene where you can find so costumes too. Looking the part is half the battle.

As a trick-or-treater, you have to hit every house. The ones with the best candy are closer to the Common. My costume this year was a shark. I picked my pumpkin bucket and headed out early so I could get the good candy before most of my competition went out.

I first went to the best houses near Main Street and the Common. I knocked the door and said the traditional "Trick or treat" with the hopes and expectations of numerous sugar-coated treats. I received only one piece; come on people we want more!

At others houses, when no one is there and it says "Take One", that is more of a recommendation. Sometimes, you take a little extra, which means take a lot and run. On Halloween it's all about just having fun with friends and dressing up in cool costumes. When Halloween comes around next year make sure to have fun and have a frightacious time.

— Maddy Manning

## Scarecrow Contest

A new tradition is in town: for the second year, the Walpole Elementary Advisories decorated scarecrows in the theme or style of their choosing. The scarecrows were then displayed around the town of Walpole. You may have seen one on the Common, by the fountain, and in front of the fire station. The sky's the limit when it comes to creativity and vision. Feathers and Bling? Check! Camo and Leather? Double check!

This year's winner was Mr. LeBail's advisory which decorated a scarecrow with the theme of the Stay-Puff Marshmallow Man from the original Halloween classic *Ghostbusters*. This is the LeBail advisory's second victory. Last year, his Sleepy Hollow scarecrow won by a head...or headless, shall we say?

Another impressive scarecrow was Darla from *Finding Nemo*, animated by Mrs. Sherrod's advisory (which is known for taking the cake during the school's Pumpkin Design Contest). Their winning pumpkins were decorated as a gumball machine and a creepy clown – which won for most creative and scariest pumpkins.

Mr. Gagnon's advisory did not let Deflate Gate dampen their spirits; everyone won with his Patriot's scarecrow idea. Other scarecrows included Charlie Brown from *Peanuts*, our new Commander in Chief, Donald J. Trump, and a Disco Bunny. The competition was fierce! What will next year bring? Will Mr. LeBail's advisory triumph again? As the seasons turn, classes will continue to compete in fun and creative projects against one another.

— Enrique Ingram

## Veterans Day

Veteran's Day isn't just a day off from school. This shouldn't be just a freebie. The reason we take time off of school is that we need to respect the veterans who have served this country and defended our freedom.

This is what I think of the day: We have only what they gave us. What a lot of veterans gave us, through their service, is their lives. To me that is the ultimate sacrifice.

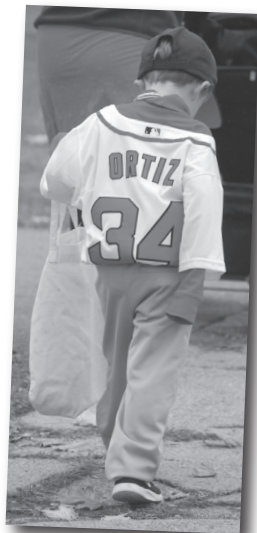
My personal connection as a Walpole 8th grader is that my brother is in the Army. I know many of you who are reading this probably have at least a distant relative or even a closer one who has served. On this day, we should all come together within our thoughts and just take a moment of silence for these amazing human beings.

The day before Veteran's Day, Walpole held a special assembly. Mr. LeBail and Mrs. Ronning showed video clips that explained Veteran's Day and the history behind it. Mrs. Ronning read a touching piece that she had written about her own relative who had made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in a World War. We also got the chance to see that a majority of students and teachers have a connection, whether that was a relative or friend, who has served in an American war.

So next year, don't think of this as a day off, think of it as a day of remembrance...

— Kaitlin Faulkner

**The traditional Halloween parade through town was enjoyed by marchers and onlookers alike. Among the costumes: a not-so-big-Papi, assorted super heroes, reptiles, ghosts and huggables.**





## Walpole Soccer

### Squads Cap Impressive Seasons

Recently, Walpole Elementary School got a couple of new additions: two third place trophies for soccer. While our school has no shortage of trophies, these two were especially impressive considering that a great majority of the eighth graders did not compete in the second and final day of the Championship Tournament as they left for the American Heritage Tour on that Sunday. Because of this disadvantage, both teams had to depend on their fifth, sixth, and seventh grade players to step up, which they evidently did.



PHOTO: WENDY WHITON

Both teams came in third in their respective tournaments. Both teams are also proud of their position. Despite this, they do have some insight on what they could do better. "Well, we worked really well together as a team and played 110% the whole tournament," said seventh grader Ruby Frithsen as the reason behind their place in the tournament. Classmate Bella Smith and numerous other team members think that they could have done better, but were pleased with their third place finish.

"None of us really got breaks a lot and I feel like if we did have more subs, and got more breaks, and weren't as tired, then we could've done better. And then the second game wasn't as great because we didn't have as much energy as we did in the first game," said seventh grader Nora Dunnigan. She also stated that the fact that two players were injured and their 8th graders were all gone did not improve their odds. According to seventh grader Jordan Moore, some of the top players on the girls' team in each respective grade were Hillary Berry in 8th grade, Sophia Bruzgis in 7th, and McKenzie French in 6th grade.

On the boys' team, seventh grader Syon Gutierrez was quoted as saying that they could not win the tournament because, "we couldn't get ahold of it." He also said that they needed to work on, "sportsmanship and agreeing on different plays." Classmate Finnegan Scott said that the top players on the team included Nick Peltier in 8th grade, Hayden Anastasio in 7th, Foster Willett in 6th, and Ellis Dunbar in 5th grade. Both teams played Hinsdale, Keene B, Winchester, Dummerston, and Chesterfield.

— Lillia Wilson

## Middle School Football

This year's Fall Mountain football season has been, to say the least, very interesting. After years of struggling to win a single game in a season, the much improved squad were able to capture two impressive victories this year.

While there were many improvements throughout the roster, a pair of Walpole Elementary School students have stood out for their incredible seasons. Eighth graders Alex Flynn and Tyler Swain succeeded on both sides of the ball. Flynn was a fullback and a defensive end, while Swain played at cornerback and halfback. Flynn has stated that he plans to continue his football career in high school.

This year, Fall Mountain's record was one of the best it has been in years. They ended up winning two games, and losing six. This is amazing, as it has been six years since the last time they had a one-win season. They defeated Woodstock earlier in the season. In their final game of the season, they beat Newfound. While the team will be losing some strong players who will go on to the high school, there is hope that the younger players will step up to lead as Fall Mountain continues to improve as a program.

— Jacob Bradley

I will honor  
Christmas  
in my heart,  
and try to keep it  
all the year.

— Charles Dickens

## Walpole Volleyball

The Walpole Elementary School Volleyball team had an incredibly successful season, with tremendous effort and tearful moments. The Lady Chicks had an amazing season in which they went undefeated, 11-0. At the conclusion of the regular season, Walpole competed at the championship tournament.

In the final postseason contest, Walpole won the championship against the Charlestown Forts. Charleston had put up a tough fight while both teams played a great game. Each player on the Walpole squad was responsible for the big win, from the eighth graders through sixth graders; everyone had a great season.

Leading the Lady Chicks through their perfect season was Coach Nick LeBail. The eighth graders played their hearts out in that last championship game. Kaylee Lintner, Lizzy Farnworth, Mary Ronning, Rachel Watson, and Sydney French will all be missed next season. Seventh graders Abby Walker, Chloe Bardis, Grace Conety, Maddy Manning, Natalie Ferland, and Rebecca Page will be great players and leaders of the team next season. Our sixth graders, Destanee Hardy and Jessie Meadows, will continue to improve and become amazing players for Walpole in the next two years.

— Kaylee Lintner



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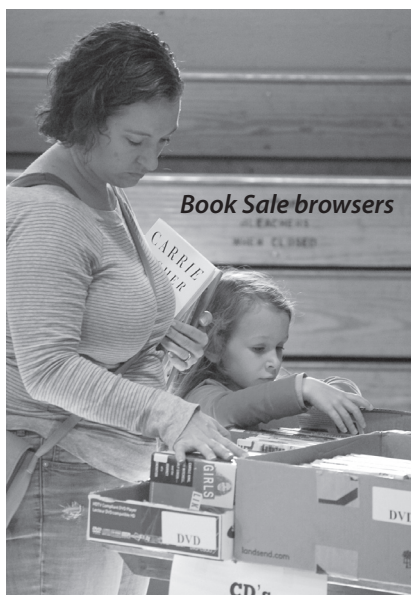
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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Friends of the Walpole Town Library every time you shop at Amazon, and at no cost to you! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same shopping experience as you do on Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your purchase to the Walpole Library.

Whether you currently have an Amazon.com account or not, just go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3910850> to select the Friends of the Walpole Town Library. Then every time you want to shop on Amazon, you just go to smile.amazon.com (instead of Amazon.com), and your purchases will support the library. Many purchases by many people over time add up to a big benefit for our library. Please spread the word to friends and family.

Happy Holidays, and thank you for supporting the Friends of the Walpole Town Library! Please note: Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our recent book sale! It was a great success, raising \$6,600 for our library! More details to follow in the January Clarion.

— Jana Sellarole

## River Theater Company

### A Charlie Brown Christmas

Need a little Christmas cheer? The River Theater Company of Charlestown is excited to announce their first offering of the season, a youth musical production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Performances: Friday, December 2 at the Acworth Town Hall at 7 PM, and Saturday, December 3 at the Charlestown Town Hall. Prepare to have your hearts warmed as Charlie Brown searches for the true meaning of Christmas, with a little help from his friends. Performances will be followed by a Christmas carol sing-a-long and refreshments. Tickets are available at the door: \$10 each, or a Family ticket for \$25. (2 parents and children). Don't miss this fun-filled evening!

— Jeanie Levesque

### PUBLISHER'S CORNER

While shopping at the Mistletoe Mart November 19, a woman said to me, "I absolutely love my *Clarion*. How can I pay for it?" I explained the advertisers cover my costs of design, printing and mailing. "But, I should be paying something," she continued.

That warmed my heart, as getting her paper meant that much to her. Yes, our advertisers cover the costs, and based upon the ads received for the month we can bring either 20 or 24 pages to you. What I did tell her was to encourage advertisers to help support the *Clarion* and its mission.

With the holidays, the closing date for the January issue again will fall a tad early – December 20. On behalf of Tara, Jan, and myself, may I wish all our readers a Joyous and safe holiday season.

— Ray Boas, Publisher



## The WALPOLE Clarion

published monthly for the Walpole community.

Ray Boas, Publisher  
PO Box 757  
Walpole, NH 03608  
603-756-4545

Submissions about community events and achievements are encouraged for both the calendar and features.

Submit ads, articles & photographs to:  
[walpoleclarion@gmail.com](mailto:walpoleclarion@gmail.com)

**January issue deadline: December 20**

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing  
Jan Kobeski: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line:  
[thewalpoleclarion.com](http://thewalpoleclarion.com)

The Holiday season began in earnest on November 19 with special events all over town: the Mistletoe Mart, Holiday Fair, Historical Society Gift Shop, Orchard School Crafts Fair and Farmers' Market tempted shoppers with edibles and gifts for all ages...



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# From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

## No Pickled Pig's Feet!

Ran into Elwud 'tother day. "Hey", says I, "I hear your friend Porkbelly was hospitalized. What's his problem?"

"Well sir, it's all his wife's fault! If'n she hadn't got sick, he would still be okay. They got him stashed into one of them Thermo-puke-it hospitals, dontcha know."

"You mean a therapeutic hospital for the mentally unstable?" I asked.

"That's it, and it's all his wife's fault", he says.

"You already said that, best get on with the explanation as to why it is her fault."

"Well sir, she up and gets the flu and can't leave the house. She needs a few groceries and instead of askin' her sister or one of the grown children to run the errands, she sends Porkbelly. Well sir, Porkbelly ain't been to a grocery store since his momma sent him as a little boy, and things have changed."

"What you mean 'things have changed'? Grocery stores still carry groceries, do they not?"

"Well sir, the last time Porkbelly went to the store, it was to buy a loaf of white bread and a jar of pickled pigs feet, when a loaf of white bread and pickled pigs feet where just that. Nowadays you can't hardly ever find pigs feet pickled in a jar, and white bread comes in seven or more varieties. Remember when you could buy Pete's Pickled Pigs Feet and Sunshine bread? Anyway off to the store goes Porkbelly and the first item is Eyetalian dressing. When he gets to the shelf he finds, Eyetalian in several varieties; regular, lite, low fat, zesty, with herb and onions, and at least six different brands."

"Why didn't he use the cell phone to call his wife and find out which one she wanted?"

"Oh, he tried but the darn cell phone lost its signal, dialed the wrong number, and stopped working part way through the conversation. Six more items on the list had the same multiple choices. Take milk for instance. Porkbelly grew up drinking milk right from the source. That's right, straight from the cow's teat. So he gets to the place they keep the milk and there it is; whole milk, low fat milk, one percent, two percent, pints, quarts, gallons and then they got a bunch of flavored milks. Poor Porkbelly, when they found him, he was crouched in a corner, mumbling to hisself and crying out loud, 'Momma, they's all outta pickled pigs feet!'"

## Walpole Business Notes

### Walpole Mountain View Winery

Walpole Mountain View Winery at Barnett Hill Vineyard will be closing for the season – last day for tastings in our lovely tasting room overlooking the vineyard and mountains will be Sunday, December 18 (Noon to 5PM). Check our FaceBook page for weekly wine specials until then. Thanks for a great season. See you in the Spring. While we're closed for the winter, you can find our wines locally at the Walpole Grocery and Jiffy Mart, in Keene: Monadnock Food Co-op, Hannah Grimes Marketplace, 7-Eleven, Market Basket, and the N.H. State Liquor Stores. Thanks!

– Virginia Carter

### Burdick's Upstairs

The Upstairs at Burdick's is a new venue for private dining in town. Located on the second floor over the restaurant at 47 Main St. in downtown Walpole. With the same delicious food and wonderful staff as downstairs, you can create a private event. The room holds up to 30 guests for a sit down luncheon or dinner and up to 50 guests for cocktails and appetizers. For more information, please call The Restaurant at Burdick's at 756-9058.

– Paula Burdick

Your 100 word submission of "business notes" is welcome for possible insertion.

## Walpole Historical Items for Sale

Books, Postcards,  
Ephemera, Souvenirs

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Click on the menu bar at top

## HCS Services

### Wellness Clinic

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) will hold a *Nurse Is In* clinic in Walpole on Friday, December 23 An HCS wellness nurse will be at Applewood Senior Housing from 10 to 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 offered free of charge. No appointment necessary.

*Nurse Is In* clinics are sponsored by HCS, a Monadnock United Way agency. For a complete list of area clinics or for more information, visit [www.HCSservices.org](http://www.HCSservices.org) or call HCS at 352-2253.

– Lara Larson

### Walk-in Wednesdays

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

Walk-in Wednesdays will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from 3 to 5 PM at the HCS office in Keene, located at 312 Marlboro Street. The next *Walk-in Wednesdays* are December 7 and January 4. Those who are not able to stop by are encouraged to call 352-2253 for information anytime.

HCS is a Monadnock United Way agency serving southwestern New Hampshire communities for over 30 years.

– Susan Ashworth

## MILESTONES

### Engaged

Justine Rogers, Walpole Town Library Director  
& Alex Fafara, Walpole Select Board Office Assistant

The ceremony will be held on April 30, 2017  
at St. Bernard's Church in Keene.

.....

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*Merry  
Christmas!  
From All of Us at the Clarion*