



Preserving Walpole: Walpole's Master Plan

Walpole's Master Plan is a 114 page document providing guidance to Walpole's Planning Board. The General Goal is "To enrich the lives of Town residents by striving to improve the aesthetic quality and visual impact of the man-made environment..." Specific objectives are designed to "Preserve the character and quality of residential and rural areas ..." in Walpole, and to "preserve and enhance the classic New England character..."

Specific objectives further include: protecting the areas adjacent to the Connecticut and Cold Rivers; encourage the Planning Board to be sensitive to commercial development along Route 12; support the designation of Route 12 as a Scenic Byway while preventing sprawl development along Route 12; support home-based businesses; support maintenance of the Cheshire Line Rail-Trail which parallels Route 12; preserve agricultural land; and, preserve the individual character and identity of Walpole's three villages.

Section 5 of the plan, titled "Land Use Analysis and Plan," defines and looks at Land Use Categories which range from residential to protected lands. Within Walpole's roughly 37 square miles are approximately 23,872 acres, of which 832 acres are surface waters. In 2009, there were 3,994 acres of agricultural land, down from 4,505 in 1999. In "The Present Development Pattern" portion of Section 5, the Plan states "Agriculture continues to play a significant role in Walpole's pattern of land use ... it also plays an important role in the identity of the Town - visually and culturally. Walpole would not be Walpole without the presence of farms and farmlands."

Continued on Page 6

Hooper Sale



*The future of Hooper Golf Course
is once again uncertain.*

You should attend **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**on Change of Use of
Rural/Agriculture Land for:**

- **Gas Station/Convenience Store
on Route 12 opposite
the South Street
entrance to the Village
&
Great River CO-OP
behind Hungry Diner on Route 12**
- Planning Board - April 10 - 7:00 PM**
- Zoning Board - April 18 - 7:30 PM**
- Both at the Town Hall**

For the latest updates on these Public Hearings, visit the **Clarion** website; on the right hand column enter your email address to "Follow Blog via Email" (your address will never be revealed or shared).

Falls Through

The rumor is no rumor. It is true that Colin Sheehan has pulled his bid for the Hooper Golf Course, stating that he may be interested in the fall. In the meantime, we are answering several other inquiries which may or may not be serious. What makes an inquiry serious is an offer to buy the property at the Probate Court ordered price of \$500,000. This is not the usual real estate transaction of bidding and counter bidding. It also means accepting the fact that all but 9.16 acres of the property are encumbered with a Conservation Easement of two sections: one recognizes the golf course and the second section is a straight agricultural easement. On the 9.16 acres are four buildings: the 1788 Mansion, the barn, the cottage and the pro shop. One new prospective buyer stated, "I can do anything I want on those 9.16 acres?" Yes, so long as all town zoning ordinances and planning regulations are followed. The Hooper Survey and Conservation Easement are both recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Cheshire County in Keene.

— Peggy Pschirrer

Walpole's Positive Cash Management

Thanks to watchful management, the Town of Walpole is in good financial shape. In recent years, the Town's "Unassigned Fund Balance" has grown to over \$1,700,000. Rich Kreissle, (Director of Finance), explains this fund as "... accumulated excess of budgeted funds versus actual expenditures..."

The New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) encourages each town to have this "rainy day fund," in fact, the larger the balance the more pleased the DRA is. Ideally, the DRA recommends towns

Continued on Page 6

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Per New Hampshire Law.
Licenses must be purchased by April 30.
Visit the Town Clerk's Office with
Proof of Rabies Vaccination
and Spay/Neuter.
Fees range from \$2 to \$9.50.
Late Fees Accrue after April 30.

Hooper Institute**Summer Work Program**

The deadline for applications to the Hooper Institute High School Summer Work Program is Monday, April 30. This program provides an opportunity for Walpole residents currently in grades 8-11 to work in an agricultural setting in town. The program begins at the end of the school year and concludes the week before school begins in August.

In past years we have placed students at dairy, horse, sheep, goat, chicken and even an alpaca farm. Students can also work with plants at an apple orchard or vineyard. They can pick berries under blue skies or learn about landscape or floral design. There are also jobs at our own award winning town recycling center.

Students must fill out an application and write an essay. They also are interviewed by members of the Hooper Institute Committee. If accepted into the program, they are placed at one of their preferred sites and must interview with the mentor they would be working with. Schedules are flexible. Students and mentors work out a schedule that accommodates both.

The pay is \$7.50 per hour for up to 140 hours over the course of the summer. Students become part-time employees of the Town of Walpole. They are therefore covered by Workman's Compensation and the Hooper Institute's liability insurance. Students interested in being a camp counselor must undergo a drug test paid for by the Town.

Applications are available at the Walpole Elementary School office or in the drop box by the front door of the Hooper Institute, 165 Prospect Hill Rd., Walpole. You may also call the Hooper Institute with your contact information at 756-4382 or e-mail HOOPERINSTITUTE@myfairpoint.net to receive an electronic version that you can print out. To be considered a Walpole resident, one or both parents must live and vote in Walpole.

- Eloise Clark

District Dash**5k Run/walk**

We are excited to announce Fall Mountain Educational Endowment's 2018 District Dash 5K Fun Run/Walk. Last year's race was a huge success! With the help of our sponsors and race participants, we raised over \$8,500! Through FMEEA grants, this money goes directly back into the Fall Mountain Regional School District. Grant recipients have enriched the lives of students in the district by bringing hands-on learning into the classrooms, participating in health and wellness programs, going on experiential and cultural field trips to see plays and shows, experiencing science and art museums, all while building the skills students need to become positive, active community members!

This run for all ages will take place at the Fall Mountain Regional High School in Langdon, NH, on Sunday, April 29, 2018. Pre-registration is available now, with day-of registration beginning at 8:00 AM. The race starts at 10:00 AM. The course will cover most of the Fall Mountain campus, using the access road, parts of the trails, and a section of the track.

We hope we can count on you to be part of this exciting event, either as a sponsor or participant.

See our website for more information:
www.fmeea.com

- Pat Royce

Solar Tax Exemption

At the March 17, 2018 Town Meeting, the citizens of Walpole passed Article #13 which would allow for an optional property tax exemption for solar energy systems. For those property owners wishing to apply for this new exemption, a PA-29 Form must be completed and submitted on or by April 16th. To obtain this form, either visit the Town Hall or visit <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/forms/exempt-credit.htm> to download. If the property is owned jointly, two signatures are required. Contact the Selectboard Office (756-3672) for additional information.

- Sarah Downing

Planning Board/Zoning Board Public Hearing Time-Line

April 10 - Planning Board Meeting: Co-op Public Hearing for Co-op for recommendation for a special exception

& Mr. Phippard will request a Public Hearing for May for a recommendation for a special exception gas station/mini mart

April 18 - Zoning Board: Co-op Public Hearing continued

& Mr. Phippard will request a Public Hearing for May for a recommendation for a special exception for gas station/mini mart

May 8 - Planning Board Meeting: Co-op Public Hearing for site plan if Special Exception approved

& Public Hearing for recommendation for special exception for gas station / mini mart

May 16 - Zoning Board: Public Hearing for gas station/mini mart Phippard.

- Provided by the Secretary to the Boards

Are We Losing Rural/Agricultural Land?

On March 21, Kim Mastrianni, president of the Great River Co-Op, presented a request for a Special Exception to Walpole's Zoning Ordinance to utilize Rural/Agricultural Land for commercial purposes. The request is to convert a chicken coop into a store for the Co-Op. Previously used by Hubbard Farms, the building is located on Bensonwood property on zoned farmland behind the Hungry Diner. Ms. Mastrianni's presentation left many unanswered questions that should be answered at a Public Hearing. In addition, there continues to be confusion as to the sequence in which hearings should be held by the Planning and Zoning Boards. The hearing on the Great RiverCo-Op's exception request has been continued to the next Zoning Board meeting on April 18 but first the Co-Op will appear before the Planning Board on April 10.

At the outset of the public comment portion of the hearing, I read the following into the minutes. I am sharing it here to help facilitate conversation in Town regarding preserving the fabric of what makes Walpole.

– Ray Boas

An open letter to the Walpole Zoning Board and the Residents of Walpole

Coming before the Zoning Board of Adjustment are two applications for special exceptions to utilize zoned Rural/Agricultural Land for commercial purposes. Approval of either application will irrevocably change the fabric of what is Walpole. There are specific criteria for granting a land use exception by the Zoning Board, and all must be satisfied. Neither the application to place the Great River Co-Op on Rural Agricultural Land nor the proposal to construct a gas station/convenience store on Rural Agricultural Land at the south entrance to the village satisfy all criteria.

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and culturally. Walpole would not be Walpole without the presence of farms and farmlands."

The purpose of Walpole's Zoning Ordinance is "to fulfill the goals and objectives as set forth in the Town Master Plan;" namely, "to guide the character of development." The Ordinance allows for some flexibility, but only under certain rigid criteria. An exception to utilize land zoned Rural/Agricultural for other than that use may be granted if "property currently zoned for industrial, manufacturing and commercial operations is either unavailable or inadequate for the proposed use." Statutory and case law has established five criteria to be met before a variance from the terms of a zoning ordinance may be granted. These criteria include: 1) denial would result in unnecessary hardship; 2) no diminution in value of surrounding properties would occur; 3) the proposed use would not be contrary to the spirit of the ordinance; 4) granting the variance would benefit the public; and 5) granting the variance would do substantial justice. Preliminary discussions indicate properties with a view of the proposed convenience store/gas station will be diminished. Further, by their own admission in their application, the applicant, D&C Transportation has

stated, "Other commercial and industrial sites listed contain existing buildings, or did not meet the listed criteria, or were far too expensive." It is not the Zoning Board's, nor Walpole's residents, problem that the other available land was too expensive for D&C's project.

Likewise, Great River Co-Op, has other land it can use. In fact, the original plan was to locate down in the flats on Route 12, and most recently to build sandwiched between the Hungry Diner and Pinnacle View. That plan was approved. I understand the Co-Op board's rationale to request an exception to use an existing building instead of building new, to save on costs and open sooner; but, that does not provide justification or qualify for a zoning exception. By their own previous plans, appropriate land is available, and was going to be used.

Allowing any use of Rural Agricultural Land for other than its intended use will set a precedent to forever change the corridor through Walpole. Walpoleans have wisely set aside land for commercial development, and that is sufficient. We are all custodians of what is Walpole, and with that comes the responsibility to be attentive stewards to preserve the land, its visual impact, and our heritage. Walpole's Master Plan is just that, a plan. It is up to us to see its vision through.

Do you want this view at the Village's south entrance to be changed forever ???



Library - April Events

We have lots of special programs happening in April at the library.

Join us Saturday April 14 from 11AM to 1PM for a pizza party and special author visit from Jim Skofield. See page 15 for more info.

On Monday April 16 we'll have another author visit at 6:30PM. Bill Ranauro, a Walpole author, has a new book out *West of Boston: Growing Up Red Sox in a Yankee Household* which he'll be discussing Monday night.

Tuesday April 17 will be our Social Security Presentation with Joshua Houle from the Monadnock Capital Group. This was originally scheduled for March but was postponed due to one of our many snow storms. Josh is NSSA certified to counsel and guide you on the best way to claim Social Security (SS) benefits in order to optimize lifetime SS income. Join us for this important SS workshop.

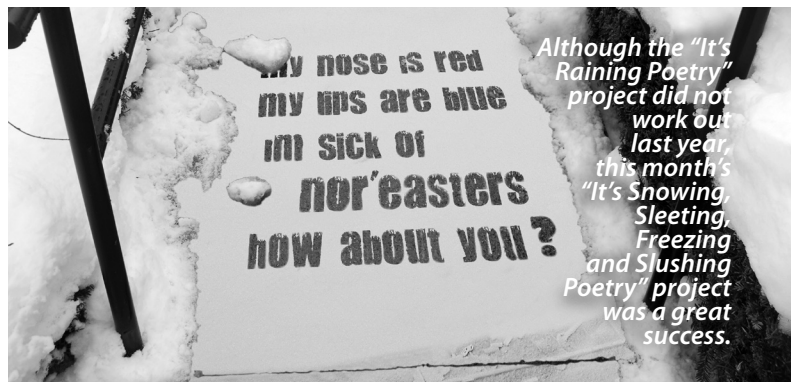
Friday April 20 at 6PM we'll have a Murder Mystery Dinner for teens. Anyone in grades 8-12 is welcome to join us for a fun night and delicious food. Registration for this program is required and will be open for the first 12 participants. Call the library at 756-9806 or e-mail Justine Fafara at jfafara@walpoletownlibrary.org to register.

Tuesday April 24 at 10AM we'll have a kids movie for Spring Break. The movie will be announced on our Facebook page and our website www.walpoletownlibrary.org in April.

— Justine Fafara



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Library Renovation

An important element was completed in mid-March when the Fundraising Committee submitted the Individual Inventory Form to the NH Division of Historical Resources. As the *Clarion* was going to press, the committee was notified that the library materials would be reviewed in the week of March 25. If approved, Bridge Memorial Library will be considered by the State Historical Resources Council in their next meeting at the end of April. Once on the NH Registry, application can be made for a New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Grant.

But the library brings more to Walpole than architectural style and history. Residents often share their experiences and feeling about the library's role in their lives. If they prove anything, it's that the library is more than a building with a lot of books inside:

"When my family moved to Walpole last spring we didn't know anyone. We became regulars at Wiggle time, and not only did my girls have a great time, but we met many other families who are now friends. The library has played a huge role in helping us feel welcome and enjoy our new home town!" —Rachel St John

"The library is a place where I can come after school to have fun, focus and most of all, read my heart out." —Pearl Aldrich

"The atmosphere at our library is very inviting. You are greeted with a smile, which makes you feel very welcome. On Mondays, a group of 8-12 get together to share our knitting techniques and Library personnel join in. We get to share book suggestions and check out new books in one stop! If we come up with a title that isn't available, Justine usually has purchased it by next week. Doesn't get much better than that!" —Lil Decoste

"The MakerPlay program is a valuable program that the library offers. It provides an opportunity for kids to develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills. I'm thankful for the range of services our library provides!" —Lisa Buswell

"I like MakerPlay because it's so fun while also teaching you things. I love coming to it after school!" —Cora Buswell

A banner tracking campaign progress will hang from the library porch for the duration of the effort. A reminder: donations to the campaign can be made in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one.

— Jan Kobeki

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to
Mud
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Non-fiction Book Group

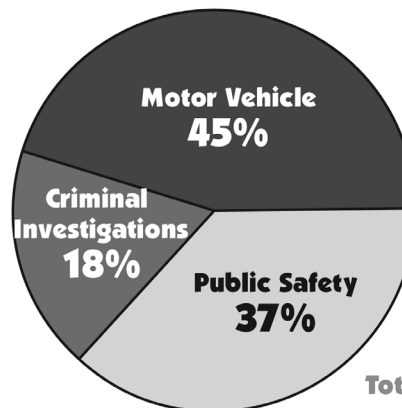
A Civil Discourse

The Non-Fiction Book Group will meet Monday, April 2 at 6:00 PM at the Bridge Memorial Library to discuss the NYT Best-Selling Book "How Democracies Die" by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, both of Harvard University. The growth of democracies following WWII has stopped and is retreating to authoritarianism in Hungary, Poland, Turkey, Venezuela, Philippines. Extremist gather strength in Germany, Austria and France. A popular phrase in the Far East is "Capitalism in an Authoritarian Government works". In a survey done by Bloomberg News October 2017, 55% of Americans, when asked about the current election process in the US, said it ought to be scrapped; a passing emotional sentiment perhaps, but not to be ignored. Join us for the discussion. For more information, call 756-3695.

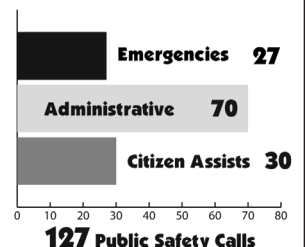
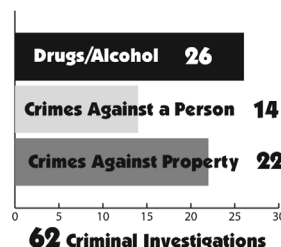
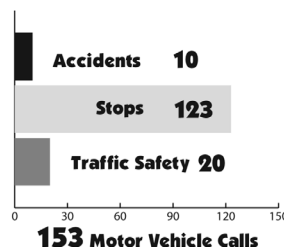
— Ron MacLachlan

Walpole Police Department

Calls for Service: February 15, 2018 - March 14, 2018



Total Number of Calls: 342

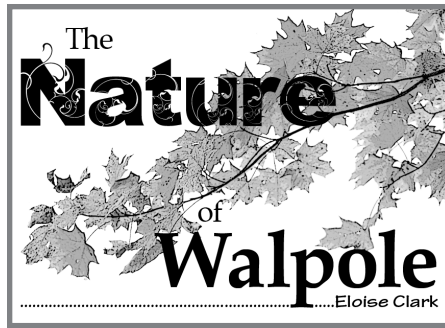


The earth is laid bare this month of April from brown fields to muddy roads. Only toward the end of the month do plants begin to emerge from the saturated soil. The wise farmer or gardener knows not to attempt to disturb the soil for fear of compaction. Soil is perhaps our most precious but least appreciated natural resources. The US alone has more than 80,000 different types of soil that have been identified. They're a lifelong study for the agronomist.

Last autumn I was introduced to the work of David R. Montgomery, a professor of geology (geomorphology to be exact) at the University of Washington. He's also a MacArthur Fellow. Dr. Montgomery was the featured speaker at the NH Association of Conservation Districts in October. He has written three fascinating books, a soil trilogy.

The first, *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*, traces the rise, decline and fall of cultures through history. Expanding populations were possible because of agricultural successes. Many crops we still consume today originated in the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East or the tropics (what's now Central America and Mexico). "Civilization itself rests upon the soil." (Thomas Jefferson) However, because of the plow and repeated tillage, exposed soil was ripe for erosion. Unwise cultivation practices eventually contributed to the decline of the Greeks and Romans. He also profiles the American South and New England hillside farms. In our country the solution was to push further west in search of new territory and soil. For the lover of history, this book is a must read.

The second book in the trilogy Montgomery co-wrote with his wife, Anne Birkle, a biologist. It's called *The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health*. In this fascinating book, we are introduced to the world microbiomes. From garden to gut, the pair shows why cultivating beneficial microbes holds the key to transforming agriculture and medicine. My favorite chapter was about the rhizosphere, that area of soil in the immediate vicinity of plant roots.



Each plant pumps carbohydrates it has manufactured during the photosynthesis process downward from leaf to roots and beyond into the surrounding soil, the rhizosphere. There, a host of both microbes and mycorrhizae fungi are waiting to gobble up this surfeit of food. In the process, their excretions liberate minerals and other nutrients that plants can then absorb through their root hairs!

The final book in the series is *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*. Montgomery has visited farms across the globe that practice what he calls conservation agriculture. The three practices crucial to its success are no-till planting, cover crops and a diversity of crop rotations. All three rebuild soil organic matter. Farmers using these practices cultivate beneficial soil life, smother weeds and suppress pests. This leads to lower farm costs for fertilizer, pesticides, water and costs to operate machinery. This benefits both the farmer's bottom line and the environment. The operations cited are not necessarily organic. The farmer's commitment to not tilling the soil has minimized soil disturbance and loss from erosion helping to feed our civilization for years to come.

All three books are available from the Cheshire County Conservation District, located in Walpole – Route 12 near the Westmoreland town line. Any are well worth the time to read. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "A nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself."

Continued from Page 1: Master Plan

Goal #1 in this section is "To Preserve The Scenic Elements of the Natural Environment and Protect Walpole's Land." As detailed, one way of doing this, which is in consonance with preserving the identity of Walpole's villages, is to consider establishing a Scenic Gateway Overlay District "to minimize visual impacts along approaches to the villages in order to preserve the rural character of each of Walpole's villages..."

We are all custodians of what is Walpole, and with that comes the responsibility to be attentive stewards to preserve the land, its visual impact, and our heritage. Walpole's Master Plan is just that, a plan. It is up to us to see its vision through.

– Ray Boas

Continued from Page 1: Cash Management

have unassigned funds equal to 8-15% of its annual budget. In the past, Walpole has used much of its surplus funds to offset an increase in taxes. This could then cause funding difficulties for emergencies, such as the flood damaging our area October 8-9, 2005. In budget years 2015 through 2017, the town has been able to consistently spend less than budgeted, thus adding to the "Unassigned Fund Balance." As a result, in 2017, and again now in 2018, these monies are being utilized to fund additional town capital needs, instead of placing additional warrant articles on the ballot to be funded by taxpayers.

But it gets even better with the Town's cash management. Beginning September 1, 2016, Town Treasurer Tom Goins arranged to have our funds (not immediately needed) placed in the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (PDIP). Established in 1993, PDIP provides public entities, including towns, "an option for investing funds in a program that focuses on safety, liquidity, and a competitive return." Currently PDIP is paying around 125 basis points ('bps' - 100 bps equals one percent of interest), as compared to the 5 bps received on our bank account. Funds may be moved in and out of PDIP daily, depending upon the current cash needs of the Town. What does this mean? In 2017, over \$27,000 in interest was earned on our funds in PDIP - ten times the interest earned in 2016 from the interest earned from the bank account.

– Ray Boas

Radio Follies of 2018

The sixth staging of *Cabin Fever Radio Follies* opened and closed on St. Patrick's Day to a full house. Attendees arrived early, dined with friends and family before the curtain went up at 7PM, and, judging by their applause, enjoyed what the Players had to offer.

Burns & Allen, *The Bickerons*, and *Fibber McGee & Molly* were up to their usual antics, while Bob & Ray revealed the next chapter in *Garish Summit*, their soap opera spoof. An audience favorite was musical: *Firewood*, sung with gusto by Lynne Reed, Lisa Bryant, and Jenny Plante. Jim Baucom's rendition of an Irish drinking song (it was St. Patrick's Day after all) was also well received. Tracy Messer appeared as President Calvin Coolidge – speaking few words but making them count. Bill Reed explained his issues with problem words “ointment” and “galore.” Jeff Miller led an ensemble performing an original story by his grandfather involving the dump, town meeting and other town affairs. Even Dr. Seuss made an appearance via the Sneetches.

Director Joan Ireland said, “We had a smaller but very talented group of players this year. I was excited to have some new players take part in this year's Follies. The crowd was wonderful. We had a packed house! Thank you to cast and crew for sharing your talent and making it the best Follies ever!”

Audience feedback in the days since the performance has been gratifyingly positive, with both musical numbers earning rave reviews. If you missed the show this year, they'll be back next March...just like cabin fever. Mark it on your calendar.

– Jan Kobeski

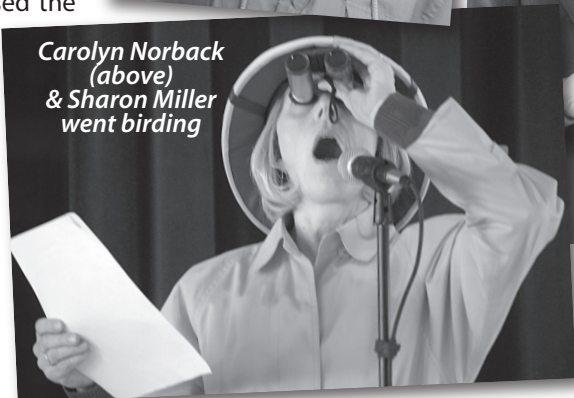
Lynne Reed, Lisa Bryan & Jenny Plante sing the praises of firewood.



Tracy Messer (L),
Bill Reed (R)
Jim Baucom (Below))



Carolyn Norback
(above)
& Sharon Miller
went birding



Jeff Miller, Jeffrey Squires &
Melissa Whittaker



Walpole Unitarian

April Services

Sunday, April 1– Easter Sunday. A service for friends and family of all ages, presented by Rev. Elaine Bomford

Sunday, April 8 – *The UU Quilt*, a service led by Dorothy Read. We'll reflect on the beautiful quilt our congregation members just finished, and consider the diversity of the fabric of our faith community.

Sunday, April 15 – A thoughtful service led by Candace Damon.

Sunday, April 22 – *Earth's Embrace*. Caring for the Earth is a calling, a necessity, a challenge, and a deep joy. Rev. Bomford leads our celebration of Earth Day.

Sunday, April 29 – *Wild Fruits: Thoreau's Last Manuscript* Henry David Thoreau devoted his life to "the discovery of the divinity in Nature." Guest speaker Keith Penniman will read pertinent selections from *Wild Fruits* and reflect on Thoreau's conservationist message.

Call Antonia Andreoli, at 756-9036 for more information.

Spiritual Discussion Series

The Walpole Unitarian Church's Spiritual Discussion Series resumes Tuesday, March 27, and will continue every other Tuesday at least through April. Held from 10:30 AM to noon at the Hastings House, the program is drawn from the online archives of *On Being* with Krista Tippett. This audio interview program "takes up the big questions of meaning with scientists and theologians, artists and teachers – some you may know, and others you'll love to meet."

In preparation for the discussions, preceding every meeting Reverend Elaine will e-mail participants the link to the *On Being* program to be discussed so folks can listen to it at home. The *On Being* link includes an audio recording, a transcript of the interview and, at the bottom of the page, recommended reading and links to music used in the program. Reverend Elaine may also include her own suggestions for study or links to resources. Printouts of interviews may be made available for those with limited computer access. After the discussions, participants may enjoy sharing time around the lunch table – everyone brings their own lunch.

All are welcome. If you can't come for the discussion but would like to come for lunch and a little food for thought, that's okay too. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact: Dorothy Read, dorothygread@gmail.com, or Rev. Elaine Bomford, ebomford@gmail.com

– Antonia Andreoli

First Congregational

Holy week starts with Palm Sunday, March 25, the day Jesus returns to Jerusalem to face his Roman accusers. Thursday, March 29, is Maundy Thursday, the night of Jesus's betrayal by one of his disciples, Judas. We're offering a special service at the church. All are welcome. Friday is our prayer vigil in the sanctuary from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM. You are welcome to come into the sanctuary for one of the half-hour periods and sit and reflect. Holy Week ends with Easter Sunday, the holiest day of the Christian calendar. The Easter service is at 10 AM.

We have completed a program called Jesus Fatwah to introduce the greater Walpole community to a discussion about understanding the Muslim faith. We averaged thirty attendees from the church and the community between the Sunday and Tuesday sessions over five weeks. Over 1.5 billion Muslims in the world have a faith very similar in origin to Christianity and Judaism. We were able to offer DVDs and discussions in a caring environment about Islam, a faith we hear so many concerns about. During the sessions we've had great discussions, including issues about where Muslims live, terrorism, attire and opportunities for women. For April and May, we are offering A Study for All Ages. Please see the announcement here in the Clarion.

Over the calendar year we reach out to the local, national and world community. We know there is so much need in our world. Providing support and assistance is a great source of satisfaction as well as a duty to care for our fellow people. In the first three months of this year, we have provided meals to the Warming Shelter in North Walpole, financially supported Holy Joe's Café Coffee for the troops, contributed money for blankets for Church World Service, donated money to the Special Olympics, offered the Jesus Fatwah program, and sponsored a Baptist Haitian student, Wilderson Fils-Aime.

We have a website! It's www.walpolenhucc.org. There is a schedule of all the services and events on the calendar as well as information about the UCC and us. Peace.

– Chuck Shaw

All Saints Parish

Altar & Rosary Society Tag Sale

The Altar & Rosary Society invites you to join them for a Spring Tag Sale on Saturday, April 7, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in St. Peter's Church Hall. When Spring cleaning, please put things aside for this event. You may drop off the items Friday, April 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Thanks!

Hunger Challenge

Please join the Fall Mountain Food Shelf in raising \$10,000 by April 30. The Family Foundation will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 to purchase food for local families! Donations can be mailed to Fall Mountain Food Shelf, P.O. Box 191, Alstead, NH 03602.

Log onto our website: www.allsaintsnh.net for current bulletins, gallery, church histories and more!

– Juanita Sweet

A Study For All Ages

A *Bible Study For All Ages* will be held at the Congregational Church beginning in April for anyone who is interested.

Have you wondered where you learned the names for God and what they mean to you? Are you interested in learning about the teachings of Jesus and how your life is impacted by your understanding? What about looking at the Hebrew (Old) and New Testament as a library containing the keys to a faith-filled life?

Beginning April 15 and continuing throughout April, you may choose to attend classes lead by Pastor Christine to explore *God, Jesus And Scripture*. This Bible Study will be held in the second floor conference room following worship from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, and also at Noon until 1:00 PM on Wednesdays.

No sign up is required. Bring yourselves and perhaps a lunch for the Wednesday class, and always your Holy Bible. All translations of the Bible are encouraged. Explore, listen, learn and enjoy. Questions? Please feel free to be in touch with Pastor Christine at 756-4075.

– Chuck Shaw

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Service: Saturday, 11 AM

First Congregational Church

Interim Minister, Reverend Christine Boardman

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

All Saints Parish

Pastor, Reverend John Loughnane

Mass: Tues., 5:30PM; Fri. 8:30AM;

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

St. Peter Church, North Walpole;

Tues. 8AM, Thurs. 5:30PM, Sun. 10:30AM

St. Catherine's Church, Charlestown

Confessions: Thurs., 4:30-5:20 PM,

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

St. John's Episcopal Church

Rector, Reverend Susan de Puy Kershaw

Sunday Eucharist: 10 AM

Walpole Bible Church

756-4837 • www.walpolebiblechurch.org

Service: Sunday 9:15 AM

Walpole Unitarian Church

Call Antonia Andreoli, 756-9036, for info.

Service: Sunday 10 AM

Rummage Sale

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held April 6 and 7 at the First Congregational Church on the Common in Walpole. We will accept donations of good quality spring and summer clothing and household items on Wednesday and Thursday, April 4 and 5, from 9 AM to 6 PM, and on Friday, April 6, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Nothing with a cord, or underwear or shoes will be accepted. The Rummage Sale is Friday, April 6, 4-6 PM, and Saturday, April 7, 9 AM to 1 PM. There will be a food sale on Saturday, April 7. Also, our popular bag sale will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday – \$7.00 for a large trash bag, or \$5.00 for a smaller paper bag. We are sure to have something for everyone to take home.

– Linda Smith

Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will hold their next regular luncheon at 12:00 noon on April 16, at the First Congregational Church. We will welcome Dr. Chuck Shaw as our speaker. His presentation will be on his "Naval Experiences". Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share with the members. Bring a friend and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

– Jan Martin

Gleanings

from the Town Minutes

Town Staff Meeting - March 15 - Tax Delinquency Update - Town Clerk, Sandy Smith, reported she sent certified notices of "Intent to Deed" with a Deed date of May 9 at 11 AM. If not paid in full, properties could be deeded to the Town. There are a dozen properties; only three have a mortgage. Her office hires a company to do a search of mortgagees, and certified notices are sent to those companies also. She expects all will be paid in full before that date. The property owners pay all expenses for the notices and search. The Town has been collecting 18% interest on these properties. In addition, she is preparing to send "Intent to Lien" notices; also sent by certified mail. After she executes the lien, the interest jumps from 12% to 18%. The lien is recorded at the Cheshire County Register of Deeds, and can affect credit ratings when people apply for a loan. She has approximately 90 notices to prepare. She expects April to be very busy, as people start paying their taxes once they receive these notices.

Olympic Gold!

(Walpole native Tim Baucom is a Service Staff/Technician for the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team. He was featured in the February Issue of the Walpole Clarion).

When Jessie Diggins crossed the finish line in the Team Sprint at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeong Chang, South Korea, I did what most American cross country ski fans did: I let out an exuberant shout, and I hugged the nearest person to me. Unlike most, however, I was in the middle of the Alpensia Ski Stadium in Pyeong Chang, and my exuberance was partially an expulsion of relief that we had succeeded in doing what we set out to do.



As a member of the US Cross Country Ski Team staff, my main job – along with 5 others – is to make sure our athletes have the best skis possible to compete with the best in the world. When Jessie Diggins and Kikkan Randall won gold in the women's Team Sprint, our staff and all the other USA cross country athletes were at the finish celebrating the amazing team effort it took to get to that point, and the countless people 4,000 miles away who had helped pave the way. However, our initial celebration had to be curtailed; fellow wax technician, Andrew Morehouse, and I had to prepare skis for the men's final just a few minutes later. Not to be overlooked, the men's team of Simi Hamilton and Erik Bjornsen had a historic result of their own – a sixth place finish, despite a fall by Bjornsen. It wasn't the podium finish they had hoped for, but it was an impressive race, and a great way to end an exciting night.

I had an incredible time in South Korea, and the Olympic experience in general was about as amazing as one could imagine. A few highlights, aside from our results:

The food! The local fare in South Korea is extremely good. The Korean barbecue joints are a meat-eater's paradise; and, for a lighter selection, the ramen bowls, seafood, and Korean rice pancakes were some of my favorites. The Olympic Village dining facility had a great selection of Korean food, but I was also able to venture into town several times for a more traditional atmosphere.



Skiers and tech crew surround the Gold Medal winners. Tim at far left.



Not completely behind the scenes... a screenshot from the Olympic broadcast caught Tim (on left) preparing skis during the race.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Traditional South Korean Drummers. As a percussionist myself, one of the best performances I saw was a traditional drumming/dancing show that featured 5-8 performers, all playing perfectly in sync with one another.

The Village. Hanging out in the athlete village was definitely a highlight. It was quite the spectacle to walk through the plaza and see all of the amenities that were offered. One of the other wax technicians took advantage of the free eye doctor and picked up some new prescription glasses.

Spending time with people from other nations. Every weekend on the World Cup circuit throughout the winter we see many of the athletes and staff that were at the Olympics, but getting to know and hang out with members of other teams is always one of my favorite parts of any race series. We all have long winters away from home and families, so there is a great camaraderie between all of us.

Our cross country ski community is so grateful to everyone who followed our journey and supported our efforts!

– Tim Baucom



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New Spring Menu

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And remember to give us a try on Wednesday nights for Bon Voisin.
Our "Good Neighbor" dinners are something different every week and
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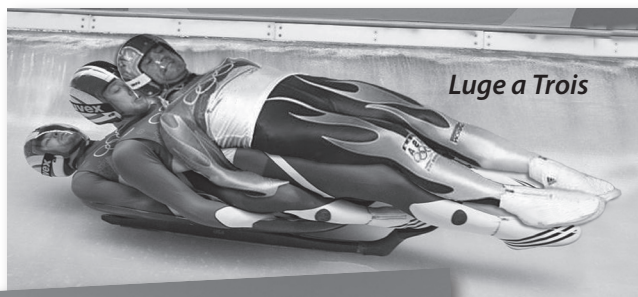
The Winter Games of 2018 are over. Despite moments of athletic brilliance that thrilled viewers worldwide, the future of the Winter games is clouded. Faced with the staggering costs of hosting the games, recurring drug scandals, and dwindling viewership, the IOC spent part of the Pyeongchang games looking for ways to attract more viewers.

Among the demonstration sports being considered for inclusion were several that “pushed the envelope” and raised a few eyebrows. Regretably, few American viewers were able to see these events – the time difference between Korea and the U.S., as well as the network’s programming decisions relegated them to middle-of-the-night fillers. This was unfortunate, since these experimental events exploited the blending of unlikely skills and obscure sports for which the Winter Olympics are known. In case you missed them, the leading candidates for inclusion in Beijing in 2022:

- **Luge a Trois** The sight of one man (or woman) hurtling down an icy tube, feet first, on a tiny sled, straining to see between his feet in order to steer (with his feet), usually fills me with a mixture of awe and puzzlement – why would anyone do this? The spectacle of two-man luge only heightens that reaction. I can only assume that focus groups convinced the IOC to raise the stakes. Luge a Trois adds a third body to the careening pile...and considerably more risk. Can a foursome be far behind?

- **Jumpshooting** No, not basketball. The challenges of biathlon take to the air. Staged on the same 120 meter hill as traditional ski jumping, Jumpshooters soar for distance but also for hang time to allow for aimed shots at targets on both sides of their flight path. Spectators spectate at their own risk.

- **Blindfold Curling** Curling coverage was dominant during this Olympiad, capped by a gold medal for the USA. Still, a sport whose pacing rivals drying Sears Weatherbeater might need some punching up. Perhaps blindfolds on the throwers – introducing an element of uncertainty – will provide an edginess the currently placid sport is lacking.



Luge a Trois



Biggest Air



Blindfold Curling



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at the Bellows Falls Opera House.
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**We'll have more
information to share
in the next issue
and will be posting it to our website
and social accounts very soon.**

Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...one of the first Victorian

Internets was almost installed in Walpole? The idea sparked the first day of April 1851, when Major Luman M. Grout was sitting on the porch of the new Island House in Bellows Falls in the shadow of Fall Mountain. He was joined by his friend, Professor Hough D. Dew, who had just returned from San Francisco. Originally from Lunenburg, Massachusetts, one branch of the Grout family had settled in Charlestown. In fact, Solomon Grout served in Col. Benjamin Bellows' regiment in 1777. Walpole's founder, Benjamin Bellows, also hailed from Lunenburg, and his children born there most assuredly played with the Grout children prior to their move to the northern frontier of Walpole.

Jonathan Grout, born in Lunenburg July 23, 1737, built the first optical telegraph in the United States in 1801. He was inspired by Claude Chappe's network of 556 stations stretching 3,000 miles in France. Chappe's network, begun in 1792, was the first such Internet ever established in the world, and was used for military and national communications. Grout's optical network connected Martha's Vineyard with Boston to transmit news about ships before they arrived in port.

Faster than post riders for delivering messages, these series of relay towers, within sight of each other, were rigged with semaphore arrangements at the top of each tower. They were built from 5 to 20 miles apart, depending upon the terrain. Operators at each tower would watch the neighboring towers through a spyglass, and, when seeing semaphore arms begin to move, spelling out a message, they would pass the message on to the next tower.

On the hotel's porch, Major Grout and Professor Dew were discussing Dew's recent trip. While in San Francisco, Dew was enthralled with the tower on San Francisco's Telegraph Hill. A windmill-like structure had been erected atop the hill in September 1849. It was used to signal the city about the nature of the ships entering through the Golden Gate. Major

Grout then shared his relative's success of signaling ship arrivals in Boston.

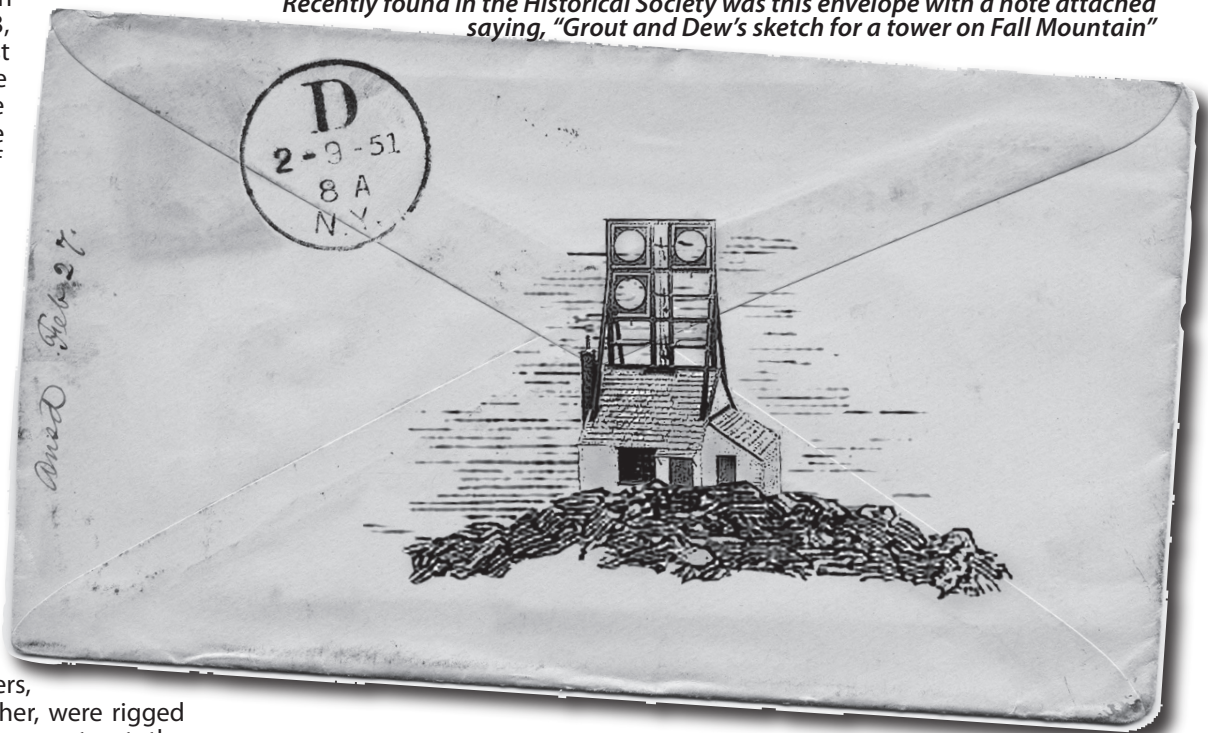
Over their afternoon sherry, the men looked out at the expanse of the Connecticut River to the north and the south, and then looked up at Fall Mountain. Dew and Grout simultaneously exclaimed, "The perfect spot." The gentlemen paid their tab, began the hike up to Table Rock, and then to the summit for a survey. The path of the river allowed for no obstructions to signaling, and the land was barren of trees that might get in the way, thanks to extensive clearing for sheep grazing land. They began sketching a tower for Fall Mountain, and decided to get local maps to find the best route from Keene to Charlestown. Using their semaphore

Internet, they surmised a message could be relayed between the towns and back within fifteen minutes. And, in time, towers could be built to transmit messages all the way from Boston to Montreal.

Attempting to interest investors in the project, Grout and Dew were hard pressed to identify customers and quantify revenue. Their financial disaster was averted when Samuel F. B. Morse's telegraph lines were run up the Cheshire Railroad right of way. The Internet of semaphore towers was now outdated, replaced by wires that operated in all weather conditions, day and night. Although they lost a place in history, cell towers now mark the spot atop Fall Mountain where Grout and Dew had proposed Walpole's first Internet Tower in 1851.

Do your fact checking, you will find only one name has been changed to protect the guilty.

Recently found in the Historical Society was this envelope with a note attached saying, "Grout and Dew's sketch for a tower on Fall Mountain"



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Clean Up Day

6th Annual Walpole Event

Saturday, April 28, the stalwart people of Walpole will once again join together to tidy up the highways and byways of our beautiful town for our Sixth Annual Walpole Clean Up Day.

At 8:00 AM co-organizer Adam Terrell and will be ready at the Walpole Recycling/Transfer Station with blue bags, gloves and maps pinpointing the best routes for trash picking. Coffee and donuts will be served, strategies set, and off the volunteers will go in a race to see who can collect the most trash. By 11:00 AM, volunteers will bring their booty back to the Transfer Station, where it will be counted and judged. Keep in mind that yard waste will be counted toward our totals. Prizes will be awarded for most bags, most unusual, funniest, and other categories.

Last year our determined volunteers collected many, many blue bags of trash, a cracked and broken big screen TV, many rusted car parts, tires, a three-legged park bench, fencing, enough beer cans and bottles to sink a ship, and, of all things, an envelope marked 'Arizona Medicinal Marijuana'. (How in the world did it make its way to the roadsides of Walpole?) Amazing!

Our Clean Up Day, in addition to being good for the town, is a great way to have fun with a group of friends on a Saturday morning in Spring – plus you have the whole rest of the day for chores and leisure-time activities. Gather a group – the more the merrier!

So everyone please join us for three hours on Saturday, April 28 – rain or shine – for this fun event, and help keep Walpole the prettiest town in New England!

– Tara Sad

You Need to Know That...

WD-40

(Invented in 1953 on Norman Larson's 40th try to develop a water displacement formula) may be used to remove a ring stuck on a finger, or a toe stuck in the bathtub faucet.

It may also be used to free a tongue stuck to frozen metal (such as a flagpole)

WD-40 can be found in four out of five American homes.

Adapted from: *Magic Brands: 1,185 Brand-New Uses for Brand-Name Products* by Joey Green.

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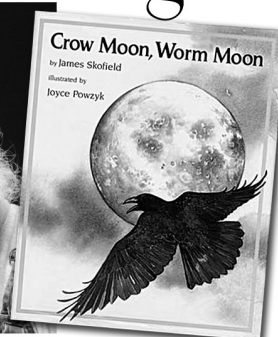
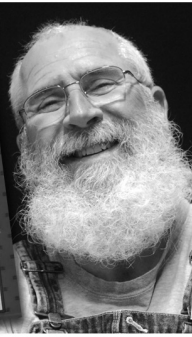


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Zoning - A Primer

Agricultural Lands: Exceptions To Use

Walpole's Zoning Ordinance, adopted in 1968, has been amended through March 2016. Established under New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated Chapter 674 (RSA:674), the purpose of a Zoning Ordinance is "to fulfill the goals and objectives as set forth in the Town Master Plan," namely, "to guide the character of development." It divides the lands of Walpole into seven districts: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Rural-Agricultural, Timberland, Retirement Overlay District, and Flood Plain.

The Rural-Agricultural lands are intended for "agriculture including, but not limited to: dairy farming, poultry raising and timber harvest." The ordinance acknowledges that residential living will be enjoyed on "what were once farms of large acreage." And, with fewer active farms in town, amendments may be needed "to increase the Residential District along certain highways."

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) may allow, by Special Exception, "industrial, manufacturing and commercial operations" in the Rural-Agriculture District following "consideration of Planning Board recommendation on the project based on its determination following a public hearing, that: i) property currently zoned for industrial, manufacturing and commercial operations is either unavailable or inadequate for the proposed use; and, ii) the proposed use is appropriate and consistent with the Town's Master Plan." Further stated in Walpole's Ordinance, an exception shall not be granted "which could cause

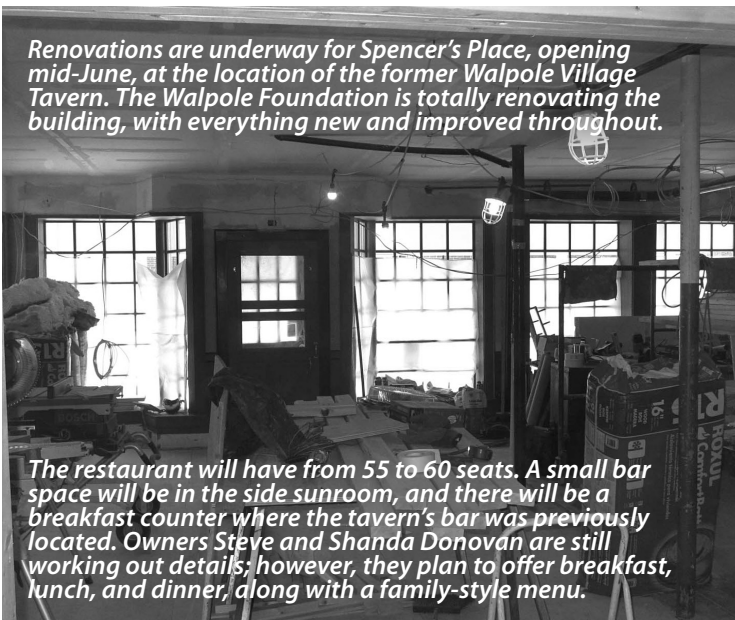
any undue hazard to health, safety or property values or which could be offensive to the public because of noise, vibration, excessive traffic..."

RSA:674:33 provides the ZBA with the power to grant exceptions, but only following consideration of five strict criteria, all of which must be satisfied. These criteria include: "1) denial would result in unnecessary hardship; 2) no diminution in value of surrounding properties would occur; 3) the proposed use would not be contrary to the spirit of the ordinance; 4) granting the variance would benefit the public; and 5) granting the variance would do substantial justice." Case law has found unnecessary hardship the most difficult of the five criteria to meet. A hardship may be found when the owner can make no reasonable use of the land. Susan Slack, Legal Services Counsel New Hampshire Municipal Association wrote, "Henceforth, applicants for a zoning variance may establish unnecessary hardship by proof that: 1) a zoning restriction as applied to their property interferes with their reasonable use of the property, considering the unique setting of the property in its environment; 2) no fair and substantial relationship exists between the general purposes of the zoning ordinance and the specific restriction on the property; and 3) the variance would not injure the public or private rights of others."

Walpole's Zoning Ordinance is a living document within which we must continue to work to preserve our community as described by the Town's Master Plan. Any exceptions to the Ordinance must be carefully considered and scrutinized.

— Ray Boas

Renovations are underway for Spencer's Place, opening mid-June, at the location of the former Walpole Village Tavern. The Walpole Foundation is totally renovating the building, with everything new and improved throughout.



The restaurant will have from 55 to 60 seats. A small bar space will be in the side sunroom, and there will be a breakfast counter where the tavern's bar was previously located. Owners Steve and Shanda Donovan are still working out details; however, they plan to offer breakfast, lunch, and dinner, along with a family-style menu.

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Walpole Players

Players Plan Original Musical

Based on the recent Broadway success of *Hamilton*, the Walpole Players play selection committee has decided to write their own musical based on a famous American. They have chosen the

The Walpole Players

former President Theodore Roosevelt. It will be called *Teddy*. Plans for mounting the production are temporarily on hold, however, while the grant writing committee studies the possibility of funding an external lift at the stage side of the Walpole Town Hall to get the elephants and giraffes needed for the great white hunter in Africa scene to the second floor stage area. It has been determined that the monkeys, zebras, and other wild animals can use the existing elevator inside.

The committee is also exploring what permits and permissions will be needed from the Select Board for things like the



encampment on the Walpole Common of opposing armies of extras that will be needed in the Charge up San Juan Hill scene. Translators will be needed as well for the Japanese and Russian delegations when Teddy works out the agreement to end the Russo-Japanese War. Also Swedish for the delegation that awards him the Nobel Prize.

The Players can announce that they have secured the services of Billy Barnum,

descendant of the great showman P. T. Barnum, to direct the show. A recent resident, Barnum strongly denies persistent rumors that he was placed in North Walpole by the witness protection program. He says, "I like Walpole. It has gourmet food and craft beer." Barnum lives on the river directly across from what was once called Morgan's Field in Bellows Falls where Teddy Roosevelt reviewed the troops when he was President. Barnum feels inspired by the fact that "Roosevelt himself was once almost in Walpole." As to the musical Barnum says, "It's going to be spectacular!" He plans to even work in a few circus acts here and there. "I'm amazed by the talent in this area," Barnum says. "Just last week I saw a woman at karaoke in Bellows Falls who could whistle through her ear." Barnum's greatest challenge will be finding a lead actor who resembles Roosevelt. Knowing that "teddy bears" were inspired by the former President, Barnum has taken to carrying one with him for quick comparison.

Anyone seeking further information on the production or auditions can simply look for a man carrying a teddy bear.

— Bill Lockwood



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District Music Festival

On Wednesday March 14, the Walpole, Charlestown, and Vilas chorus and bands came together to perform at the annual District Festival at Fall Mountain Regional High School. Each band and choir performed a few songs that they had been working hard on mastering over the past weeks, along with a song done by all of the school's bands and choirs as a group called Siyahamba.

The students left school early to go to the high school in order to leave time to rehearse and make any last minute adjustments. Once the rehearsals were over, everyone gathered in the cafeteria for a dinner of pizza and salad. This social time was a great opportunity for students from other schools to meet or catch up with students from the district that they will be attending high school with shortly. Once everyone was finished eating, we were given custom t-shirts that were made specifically for the event so everyone would match, and before we knew it, it was show time.

All of the performances were amazing, and it was quite clear how much work had been put into perfecting everything. Even though getting up and performing in front of nearly your entire school district is quite a challenging task for many, everyone looked confident and like they were having a good time, making the festival much more calm, rather than a nerve racking event. This was my last District Festival, and I think it is a great tradition carried out by the district that brings students together and allows the bands and choirs to show their skills and hard work.

– Sophia Bruzgis (Grade 8)

Academic Fair

On Monday, March 12, Walpole Elementary School held its annual Academic Fair. This annual event encompassed all of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, and each student chose their own categories. The 6th graders had to choose a country, the 7th graders had to do something science related, and the 8th graders could choose anything they wanted, as long as it was academic. There were many very impressive visualizations of the topics that the students chose. Enrique Ingram made a 30-foot long model of the digestive system using streamers, Ruby Frithsen built a 5-foot high planetarium made out of cardboard, and Sidney Curven made a model apothecary for her topic of medieval medicine.

The Academic Fair is a great opportunity for the community to learn, and some of the students who presented their topics want the public to know how much work goes into the event. "Academic Fair is a time for the public to come together to learn. However, they do not see the months-long behind-the-scenes work that goes into this hour," says Anya Bierweiler-Franks, who did her topic on animal testing. Ms. Lewis, the science teacher at the school, stated that "Academic Fair shows a conglomerate of many of the subjects taught at the school, and each student shows the public a quality piece of work that they worked very hard on. We want to introduce students to topics that they may have not known about before, and give them an opportunity to create something that they are proud of."

– Jake Bradley (Grade 8)

Spring Activities

April vacation is right around the corner, and with the spring break coming up so soon, many of our readers find themselves unprepared for the season, and without fun activities to do. With knowledge of this, here are 7 fun spring activities you can do in the next few weeks to spice up your vacation!

Do some spring cleaning! Everyone loves a clean house, and a clean house means a clean mind. Don't hesitate to clean everything. Scrub the counters. The floors. Got roommates? Scrub them too. Kids? Squeaky clean! Parents too! Clean everything, and hope it washes away your problems.

Go camping! Live in the woods. You're a hermit now. Congratulations.

Practice being nonexistent. Don't speak to anyone for an hour, then a day, then a week. A month, a year. Fade away from their lives. Go to places where nobody knows you, and leave when they refer to you by your first name. Delete your social media. Hide from the world.

Bring a bunch of horses into your garage. Say nothing to your spouse. When they ask "why are there horses in the garage, where did my car go," laugh, and ask him what horses? No horses here. What even is a horse?

Call the IRS and say "Let the games begin," then hang up and mail them all your tax papers, not filled out.

Get on that show *Hoarders* for having too many Troll Dolls all dressed up as cats.

Make sure the strange cloaked figure in your closet gets out of the house at least once. Maybe take it to the beach? It's gotta be horribly pale under that floor-length robe which seems to be made out of darkness that permeates even inside the fabric.

All in all, spring break is a great time to have fun with lots of different activities, so be sure to try out at least one of the ones on our list?

– Lillia Wilson (Grade 8)

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Science Olympiad

Competes at Cornell University

On the 23rd and 24th of February, the Walpole Elementary School Science Olympiad went to the prestigious Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The reason for this expedition made by the group of children and adults was for the children in the science-orientated club to compete against opposition that we have never seen before.

We haven't really competed against such opposition or fierce competitors, and against so many in such a large state like New York. That idea was both exciting and a little scary for everyone. On the six hour bus ride, we were relaxing before the competition. We got there and went to our hotel room to settle in. We then went to the opening ceremony, where we were welcomed with gifts of ice cream and soda. The next day was really what mattered though, and really the only reason we sat through the five and a half hour bus ride.

The next morning, we started the competitions early. When we got to Cornell, some people even had to be dropped off at certain places for very early competitions, some of the events being ones that you have to impound in, or drop your built object off somewhere to be tested later. Throughout the day, the Science Olympiad team started to disperse to go to our different events. In the morning we had different events like Hovercraft, Fast Facts, Disease Detectives, Road Scholar, Anatomy and Physiology, and Potions and Poisons, among others.

Eighth grader Jacob Bradley said of his time at the Ivy League school: "Cornell was a really fun experience, and even though it could be exhausting, we learned a lot about our competition and what we could be facing later on."

After competitions, the tired teams came back with bright faces, and reported back to coach, Kim Lewis.

Afternoon events included Quiz Bowl, Herpetology, Crime Busters, Wright Stuff, Experimental Design, and Optics. "It was a really educational and fun event. It made us more ready for our events to come, and it was a great experience," said an eighth grader and two-time Science Olympian about her experience at Cornell.

At the awards ceremony, we were not sure how we would place against these elite teams, or if we would at all. The first thing that we did was finish Quiz Bowl. That is an event in which teams are asked science related trivia, and one of our teams made it to the finals to compete. Our team (which consisted of Enrique Ingram, Jacob Bradley, and Marcus Flynn) did well, and in the end placed fifth, and received a medal for it. More of our teams placed at the ceremony, and received awards for it. Mystery Architecture placed fourth, with Lucas Gay and Lucas Roy receiving the award. Another team that won medals at Cornell consisted of Sidney Curven and Nora Dunnigan for an event called Write it Do it, where they placed sixth. Lastly, Jacob Bradley and Enrique Ingram placed fourth for their role in Road Scholar, where they studied maps. Overall, even if not everyone got a medal, everyone tried very hard, and many placed in the top ten.

Overall, our trip to Cornell University was one that taught us more than just science. We realized that our competition was more than just the other teams in New Hampshire, and to grow as a team, we need to go above and beyond in our studies. We also started to feel better about going to competitions, realizing that we win some, and we lose some, and that is okay. Now we are ready for states!

— Anya Bierweiler-Franks (Grade 8)

Library Survey

Walpole Students Two Cents

The Walpole town library Walpole is taking suggestions for things to include in the library. Many Walpole Elementary School students frequent the library as a place to attend clubs, such as coloring club, find good books, and just hang out.

Students have reported a desire to have a place where older kids could go to socialize and talk, new clubs that could be held in the space, and comfortable spots to read or do homework.

I asked several students, and here is what they said. According to 8th grader Enrique Ingram, "I want more fantasy books. And maybe a room for games to be played, like its own separate room." This space would allow older students to socialize while they learn new board or strategy games or play old favorites.

Etta Bea Harrison, a 6th grader, stated that she wanted "more audio books, and more graphic novels. Also, bean bags would be good." Students have shown an increased desire for all different kinds of books, a variety in which they can discover their next favorite genre or read. The hangout spot, as reported by the students, should have comfortable chairs, a room to snack, and the ability to both socialize and relax.

These are just some ideas about what we think could make the wonderful town library in Walpole even better.

— Maddy Manning (Grade 8)

Annual Semi Formal

On March 9th, the Walpole Elementary School had their annual semi-formal dance. There was a great turnout this year, with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students attending. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun.

The semi-formal is a fundraiser dance put on every year by the 8th grade class to raise money for their class trips and events. "Semi was a great way to raise money for our 8th grade class," said Sophia Bruzgis. Varieties of cupcakes, cookies, snacks and beverages were also provided for the dance, along with lots of decorations and a picture station with props for everyone to enjoy. The gymnasium was turned into a dance floor with loud music and colorful lights.

"The cookies were good," said Etta Bea Harrison. The dance had a gold, white, and black color scheme, with lots of lights, balloons, streamers, and a poster to sign your name on.

— Natalie Ferland (Grade 8)

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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

When I talk about campground wildlife, I am not talking about late night parties around a roaring campfire. Although those can be fun as long as you are not disturbing other campers.

I am talking about bears at Northeast Carry, ME, or deer at Pleasant Mountain, ME. One of the most exciting encounters happened at Moultonborough, NH. It involved a rather large black animal with a wide white strip down the middle of its back. We, Fran, I and our son, Jason, were in our pop-up camper in a nice wooded site near a stone wall. After a long day canoeing and playing in the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee, we had retired to the campsite. Relaxing, after supper, around a warm, glowing campfire, I heard a rustling behind me. I looked toward Jason, who was across from me and Fran, and noticed him putting a finger to his lips. He then mouthed the words 'do not move'. By then, the rustling noise was to my left and heading towards Fran's chair. I turned my head, looked down, and

there, sniffing the ground and digging for grubs, was the biggest skunk I believe I have ever seen. The campground owners had forewarned us that there were a lot of them around, and not to walk the area after dark without a flashlight.

As I watched, the critter proceeded to venture under Fran's chair and stop between her feet. Now, you know if you tell someone not to move, the first thing they do is move. Jason has a look that says 'Oh #@&! we are going to get sprayed. Finally, I said to Fran, "Now if I told you not to move, I would hope you would do as I say and not move. Okay!" She was gazing into the fire with her mind a million miles away, and her response was, "What? Why?"

"Because there is a huge skunk between your feet, and, trust me, this is not a joke and please do not move!" She managed to look down, her face turn the palest I have ever seen, her eyes bugged out, and she stopped breathing. I swear I have never known anyone to hold their breath that long. Finally Waddles (that's what we call the skunk because he was so big he waddled) made it through the campsite and left the area. No harm done, except we could not get Fran to sit by the campfire after dark for the rest of the week. We never saw another skunk either!

Great River Co-op

The Great River Co-op, a startup cooperative grocery store coming to Walpole, is more than 75% of the way to their member/owner goal! With 760 members and counting, the Great River Co-op is getting closer to becoming a reality.

The community owned grocery store's Annual Meeting is coming up on April 18 at 6:00 pm. It will be held at the Bellows Falls Opera House, and they will screen Food For Change, a documentary on the history of Cooperatives.

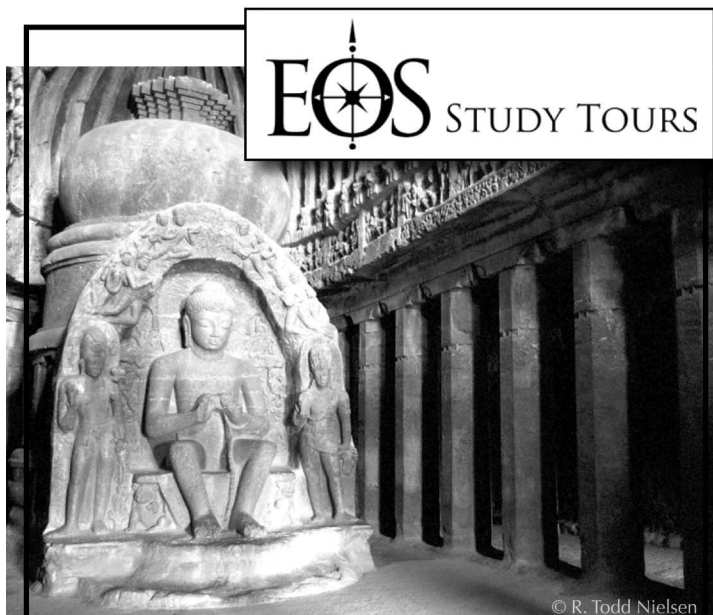
Food for Change tells the story of the cooperative movement in the United States in a way that is both entertaining and informative. It includes interviews with co-op workers, rare archival footage, and narration by the film's director, Steve Alves. Alves will be available at the meeting for a question and answer period around the film.

Next steps for the Great River Co-op include hiring a Project Manager and continuing to grow the membership. Always in need of member/owners, volunteers and board members, the co-op welcomes the involvement of community members. Everyone is welcome!

A cooperative grocery store is owned by its members. It cannot happen without you! If you would like to learn more about joining and how you can help this store to open, please visit the website at www.greatriverfoodcoop.com and follow them on Facebook.

Together, we can build it!

– Stacey Nachajski



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Upcoming Community Events

Be sure to let the **Clarion** know of your upcoming event, and we will be happy to put in a notice. We are always pleased to help make our worthy community events successful! Email: rayboas@comcast.net with details.

As a Matter of Fact

Journalism Under Threat

Addressing the challenges journalism faces today, a panel with varying ties to the field -- researcher, editor, reporter -- was held at the Walpole Town Hall, February 28th, in a forum sponsored by the Fall Mountain Alliance and moderated by long-time science journalist Ben Daviss. The panelists were Nancy West, former award-winning reporter for the New Hampshire Union Leader, now publisher of InDepthNH.org; Dr. Kristen Nevios, director of the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication at Franklin Pierce University; and Paul Miller, executive editor of the Keene Sentinel.

Daviss, noting the decline in the number of reporters and an increase in distrust of flagship news organizations encouraged by the White House, asked where we stand and how to navigate these new waters. The panelists remarked on shifting technologies, sharpening divides, and the increasing role of entrenched belief and pervasive doubt in confounding journalistic efforts to convey information.

"There are two disruptors: the political divide and the growing wage gap," Miller said. "The loss of the middle, of a common ground, has created a vacuum. It contributes to an easy buy-in with those who propagate fake news, who prey on fear and desperation." Nevios gave examples highlighting the reach, power, speed, and scope of disinformation. Fixes lag behind, but increased news literacy would help, she said. Miller and West said newspapers diversify to stay afloat and potential competitors complement each other in coverage by taking on different niches. And they have overarching concerns -- Miller holding to supporting an "apolitical, independent, verified press", and West advocating "giving voices to marginalized people, places, and ideas." They urged news consumers to engage with the news -- read it, write in, call up. (For a more detailed account, see the Fall Mountain Alliance website.)

— Megan Hughes

SIT LECTOR CAVE

This is our
April Fool's issue,
so don't believe
everything
you read.

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Community Garden

Are you dreaming of a garden plot? The Hooper Institute is the spot!

The Walpole Community Garden is gearing up for its new year of gardening and would like to invite you to join us. Perhaps you are new to gardening or organic gardening? Perhaps you are downsizing from a larger garden and would prefer a smaller plot? Perhaps you are an ambitious gardener who needs a bit more space? All gardening levels are welcome! Our membership has a diverse background of growing experience. We love to share what we've learned with others, and we love to learn what you have to share. We hope this the year you can join us!

We are located behind the Hooper Institute building at 165 Prospect Hill Road, across from the golf course. Sitting on an old glacial drumlin, the site overlooks the Hooper Pond and meadow. The soil is spectacularly productive thanks to eight years of well-composted manure in place. We practice a no-till style of gardening using organic amendments.

We still have a few garden plots available. The cost is \$20 per family. The funds are used to pay for the organic compost and other supplies the group agrees to buy.

Please contact the Hooper Institute at 756-4382 or HOOPERINSTITUTE@myfairpoint.net with questions.

— Eloise Clark

Ken Burns Presentation

Vietnam and its Aftermath

"History doesn't repeat, but it does rhyme," said Ken Burns, quoting Mark Twain. He talked about Vietnam, its significance, and documentary film-making in a talk hosted by the Walpole International Affairs Discussion Group before 190 people on February 13 at Alyson's Orchard.

The Vietnam War -- co-directed and co-produced by Burns and Lynn Novick and written by Geoffrey C. Ward -- traces the conflict and how the effects of war rippled through the lives of those who fought it, as well as through the very fabric of life, American and Vietnamese. It is an account riven by different views -- from all sides at all levels -- of what was at stake, a telling marked by listening. The see-sawing of power and the death, wounding, and uprooting of millions is braided with personal accounts of those who had been in the thick of battle whose voices still bear the imprint decades later.

"The half-life of grief is endless," said Burns of the loss of his mother when he was a child, but also speaking in the context of the grief engendered by war where the vast expanse of casualties threatens to numb feeling.

Burns said of the life of soldiers "Nothing is more vivifying than to know that your violent death is possible any second." On the front they could be set up as bait with commands to "Go out and draw fire." Without a draft, Burns said, "People don't have skin in the game. We have created a separate military class that suffers its losses apart and alone from the vast majority of Americans." And, he noted, "the burdens of fighting fall disproportionately on the poor."

"Vietnam was a Pandora's box" and the human actions and interactions revealed there, he said, are universal. Burns ticked off a list: a president convinced the press lies, top documents stolen, deals made with other countries before a national election. He is describing issues nearly half a century ago. Speaking of the here and now, he remarked, "We are in uncharted waters. We have never had anything like this," adding, "The history 'rhymes' in other countries' experiences."

Rejecting the descriptor "historian," Burns sees himself as a storyteller of the rhymes of history. As to impact, "there is," he said, "no such thing as a national conversation." "But," he added, "you can ignite individual conversations." He tells of people saying their relatives never talked of their time in Vietnam. But they watched the film and have begun to talk. It is strong counterpoint to then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger intoning "No one will remember and none will care."

— Megan Hughes

Reader Commentary

A **Thank You** from the Andrew Lewis family to Mark Houghton, Justin Lyons, Christopher Truell, Jesse Moore, and Dean Wright. Their quick response and kind care at our home with Andy on his last day helped us profoundly during this very sad time. As one of us remarked, and as each of us concurred, "Thank heaven for small towns!" Please send any remembrances as donations to nhfoodbank.org. (New Hampshire Food Bank, 700 E Industrial Park Dr., Manchester NH 03109)... and a "thank you!"

– France Menk (Ms) (Andy's partner)

Dear Publisher,

As someone who lives directly in the village of Walpole and walks around it daily, I've been surprised at how many idling cars and trucks I've seen, many of them without anyone even in them. According to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, an idling car wastes up to half a gallon of gas per hour, and thirty seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. Idling is also not an effective way of warming up engines, as the best way to warm up an engine is to drive it. Idling is also detrimental to health, especially for those of us living in the village, as breathing exhaust fumes increase the risk of cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma, and allergies, especially in children.

The State of New Hampshire recognizes that idling needlessly burns fuel, harms our health, and contributes to climate change, and state law restricts idling to a maximum of 5 minutes above 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and 15 minutes between -10 and 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Please help and keep our town healthy and clean by stopping unnecessary idling.

– Keane Southard

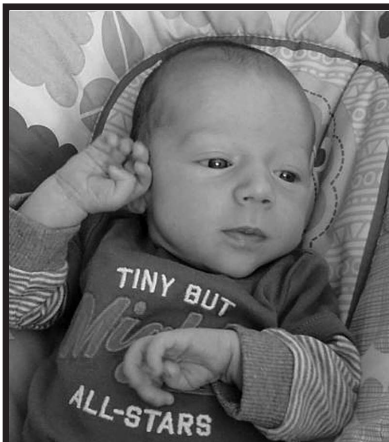
Correction

In the February issue of the Clarion, I wrote an article about the potential construction of another gas station/convenience store that would be situated on the agricultural land that abuts the Walpole Veterinary Hospital on Rt. 12.

In that article, I mistakenly wrote that the developer for this project, Mr. Paul Saba, attended a Planning Board meeting on February 13. I wish to apologize to Paul for that error. He was not at that meeting.

– Eric Merklein

MILESTONES



Born

Cameron Curtis Barnes
February 13,
7 lb, 8 oz, 21"

To Molly & Matt Barnes

Grandparents:

Deb & Jim Brunelle
of Walpole
Shelly & Curt Barnes
of Alstead

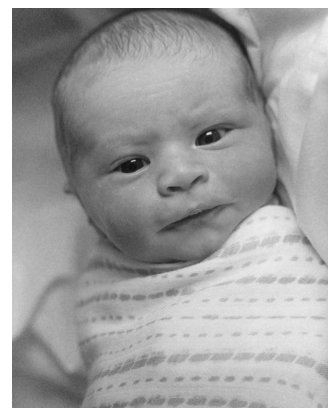
Born

Wrenley Rollins Bluhm
February 23,
7 lb, 10 oz, 21"

To Annie & Emerson Bluhm

Grandparents:

Rob & Barbara Kasper
of Walpole
Gail & Ed Bozzella
of Ocean View, DE



Passed

Stanley Byczkowski

May 25, 1929 - February 22, 2018

Martha Faxon

July 25, 1966 - February 25, 2018

Joan Swett

May 24, 1949 - February 27, 2018

Andrew K. Lewis

July 5, 1925 - February 28, 2018
Playwright - Screenwriter

The birth announcement for Oaklynn Chase in the March Clarion contained two errors: we misspelled her mother's name (It's Meghan Lawlor) and omitted her Grandmother, Patricia Lawlor. Our apologies to Oaklynn, Meghan and Patricia.

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PUBLISHER'S CORNER

As you read through this issue of the **Clarion**, it should be apparent what the current issue in Town is. Do we want to set a precedent along the Route 12 corridor allowing commercial use of Rural/Agricultural Land? Do we want to lose our bucolic vistas for concrete and lights? Do we want potential business failures within our limited market area, thus leading to vacant buildings?

This is the April issue. That means it could contain some foolishness for your reading and visual enjoyment. But, may I assure, and reassure you, that the articles or stories on current Town matters this month do not include any foolishness for your entertainment. To reiterate, I encourage you to attend Public Hearings and meetings in Town to voice your opinions and be heard.

– 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

May issue deadline: April 20
Tara Sad: Copy-Editing
Jan Kobeski: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

Golden Milestone

Another milestone was reached this month that should not go unmentioned. Shirley Capron completed her 51st year of service to the library – she has been Secretary to the Board since 1967.

Rosemary's Baby was published that year; and *The Naked Ape*, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, and *The Little's*. *The Graduate* was the top grossing movie. Phones were neither mobile or smart.

The Board of Trustees recognized Shirley at their last meeting. Board Chair Fred Ernst spoke for all, "You're our memory. You're our commitment to public service and welfare. You're our gift of knowledge and friendship. You're our steady hand. Thank you, Shirley, from all the trustees you have served with your presence over 50 years."

– Jan Kobeski



PHOTO: JEAN KOBESKI

Walpole Business Notes

Antique Oriental Rugs

Lori Frandino will be entering her 26th year of offering Antique Oriental Rugs to the trade and to the public here in Walpole NH. She generally maintains a collection of 140-150 rugs, with a variety of sizes and types available. You can find large roomsize carpets, as well as runners. Lori also offers antique carpets with slight to moderate wear which are very affordable. There are absolutely no contemporary rugs. She is happily open by appointment 756-3982 or frandino@comcast.net

Welcoming the Warm Seasons at 47 Main

The Restaurant at Burdick's debuted its spring menu on the Spring Equinox, March 20th. Patrons can always count on their favorite French classics, like steak frites and omelets to be available. But spring also means new culinary adventures - dishes featuring veal, quail, lamb, and the tiniest of clams known as countnecks will be accompanied by tender baby vegetables. The staff at Walpole Grocery also look forward to Spring, as they will be offering new products and a new store "look." Spring, with its fresh changes ushers in the warm seasons, and the very popular celebration, Bastille Day, on July 14th.

Ruggles & Hunt

...is so happy to see everyone visit us as we've felt hidden behind all the construction of the bank and, now, the Tavern. Glad we're here to celebrate our renovated and new neighbors. Celebrate our 10% Discount on your Birthday if you register with your email at our Walpole or Brattleboro stores.

Ms Anna

Local author Bill Lockwood's third Historical Fiction novel *Ms Anna* will have its local premier reading and book signing event at Village Square Booksellers, 34 The Square, in Bellows Falls, at 7:00 PM on Friday, April 20. A resident of southeastern Vermont and Bellows Falls since 1992, Lockwood recently moved to North Walpole and is an occasional **Clarion** contributor. His first two novels, *Buried Gold* and *Megan of the Mists*, were sell out events when they were also premiered at Village Square Booksellers.

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



CHARMIAN TRUNDLE,
HOLDER OF
WALPOLE'S
BOSTON CANE,
TURNED 101
MARCH 22, 2018

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EDDM RETAIL

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The Pledge of Allegiance opened the 2018 Town Meeting