

Town Meeting 2017

Annual Budget Hearing: Warrant Articles

On February 16, Selectboard member Peggy Pschirrer chaired Walpole's annual budget hearing, a preliminary step leading to Town Meeting. Sadly, she counted only three voters in the audience other than Town officials and employees. "This year the warrant articles are different than in the past, and I will focus on those this evening instead of the Town Operating Budget," she told those assembled. (See page 6 for a discussion of the Town Operating Budget.)

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue reviews all Warrant Articles, and also determines the order in which they are presented. "The budget process begins in October with department heads submitting their budgets. A day is spent with each department reviewing their budget, and the select board later spends a full day in seclusion going over all details," Pschirrer explained. The majority of Warrant Articles to be voted on are for capital expenditures. Town Treasurer, Tom Goins, who brings to the position an extensive financial background, worked with both the Highway and Police Departments in developing the best approach for their capital needs - an approach that not only saves taxpayers money in the long run, but enables the Police Department to maintain a newer fleet of vehicles, and the Highway

Continued on Page 6

2016



Town of Walpole
New Hampshire

Annual Report of the Town Officials, Departments,
Committees & Walpole Fire District

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Walpole Qualified to Vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the
Town Hall, 34 Elm Street,
Town of Walpole,
on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 8:00 AM.
to act on ARTICLES 1 - 13.
Articles 1 and 2
will be voted on at the polls.

Polls at the Walpole Town Hall
and at North Walpole St. Peter's Church
will be open at 8:00 AM,
and will remain open until 7:00 PM.
Following the closing of the polls
and counting of the ballots,
the meeting will be adjourned until
Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM,
at the Walpole Town Hall on Elm Street,
at which time the balance
of the Articles will be acted upon.

Potato Barn Approved for Occupancy

The southern part of the large and iconic clapboard and brick building, just east of the Route 12 bypass and west of the Bellows Walpole Inn, was certified for occupancy the end of January. I toured the property (affectionately known as the 'Potato Barn') January 24th with owner Steve Rudek. During the tour, he explained, "I wanted to save the Potato Barn without worrying about what to do with it." He bought the Potato Barn complex years prior to his purchase of the Bellows Walpole Inn. "When I purchased the Bellows Walpole Inn, the Inn became part of my vision [with the potato barn]," he continued, "I wanted to bring a heart-beat back to this end of town."

The Potato Barn complex consists of four joined entities. The large prominent barn has yet to be finished inside. The first section south of the massive barn, the "L," is now referred to as the Connector Building. With over 2,200 square feet of renovated open space, it is envisioned the Connector will serve as event or gallery space. Next south, the two-story brick structure originally served as a granary, and will now serve as an entryway. Also connected, making the southern terminus of the complex, is the "Piggery." With a separate entrance, the "Piggery" required extensive stabilization and repairs due to water damage. Rudek stated the space here will be rented separately, "possibly as a yoga studio."

Continued on Page 17

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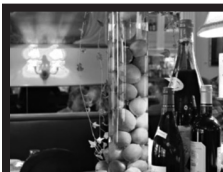
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Hooper Institute

High School Summer Work Program

"I liked finding out how it felt to work and how good it felt to know you worked for something."

"I really enjoyed being outside and contributing to the local farming community."

"This summer I learned that I have to be very patient and understanding with children. They take a lot of responsibility and kindness."

"This summer I learned quite a bit. I learned how to draw blood, restrain animals, give vaccines, do blood work, fecals and urinary samples, put in IV catheters, prepare for surgery and much more."

Hello Walpole teens! It is time to apply for the Hooper Institute summer work program. Students currently in grades 8-11 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 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 school. More than 200 Walpole teens have participated in this program over the past eighteen summers. 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.

The Institute is also seeking donations to fund this effective program. Checks can be made out to the 'Friends of the Hooper Institute' and mailed to P.O. Box 135, Walpole. Save the date of Friday, April 21 for a fundraising event at Town Hall. Chris Rimmer, founder of the Vermont Center for EcoStudies, will be speaking about *Keeping Common Birds Common*, what's happening with songbirds in our area. The cost is \$15 per ticket. All funds will benefit the summer work program.

— Eloise Clark

Public Hearings

Westberg Property

The Town will potentially be receiving property in the Village, known as the Westberg Property. Formerly the site of the plating plant, this land, once cleaned up (with grant monies), will serve as needed "downtown" parking for employees and shoppers. Two additional hearings will be held March 2 and March 16 at 6 PM at the Walpole Town Hall preceding the Selectboard meeting.

Senior Services

River Valley Seniors at Home

The January /February AARP Bulletin announced that AARP and the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission are guiding 14 communities through a strategic planning session to help residents live in their own homes while they age.

Walpole is not one of those communities. However, a group of local citizens has been working together for several months and is now incorporating *River Valley Seniors at Home*

The purpose of this new group is to create a membership organization to help people age in place. It is based on the "Village" model, which is spreading across the country. It will be an independent non-profit supported by members and grants with a paid executive director and volunteers. It will be a centralized: 'one call is all that is needed' to access services for a handyman, a home health aide, a ride to an appointment or the grocery store, or just to hear a friendly voice.

This same local group of volunteers has revised the *Walpole Business & Civic Directory*, which will be available free of charge at the Town Meeting on Saturday, March 18. Inside the Directory is a survey, which we ask that you complete so that we get a sense of the community interest in and need for this new group River Valley Seniors at Home.

— Peggy Pschirrer

Walpole Old Home Days 2017

The first Old Home Days celebration was held in New Hampshire in 1899 to encourage people to return to their roots. Walpole participated then, and in the recent past has celebrated Old Home Days every three years. This is the year. Save the dates June 21 through June 25. The schedule for the celebration may be found on the CLARION's website. Link to it from the home page, and, for updates, make sure to follow instructions on the right column to "follow this blog."

Meet Cheryl Mayberry

Editor's note: Each election year there has been competition for one or more open positions, and the CLARION has invited the candidates to introduce themselves to the town on our pages. That is not the case this year. There is only one candidate on the ballot for each open position. Thus, Cheryl Mayberry will be filling the open two-year selectman slot, and the CLARION asked her to introduce herself to the town.

I have lived in North Walpole since buying my home in 2006. I also come from a small town - Lake Placid, NY - where my family has lived for over 100 years. Coming from a small town I have seen some of the same challenges that we see here in Walpole, such as how to preserve the beauty of our environment while keeping the community economically viable.

I received my BA from SUNY Potsdam, dual major Biology/Chemistry and also completed 1yr of post graduate work in Inorganic Chemistry at UVM.

I believe in serving your community through public service. I have been a Commissioner in the Village for 9 years, completing my 3rd term this year. For over 5 years I have represented the Town of Walpole on the Transportation Advisory Committee at the SWRPC. I have worked for the past 6 years the Fall Mountain Regional School District in the area of Grants Administration. Prior to that I was a Demand Planning Manager for C&S, and I worked in Property Management prior to that. As a Demand Planner I developed strong analytical and decision-making skills. As a Property Manager in Vermont I focused on developing good relationships with the residents by being a good listener and communicator. During that time I trained and received my Water Operators License, and served several years on a local housing board. I also had the opportunity to develop good working relationships with the Town Government/Departments where I lived, and discovered how important it is to have a strong working sense of your own community.

Candidates for Town Office

Selectboard
for Three-Year Term
Steven Dalessio

Selectboard
for Two-Year Term
Cheryl Mayberry

Town Treasurer
For Three-Year Term
Thomas Goins

Trustee Of Trust Funds
for Three-Year Term
Robert Kimball

Planning Board
Two Members
for Three-Year Terms
Jeffrey White & Jason Perron

Zoning Board Of Adjustment
for Three-Year Term
Judy Trow

Zoning Board Of Adjustment
for One-Year Term
Thomas Murray

Library Trustees
Three for Three-Year Terms
Shirley Capron, Kate Nerrie
& Roberta Nelson

Cemetery Trustee
for Three-Year Term
Dale Woodward

As you can see my experience, like my interests, are diverse. I have a strong desire to learn/grow, and believe that serving on the Select board is the next best step to a better understanding on how the Town works. Thank You.

— Cheryl Mayberry

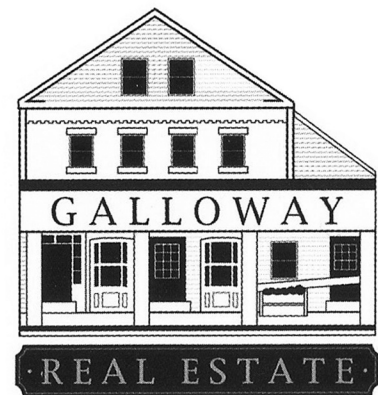
Free Bike Racks

New Program in Walpole

The Town of Walpole is partnering with Southwest Region Planning Commission to participate in *Rack it Up!* a community-based bike rack program that aims to increase both the number and visibility of bike racks in the Monadnock Region. The goal is to encourage bicycling as a healthy, fun and convenient transportation option for residents throughout the region. The Rack it Up! program is part of a series of "active transportation" initiatives that the Town of Walpole will be working on with Southwest Region Planning Commission to promote physical activity by providing safe alternative transportation choices.

Through *Rack it Up!*, free bike racks are available to organizations, businesses, and institutions in Walpole. Please visit www.mastnh.org/rackitup for more information

— Liz Kelly



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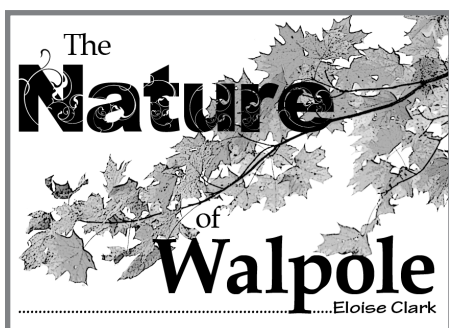
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Can you feel it? Can you feel the sap rising? The sugar maple trees are responding to longer days and stronger sunlight to bring their sweet sugars from the roots to the shoots. The effect is to fuel the buds on the twigs. They swell and expand into leaves and flowers. Have you ever tried tapping this flow to capture the sweetish sap? If not, be sure to visit to a local sugarhouse this month. There's nothing like the aroma - delicious! Douglas Whynott wrote a very interesting book about how this local crop has become a huge multi-billion dollar industry. You may recognize many of the characters in the book. It's even has a tale of foreign intrigue!

Well, my "sap" is not rising, you might reply grumpily. Many people seem to detest this month. But March is such a month of transitions in the natural world, surely there is something for everyone? March birds for example. Within the first week of March, red-winged blackbirds return to the Hooper Pond. It doesn't seem to matter that the surface might still be covered with punky ice. The younger males call "O-ka-ree" bravely. It also doesn't seem to matter that they won't be nesting for several more weeks. Staking out the prime territory is the first order of business.

Legions of waterfowl stop on the Connecticut River en route to their Arctic nesting grounds late this month. The river is a major flyway for ducks and geese. It offers rest, cover and food for the long journey north. People may remember years when flocks of snow geese floated just above the dam in North Walpole. Ducks with names such as pintail, gadwall, widgeon, shoveler and teal are a real treat for the avid birder to scope out. Check out the ponds on the cornfields near the river for

these migrants. You'll need binoculars to discern the beautiful colors of these birds. By the time these seasonal ponds are dried up, the waterfowl are long gone.

Closer to home, the feeder birds still cling to the backyard chow and fascinate us with their antics. It's a good time to watch for more color on the goldfinch. Listen for the spring call of the chickadee, the strong song of the cardinal, the Peter, Peter of the tufted titmouse. They are all ramping up for nesting season just ahead.

When I say there's something for everyone in the month of March, I'm also thinking of the lovers of winter, skiers, snowmobilers and most kids. We usually get walloped by a couple of "big" storms that prolong the winter fun for a few more weeks. Please don't be a sap, try to enjoy this dramatic month of nature's transitions.

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District Dash

5k Walk/Run at Fall Mountain

Save the date! In June, 2017, Fall Mountain Regional School District celebrates its 50th graduating class. In honor of this historic landmark, the Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association is planning to host a 5k FunWalk/Run on Sunday, April 30, at the high school. In order to make this successful, we need the support of alumni, current school students, school administration, current and former staff and all the community. Let's all pull together to make this a big success!

Registration forms will be available at the schools, and we hope to have 100% participation. All proceeds will be used to fund grants through FMEEA. In other words, all money goes back to the Fall Mountain Regional School District.

All businesses in the district are encouraged to support the fundraiser through sponsorship and/or team registration. Deadline for registrations is March 31, 2017. Sponsorships are starting to come in. Please make checks payable to Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association (FMEEA) and mail to PO Box 610, Charlestown, NH 03603. We are a 501(c)3 organization, tax ID #22-342937.

Like us on Facebook for more information, and search "District Dash 5k" on Active.com to register, or contact Emily St. Pierre at 558-0340 or emilyboynt@gmail.com.

- Pat Royce

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Converting some or all of your IRA balances to a Roth IRA may yield significant benefits down the road. Its tax advantages give you the ability to accumulate more money for retirement, avoid minimum distribution requirements, and leave a tax-free inheritance to your beneficiaries.

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IRA account owners should consider the tax ramifications and other restrictions in regard to executing a conversion from a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. The converted amount is generally subject to current year income taxation.

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Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will hold their next regular luncheon at 12:00 noon on March 20, 2017, at the First Congregational Church. We will welcome Donald Duskey as our guest speaker. His topic of interest will be on "Boats Built from Scratch". We look forward to his presentation. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share with the members. Bring a friend and enjoy some great food and fellowship..

– Jan Martin

Historic Book Group

The next meeting of the Walpole Non-Fiction Historic Book Group will be Tuesday, March 14, at 7:00 PM at the Walpole Library.

The book to be discussed is *What is Populism?*, a 121 page book by Jan-Werner Muller, professor of Politics at Princeton University. Some of the topics Muller explores in this book are: Donald Trump, Silvio Berlusconi, Marine Le Pen, Norbert Hofer, Victor Orban, Frauke Petry. Populists are on the rise around the Globe. Should everyone who criticizes Wall Street or Washington be called a populist? Are they right wing or left wing? Does populism bring government closer to the people or is it a threat to democracy? Are there common denominators of personality, leadership style, political strategy and/or fear-mongering among the rising populist stars?

Justine is gathering several copies. The book is available in Kindle format. For more information, call 756-3695, or email ronmaclachlan03608@gmail.com

– Ron MacLachlan

Library

Special Film Screening: *Alice's Ordinary People*

Join us Tuesday March 14th at 6:30PM for a screening of the documentary *Alice's Ordinary People* as well as a discussion with the film's director, Craig Dudnick. Alice Tregay was an activist during the Civil Rights Movement in Chicago and this documentary takes a look at her adult life as she marched with Dr. Martin Luther King and taught a Political Education class, training thousands to work in independent political campaigns. You can learn more about Alice and Dudnick's documentary online at imaginevideo.org/alices-ordinary-people/

Stuffed Animal Slumber Party

Bring your favorite stuffed animal or doll to the Walpole Library on March 24th at 6PM for a special slumber party! Stay for stories and a craft, then tuck your stuffed animal in for a cozy night at the library! In the past our Library bears have helped your friends get into some crazy shenanigans at the library, and we're sure they'll have fun this time too!

Special Story Time Series

Join us the last Wednesday of the month for a special story time presented by the Grafton Museum. Story Time is every Wednesday at 10AM. The series will have a special topic each month and include stories and a craft. Join us March 29 to learn about the Magic of Maple Syrup.

Cook Book Challenge Group

Our next meeting will be March 28. All are welcome to join us for delicious food and great conversation. Stop by the library to pick up a copy of this month's cook book, *The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook*. Please remember to sign up once you've selected your recipe so we know how many people to plan for. You'll want to bring your own place setting (plate, silverware, napkin and beverage) as well as your dish for the pot luck.

– Justine Rogers

Make History!

The Walpole Historical Society is creating a timeline of the history of Walpole for a new exhibit in our museum. We want your ideas. We have already received some suggestions:

- Benjamin Bellows organized the village in 1752
- thousands of sheep lived here in the 1830s
- the railroad first arrived in 1845
- Old Home Days was celebrated for the first time in 1899
- the hurricane of 1938 swept through town
- a pulp mill on the Connecticut River was proposed in the 1970s
- and as many more as you can suggest!

What events do you believe are important in the history of Walpole, shaping our particular town? Let us know about events that are well-known (or should be) or are long forgotten. Tell us your own memories, as well as those passed down within your families. These could be opportunities seized or missed, disasters encountered or averted, significant business developments, governmental actions, or popular enthusiasms.

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to the Walpole Historical Society: newsletter@walpolehistory.com or 756-3449. Thank you for helping!

– Christie Winmill

Watkins Memorial Garden

When you drop off your recyclables, you'll notice a lovely garden overlooking the pond and mountains in the background. This is the George Watkins Memorial Garden, designed and planted in 2012 to honor George Watkins, Chairman of the WRAP Committee (Walpole Recycling Action Project) from 1988-2011.

The trees, shrubs and perennial flowers were carefully chosen to welcome you to a sanctuary of quiet beauty, a respite from your busy day. Stop for a moment and sit on one of the benches. Admire the view. Notice the many native plantings that provide fruit and berries for songbirds and wildlife.

Volunteers are needed to help maintain this gift to our community. From Spring to Fall, there are basic maintenance tasks that can be done in a couple of hours, at your convenience. No experience is necessary, as initial mentoring will be provided. Please contact Paul Colburn at transfer@myfairpoint.net or Fritze Till at fritzetill@gmail.com

– Fritze Till

SAVING OUR SONGBIRDS

A BENEFIT FOR THE HOOPER INSTITUTE YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

A TALK BY CHRIS RIMMER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VERMONT CENTER FOR ECOSTUDIES

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Department with equipment to enhance the job they are doing.

Article 7 was prepared with Walpole's Chief Pacquette and Sergeant Sanctuary working closely with Treasurer Goins. Approving this article will enable Walpole to purchase a new police cruiser each year through financing, instead of saving for it through the capital reserve fund. The Savings Bank of Walpole is offering an exceptionally low municipal rate to the town. Each cruiser will then be paid for in three years and turned in at that time when the bumper to bumper warranty expires. When turned in and the next cruiser purchased, the "trade-in" value will be used to reduce the cost of the next cruiser. But most important, and for about the same overall cost, in time Walpole's cruisers will never be more than three years old, and extensive repair bills will be avoided. The wording of Article 7, due to the State's requirements, may cause confusion, but the rationale is solid in saving the Town money. Most important, however, is the updating of our police vehicles for the safety of all residents.

Usually the first Warrant Article discussed and voted on Town Meeting day is the Town Operating Budget, but not this year, again due to the State's requirements. Because the price of a new loader needed by the Highway Department exceeds \$100,000, it must precede the vote for the operating budget. Again, Treasurer Goins, working with our Road Agent Michael Rau, has obtained a price and terms saving taxpayers. Another article of interest for the Highway Department is Article 6 to purchase a side mower for roadside mowing. Walpole does not own a mower, but leases one each year for two weeks costing from \$12,000 to \$14,000. But even worse, we never know when those two weeks will come, and usually Walpole's turn comes at the end of the season when the sides of outlying roads having become overgrown, often causing dangerous driving conditions and blind spots. Another wise Article to approve.

Even though only 3 voters were at the hearing in addition to Town Officials and employees, all engaged in worthy discussion, questions and exchange of ideas. I have been an attendee at the Budget Hearing every year for years, and the Select board and town officials must be complimented on the depth of work in developing this year's Warrant Articles, which, even though may appear costly, will actually generate savings and prove of overall benefit to all taxpayers and residents.

- Ray Boas

Warrant Article 3

Elsewhere in this month's issue of the **Clarion**, Ray Boas has written about both the Town's 2017 operating budget and the proposed Warrant Articles. Three hearty souls came out to our budget hearing and we were all happy to see them.

Because the numbers were sparse, I want to write about Article 3, which asks the voters to approve a lease/option purchase of a new loader for the highway department. The loader was first proposed to the Select Board in 2014, but it was shelved for sometime in the future. We have reached that future: the current loader is wearing out so that repairs this year may reach as high as \$50,000, and it will still be weak.

We need a new loader. So, in order to make it financially feasible, we propose to lease/purchase a new one. Tom Goins, Town Treasurer, and Mike Rau, Highway Road Agent, worked together to get the best price for municipalities at a low interest rate of 3.25% for a lease of thirty-eight months with four payments, the first one due this year of \$56,862.68. The old loader will be traded in for \$38,000. The total of the new loader including interest is \$227,447.72.

This Warrant Article No. 3 must be voted on before the general operating budget because it, in total, exceeds \$100,000, and is treated by the DRA as if it were a bond. Further, it must be voted on by ballot and requires a 2/3 vote so that we may enter into a long-term lease.

Please send us your questions or stop us on the street; we want this article to be clear to all. We need this equipment if we are to effectively and efficiently maintain our roads.

- Peggy Pschirrer

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Town Meeting

Proposed Operating Budget

Article 4 to be voted upon at Town Meeting March 18 is the Town Operating Budget. The proposed 2017 budget reflects an increase of 7.15% from last year's budget. Of the increase, \$130,000 will come from unassigned reserve funds instead of through taxation. That amount is for the State mandated reevaluation of Walpole's real estate tax base. The amount to be raised through taxation is \$3,599,595 for the operation of the Town. In addition, Walpole tax bills will also include taxes required to operate the schools, fund the Fire District, and pay our Cheshire County assessment, which is due each December.

Salaries and benefits (e.g. health) account for much of the increase. The increase in various insurance costs, over which the Town has no control, range from 4.5 to 6%. Salaries and wages have again been increased by 2%, and in some cases, where studies showed Walpole was below compensation paid by other communities, greater raises are included in this year's budget.

The Police Department's budget includes the addition of an additional officer to be hired in the Spring. Long overdue, the additional manpower is needed as a result of the increase in the incidence of drug related events (there have been two drug-related deaths in town since September), the time-consuming paperwork required for those events, as well as that required for other crimes and accidents. Transporting a juvenile to court requires two officers, (half of Walpole's full time force of three officers and the Chief of Police) thus decreasing the protection afforded in town. (See Police Log on page 7.)

A great deal of thought, work and analysis has gone into developing this year's budget. The Town's Department Heads and the Select board are to be complimented.

- Ray Boas

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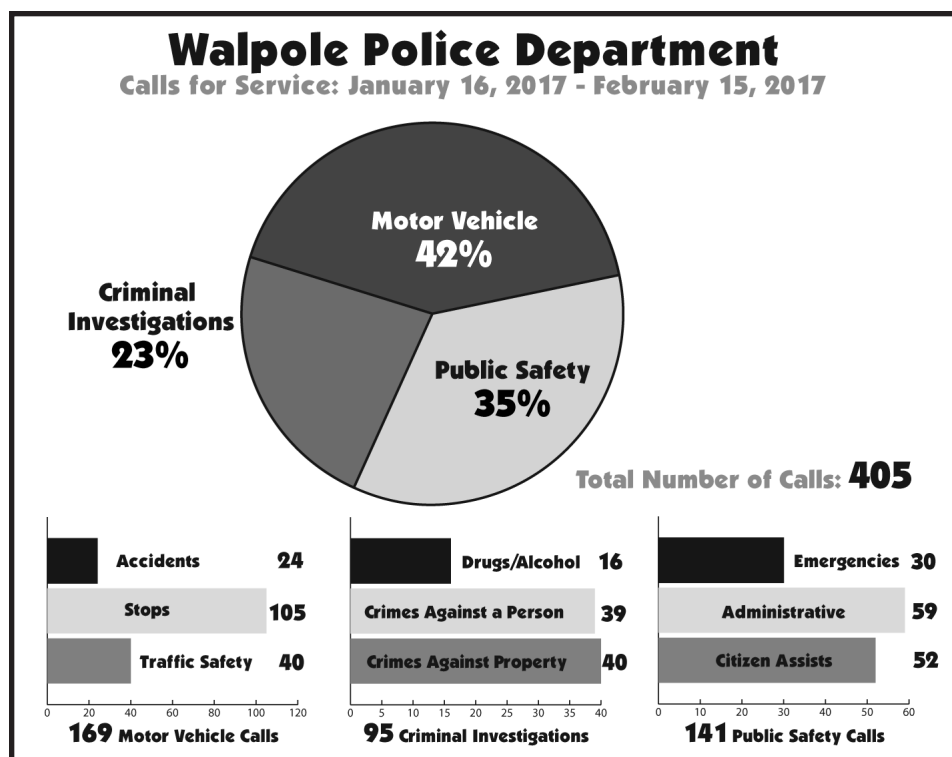
Police Log

Numbers do not even begin to tell the story. A call for service, as detailed in the monthly Walpole Police Department report, may take minutes for a phone call, or one to two man-hours for a routine motor vehicle stop. But nothing is routine. If the stop involves a compliant DUI suspect, it becomes two or more man-hours for the arrest and paperwork. Add the suspicion of drugs in this stop, those hours escalate to 20 or more with search warrants, cataloguing of evidence, transportation of evidence to the laboratory, all related paperwork and court time.

I sat with Chief Paquette, Sergeant Sanctuary, and their Administrative Assistant, Janet Clough, on February 24. They outlined the steps involved in an easy roadside stop, responding to an alarm, and the ever-increasing drug related incidents. Using a whiteboard, the Sergeant wrote down each step in a vehicle stop, the procedures and time that each usually takes. "The initial contact takes about 10 minutes," he began. "The individual's ID is then called into dispatch for details. Upon returning to the vehicle, we may issue a summons. But, if alcohol is detected, a standardized field sobriety test, which takes at least 20 minutes, will be administered." A second officer is called if available.

Often they find an outstanding arrest warrant for the driver. If the driver is found under the influence, a tow truck must be called, and the individual taken back to the station for processing. That processing includes contacting a bail commissioner to arrive. Once processed, the suspect may leave, but, if no ride home is available, Walpole officers must take the individual to the County Jail for holding - another two to three man-hours. It is extremely difficult to condense here for easy reading all that is involved - even for something "simple."

Response to an alarm at a home or business takes a minimum of an hour if nothing is found wrong during an external search. But, if there is evidence of a break-in and possible burglary, our police



force is now facing a possible 20 man-hours or more of effort. Crimes against property (as seen on the accompanying chart) were up this month. This category includes those alarm calls, thefts and vandalism. "Break-ins are up," Sergeant Sanctuary continued in response to my query, "and they are usually drug-driven, with suspects needing funds for their addiction." Shoplifting, too, has become a problem in Walpole. An apprehension for "willful concealment" (suspect apprehended prior to leaving a store - once exiting it becomes theft) consumes 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 hours between interviews and processing, which is followed by another four-plus hours after the suspect's release for paperwork and admin time.

A problem may arise when an officer is involved with a vehicle stop or other investigation. If a second call comes in, it must be covered. An off-duty officer must be called in, causing delays in responding to an incident - delays that our police force and select board do not want for everyone's safety. The addition of another full-time officer in the Walpole Police Department will go a long way in alleviating that problem. "With an additional full-time officer," Chief Paquette explained, "90% of our 'busiest times' we will have an officer immediately available to respond."

- Ray Boas

Walpole Business Notes

Gallery Exhibition

Running through March 11, Cynthia Reeves Walpole Gallery is hosting an exhibition of painting and sculpture featuring works from the estate of New York painter, Michael Mulhern, and minimalist sculptures by Brooklyn-based artist, Eric Slayton. Paintings from the Mulhern estate were recently acquired by the 9/11 Museum in New York City for their permanent collection. The gallery is located in "The Barn at 28 Main Street."

Grab 'n Go at Joanie Joan's

In addition to her delicious baked goods and satisfying lunches, Joan Balla has expanded her offerings to include Grab 'n Go items. Salads, sandwiches, puddings and other chilled items are available anytime during the day in a counter top cooler. Coming soon will also be dinner items for take out as well. So come in to Joanie Joan's Baked Goods Company and grab a meal.

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

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GREAT RIVER CO-OP

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Want to make the Great River Co-op dream a reality? Confirm your commitment in writing!

To our local community:

You may have noticed an increase in activity around the Great River Co-op project. We've been working behind the scenes to re-energize the effort for several months now. We are currently in a position to move forward with the project, but we need our members, future members and community voices to be behind us in this effort.

That means proving to lenders and those working with us on this project that you support it moving forward – in writing. Member or not, please go online to **Greatriverfoodcoop.com** and complete our supporter survey! Now for some updates: This organization was started a while ago and has survived because it embodies so many good ideas:

- creating a convenient, year-round market where our community can have access to fresh, healthy, locally-grown, locally-produced products
- creating jobs
- investing in our local economy
- encouraging farmers to keep farming and keeping our existing farmland open and in production
- connecting our community with local producers and improving its health through access and education
- promoting our local producers

We have prepared the ground. The co-op's agreements are still in place with MEDC and Bensonwood to build and stock the building. The co-op's board is developing additional opportunities with the Cooperative Fund of New England to act as a fiscal agent for potential grants and tax-deductible donations; and with Antioch University New England and Keene State College to create internship opportunities. We are also working with Keene State's architecture students to create a site plan and preliminary building design. We have updated the website, launched an active Facebook presence, and are redesigning our newsletter delivery in order to reach more of you. Our next steps include bringing on a project manager who can guide our project, and creating a development team to carry out a member loan and donation campaign. (What better place to invest than in your own community?) But, to enable these plans to succeed, the co-op needs your energy and ideas.

So how can you help? Engage in conversations with friends and neighbors about the benefits of a cooperative store. Spend an hour or two joining in the fun at an event promoting the co-op. Display membership brochures in your place of business or a poster in the window. (email us for copies) Join the board of directors. Join a committee or help plan an event (we have plans for an annual meeting including local music and food!) If you're already a member, consider purchasing more shares so your co-op has operating capital and so other members can see your commitment.

Bottom line: We need our community to commit to the project financially, with expertise, with time, and at the very least (or perhaps, at the very most) with your voice. Please go online to **Greatriverfoodcoop.com** and complete the supporter survey! Also, join us on Facebook, and our website. You can email us at **info@greatriverfoodcoop.com** or call a board member to get involved. Together, we've all planted the seed. The next step is to nourish it! Thanks.

– Your Co-op Board

A New Wellington in Town

Ebenezer Wellington came to Walpole from Massachusetts. He had served three enlistments in the Continental Army during the Revolution, the first when he was twelve years old. Once in Walpole, he and his wife, Rebecca, had 12 children, who, in turn, produced a total of 92 grandchildren.

According to Ebenezer's great grandson, John Wellington, writing in his history of the family, Ebenezer, "possessed a somewhat easy-going disposition, was sociable and fond of sitting in the tavern and indulging in storytelling... His vocation, so far as he had one, was farming, but he relied on members of his family to do most of the work." Lucky for him he had a big family.

It was Rebecca, evidently, who kept the home fires burning and the cows milked, while the vet was off at the tavern telling stories.

John Wellington: "His (Ebenezer's) shortcomings, however, were more than offset by the strength of character of his wife, Rebecca Levens, who was a woman of pride and ambition. To her was due the credit of keeping the family together and rearing them into prosperous and respected citizens."

These citizens married Hoopers and Graves and Fletchers and Royces and Kidders, coming down to my grandmother. Alice Wellington, who grew up on the farm in Christian Hollow.

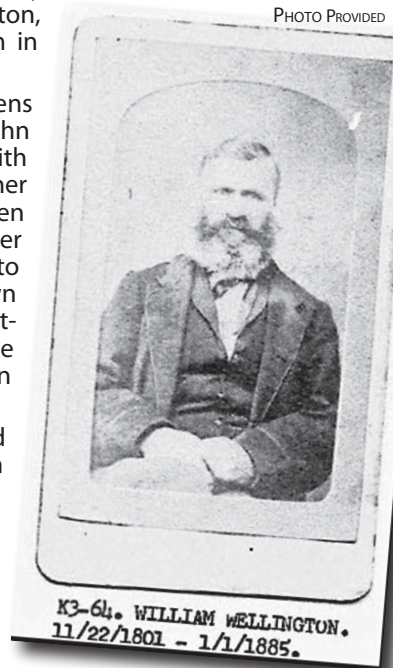
"A story of Rebecca Levens Wellington," continues John Wellington, "related with considerable pride by her grandsons, was how, when she was well along in her eighties, the cows got into the corn-field. She ran down the road, hopped an eight-rail fence, drove out the cows and herded them in the barn-yard."

One of Ebenezer and Rebecca's sons was William Wellington, born in 1801. Here's what George Aldrich said of him in *Walpole, As It Was and As It Is*, published in 1880, five years before William Wellington died.

The Wellingtons have been noted for their powers of physical endurance. The following are instances: William, now living in town, dug one hundred and forty bushels of potatoes in one day and stored them in the cellar

of William Jennison. He also laid twenty-nine rods of stone wall for Charles Watkins in the same length of time. He is

PHOTO PROVIDED



now seventy-eight years old, but every few weeks he walks to Keene and back the same day, a distance of not less than twenty miles.

Now, Mr. Aldrich's potato and stone wall claims for William Wellington seem rather farfetched to me, super-human even, if you take into account the size of a bushel and the length of a rod. But I, William Wellington Reed, a new resident of Walpole with my wife, Lynne, don't mind a myth or two, although William Wellington's great great grandson - yours truly - is unlikely to walk to Keene and back every few weeks, even though he is only 70.

- William Wellington (Bill) Reed



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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the sheep craze that brought

16,000 sheep to Walpole between 1830 and 1840 was not the only dream of fortunes local residents pursued? Fortunes were also envisioned as Walpoleans raised silkworms in the decade between 1835 and 1845. Folks in Bellows Falls, too, were engaged in making silk from the cocoons of the silkworm. The center of activity was in Mansfield, Connecticut, which, by 1789, was producing 200 pounds of silk a year, valued at \$5 a pound. As peddlers sold silk thread throughout New England, they spread stories of riches to be made from the worm. You only needed silkworms and mulberry trees.

Over 4,000 years ago, the Chinese discovered the strength of threads produced by silkworms who feasted on mulberry leaves. These threads could be spun into a luxurious fabric so desired that a global trade developed along the famous Silk Road. The silk threads result when silkworms excrete a substance called fibroin through small holes in their jaws. The substance is composed of protein the worms produced and leaves they have digested. When a worm spins its cocoon, up to 1200 silk threads are produced in 72 hours. When the cocoon is complete, it is steamed loose, and the threads unwound for spinning. The eggs from the cocoon are incubated to hatch into new caterpillars to repeat the process. Although happy to eat a variety of plant material, the silkworm larvae that have feasted on mulberry leaves produce the finest silk.

Back in Connecticut, "mulberry mania" took off to feed the silkworms, with tens of thousands of mulberry trees planted in the 1830s. Bidding wars for saplings pushed prices to dizzying heights. In 1834, \$4 bought 100 saplings. Two years later, the price rose to \$30. In the 1963 history of Walpole, Martha Frizzell wrote it had been recorded that six residents in town had purchased mulberry trees. Some trees may have been planted on Prospect Hill Road. In Drewsville Lyman Stearns, an inventor and horticulturist, bought 350 trees (the smallest recorded purchase), and also in Drewsville, the largest purchase was made by Henry Cram - 6,500 trees.



Silkworms, Cheney Brothers, Manchester, ca. 1900

Background: Mulberry tree



The Woven Cocoon

In the early and mid-19th century, Drewsville was an industrial beehive taking advantage of the Cold River for power (the water level was much higher then). Henry Cram in 1826 purchased a mill in Drewsville "for manufacturing and dressing cloth, to add the carding of

wool." In 1840 he is reported to have also had a clothier's shop. No doubt his plan was to feed an army of silkworms with the leaves from his 6,500 trees, and also produce silk thread.

With the Financial Panic of 1837, speculators purchased mulberry trees believing them a safer investment than stocks and bonds. Prices reached \$500 for 100 trees when the craze peaked in 1839. Collapse followed. The labor involved in extracting the thread had been downplayed, over-inflating potential profits. In 1838, the Cheney Brothers built a silk mill in Manchester, Connecticut, and began importing raw silk instead of growing their own silkworms. By 1870 they had 551 employees, and, at the end of World War I, 4,000 people were employed in three mills.

Henry Cram lost his mill and property in 1846. If you have an old mulberry tree in your yard - now you know why it may be there.

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Radio Follies Return

For the fifth consecutive year The Walpole Players will again present their very successful old time radio show as *Cabin Fever Radio Follies of 2017* – a step back in time featuring highlights from the golden age of radio, radio plays, skits, gags, and songs – at the Walpole Town Hall, Helen Miller Theater March 18 at 7:00 PM.

The doors will open at 6:00 pm, when audience members may arrive bringing their own dinners, snacks and beverages of choice. Round tables for eight will be provided so all may dine in comfort, then sit back and listen when the Players commence the live broadcast from the radio studio on stage. When we “sign off” for the evening, guests are welcome to linger, visiting with neighbors and chatting with the radio performers.

Open Auditions

The Walpole Players was founded thirty years ago, and had its first production staged for Old Home Days 1987. That first play, *George Washington Slept Here*, by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, will again be presented to the community by the 2017 Walpole Players the last two weekends in June during Walpole’s Old Home Days celebrations.

To fill the cast of 9 males (including one teenager) and 8 females, auditions will be held in the Helen Miller Theater in Walpole on Thursday, March 30, and Friday, March 31 at 6:30 PM. Rehearsals will begin after Easter.

The story follows Newton Fuller, who, in the 1940s, moves his family from the city to rural Pennsylvania and an old farm. The problems that ensue involve endless repairs, disagreeable neighbors, troublesome guests, a supposedly rich uncle, and many more side-tickling adventures.

No preparation is required to audition. For additional information contact co-directors Tara Sad 756-4861 or Ray Boas 756-4545.

– Bill Lockwood

We understand the Bickersons are in another predicament, and what show is not complete without the Farm Report, a few classic advertisements, and popular hit tunes of the era? A cast of about 25 local entertainers, many who you will remember from years past, is currently assembling to present this year’s version of *The Follies* to provide you with laughs and great memories for an hour and twenty minutes (more or less). Among them might be appearances by Fibber McGee and Molly, George and Gracie, Abbott and Costello, Andy Griffith, Bob and Ray, and many more. Among the musical entertainers will be Mike Delaney who will sing a Frank Sinatra song.

The last four years have been sellouts, and this year the Players anticipate all

tickets will be pre-sold. Ticket are only \$10. per person for a grand evening out, and are available at Joanie Joan’s Baked Goods Company on Westminster Street in Walpole. Table reservations must be made at the time of ticket purchase. Anyone with questions or seeking further information can call Ray Boas at 756-4545.

Mark your calendars now for March 18, gather your friends, and pack your dinner and beverages to join the fun back in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s when life was a tad simpler.

– Bill Lockwood

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Walpole Girls Basketball

Claims Back-to-Back Championships

The Walpole Elementary School girls' Basketball team put a championship bow on their perfect season on Monday, February 6, as they captured their second consecutive Connecticut Valley League Title by defeating Westmoreland, 56-41.

The excitement in the auditorium at Walpole Elementary School rose to a crescendo as students, parents, teachers, visitors, and players filed into the gym to start the first championship game of the evening (the boys' game was scheduled immediately after the girls' game). This was the moment that both teams had worked diligently for throughout the regular and postseason. While Walpole may have been favored considering their 16 consecutive victories with no losses just this season, Westmoreland would not let the Chicks win without a fight.

Walpole jumped out to an early lead that they would maintain throughout the contest, with the Bulldogs constantly trying to chip away at the score. It has been said that basketball is a game of runs and momentum. Both teams went on various runs throughout the contest, with the Chicks edging Westmoreland in each quarter.

The home team was led by their strong eighth grade class. Sophie Bardis scored a team-high 16 points while classmate Morgan Beauregard notched 13 points. Both Hillary Berry and Shea Pickering provided a strong defensive boost throughout the contest. Rounding out the eighth grade contributors were Mary Ronning, Kaylee Lintner, Grace Beliveau, Erin Brady, and Paige Moody. While the eighth grade led the charge for the Chicks, the foundation of next year's squad, the seventh graders, also supplied Walpole with much-needed minutes and help on both sides of the ball. Nora Dunnigan, Sophia Bruzgis, Jordan Moore, Chloe Bardis, and Abby Walker made a case for the Chicks to make another Championship run with them at the helm next season.

Despite an impressive performance from Westmoreland, it was Walpole, led by Head Coach Michelle O'Brien, who hoisted the Connecticut Valley Championship Trophy high overhead following the final buzzer.

— Jake Gagnon

Remembering MLK Jr.

A Student's Reflection

Martin Luther King, Jr.: we know him as a minister, an activist, and a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. However, not many of us know about a lot of details about what his life was like before this time. So, this is a short biography on the life, death, and accomplishments of one of the most well known civil rights activists ever in celebration of his holiday this January.

Michael Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. He attended segregated schools in the state, and graduated high school at the age of 15. In 1948, he received his bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta. He then went to Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, where he studied theology for three years. Finally, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, where he received his doctorate degree from in 1955.

It was there where he met his future wife, Coretta Scott. They later had four children, two sons and two daughters. In 1954, he became the pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. However, the next year was when he began to be who we know him as today. He participated in a bus boycott in Montgomery, and was arrested during this time. The situation became so bad that King's house was bombed as well. This is what transformed him into the national figure that we know and respect.

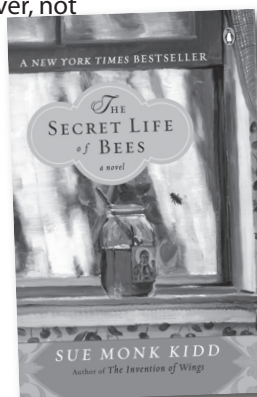
He is most famous for is the March on Washington in 1963. The event was brought about to protest segregation, mainly in the Southern United States. This is where he gave his most famous speech, later known as the "I Have a Dream" speech. This speech helped put civil rights at the top of the list of importance in the United States, and was a large part in making the Civil Rights Act of 1964 possible.

— Jacob Bradley

Book Review

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

I have always been skeptical of books that claim to be "classics." It was precisely for this reason that I was skeptical when my friend and I began reading *The Secret Life of Bees*. However, the book surpassed all pre-held misconceptions of classics. In fact, it went above and beyond any other books I have ever read.



The Secret Life of Bees is a book about a girl named Lily Owens. She

grew up in South Carolina, on a peach farm with her father. She doesn't know what happened to her mother, only that she was shot in an accident that Lily isn't sure if she caused or not. Her father, T. Ray, blames her for this accident. Due to this blame, he becomes something of an abusive figure in her life, and because of that, Lily runs away to find out more about her mother. Equipped with a photo of her mother, her gloves, and a picture of the Black Madonna, Lily and Rosaleen, the housekeeper, run away to Tiburon, South Carolina. It is there where they encounter the Boatwright sisters, three black women who raise bees that manufacture Black Madonna Honey, the source of Lily's Black Madonna photo.

The Secret Life of Bees, while seeming like your typical run-of-the-mill story about growing up and coming into your own, is far more than that. Set in the 60s, *The Secret Life of Bees* also confronts racial issues – considering that the vast majority of the characters are black – and the struggles of having an abusive parent, in addition to the 'found family' narrative. Overall, it's a book worth reading and one I would recommend to anyone who's skeptical about classics like I am.

— Lillia Wilson

Hats in School

I walked into the room, the scuffling of my heavy winter boots more prominent and louder than my own random thoughts. I shuffled on up to Mr. Gagnon's desk. As I neared him, we made eye contact, and I knew the next words to come out of his mouth: "Hey Maddy, could you please take your hat off?"

Hats in schools have been a fairly large, but rather forgotten, controversy. No hats in school falls under dress code regulations in many districts, including the one that I am a student in.

Now you could argue that the policy for taking one's hat off is a matter of respect, however this may not apply to everyone. It is a subjective argument; what one person may find it disrespectful to wear a hat in school, another person may be entirely fine with it. Those who feel the most disrespected by the notion may have reasons that are outdated or unintended.

If you are a supporter of hats in school, you could also argue that it could be a distraction. Yet, if kids are not distracted by the regular way their peers dress, then why would a hat be any different from a headband or any other hair accessory that some students wear on a daily basis? It also does not appear to be a distraction outside while at recess or beyond the school grounds.

Wearing a hat is also a way for students to express themselves individually, and perhaps feel more comfortable, within school. While I agree that all hats should always be taken off while the Pledge of Allegiance, I personally feel hats should be allowed in schools, only if the teacher in the classroom is okay with it. As long as they do not see it as disrespectful or a distraction to their other students, the student should be allowed to wear a hat.

– Madeline Wilson

St. John's Church

Honoring Care Decisions

St John's Church is hosting *Honoring Care Decisions* on Sunday, March 12, 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall. Jennifer McCalley, MSW, ACHP-SW, Program Coordinator for *Honoring Care Decisions* from Dartmouth-Hitchcock, will guide participants in a system of care that engages all adults at every age and stage of health in advanced care planning (ACP). The program enables and facilitates quality conversations with individuals and their loved ones well in advance of any type of health crisis so that everyone supporting an individual or providing healthcare would know what to do, or not do, if a crisis ever came. Jennifer will help the group explore the key questions of ACP, answer questions and respond to concerns, as well as refer to additional resources as needed. A second session on March 26, 11:30 AM, will allow participants to find help with completion of ACP documents (advance directives, living wills, etc.).

The March 12 event includes a potluck lunch. Community members are warmly invited to join in this discussion.

Lenten Eucharists

Are you looking for a Lenten discipline? Would you benefit from a half hour in mid-week that helps you recharge your spiritual focus? If so, please come to

the Wednesday Communion service at 12 noon at St. John's Episcopal Church, 26 Elm Street in Walpole. Everyone is welcome to this beautiful and contemplative liturgy. Come as you are.

After School Programs

Art After School meets on Wednesdays, 3:15 - 5:00 PM. In March, we'll be illustrating poems, and doing projects that teach how to create with collage and watercolors. We'll also anticipate spring with a project based on Monet's water lilies in his garden at Giverny. Any child in first grade or older is welcome. Parents must register their children first by downloading the registration form found with the link on our webpage: walpoleartafterschool.org.

Narnia After School is off to a great start! This group has been exploring WWII history and rationing, as we discuss C. S. Lewis' book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. In March, we will start reading *The Magician's Nephew*. The current group has reached the maximum number of participants. However, we are considering starting a second group in January, 2018 that would start with *The Lion*, while the current group continues on with the other books in the *Chronicles of Narnia*. If you have a child who will be in third grade or older in January 2018 who might be interested in participating, please contact Susan Kershaw, info@walpoleartafterschool.org. – Susan Kershaw



Road Conditions...

Don't like the bumps and road conditions on South Street, Prospect Hill Road and County Road? Don't blame the Walpole Highway Department, as these are State roads, with the State responsible for their maintenance. Contact your State Representative for help.

– Ray Boas

Congregational Church

Annual Silent Auction

Our Silent Auction begins March 26 and continues through April 2. This annual "funraiser" is a **great** opportunity to look in your belongings and contribute a loved but no longer needed item or two to the auction. No clothing please (save that for the Rummage Sale in the end of April). You may drop items off at the church on weekday mornings between 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon by contacting our Office Administrator, Pat Kingsbury, at 756-4075.

Sunday, April 2, will be the last day to bid on the items. That is a Sunday, of course, so the church will be open by 9:00 AM, and the bidding will close by approximately 11:30 am. So, it's a great excuse to come to church, find some peace, enjoy the fellowship, and be sure you get the item you want. Thank you. Peace.

– Chuck Shaw

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W.R.A.P News

Got Recycling? Great! Bring it to the Walpole Recycling Center on Drewsville Road any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. You'll find a place where you can not only get rid of your household trash (in yellow Walpole trash bags, of course) but also a place where recyclable plastics, cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard can be processed and not be put into landfills, adding to an ever-increasing problem of environmental pollution.

Got volunteers? You bet! They are the ones who sort all of the material that does not go into the trash bags. Without them, it would be impossible to keep up with the amount of recyclables that come through the center in a day. Each volunteer shift is two hours, and there are times there have been as many as 60 plus cars go through the center in a two-hour period! Imagine the number in an 8-hour day! That's a lot of sorting! And a lot of volunteers!

Got clean and rinsed out containers to recycle? Perfect! Bring them to us! Our volunteers love to sort the clean milk jugs, food cans, soda cans, detergent bottles, #1 PETE clear plastic (except the clamshell style containers that strawberries and such come in) and the wide variety of green, clear and brown glass bottles that come through the center. Why rinsed out containers you ask? For one, it provides clean material for recycling and reusing. And secondly, imagine a milk jug that's been allowed to sit around for a couple of weeks without being rinsed, or a soup/chowder can that hasn't been rinsed but dumped into one of the recycling bins. UGGH! Particularly in the warm weather, these types of containers don't provide for a very pleasant experience for our volunteers

who have to handle and sort the items. Yes, the volunteers wear gloves, but it becomes unpleasant handling (and smelling) garbage! It doesn't stop our volunteers from doing their job, but taking time to rinse the containers is greatly appreciated by them.

Got time to take off those pesky bottle caps? Excellent! There is currently no market for all the caps on the plastic containers and bottles, and, if left on, the volunteers have to stop and remove them. Now this may seem like no big deal, but, on a busy day, this really slows down the sorting of materials.

Got a light touch when depositing glass into the bins? We love it! Imagine just haphazardly dumping glass on top of glass in the bins. What you get is a bunch of broken, sharp glass. Now this isn't rocket science, but the broken glass still needs to be handled by our wonderful volunteers, and we don't want to see anyone get cut! Placing the glass in gently may take a minute or two longer, but the volunteers certainly appreciate your consideration.

Got two hours a month to volunteer your time? Wonderful! We would love to add you to our cadre of volunteers. It's a great place to give back to your community. You get to work with some great people at the center, see your friends as they drop off their recyclables, and, as an added bonus, you get to bring your recyclables with you during your shift and have that chore taken care of.

Got questions? Visit the Walpole Recycling Center website: www.walpolerecycling.com, or stop in at the center and speak with Paul Colburn, or call 445-5197.

Remember: Uncap, Rinse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

— Susan Perry



You may not think of bangers and mash as elegant fare, but that's just because you haven't tasted the delicious house-made Irish sausages our butcher, Sean, is whipping up for St. Patrick's Day this year. They're made from humanely raised, top-quality pork, mixed with a delicate blend of herbs and spices and hand-pumped through our old-fashioned German sausage press.

You'll need a good onion gravy. While many recipes call for a flour-based sauce, Sean suggests a more elegant version, prepared with our house-made veal demi-glace. A demi-glace is a meat stock that has been reduced over many hours to a rich syrup – so flavorful it almost stands on its own. To put the "bang" in your bangers, add a splash of Irish whiskey.

Sean's Onion Gravy

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large red onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 cup veal demi-glace
- Splash of whiskey

Method:

In a shallow saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add the onions and cook slowly, stirring frequently, until very soft (15-20 min.). Add the demi-glace and simmer for a few minutes, until heated. Stir in the splash of whiskey.

For the rest of the meal:

Roast the bangers at 400°F for about 30 minutes, turning once, until evenly glossy and brown. Serve with the onion gravy and buttery mashed potatoes. (You can make your own or pick up a pint of Burdick's signature whipped potatoes at the Grocery). Don't forget the most important part of the meal – a good Irish brew. Choose a lager, ale or stout—or get an assortment and sample them all.

Slàinte! (To your health!) —Paula Burdick



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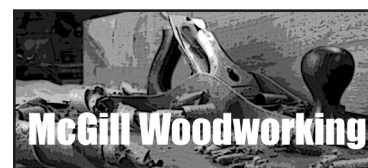
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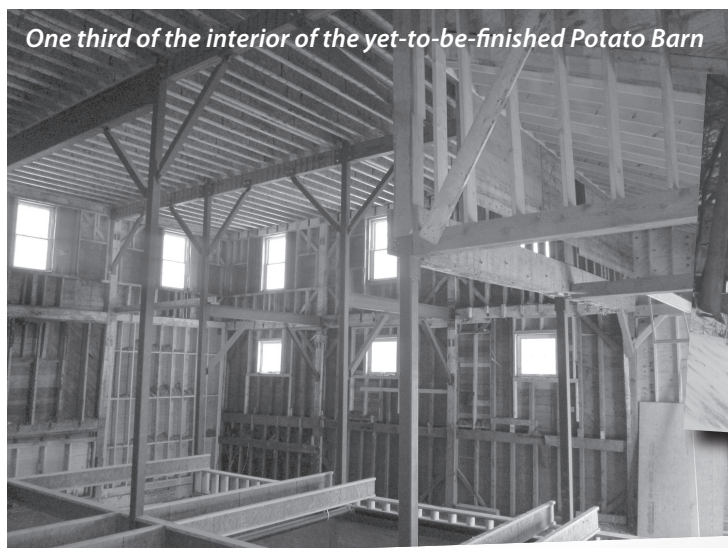
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Mark McGill

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One third of the interior of the yet-to-be-finished Potato Barn



Approaching the complex from Potato Barn Lane



Continued from Page 1: Potato Barn

Most impressive and compelling is the potato barn itself. "It would have been easier and cheaper to build it from scratch," Rudek exclaimed. Sheathed with new siding, the interior is now framed and supported with steel beams, and remains open and unfinished. The old bridge walkway extends to Homestead Avenue, and an elevator will be added as plans for this part of the complex are completed.

— Ray Boas

The Piggery, Granary, and entrance to the Connector event room.



PHOTOS: RAY BOAS



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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Game Dinner in March.

There is nothing better than having a game dinner in March. So when the telephone call came from my friend Elwud with the question, "Hey, how'd ya like to come over for a venison and wild turkey feast on Saturday?", there was only one answer! "Great", I yells, "What time?"

Then something in the back of my mind said, whoa, hold on a minute. I did not recall Elwud getting a turkey or deer back in the fall. So being curious I said, "I do not recall you getting a turkey or deer back in the fall."

"Didn't", was his reply. "Shot the deer early this morning and the deer killed the turkey."

"Wait, you shot a deer in March and you claim that the deer killed the turkey? I know I am going to regret this, but what excuse do you have for killing the deer and how did the deer kill the turkey?"

"Well sir, after the morning milking, I let the cows out into the barnyard, so I could clean out the barn. Along comes this deer, jumps the fence into the barnyard and started frolicking amongst the cows. All that frolicking was getting the cows nervous, and everyone knows

that when cows get nervous they gets off of their production. Well sir, all this commotion got the attention of a flock of turkeys who meandered inside the fence, spookin' the cows even more. So I go into the shed where I keep my shotgun loaded with buckshot, and with one shot put an end to that deer's frolicking. The noise frightened the turkeys and they all fled, except one who seemed stunned by the loud noise and the deer fell over and landed on him."

"You could get in big trouble over shooting a deer out of season, if you get caught", I said.

"Nope, all is good", he says. "Called my cousin the Game Warden and told him what happened.

He said that it sounded like a reasonable thing to do under the circumstances. So I invited him, his wife and six kids over for dinner also. "Your cousin isn't a game warden", I replied.

"Well sir, he took the trainin' to be a game warden", snarled Elwud.

"Okay", I said, "but he got expelled after he got caught poaching up in North Enfield!"

"Well his advice is close enough for me.

"Will we see you and Velma come Saturday, or are you going to nitpick?"

"You betcha we will be there, and I'll bring a keg of Old Milwaukee!"

Kipling Presentation

Rudyard Kipling was the most internationally celebrated author of his day. The first four years of his marriage and fatherhood were spent in New England where he built his dream house – Naulakha – in Dummerston, Vermont, now preserved as a Landmark Trust property. It was there that he penned *The Jungle Book* and other classics. These were productive and happy years for the young literary giant, but eventually they were deeply troubled. Although Kipling was an intensely private individual, Jackson Gillman's sensitive portrayal provides an inside look at the writer's experience in New England, and some of the controversy surrounding this complex man. Part lecture, part living history, part storytelling, Jackson's presentation includes a selection of the classic *Just So Stories*.

With a storytelling career that began in 1978, Jackson Gillman has gone on to be a featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival. Since 2000, Jackson has portrayed *Rudyard-Residence* at Kipling's historic Vermont home for a week each year.

This Speaker Series program is presented by the Walpole Historical Society and is free. The public is invited to attend at the Walpole Town Hall on Friday, March 3rd at 7 PM.

– Andrea Goins

MILESTONES

Passed

Gary E. Hartnett

April 10, 1951 - February 1, 2017

Marshall Putnam

January 17, 1926 - January 28, 2017

Mary C. Leonard

August 22, 1928 - February 7, 2017

Wanda E. Way

1960 - February 5, 2017

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Walpole Town Hall**

Reader Commentary

A petition has been filed with the North Walpole Village Commissioners to change the Village Zoning Ordinance. The Village Commission presented the petition to the Walpole Planning Board at its 2/14/17 meeting, in accordance with state law. Cheryl Mayberry, one of the Village Commissioners, spoke out against the petition, but state law requires a public hearing on any petition to amend a zoning ordinance, so the Planning Board has scheduled the public hearing for 3/14/17.

The petition proposes an amendment to the North Walpole Zoning Ordinance allowing the Zoning Board of Adjustment to issue variances which will permit residential and commercial uses in the Industrial District.

We oppose this petition because the Zoning Board already has the authority to issue variances which meet the requirements of the applicable state law.

We are also opposed to the proposed amendment because it will undermine the purpose of the Zoning Ordinance, which is to prevent conflicts between residential, commercial, and industrial property uses. The Zoning Ordinance protects the value of existing real estate investments by prohibiting new property uses which do not conform to the Ordinance.

We welcome other manufacturing operations in the Industrial District, because this investment will provide more jobs and tax revenues to the Town and the Village, but allowing new residential and commercial uses in the Industrial District will stymie future industrial development. The very limited land area of the Industrial District established by the present Zoning Ordinance is valuable, and this petition would weaken the Ordinance and damage the property values of the District.

We ask the Planning Board and our North Walpole neighbors to reject the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Thank you!

– Don and Charlie Lennon
Len-TeX Corporation
North Walpole, NH

Friendly Meals

The Friendly Meals for senior citizens will hold their monthly dinner on Friday, March 24 at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole. The meal will be served at noon. On the menu will be baked stuffed shells in marinara sauce, sliced carrots, and carrot cake for dessert.

A nurse from HCS will be available from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM to check blood pressures and answer questions about any health concerns you may have.

– Lara Larson

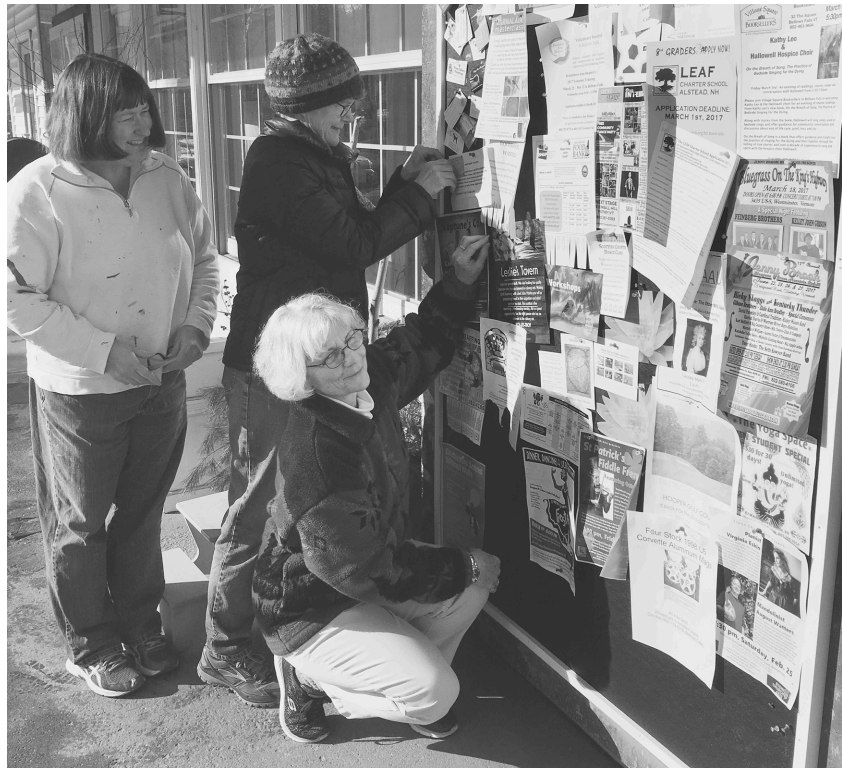


PHOTO: ANDRE GOINS

Members of Women of Walpole rehang postings on the community bulletin boards. The club and SPS Carpentry recently refurbished both boards as a service to the town.

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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

April issue deadline: March 23

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

I enjoy working on the March election issue each year, particularly reviewing for you the Warrant Articles and Town Operating Budget presented at February's annual Budget Hearing. The articles relating to Walpole's Police Department, both the cruiser upgrading and additional officer, are imperative. The last number of months I've tried to show what our department is doing for you, and hopefully you have followed that. I urge you to vote 'yes' for the police cruiser proposal and the town operating budget which includes an additional officer for everyone's protection.

It is a pleasure to welcome back Galloway Real Estate, with their new logo, among our advertisers. Antonia, Cindy and their staff are always on top of the "pulse of the community," and their support of your **Clarion** is appreciated.

Finally no "fake news" here. But next month is April, and there could be some fiction woven in.

– Ray Boas, Publisher

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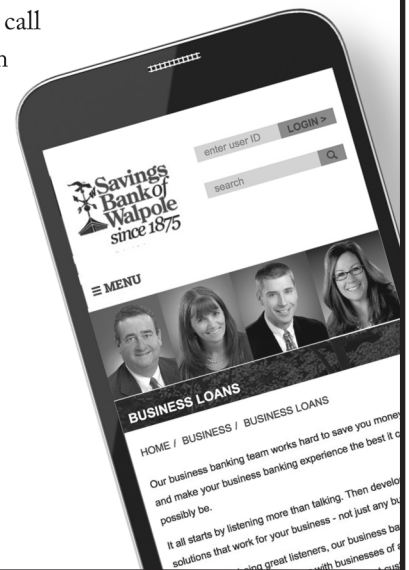


PHOTO: RAY BOAS

Potato Barn complex viewed from Homestead Avenue... (See page one)