

Walpole Fire-EMS Best in State

Justin Romanello, Bureau Chief, State of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), spoke to assembled Walpole Fire and EMS personnel, November 14, at the Walpole Fire Station. On September 30, the Walpole Fire-EMS was presented the EMS Unit of the Year award for 2019 at The Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. The award has been presented annually since 1998.

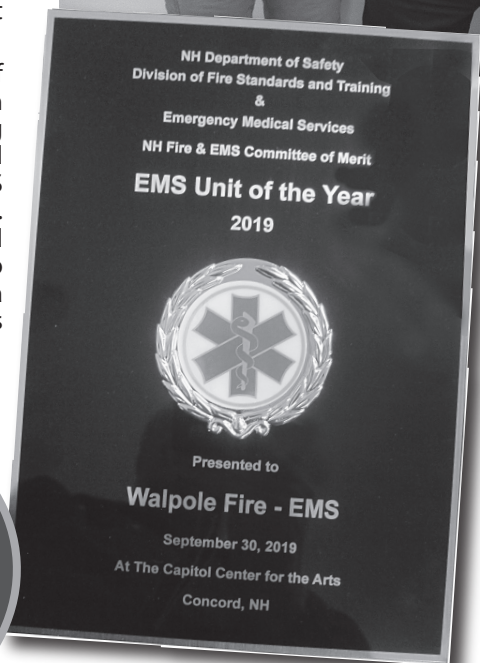
Before starting his detailed "State of the State" presentation on EMS services, Romanello praised those assembled, saying their dedication and level of readiness "should be a model for all of New Hampshire." There are 307 agencies within the state that can be considered for this award. Nominations are considered from any "licensed EMS Unit which has documented a significant positive impact in their community."

Prior to the start of the evening, Chief Mark Houghton toured me through the Walpole Fire Station explaining the wide variety of equipment and emergency rescue work Walpole's EMS and fire personnel are trained to provide. Overwhelmed with what our dedicated silent heroes can do, Mark promised to work with me this coming year with a series of articles covering what services Walpole Fire-EMS are ready to perform.



PHOTOS: RAY BOAS

From Left: James C. Suozzi, EMS Medical Director, Emergency Department, Cheshire Medical Center; Justin Romanello, Bureau Chief, State of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards and Training and EMS; Chief Mark Houghton



NOTICE

Our printers' building is being renovated.

So...the January 2020 Clarion Mailing may be delayed a few days. (The January 2020 issue will be on-line <https://thewalpoleclarion.com> December 23, 2019)

Alert - All Veterans

American Legion Post #77 is about to fold its tent and disappear on the 31st of December unless we can recruit more veterans to participate.

This constitutes a final request for help. Is the Post worth saving? We believe it is, but the 4 to 6 members doing the work are beset by various medical problems that come with age.

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Broadband

The Broadband committee received several proposals for upgrading internet service to Walpole. They have reviewed the proposals and are in the process of contacting Consolidated Communications, Inc. to develop a sound, reasonable contract for fiber optic service. Consolidated Communications is the company chosen by Chesterfield and by Dublin to upgrade services.

In addition to negotiating with Consolidated, the Broadband Committee is beginning work with the New Hampshire Bonding Authority to prepare an application for a Bond to pay for the upgraded services should the Town of Walpole vote to accept a contract between the Town of Walpole and Consolidated Communications, Inc.

The State of New Hampshire approved legislation, RSA 33 (SB 170) which allows communities to specifically bond for improved internet services. The bond is not considered part of a community's debt – an unusual situation, but one designed to encourage rural communities to expand its internet services. Increased service will enhance the town's ability to attract residents who need/prefer to work from home.

The Broadband Committee is keeping the Select Board up to date as they progress, and public meetings will be called from time to time over the next few months, prior to Town Meeting in March.

– Peggy Pschirrer

The Gazebo

An attractive addition to the Town Common, the Gazebo was given to the Town by a former citizen in memory of his wife. It is used every Memorial Day, Sundays in the summer for Band Concerts, and for wedding ceremonies.

Alas, it is now also being used as a target for laughs. The Common has long been used for kids after school for a pick-up ball game for fun and laughter. Mothers and babies enjoy the common for lunch and socializing. But sometime late summer, our young teen-agers began to use the Gazebo as a ballfield, kicking a ball against the spindles around the Gazebo. In one weekend recently, 21 spindles were broken. Many were removed and shoved in the lattice work underneath the platform. This is not fun; it is deliberate destruction.

Dog walkers and neighbors have asked the kids to leave the Gazebo and return to the grass. The responses have often been rude and ignored, or acknowledged briefly by leaving but then returning.

Yes, we can ask the Police Department to drive by more frequently, but it is more important that each of us talk to our children or grandchildren and encourage each of them to police their fellow students. If any of you witness this vandalism, do call the police; or, if you recognize the teens, call their parents. Winter and snow may reduce the incidents, but snow melts and idle kids look for activity.

Please help. Repairing the Gazebo is expensive. We need ***respect for property.***

– Peggy Pschirrer

PHOTO: RAY BOAS



- The Post is responsible for organizing, providing a speaker and generally making sure the Memorial Day parade on May 30th runs smoothly.

- The Post is responsible for maintaining the flags used on special holidays by putting the flags out and collecting them at the end of the day.

- The Post is responsible for seeing that every veteran's grave in our cemeteries is decorated with a flag from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day. The Legion coordinates with the Boy and Girl Scouts in posting the flags and retrieving them.

- The Post coordinates and supports the high school boys and girls who are nominated by the school to attend Boys' and Girls' State each year. This is a week-long exercise that gives our teenagers an opportunity to participate in a mock government for five days.

- The Post participates in statewide Legion activities that include electing officers each year to coordinate with State and local units in support of Legion initiatives.

- The Post is also responsible for identifying veterans who are eligible to have their name added to our Veteran's Memorial. The Post coordinates with the Keene Monument Company to have the names added.

- The Post should support local veterans that need help, but we have not done much in this arena for several years due to the lack of help.

The list above is not all encompassing, but gives one an idea of things that must be done by others if the Legion is no longer available.

Our next Legion meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 7:30 PM in the basement of the Town Hall. This is a call for all veterans to step up to the plate, show their patriotism and be willing to contribute in an effort to keep our Legion Post alive.

— Bruce Martin

Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will celebrate the holiday season with their annual Christmas party at Leslie's Tavern, north of Bellows Falls, VT, at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 10. Dinner will include choices of Beef Tips, Fish Fillet, or Chicken with salads, desserts included. We hope that all our members can join us for this festive occasion and friendly fellowship. If transportation is needed, please contact Jack Pratt at 756-9528 for arrangements.

— Jan Martin



The Pink Fire Truck

The Pink Fire Truck was in town November 2 to support Paula Gallagher, who has been battling cancer for several years. The truck comes from Pink Heals, Windham County Vermont, Inc., whose mission is to "support people on a personal level in partnership with the Public Safety, Medical Professionals and local Businesses." It is a local chapter of a national program that focuses on community support for people facing disease or illness, like cancer.

Paula is a retired Emergency Department RN, having spent twenty-five (1976-2001) of her fifty years as an EMT. From 1983 to 2007 she worked at the Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock. During her tenure there, she was an educator working as the EMS Coordinator. She was a National Registered EMT-I, a New Hampshire EMT Instructor, Practical Exam Evaluator, Critical Stress Debriefing Team (CISD), a Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support-Adult and Pediatric Instructor (PHTLS) and a member of the Alstead Ambulance. She taught many Emergency Medical Service courses and refreshers throughout the area including 1st Responder, EMT-B and EMT-I; and continuing education at various department locations. In addition, she also was a Naval Reserve Captain teaching EMT courses to Corpsmen in over 20 bases throughout the east. She was a leader of EMS throughout the region in a time of changing standards of care and protocols.

We all thank Paula for her contributions, and wish her the best of luck in her fight.

— Mark Houghton



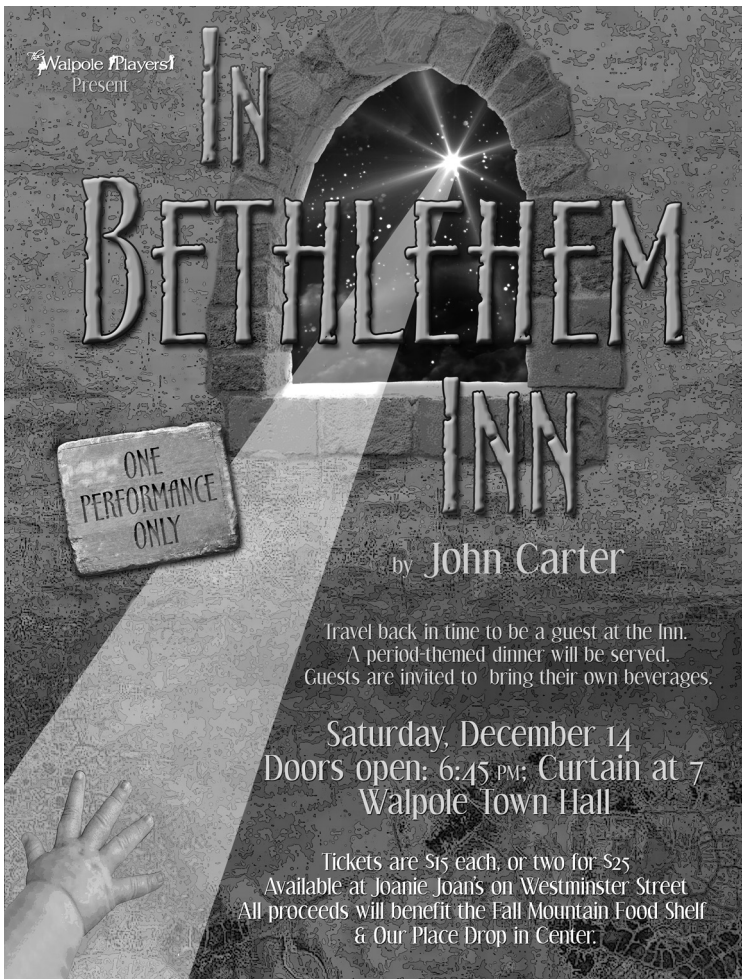
Walpole School

Principal Jacobs to Retire

After forty years in the Fall Mountain Regional School District, I have decided to retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. This was a difficult decision to make considering how much I love working as the Walpole School principal. I will certainly miss my students, my incredible colleagues and the supportive community of Walpole. I am thankful for the wonderful memories that I will cherish forever. It has been an honor and privilege to work in the school district. I am proud of our accomplishments. I look forward to the remaining months of the school year to develop more wonderful memories with my students. Thank you for your support all these years.

— Samuel Jacobs

TAXES DUE
On or Before December 23
Early Payments Appreciated
— Sandy Smith, Tax Collector



The Walpole Players

In Bethlehem Inn

Travel back in time with the Walpole Players when they present John Carter's In Bethlehem Inn. You are invited to be a guest at the Bethlehem Inn and enjoy a light supper reminiscent of the era, including soup, bread, cheese, fruit and dessert. Guests may bring a beverage of their choice.

We will celebrate the holiday season by reenacting the events of the night when two weary travelers arrived in Bethlehem to pay their taxes.

Inn guests will enjoy a humorous performance by the Players, while helping to support the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place in Bellows Falls, VT.

The performance will take place at the Walpole Town Hall on Saturday, December 14. Tickets are available at Joanie Joan's at 14 Westminster Street in Walpole. The cost is \$15 each, or two for \$25. Doors open at 6:45 PM, and the fun begins at 7:00.

– Becky Pearson & Jenny Plante

Brownfield Update

Ransom Consulting Engineers and Scientists have been selected as the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) to provide the Town of Walpole with all services associated with the Brownfield Clean-up operation of the former Central Plating Site. The Town received three proposals from environmental companies, each of whom could have handled the clean-up.

Ransom was chosen because it, under the auspices of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, conducted the most recent testing and analysis of the contaminated site, and also participated in public hearings in Walpole before the Town voted to buy the site and apply for an EPA cleanup grant. Their extensive knowledge of the Walpole site, and Ransom's ability to begin the project as soon as possible, tipped the decision in their favor. Steve Rickerich, Vice President of Ransom Consulting, will be the lead QEP working with Peggy Pschirrer, Project Director.

The Central Plating Site will be fenced to prevent snow from being pushed onto the site by plows who clear the Town Parking Lot. A community relations plan will be developed as well as a Brownfields Cleanup Task Force formed. As plans become specific Town meetings will be called. Work should begin in the spring on this multi-year project.

– Peggy Pschirrer

Live Nativity

Volunteers Needed

Walpole is a town of tradition, and one of those traditions is to have a live nativity on Christmas Eve. This Christmas marks the 45th year of portraying the story of the birth of Jesus in an outdoor setting with live animals and carols.

Everyone is welcome to share in this lovely tradition which was started by Peggy Graves and Betty Prentiss, and carried on by many volunteers over

the years. This event takes place on the Walpole Common, December 24, following the Church services. People usually congregate between 8:15 and 8:30 PM. Hot cocoa and social time will follow in the Town Hall.

We are looking for girls who would like to be angels and men and boys to portray shepherds and wise men. If interested, please contact Kelly Patch kaptcg1444@gmail.com, or Crystal Phillips at crystalphillips088@gmail.com.

– Crystal Phillips

PHOTO: RAY BOAS



Library News

Closings & Reduced Hours in December

The Library will be closed the first two weeks in December for our move back into the library building, unpacking and organizing. Our soft opening will be on Monday, December 16. Please pardon our appearance during December as we anticipate not all of the furniture will be delivered by December 16, and some dust may still be settling.

The Library will also be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1 for the holidays.

Library Grand Opening Celebration

Please join us Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM for our Grand Opening, which will include tours of the newly renovated space, cake, and warm drinks. We can't wait for you to see the new space!

John & Carole Hubbard Community Room Reservations

Our new Hubbard Community Room policy can be found on our website at walpoletownlibrary.org. Library programs take priority for booking times, but outside groups are welcome to contact Justine to reserve the room for 2020. You can email Justine at jfafara@walpoletownlibrary.org, or call the library

Kudos

Walpole Author Recognized

Patricia Farnoli of Walpole received recognition for her recent collection of poetry, 'Hallowed: New and Selected Poems'. The book features selections from her four previous books along with twenty-four new poems, and was selected as the Outstanding Work in Poetry in the 2019 New Hampshire Literary Awards.

The New Hampshire Writers' Project hosted the 13th New Hampshire Literary Awards presentation earlier this month. A panel of judges composed of teachers, non-competing authors, and editors reviewed the books. There are five categories: Middle/Young Adult; Children's Picture Books; Non-Fiction; Fiction; and Poetry. In order to compete, the books had to have been written by N.H. authors, and must have been published between April 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018.

"This is the equivalent of our Academy Awards," said Claudia Decker, chair of the NH Literary Awards, and member of the NH Writers' Project (NHWP) Board of Trustees. "It is a great honor to receive a NH Literary Award."

— Beth D'Ovidio



There was something for everyone at the Library's annual book sale.

at 603-756-9806 with any questions or to request the room.

Pencil it in for January

Saturday, January 11 will begin our 4 week sock knitting course at the library. This class is free and open to the public, but with a limit of 6 participants. Please call the library at 756-9806 to register. You'll be required to bring your own supplies (yarn, knitting needles, stitch markers, etc.) but a recommended supply list will be provided when you register. The class will run January 11, 18, 25 and February 1 from 10:00 to 11:30AM. Please contact Justine with any questions at jfafara@walpoletownlibrary.org

Check 'em Out, a new book discussion group, will begin meeting at the library the last Saturday of the month with our first meeting Saturday January 25.

Meetings will be held at 9:00 AM with coffee, tea and treats. Each month, a staff member will choose a book for the discussion and lead the relaxed meeting. If you don't love the title chosen, the staff member will also choose a few read-alikes so you can still participate in the discussion. If you're a speed reader, you can read a few of the chosen titles! Check with us at the library after December 18 to find out what the first title for our January 25 meeting will be. It will be Justine's choice, so if you enjoy reading what's on her staff picks shelf, you're bound to love her choice for Check 'em Out!

After School Movies will begin again in January. Join us January 9, 16, 23 and 30. Check our website or Facebook as we get close to see which movies we'll be showing.

— Justine Fafara



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

Come see the results of your generosity.

Saturday January 4th 11AM-2PM.
We'll have cake and warm beverages
as well as tours of the new space.
Staff will be available if you need
to register for a library card.



Walpole Number One – Again

As the December CLARION was being finalized for printing, Walpole's Post Office was named the leader nationwide in sales of the semi-postal stamp that raises funds to fight Alzheimer disease.

Issued since 2017, the surcharge on the stamp raises money to help fight this cause. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan declared November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.



**Merry Christmas
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Happy New Year**
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Art After School

The fall semester has gotten off to an exciting start. We welcomed new teachers and new students who all seem to be enjoying themselves. We still have room for new young artists to join us (first grade and above) on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall of St. John's Church for a delicious snack, and then a good time with all sorts of media (paint, pencil, fiber, glue, clay, duct tape creations etc.). We recently took our first field trip to the Walpole Historical Museum to look at maps and portraits, plus we enjoyed an enthusiastic immersion in the old classroom on the second floor! Thank you to the folks at the Walpole Historical Society for opening your doors to us. Art After School is free, open to all, and not a religious program. We appreciate the generosity of the church in opening the newly-renovated parish hall to us. And we are very grateful for the generosity of Mascoma Bank for their large donation which will allow us to continue operating through the spring of 2020. Please thank the folks at Mascoma for their support of this now 14-year-old after school program for the children of Walpole and beyond.

– Marilyn Wilking



Art After School Students at the Walpole Historical Society

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Happy Holidays

During this holiday season,
we wish you all the best.



Jessica Fuller
Financial Advisor

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Color seems drained from the landscape by the onset of winter this month. Our pale sun arcs across the southern sky giving us tepid light and little warmth. However, enduring evergreens punctuate the hillsides with shades of green, lighter for the pine and dark green for the hemlock. Ground pines are another type of evergreen that creeps across the forest floor. They are no relation to our tall woody pines, yet they do resemble small trees at a quick glance.

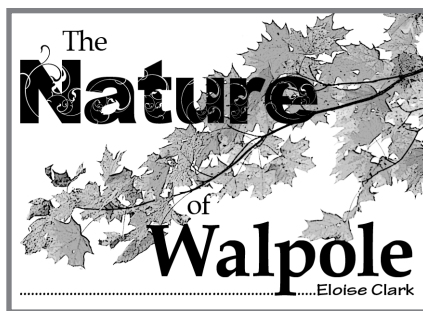
Ground pines are sometimes also called club mosses but are no relation to real mosses either, yet another misnomer! Perhaps you have heard their other names: Princess pine or Prince's pine, tree clubmoss, running clubmoss, ground cedar, stag's horn clubmoss? Just what are these Lilliputian evergreens that wend across the ground at ankle height? They are considered non-flowering plants that reproduce by spores and not seeds as the flowering plants do.

They are in the plant family called Lycopodiaceae. Naturalists used to lump them in one genus called Lycopodium. However, in recent years plant taxonomists have re-grouped them into three genera: Huperzia, Lycopodiella and Lycopodium. Lycopodium is a worldwide group of plants with over 50 species in North America. Fossil records tell us they date back about 380 million years in Earth's history.

In our area there are four species one can find. Lycopodium obscurum (tree clubmoss, Princess pine) does look like a tiny pine tree with sprays of needle-like branches alternating up the stem. At the top of the stem is the fruiting "strobile". This yellow candelabra shaped feature produces the pollen-like spores. The plant stem creeps along the ground connecting the upright sprays of greenery.

Lycopodium clavatum (running clubmoss or stag's horn clubmoss) has short branches covered with small "leaves" or microphylls. They have a single vein instead of the complex veins of higher plants. It has some other interesting names: wolf's foot and foxtail clubmoss.

The most common name for Diphasiastrum digitatum is ground cedar. It's probably the most widespread species of Lycopodium in North America. The leaves look scale-like, just like cedar boughs: flat, shiny and dark green. All



three species like forests with light shade and dappled sunlight, under oaks and pines or near field edges. They tolerate well-drained sandy or rocky soils on the acidic side, areas with high bush blueberries for example.

Huperzia licidula, the shining clubmoss prefers moist woods and boggy areas. It's often perched on rocks. It doesn't have a separate stalk for its spores but stores them along its stem. It also has a minimal amount of branches, its leaves heavily clothing the main stem.

Spores of Lycopodiums were known for their medicinal properties as far back as Roman times for gastric relief, headaches and skin ailments including skin rashes and wounds. The spores contain oil that makes them highly flammable. Early flash photography depended on ignited spores to make the flash! More recently chemists have been intrigued by an alkaloid called Huperzine found in Lycopodium. It's being studied as a possible cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Despite being in existence for 380 million years, Lycopodiums are challenged by human activities. They have been depleted by over-gathering for greenery, Christmas wreaths and other décor, prompting several states to protect these fascinating plants. Forest areas converted to agricultural use for foraging livestock will also eliminate them, as will fire. Please enjoy the lovely, lowly Lycopodium without disturbing it.

PHOTO PROVIDED





3rd Annual Light Up the Holidays Contest !

Galloway Real Estate is sponsoring their 3rd annual contest with prizes for 3 categories! Any one from Walpole, North Walpole or Brewsville can enter for FREE! New this year, we are offering two Categories for residences: Traditional New England (Hopefully this speaks for it's self) Children's Delight (Go Crazy! More the Better) and Business- we haven't forgotten you! Glam up your storefront!

Rules: Judging from outside and roadside of buildings only. Judging will be done on Dec 19 or 20 depending on weather! Entry forms at Galloway Real Estate - Name, address to be judged, phone# and category. Winners announced on Christmas Eve at live nativity.

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St. John's Episcopal

Changes continue at St. John's. Our congregation is blessed to have the Rev. Bruce MacDuffie from Westminster with us during December and January following the retirement of Susan de Puy Kershaw on November 24. Bruce has ministered to us in the past in Susan's absence; and we are fortunate to be able to adjust slowly to Susan's retirement as we prepare for new beginnings. Susan will remain in Walpole, so we can maintain our friendships as we seek new pastoral care.

Our Sunday morning services at 10:00 am are ongoing with beautiful music by our organist Dr. Chris Evatt of Keene State College. Coffee hour follows in the newly renovated Parish Hall. During the four Sundays of Advent, we anticipate and open ourselves to be ready to celebrate God with us in the human life of Jesus on Christmas. Come join our anticipatory Christmas joy in our Sunday Eucharists, where all are invited to share in communion.

Under the leadership of our deacon, Johanna Young, we will be writing Christmas greetings to folks seeking asylum in the US who will be in detention centers during the Christmas

season. Johanna works with agencies that support the healthy integration of refugees into our midst. We invite the public to join us at 11:30 AM on December 1 for this Christmas card activity. At our regular 10:00 o'clock Sunday morning service on December 22, we will enjoy the tradition of Christmas lessons and carols. On December 24, we will observe our traditional Christmas Eve service starting at 6:30 PM.

Peace and blessings to all.

— Marilyn Wilking

Non-fiction Book Group

The Non-Fiction Historic Book Group will meet on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM at 19 Pleasant Street, Walpole, to discuss the first of four sections of Jill Lepore's new history, 'These Truths: A History of the United States'

Jill Lepore's These Truths is a massive (932 pages) and beautifully-written new history of the United States from Columbus to the Age of Donald Trump. We will be reading this book in four parts because we can't handle 900+ pages in one go! The first part slated for December 9 is 'Book One: The Idea – 1492-1799'.

— Ron MacLachlan

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Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the tradition of lighting

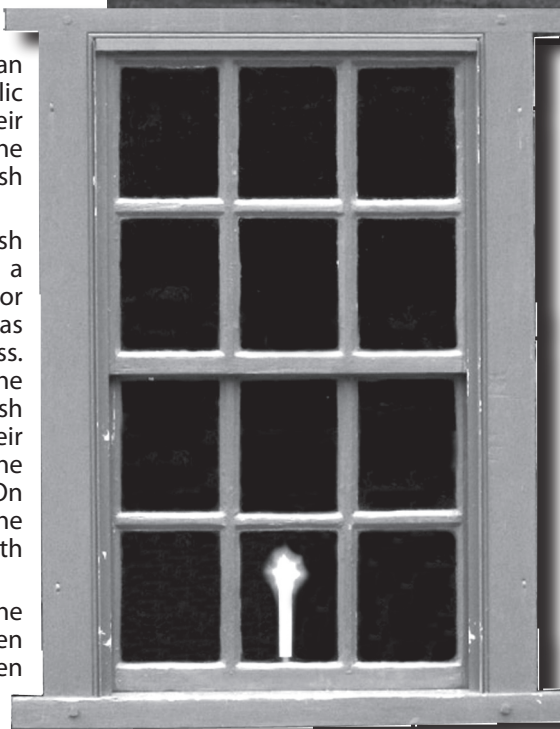
candles in the windows of homes during Christmas, dating to colonial times, was brought to America by the Irish? Candles in windows have always been considered a sign of welcome to others. In early America, when homes were often miles apart, the sight of a distant candle in a window was a sign of "welcome" to those wishing to visit.

Religious practices and persecution have a long and complicated history in Ireland. As early as 1171, King Henry II's invasion of Ireland began persecution against the Irish. Pagan solstice celebrations were replaced by Christmas celebrations. Protestantism attempted to replace Catholicism. The British Government, between 1691 and 1778, perfected their oppressive Penal Laws, targeting Catholics in an attempt to squash the religion. Catholic priests were not allowed to practice their faith. Ordered to leave the country, the priests instead went into hiding. The Irish were forced to obey British Rule.

During Christmastime, faithful Irish Catholics would, in darkness, light a candle in the window and leave the door unlocked. This was a sign to priests it was safe to slip into their home to say Mass. In return they offered hospitality to the priest. The British, questioning the Irish about the candles, were told it was their way to welcome Joseph, Mary, and the Baby Jesus as they sought shelter. On immigrating to the United States, the Irish brought this holiday practice with them.

The tradition of the lit candle in the window in colonial America has been interpreted in many ways. It has been seen as a beacon of hope for any passerby during the holiday season, and signaled strangers that there would be food and shelter there, should they ask. Candles also showed hope that Mary and other saints would pass by their home and bless it. The candle's welcome was part silent prayer for the safe return of an absent person, and part sign there is someone waiting and tending the fire. Other interpretations say the candle would be sending a message - a child had been born or a family had received a blessing of some nature. Often the candles would be commemorating a community event or celebration. Inns (and now bed and breakfasts) used candles announcing rooms were available, and leading travelers to the door. The key being the sense of welcome.

When Colonial Williamsburg was established, they were unsure how Christmas should be represented. Remember, it was not much of a holiday



in colonial America. They hung colored lights on ten evergreen trees in 1934, continuing to search for decorations representative of the period. The landscape architect remembered his family's practice of placing a candle in their Boston window in 1893. With that idea, the next year a single lighted candle was placed in the windows of the four buildings open to the public. The candles were lit from 5 to 10 PM between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Worried of fire, four janitors were paid \$1.00 each to light the candles and guard against fires.

Electric candles solved the concern with fire. Colonial Williamsburg visitors liked what they saw, and wanted candles to take back home. In 1941, Williamsburg department stores sold their entire stock of 600 electric candles by Christmas Eve. Today, having candles in the windows is even easier. My candles take batteries, and are remotely controlled.

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Gleanings

from the Town Minutes

Select Board November 7 - Plastic Bag Ban Petition Warrant Article: Ruby Frithsen and Sidney Curven were present. They brought in a copy of their "Plastic Bag Ban Petition", but asked for clarification on an issue they encountered in getting signatures. Mr. Dalessio explained that NH is not a "home rule" state, meaning that the town can only do what the State authorizes them to do. In the last legislative session, [the state] did not take action on a plastic bag ban, so it is questionable as to whether or not, even with the Petition and the Warrant Article passed, that it would be legal.

Select Board November 7 - Tax Deeded Properties: Mr. Dalessio advised the Town did not receive any response from either former property owner. November 6, 2019 is the "Deadline to receive written notice to repurchase". In 90 days the Town can sell the two properties. Prior owners have 15 more days to request

access to remove items. That deadline is November 21st. Mrs. Downing was asked to get the final amounts due on these properties. The Town can move forward with the sale of these two properties in January 2020.

Select Board November 7 - Mrs. Pschirrer reported the Walpole Conservation Commission discussed diseased trees during their November 4 meeting. Mr. Alex Barrett gave good reports on some Town forests. Mr. Palmiotto asked about the ash borers that are destroying ash trees in New England. Mr. Barrett replied that they should be inspecting the ash trees, especially where they can cause damage if they fall along the road sides, near schools or important buildings. The trees should be removed while they are still healthy. One of the first things they should do is identify ash trees. Mr. Dalessio asked if a WCC member would be willing to identify and mark those trees. Mrs. Pschirrer will be attending their next meeting on December 2nd and plans to discuss this. She will then report back to the Selectboard.

Congregational Church

Events for December

The November fundraising events, the Mistletoe Mart and the Thanksgiving pie sale successfully prepare us for December and Advent. Fundraising is vital for churches, and we are no different. We want the North Walpole, Drewsville and Walpole community to know that we are a source of support spiritually, emotionally and financially. By purchasing items and pies, you directly support the ministries of our church.

December is another exciting month. Rev. David Stinson will guide us through Advent. He is here because Rev. Rachelle Eaton, who has been with us since June, will be moving to Concord where her husband, Joel, has accepted a position as Chaplain at Havenwood Heights, a UCC sponsored retirement community. Rachelle's last Sunday will be December 1. She is in the church office on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please feel welcome to come by and wish her well. She's a gift to our church and the clergy community.

December has no shortage of activities. Saturday, December 14, is our annual Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. Pancakes and other breakfast delights will be there, along with Santa and Mrs. Santa. It's fun and enjoyable. Contributions by donation will be accepted. Our annual Christmas Eve service will be December 24 at 7:00 PM. All are invited. The living nativity on the common follows. Then it is on to the New Year.

May you experience the Peace, Joy, Hope and Love of the Advent season: Peace for our souls, our families, our communities and our world, Joy for the anticipation of the arrival of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Joy we look for, sometimes with difficulty, in our daily lives, Hope for today, tomorrow and for the future, and Love of God who is always here, who is always patient with us, who is always waiting for us to open our hearts and listen. Peace,

— Chuck Shaw

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- **Prevent sore nipples** - Use cherry-flavored ChapStick on sore nipples to prevent cracking from breastfeeding. Babies like the cherry taste and tend to latch on quicker.

Adapted from: MAGIC BRANDS - 1,185 Brand-New Uses for Brand-Name Products by Joey Green.

"In honor of Harold S. Putnam and his vision for conservation in the town of Walpole," this bench was recently installed near the Cranberry Meadow Dam on Hooper Institute property.





The Zombie Run

Walpole Elementary School's second annual Zombie Run was a success. The race took place during the early release day on Halloween, October 31.

Students in each middle level grades were given flags to wear as they ran through the course. Their goal was to get through the course with all of their flags intact while the "zombies" tried to take them. The majority of the teachers from the school were the zombies. Students have been saying that they want to be the zombies next year and have the teachers be the runners.

The course was through the playground, down to the baseball field, around the pool area and through the tennis courts, up towards the little school playground, up the little kids' pickup area, and back up to the front of the school. Students had to run through the course twice with a recharge area for them to replace their flags. This year's winner was 8th grade, while 7th grade finished in second, 6th in third, and 5th grade in fourth. It has been a great and fun way to build our school community even more.

– Lauren Gould & Bridget Bascom (Grade 6)

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Thanksgiving Feast

At the Walpole Elementary School, our school is celebrating Thanksgiving by having a little Thanksgiving feast. We do this feast because the teachers wanted to do something to celebrate the students and the community that they are grateful for. We also do this to build a stronger community.

Each class makes a food dish. The 5th grade usually makes the centerpiece for the table to make everything look nice. It is up to the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to make the food. Some foods that will be made are mashed potatoes, stuffing, glazed carrots, and cranberry sauce, pies, corn casserole, and turkey and gravy.

The feast, which will happen on Tuesday, November 26, right before Thanksgiving break, is always a really fun way to come closer as a community.

– Siera King & Kaiya Roberts (Grade 6)

Walpole Artisans Thank you!

We appreciate the generous and continued support for locally made art and fine crafts.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2020

WES Girls Basketball

On Tuesday, November 12th, the Walpole Elementary School Girls' Basketball Team opened their season.

The team is led by 7th graders Cora Buswell and Marella Tsitsonis. The team is mostly made up of 6th graders. The sixth graders include Riley Beckwith, Emma King, Siera King, Ava Conley, Olivia Blane, Aislihn O'Leary, Sabrina Ladd, and Sophia Grillone.

The coach, new to Walpole this season, is Sandy Smitzs. The practices have been great, and the team has been working really hard so far. The first game is the first week of December at home at the Walpole Elementary School. The girls have high hopes for the team this season.

– Riley Beckwith (Grade 6)



Boys Basketball

Walpole Elementary School boys' basketball practice is underway. Practice is every day of the week most weeks, but not on weekends. Most home games begin right after school, around 3:45.

The coaches are Allen Parker and Jeff Faulkner. There are fifteen student-athletes on the team. The eighth graders include Connor Page, Aidan Parrott, Porter Willett, Owen Waysville, Eric Franklin, Donnie Tucker, Jacob Hearne, and Zach King. The team's seventh graders include Ledger Willett, Zach Conley, Tyson Patch, and Trenten Hill. Rounding out the team are sixth graders Evan Parker, Zach Hearne, Max Wyman, and Jack Nolan. According to Coach Parker, "Each kid is going to have to earn their playing time." After a strong season last year, the team is preparing for more success this season.

– Evan Parker & Jack Nolan (Grade 6)

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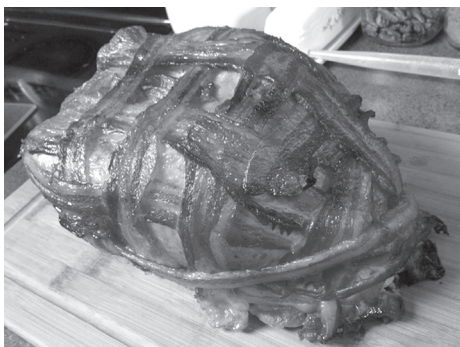
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Weird Thanksgiving Foods

It is during this time of Thanksgiving and gratitude that we celebrate with delicious foods. This made me wonder if everybody celebrates in the same ways with the same foods.

The first food I found in my research was turkey sliders with stuffing biscuits. It is like a mini burger made out of turkey, and the bun is actually biscuit made out of stuffing. Another one I found was cranberry ice cream, which sounds nasty. Could you imagine biting into ice cream and expecting yumminess but instead getting a taste of cranberry in your mouth?



Another food I found was deep-fried sriracha turkey. That sounds pretty disgusting, like an ad for something Wendy's would do, not actual people. The final thing I found was bacon wrapped turkey. That sounds weird but good. It would be like a breakfast turkey. If you drizzled that with warm maple syrup that would be so good. If there was an egg on it, it would taste so good.

These are some possible ideas if you want to try something new this holiday season.

– Ben Frithsen (Grade 8)

The Fall Mountain Wildcat football team played for a championship for the first time in their history. Though they came up short, our congratulations to the team for a standout season.



Photo Provided



Photo: Emma Soohoo (Grade 8)

The last leafy stragglers hanging on...



American Heritage Tour

Every year, the eighth-graders at Walpole Elementary School get a chance to go on AHT, or American Heritage Tour. The tour is led by Takodah YMCA, a group that also takes seventh-graders on a trip to learn about New England Heritage. The group who went on AHT got the chance to go to Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Gettysburg, and Amish Country.

In Philadelphia, the students got to see and learn about the Liberty Bell. The students got to see a wide variety of things in D.C., such as the Smithsonian, the Washington Monument, a tour of the Capitol Building, and many monuments and memorials.

Next, the group went to tour Gettysburg. They learned all about the historical battle. They got to see the eternal flame and the Gettysburg Cemetery. They explored both sides of the battle, and got to see many landmarks that were around even back in 1863. Finally, the group got a tour of Amish country, and learned about different lifestyles. It was a great experience, and all of the students had a great time.

– Etta Bea Harrison (Grade 8)

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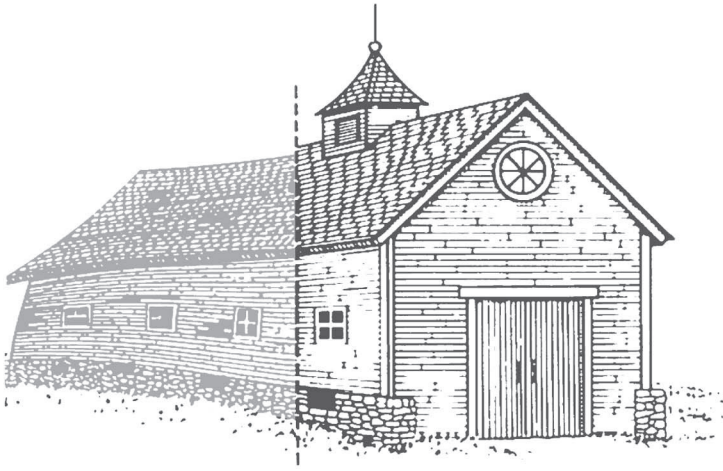
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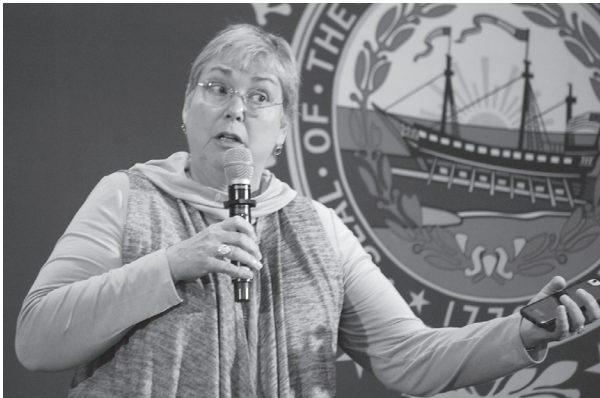
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The line to get in wrapped around Walpole Elementary School as the Peter Buttigieg campaign came to Walpole on November 9. State Representative Lucy Weber (above) introduced the Mayor (at right).



Reader Commentary

Thank you from the Friends of the Walpole Library

The annual Library Book Sale in October was a big success! Approximately \$5,000 was raised to support our beautiful local library. The sale's success depends very much on the hard work and dedication of many people. First of all, we would like to thank everyone who donated books to the sale, those who spent many hours sorting all of those books, and to all the volunteers who set up the sale and helped clean up afterwards! And, of course, a very big thank you to all the people who attended the sale and bought books!

A special thank you to Tedd and Christine Benson/Bensonwood (for the use of their building to store and sort books), to Boy Scout Troop 299 (for clean-up help), to Ernie Vose (for the use of his pallet jack), and to Servpro and all others who trucked books to Walpole School. And finally, we'd like to thank Quinn and Zoe Mitchell and their energetic friends for all of their help with so many aspects of the sale.

It truly takes a village to make the Library Book Sale a success each year! A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful community of helpers!

– Jana Sellarole

Great River Co-Op

The Great River Co-op Board of Directors would like to thank all those who came out for the Walpole Thanksgiving Farmer's Market, especially the 19 local vendors that set up this year: 221 Bath and Body, Abenaki Springs Farm, Brookfield Farm, Celeste Longacre's Dried Herbs & Edible Flowers, Highland View Farms, Hillside Springs Farm, Janette Schuster, Mirasol Farms, Nature's Bears, Palmiotto Studio, Pure Honey, Reclastic Design, The Hooper Institute, Twin Spruce Farm, Windy Acres Farm & Furniture, Zumbini/Arbonne, The Every Wrap This is an event that the community looks forward to every year, and we are honored to be a part of keeping it going.

The Farmers' Market was a great place to begin your holiday shopping, and the Great River Co-op invites you to consider continuing to shop local by purchasing membership shares as a unique and thoughtful gift for friends and family.

Those interested in getting involved in this project are encouraged to contact me at president@greatriverfoodcoop.com or 903-2602. To learn more about becoming a member-owner of the Great River Co-op, please visit <http://www.greatriverfoodcoop.com/> and

on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GreatRiverCoop.

– Steve Fortier

Scouting For Food

Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299 and Boy Scout Troop 299 would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. These donations made our Scouting for Food Collection a huge success.

The staff at the Fall Mountain Food Shelf were very excited with all the food and other donations that we collected for them. Thank you again everyone!

– Debbie Pawelczyk

Community HELP

The Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) is seeking donations of new or gently used durable medical equipment that will be loaned to Walpole residents. HELP is accepting walkers, canes, bedside commodes, crutches and other small medical equipment items. Equipment will be stored at the Town Hall.

Please contact the Selectboard Office at 756-3672 to discuss a donation or to make a loan request. Much thanks to Brad Nash who will be the equipment coordinator for this program.

– Sarah Downing



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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Family Gatherings Can Be Exciting!

Ahh, the cool, crisp feel of NH weather, the frozen toes and noses. Seems like ages since I visited with my friend, Elwud, so I ventured up to the backwoods country where him and

Velma reside. Maneuvered the rutty, rocky road to get to his home in the Goshen/Cornish area. The area is so bad, neither town lays claim to the territory.

When I arrived, Elwud came out to greet me, looking mighty pale and sickly. I stayed a fair distance from him until I learned what was his problem. "What's ailing you?" I asked from the far side of my truck.

"Well sir," he says, "it ain't contagious, unless you get ahold of some of Cousin Fred's special stew!"

"What?" says I, "Is this a special stew you are talking about?"

"Well sir, you know how all the family, including aunts and uncles and cousins etcetera, get together for the big holidays. Well this year Cousin Fred invited us all to his place over on Washington Mountain. Of course, we was all surprised, because

we know how cheap Cousin Fred can be. We just didn't know how cheap until Thanksgiving dinner was all over. Within fifteen minutes after finishing eating, everyone's stomach began gurgling and rumbling. Soon there was a line up at the new four-holer Cousin Fred had built out back near the woods. That little building became more popular than a Hooters on topless night."

"What was the cause of these gastric problems?" I inquired.

"Well sir, it seems that Cousin Fred took early morning trips to Interstate 89 and cleaned up the highway from what the nighttime tractor-trailers left beside the roadway. In other words, he collected the road kill, some of which might have been more than a day or two old. Then he chopped it all up, put it in a big cauldron and cooked it for two days. Even all that cooking couldn't kill the bacteria. We all spent the rest of the day at the Emergency Room in Keene, getting our stomachs pumped out. Needless to say, none of us will be going to Cousin Fred's ever again."

"So what are you all doing for Christmas?" I asked.

"Well sir, can't speak for the others, but Velma and me are staying home, pulling the shades, having a bologna sandwich and a mason jar of shine."

Feeling a bit queasy from the story, I bid good-bye and beat a hasty retreat toward home.

The WALPOLE Clarion

published monthly for the Walpole community.

Ray Boas, Publisher
PO Box 757
Walpole, NH 03608
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Submissions about community events and achievements are encouraged for both the calendar and features.

Submit ads, articles & photographs to:
rayboas@comcast.net

January issue deadline: December 20

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
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— Leah Kristin



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June 14, 2019

To Jessica & Jake Whiton
Grandparents:
Cristine & Stephen Whiton
of Walpole
Teresa Pennington
of Norwalk, CT

Passed

Scott D. Podwin
March 22, 1962 - October 16, 2019

Carol (King) Longley
January 28, 1923 - November 9, 2019

Carol I. Failla
August 10, 1936 - November 9, 2019

Adam M. Muchmore
August 8, 1984 - November 13, 2019

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

As I said last year, "Where did this year go?" And it seems as if November just started. I have a theory - as you get older, a year is less of a percentage of your life; thus it goes faster." This year went faster for me than last year. But in between **Clarion** deadlines, I was able to fit in some long and short adventures, including crossing the country two and one half times. Lots of fun and learning.

With everyone's input, your December **Clarion** came together nicely, with a number of feel good stories (FIRE and EMS and USPS), and a couple of sad ones (Sam's and the Legion's announcements). Our student writers have been busy, and to keep you busy, many holiday events are coming from which to choose. And do not forget to attend Walpole's Community Tradition - the 45th Live Nativity on the Common on Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

— Ray Boas, Publisher

The Walpole Clarion ON-LINE

Would you like to read or share your **Clarion** on-line? Would you like to receive **Clarion** reminders of closing dates or events? Then, head to <https://thewalpoleclarion.com> and scroll down on the right to "Follow this Blog" and sign up.



FROM THE CLARION...

A sampling of what we've reported after more than 7 years of publication:

One Year Ago (December, 2018) - The Walpole Seniors celebrated their 45th Anniversary November 19.

Three Years Ago (December, 2016) - More than 40 well-wishers gathered at Town Hall November 17 as Charmian Trundle was presented with the Boston Cane, honoring her as the oldest resident of Walpole.

Five Years Ago (December, 2014) - End of an Era: Murray's Closes. The Walpole family restaurant with the shamrock on its wooden sign will serve its last lunch at the end of December. Originally dubbed 'The Gathering Place' when it first opened its doors in 1980, Murray's became Murray's two years later and has been a Walpole fixture ever since.

Seven Years Ago (December, 2012) - Apartment Project Site Plan Approved. At a hearing held on November 13, the Walpole Planning Board approved a controversial site plan review changing a previously-approved senior condominium project with 48 2-bedroom units into a 67-unit apartment complex composed of mainly single-bedroom units.

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