



Walpole Conserves: Family Land Protected



PHOTO PROVIDED

Charlestown Withdrawal Update

On November 22, the State Board of Education (BOE) referred the Withdrawal Committee's report back to the committee for more information. The Committee expected this action to be taken by the BOE.

On December 4, the Withdrawal Committee met for more than five hours to add more information to the majority report. The changes that were made were

passed 10 – 0. An amended minority report was also resubmitted to the BOE without the full Committee being given the opportunity to review or comment.

At the BOE meeting on December 12, the BOE once again asked for additional information. The committee has been told if the information the BOE requested can be available for the January 9 meeting, there will still be time for a warrant article to appear on the March ballot should the BOE approve the withdrawal plan.

– Steve Dalessio

Donald "Chip" Wood made a promise to his father that he would never sell their family land to a developer. He kept that promise late last month when he finalized his voluntarily agreement to conserve 28 acres of Wood Farm in partnership with the Monadnock Conservancy.

"To my family, it's a very good feeling to know it's still going to be farmland," Wood said. For Wood, the most important part of this conservation is that the Walpole, New Hampshire, land is kept in the family and his sons will be able to inherit the property. "Conserving ensures that my two sons can continue to farm. They'll take it over and manage it," Wood said. "They're slowly getting more involved now, and they're recognizing the value of it."

The land was purchased by Wood's grandfather in the early 1900s from the Boston and Maine railroad, and the family grew hay and corn to support their dairy operation. Wood purchased the land from his grandfather in 1976. He spent some time farming it himself while also working as a helicopter pilot. Currently, the land is leased to Putnam Farm, a large dairy farm in Charlestown, N.H.

The land features prime agricultural soils and is highly scenic. Conserving this land also enhances the Conservancy's nearby eight-acre Lund conservation easement, which was completed in 2016.

The property has about 3,000 feet along the Cold River in North Walpole and is located on top of a critical drinking water resource. Anglers, paddlers, and others wishing to respectfully enjoy the water will continue to have pedestrian access to the river.

Continued on Page 3

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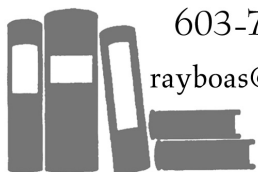
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New Grant Program

Conservation Opportunity Fund

The Cheshire County Conservation District has announced a new grant program to provide small grants up to \$1,500 for wildlife habitat improvement projects. The Conservation Opportunity Fund's mission is to provide funding for owners of small tracts of land who are interested in improving the wildlife habitat on their property. This program is a new, annual opportunity to support environmental stewardship and the ecological integrity of Cheshire County, NH.

There is \$3,000 available in the 2020 funding cycle. Awards no greater than \$1,500 will be considered. The CCCD requests proposals from landowners of small tracts of land, less than 25 acres, who seek funding to make meaningful long-term impact on wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Eligible applicants include individuals, businesses, farmers, and/or forestland owners.

Types of projects eligible to receive funding from the Conservation Opportunity Fund include: installation of native pollinator habitat; installation of rain gardens; creation/maintenance of early successional habitat; the creation of vegetated buffers on surface waters (e.g. lakes, streams, etc); and conversion of lawns and/or fields to native plant gardens. If you have a project idea that is not listed above please call the CCCD office to inquire about eligibility.

Request for Proposals and the 2020 Application forms, along with some resources related to eligible projects, can be found on the CCCD's website at www.cheshireconservation.org/conservation-opportunity-fund. Completed applications are due no later than March 1, 2020. Successful grant applicants will be notified of the award by mid-April 2020.

The Conservation Opportunity Fund is a grant program that is privately funded and administered by the Cheshire County Conservation District, located at 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole. For further information, and to discuss project proposals contact: Amanda Littleton at 756-2988 x4, or amanda@cheshireconservation.org

— Lola Bobrowski



PHOTO: THE WALPOLEAN

David Westover...

Named University System Trustee

Keene State College is pleased to announce that David Westover has been chosen to represent the College as a member of the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees. David's term began in July 2019, and he will serve through June 2023.

The University System of New Hampshire is governed by a 29-member Board of Trustees, serving as advocates for public higher education and for the University System, helping to raise the profile of each institution and the System as a whole.

David Westover is a graduate of Keene State College, class of 1972, and past president of Clark-Mortenson Insurance Agency. He is a founding partner of Walpole Creamery, owner for many years of Great Brook Farm Sugar House Maple Syrup, and adjunct professor at Keene State College. Westover served on boards for the Monadnock United Way, Keene Day Care Center, and Fall Mountain Regional School District. He also served on the Keene State College Alumni Board from 2009 to 2015, and as president of the Board in 2014. He received the Sprague W. Drenan Award from the Alumni Association in 2017 recognizing his support of alumni and College activities.

— The Walpolean

Save the Dates

Annual Budget & Warrant Public Hearing
Thursday, February 13, 5:00 PM.

Town Voting - Tuesday, March 10

Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, March 14

Pinnacleview 4-H

2019 In Review

The year 2019 has been a great one for the Pinnacleview 4-H Club. In March, we started off the year with the Quiz Bowl at the Walpole School. Then, in June, we participated in the Strolling of the Heifers parade in Brattleboro, VT. For the Strolling, we walked our heifers through downtown Brattleboro as part of the parade. The following August we showed our animals at the Cheshire Fair in Swanzey, NH. At the Cheshire Fair, our club received the Promotion of Ag award from the Commissioner of Agriculture. After the Cheshire Fair, some of our members went to the Cornish Fair to show their animals.

In September, some of the older members qualified to show at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. The Eastern States Exposition (also known as the Big E) is a large New England fair that happens every September. We went there to show for the first weekend of the fair. One of our members, Haley Christie, won the Reserved Grand Champion award at the Big E. This was her last year in 4-H. We wish her well, and will miss her as part of the group. Pinnacleview is looking forward to the next decade of 4-H and what's in store!

— Rexx Ward

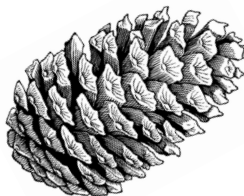
A Walking Tour

The Trees of Walpole Village

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, the Hooper Institute and Distant Hill Gardens is sponsoring a walking tour of the trees of Walpole Village led by Lynn Levine of Nature Connect. Lynn is a forester, environmental educator and noted author dedicated to connecting all people with nature. The tour will be an opportunity to identify the village trees in winter, learn the life cycle of shade trees and evergreens, common trees and exotics. Identifying trees by their bark and their silhouettes is an impressive skill to have! Join us. We will meet at the Town Hall at 1:00 PM, followed by hot beverages at 3:00 PM.

The cost of the tour is \$10 per person. To register, call 756-4382, or email hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net. The snow date will be January 26.

— Helen Dalbeck



Continued from Page 1, Conservation

By conserving the land, Wood reflected, "It's more or less what it was intended for and what my dad wanted. I carry on that tradition."

This project was generously supported by the State of New Hampshire's Conservation Committee "Moose Plate" grant program, the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund program, and an anonymous donor.

— Katrina Farmer

Walpole Broadband

Informational Meetings

The Walpole Broadband Committee is scheduling two informational meetings to convey the status of our progress and review the project and its parameters with our recommended vendor. The meeting content will be similar, and two meetings are being scheduled so that those who cannot make one may be able to attend the other meeting.

The first meeting will be on January 11 at 10:00 AM at the Town Hall. The second will be on February 12 at 6:30 PM, also at the Town Hall. If you are interested in the future of Walpole's internet capabilities, we hope you will be able to attend one of these meetings.

— The Broadband Committee



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2020 Annual Meeting

Calling All Horse Thieves

The "Horse Thieves" annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 18 at 6:30 PM in the Walpole Town Hall. We encourage all members (or those who want to become a Horse Thief) to join us.

This annual meeting will include normal business such as reading and approving reports, and electing new officers for 2020. Horse Thieves President Steve Dalessio keeps our business meetings focused and efficient, so you should show up early or you may miss the meeting!

WALPOLE SOCIETY

FOR BRINGING TO JUSTICE

HORSE THIEVES AND PILFERERS

ORGANIZED IN 1816. INCORPORATED 1835.

For our new residents in town, the "Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Clothes Lines and Hen Roosts" –or "Horse Thieves," was organized in 1816. At that time "Horse Thieves" societies sprang up in many places. They were needed because horses were valuable and therefore a target of thieves, because sheriff departments were less robust (or nonexistent), and because most horse thieves promptly fled town. The number of horses peaked in the early 1900s and fell rapidly after WWI as autos became more common, and most Horse Thieves societies closed as a result. Against all odds, the Walpole organization has survived these many years, and is now probably the second oldest surviving Horse Thieves society in the country.

As most of you know, 2020 is the year for the Horse Thieves' biennial banquet, which is only open to Horse Thieves and their guests. The banquet will be held in September, and is the pinnacle of social life in Walpole. It will undoubtedly eclipse all that chatter in the national press about the presidential election. So, if you'd like to bring your belle to our banquet, you should join up now.

The Walpole Horse Thieves is open to any man 18 years or older who lives in Walpole, who pays a \$2 lifetime fee and signs the membership book. If you are interested in joining contact Lewis LaClair, Clerk (LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com or 756-0001), or show up early for our annual meeting marking the start of our 204th year on Saturday, January 18 at 6:30 PM in the Walpole Town Hall.

– Lewis LaClair

Mystery Dinner

St John's Benefit

Walpole Players to Present Mystery Dinner for Benefit of St. John's Episcopal Church

The Walpole Players will present an original mystery dinner, *Murder on the Vine*, in the newly renovated hall of St. John's Episcopal Church across from the Town Hall in Walpole on February 7 and 8, with February 21 and 22 as inclement weather dates. Doors open at 6:00 PM, with appetizers starting at 6:30 PM and dinner served at 7:00 PM. Proceeds will go to the Church's fundraising campaign for roof repairs.

An entertaining cast of over a dozen actors will present a mystery set in an Italian winery over the course of an Italian-themed dinner. There will be a vegetarian option. Non alcoholic beverages will be provided, and guests are invited to bring their own wine. Guests will be invited to help in solving the mystery, and coming in 1950s attire is encouraged as part of the fun. The production has been written by Jeanie Levesque, who will direct, with help from members of the Walpole Players, and of the cast themselves.

Tickets for the dinner and entertainment are \$35, and are available through the Church. Seating is limited. For reservations and further information please call 756-2535, or email WalpolePlayers@gmail.com.

– Bill Lockwood

HCS Support Group

Coping with Unexpected Loss

Hospice at HCS will offer *Coping with Unexpected Loss*, a bereavement support group with an emphasis on understanding and coping with the effects of the traumatic loss of a loved one. The group will meet at Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) at 312 Marlboro Street in Keene, on the second Tuesday of the month – January 14, February 11, and March 10. Meetings will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 PM.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is necessary. Please call Marguerite Cheney at 352-2253 to register, or for more information.

Hospice at HCS is a comprehensive non-profit hospice program, providing end of life care to patients and support to family members. Care is offered in the home, in assisted living facilities or in nursing homes throughout southwestern New Hampshire.

– Lara Larson

Fred Marple Rescheduled

Presents *Guide to New England*

The Walpole Historical Society will present Yankee humorist Fred Marple and his *Guide to New England* "for locals and people from away" on Friday, January 10, at 7:00 pm in the Walpole Town Hall.

Fred will discuss Yankee food, including why we think baked beans and vegetables boiled with a piece of corned beef are fine cooking. He'll examine Yankee fashion, from the ever-present flannel to rummage sale ensembles.

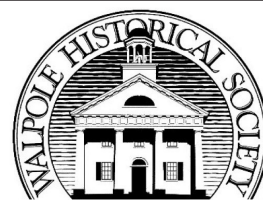
Fred will also explain life in a small town, where everyone knows your business - often before you do - and he'll describe the people who live there, from the cheapskate native to the affluent transplant.

Fred Marple has appeared on *New Hampshire Chronicle*, on radio, and in the pages of *Yankee Magazine* and *New Hampshire Magazine*. His book *Welcome to Frost Heaves* was recently published by Islandport Press. He has been called "hilarious," "a hoot," and "really smart for a guy his age." His *Yoga for Yankees* has been viewed over 6 million times online.

He is also known as author and songwriter Ken Sheldon from Peterborough.

The event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be available. (www.walpolehistory.com)

– Sally McGaffigan



presents

Fred Marple's Guide to New England



Friday, January 10, 2020

Walpole Town Hall • 7PM

free, all are welcome

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Wishing All a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!



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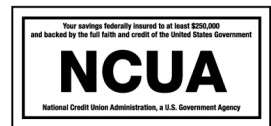
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First Congregational

In a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* by Erica Komisar, a psychotherapist, the concluding paragraph started, "Today the U.S. is a competitive, scary and stressful place that idealizes perfectionism, materialism, selfishness and virtual rather than real human connection. Religion is the best bulwark against that kind of society. Spiritual belief and practice reinforce collective kindness, empathy, gratitude and real connection."

First Congregational offers a peaceful, caring, supporting and kind experience. We welcome Rev. Eric Marean who will be with us for the next two months. Please attend; sit in a silent and reflective environment; meet with new friends who, like you, find comfort in this competitive, scary and stressful place. Church starts at 10:00 AM on Sundays. All are welcome.

– Chuck Shaw

**Keep Up
on Walpole Happenings**
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Friendly Meals

The Friendly Meals for senior citizens will hold their monthly dinner on Friday, January 24 at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole. The meal will be served at noon. On the menu will be pot roast with gravy, mashed potatoes, chef's choice vegetable, and apple crisp for dessert.

Friendly Meals are open to senior citizens (60+) from all area towns and are available on a donation basis. Reservations are essential, as seating is limited. Call Gia at 352-2253 by 10:30 AM on Wednesday, January 22.

Arrive early and have your blood pressure taken at the Nurse Is In clinic. A wellness nurse from HCS will be available from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM to check blood pressures and answer questions about general health concerns you may have.

– Lara Larson

Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will celebrate the new year with their regular monthly luncheon on January 20, 2020 at 12:00 noon at the First Congregational Church. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Come join us and enjoy a delicious meal and friendly fellowship.

– Jan Martin



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Library

Closings & Reduced Hours in January

The Library will be closed for New Years on January 1 and for Martin Luther King Jr Day/Civil Rights Day on January 20. We'll also be closing early on Friday January 3 at 3:30PM.

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 jfara@walpoletownlibrary.org, or call the library at 603-756-9806 with any questions or to request the room.

Sock Knitting Class

Saturday, January 11, will begin our four week sock knitting course at the library. This class is free and open to the

public, but with a limit of six participants. Please call the library at 603-756-9806 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 at 10am, running for an hour and a half to two hours each day. Please contact Justine with any questions or to sign up at jfara@walpoletownlibrary.org

New Book Group

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! The chosen title for the January discussion is *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. The chosen read-a-likes that will also be available are *Sometimes, I Lie* by Alice Feeney, *The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn, and *The Wife Between Us* by Greer Hendricks.

After School Movies

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.

Pencil It In

Join us in February for our second month of Saturday crafternoons from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We're still working out the crafting details, but we'll have something fun each Saturday!

— Justine Fara

Non-fiction Book Group

On Monday, January 13, the Walpole Non-Fiction Historic Book Group will discuss Part Two of Jill Lepore's *These Truths: A History of the United States*, titled *The People*. These Truths is a massive (932 pages) and beautifully written new history of the United States from Columbus to the present day. The discussion will be held at the newly-refurbished Bridge Memorial Library from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

For more information, email ronmaclachlan03608@gmail.com

— Ron MacLachlan

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Forget!**



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

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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.



Happy New Year

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.



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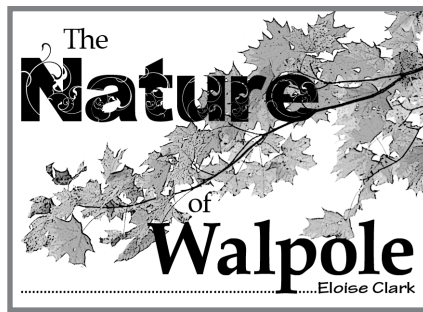
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

The sun is boomeranging back from the Tropic of Capricorn after December 21st. It appears to nose its way north with the turn in the season, bringing us ever-longer days. Most of us welcome its return and the promise of warmer days ahead. For earlier cultures waiting for the sun's return could be a source of great anxiety. Some went to great lengths to mark its return by building solar observatories.

Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in southern England is the largest and most intact stone circle in the British Isles. Work began on it about 3,000 BC. Pillars of bluestone came all the way from Wales. Did you know Walpole had a much more modern stone circle made of native granite? If you've visited Distant Hill Gardens during their open houses, you've probably marveled at this creation. The stones, plus an iron circle, mark the point when the sun sets furthest south on December 21st.

In the Americas, stone circles and other structures also calibrated this turn of the seasons. In the Big Horn Mountains of northern Wyoming, on a high plateau, is a circle of rocks and mounds. It measures about 80 feet in diameter. This sacred place has been called Medicine Wheel. In Bandelier National Monument in northern New Mexico, pueblos and kivas were built to align doorways to mark the



The Distant Hill Circle

shortest day. There is even a petroglyph of the sun inscribed high on the canyon wall to mark where the sun sets on the shortest day.

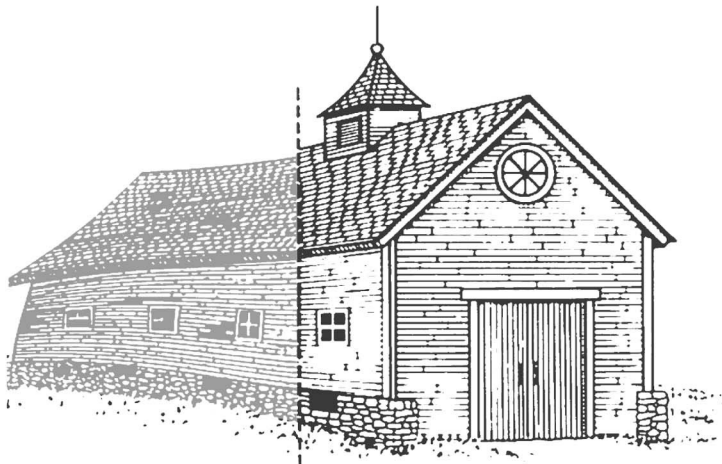
At least a thousand years ago, the large Native American city of Cahokia existed near present day St. Louis. It was sited by the Mississippi River to take advantage of trade up and down the river. Cahokia is famous today for its expansive array of mounds. Archaeologists have determined smaller ones were topped by homes and

storehouses. Huge mounds were created for ceremonies and the burial of chiefs.

Just beyond the walls of the inner city, 48 tall wooden posts, tree trunks really, were erected in a huge circle, one hundred yards across. From a post at the center of the circle, a sun watcher could observe where in the circle the sun rose and set each day. Additional posts were planted to mark the solstices and the equinoxes. The circle was used as a calendar for farming, when to plant and when to harvest. It was based on the 365 days of the solar cycle, a more exact measure than that of the moon.

Why this reason for seasons? It has to do with our axis relative to our sun. Our Earth is tipped about 23 degrees off upright or 0 degrees. Most planets manage some tilt but Uranus is very unusual with a 90-degree tilt! Winter is when the northern hemisphere is tilted away from the direct rays of the sun, making the sun appear to travel far to the south, shortening our daylight hours and allowing the cold to creep in. In summer, the northern hemisphere tilts toward the sun positioning it well overhead. The direct rays and long days really heat things up for us! We are truly the Goldilocks planet, our distance from the sun just right for so many abundant and amazing life forms. Enjoy the lengthening days of January!

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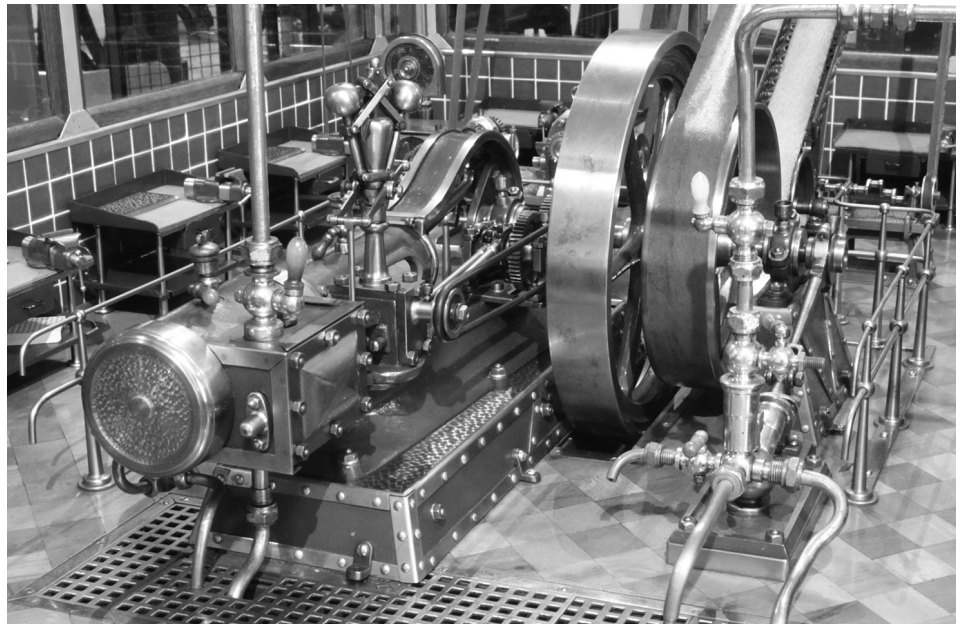
Temporary Exhibit

The American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont, has many more objects in its collection than are currently on display, including many miniatures and models. From steam engines to a logging mill to tiny bar stock and workbenches, these tiny precision wonders are fascinating.

John Aschauer's miniature machine shop, featuring over 40 machines and workbenches, is the centerpiece of the exhibit, and his steam plant is a masterpiece. Many additional works will be represented, including functional miniature tools such as a one inch tall micrometer or a 24-inch-tall duplicating lathe.

The American Precision Museum tells the many stories of how the innovative science of precision manufacturing created the world we live in today. The museum is open for special programs and by appointment until May 1. The temporary exhibit will be held in the heated portion of the museum on January 20 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and January 21 from 12:00 noon to 7:00 PM. For more information on events at the American Precision Museum, visit www.americanprecision.org.

— Alice Cable



The Aschauer steam plant. This replica of an actual steam plant was built in 1910 in a German farmhouse (in his mother's kitchen) by John Aschauer, aged 12 years. A remarkable start and just one of dozens of miniatures he completed over a lifetime.

Light Up the Holidays Contest

Here are the winners for the Light Up for the Holidays Contest: Traditional: 4 Birch St, Erian White; Kid Friendly: 768 Valley Rd., the Putnam family; Business: Pinnacleview. So many lovely homes dressed for the holidays! We had 12 entries plus the businesses. Thank you for all who entered, and thanks to our generous judges for their time and opinions: Joe Beer, Andrea Goins, and Justine Rogers.

— Robin Sanctuary

PHOTO
PROVIDED

*Traditional Winner
(See p20 for other displays)*



Winter & Spring 2020

Feb. 7 & 8
Murder on the Vine

March 14
Cabin Fever Radio Follies

June 19, 20, 21, 25, & 27
The Wind in the Willows

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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the Toleration Act of 1819

paved the way for the separation of church and town in New Hampshire?

As New England towns were established during the 18th century, it was accepted that the responsibility of a town included oversight of an established orthodox church. Towns settled a minister, and constructed a meetinghouse to serve both the secular and religious needs of the town. Residents were taxed to support both the meetinghouse and the town's minister. Government and church business were both town managed. The church in Walpole, said to have been organized in 1757, was no different.

Congregationalism was the primary accepted denomination of a town. This was typical throughout New Hampshire. But residents belonging to other smaller denominations, or not exercising religious beliefs, objected to paying taxes to support the town's minister and church. There was a growing dissatisfaction throughout the state, including in Walpole. As populations increased, members in new denominations increased, the opposition to taxes to support the town minister and meetinghouse increased. Often a warrant article would be presented at town meeting to rebate the church tax to those opposed to it.

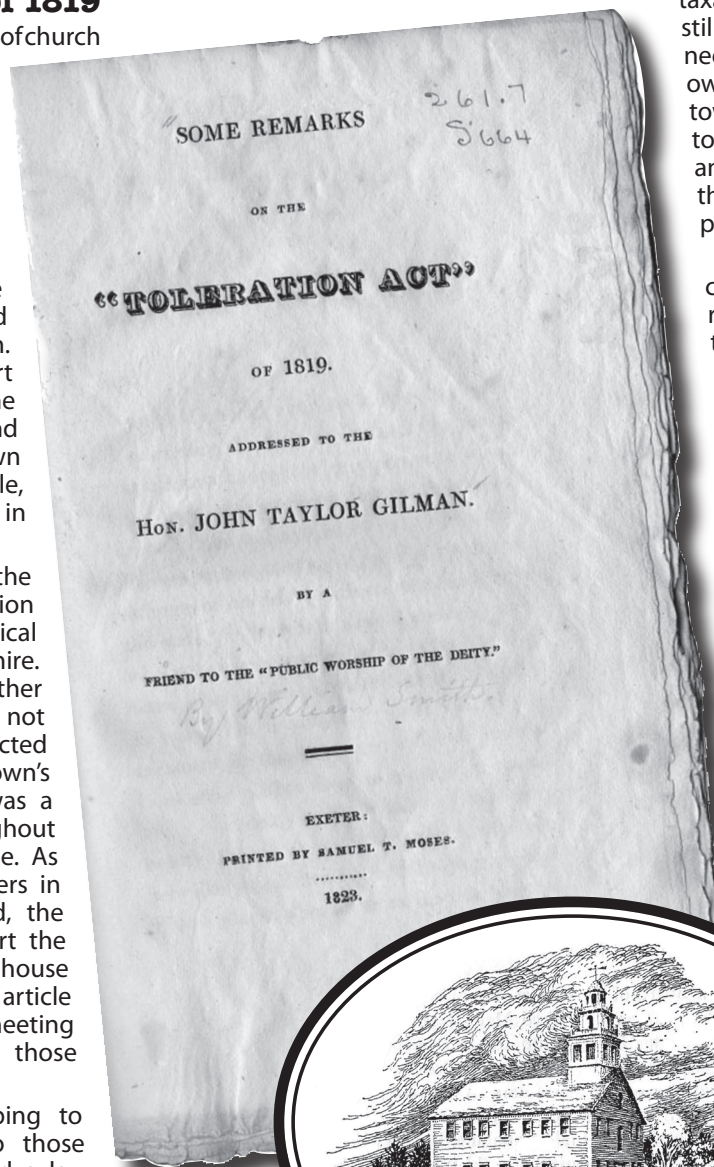
To address this issue, hoping to appease citizens opposed to those taxes, New Hampshire enacted a law in 1791. Under this "Act for Regulating Towns and the Choice of Town Officers," taxpayers were obligated to pay taxes in support of their town's designated denomination, as determined by the selectmen. As before, residents were required to pay the minister's salary, and for the construction and maintenance of a building for religious and town use. But, the Act also allowed for exemptions from the tax. Members of other religious sects could request exemption from the religious portion of the tax. A member of another denomination, contributing financially to its minister's support, could petition a town for an exemption by providing acceptable proof of his alternate affiliation. This was not always easy, or acceptable to a town, often

resulting in court battles. Those residents with no religious affiliation still had no means of relief.

In 1819, New Hampshire passed The Toleration Act, amending the 1791 Act. This new act ended mandatory religious taxation by the towns. Towns could still vote, assess, and collect money needed for repairing meetinghouses owned and used by the town for town purposes. Taxes also continued to pay for settled ministers who had an already existing contract with the town, but not for new settled pastors.

The biggest and most important change decreed that residents with religious affiliations other than the town's Congregationalism could now voluntarily withdraw from that religious association with the town by written notification. Thus, they would not be liable for further religious tax payments to the town. The Act further stated that other religious sects or denominations of Christians in the state could associate and form their own societies, admit members, establish governing rules, and raise money by taxing their own members for their ministers and buildings. The 1819 Act also stated residents were free to not belong to any religious society, and did not have to pay towards any religious group. The direct relationship between town and the Orthodox church was now severed.

Future articles will examine the development of the 18th century church in Walpole, and the impact of these acts and the resulting church divisions in the 1820s and '30s.



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Paid For By Steve Dalesio

(Publishers note: I wrote and published this in the January 2015 issue of the CLARION, and rediscovered it while pulling items for the From The Clarion column. As we begin another new year, I thought it appropriate to share these thoughts again.)

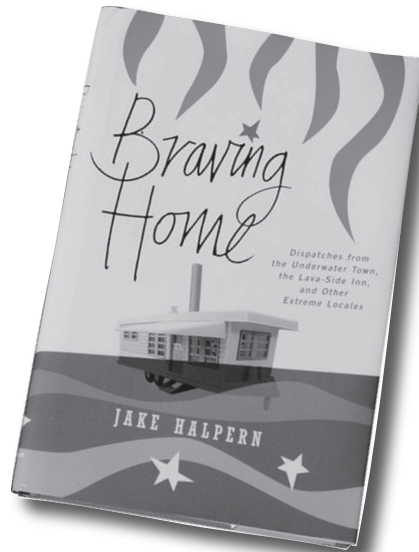
Home

I have been very fortunate in the six plus decades of my life. I have had both wonderful and tragic experiences, and have been blessed in learning many important life lessons from those events — sadly, lessons not everyone comes to grasp. Often, I find myself sharing with others (whether they want to listen or not) the life-enhancing lessons I have learned, with the hope that in some small way I may assist someone in enjoying his or her life more, just as I am enjoying mine.

A book I just finished, *Braving Home* by Jake Halpern, brought into focus feelings about “home” that I intuitively have come to appreciate, and now must share. A military career kept me from having “roots”, but when I finally serendipitously landed in Walpole, I found myself home. Walking the dogs throughout the village with Cathy, we got to know people, and people got to know us. And, after losing Cathy, I became even more involved with the community — both to fill time and in the hope of “giving back”.

Jake Halpern, as a 24-year-old “cub-reporter”, became intrigued with finding out why, in today’s mobile society, some “die-hards” were fiercely determined to remain in their homes. Many of their homes were remote and challenging, facing flooding, hurricanes, lava flows, constant fires, or extreme isolation. From 1999 to the publication of his book in 2003 (when he was 28 years old), he spent time in those perilous locations.

I highly recommend his book. But, from the book’s 240 pages, I gleaned two passages that hit home: “...our identities sometimes become irrevocably linked



to places where we live.” One of the folks Halpern came to know in Alaska stated the lower forty-eight didn’t appeal to her because she didn’t know any of those people down there. Halpern surmised that “perhaps the real drawback was that none of those people knew her.” And “home is not just a place, but a vast amalgamation of human experiences. It is an unruly mix of scenery, smells, carpentry, family, memories, ambitions, hardship, and a million other things as well.”

You Need to Know That...

Tabasco Pepper Sauce

Invented 1868

Named Tabasco by creator Edmund McIlhenny because he liked the sound of the word.

Can be used to:

- **Combat the common cold** – Mix ten to twenty drops Tabasco pepper sauce in a glass of tomato juice. Drink several of these decongestant tonics daily to help relieve congestion in the nose, sinuses, and lungs.
- **Prevent cats from scratching dark woodwork** – Rub the area with Tabasco pepper sauce and buff thoroughly. The faint smell of Tabasco pepper sauce repels cats.
- **Relieve a toothache** – Apply a dab of Tabasco pepper sauce to the gum.

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

A couple years after I moved to Walpole, Sandy Smith, our Town Clerk, asked me, “Ray, you have been here a couple years – are you staying?” “Why?” I asked. “Many people who move here cannot handle the lack of big city excitement,” she replied, “and move soon after.” When you become part of the community, it is important to contribute to it. When you walk downtown and are recognized, it is comforting. When you enjoy your surroundings and friends, there is no reason to leave. When the “amalgamation of human experiences” works, it is home. And, for me – who will be staying – Walpole will always be Home.

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Photo: Kim McCormick

Thanksgiving Feast

Walpole Elementary School Welcomes Veterans

On Tuesday, November 26th, Walpole Elementary School held a Thanksgiving feast as part of our community building activities. Earlier in the day, students from grades six through eight worked in their homerooms making stuffing, pies, mashed potatoes, and more. The fifth graders worked hard setting the tables and creating decorations to make everything look wonderful. Before cooking, Walpole students decided that they wanted to invite our town's veterans to show our gratitude for their service.

The Thanksgiving feast was great. There was lots of different kinds of food, including stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, turkey, and pie. Students who knew veterans invited them. Each veteran was presented with applause and a card made and signed by students thanking them.

After the feast, students worked hard in their homerooms making heartfelt and creative holiday cards for those serving on the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln.

– Jordan Brooks & Maggie Struthers (Grade 6)

Opinion: Christmas Trees

Fake vs. Real

OK, I don't want to offend anyone in this article, but I think I need to. If you have a fake Christmas tree, you may need to rethink your life's decisions. I will not enter your house. The only reason I would enter your house is if I was taking said tree down. Let me explain why I think this about these trees.

Ever since the dawn of time (or, rather, the 16th century), Christmas trees have become a well-respected decoration for the Christmas season. But now, they are being overthrown by these junky pieces of falsehood. Maybe you're saving time and money for plastic trees, but plastic is actually (dun dun dunnn) bad for our environment! So if you buy plastic, you contribute to the waste piles. But you may feel bad about cutting down a tree every year. But the Christmas tree farms will cut them down anyways and replant them, so who cares?

"Real Christmas trees are better because fake ones are usually too small," said eighth grader Ben Frithsen.

But now I want to go into the process of creating these fake trees. These trees are manufactured with metal and poly vinyl chloride, or PVC. Now these things are non-biodegradable and non-recyclable, meaning they will sit in a landfill for centuries after their disposal. Real Christmas trees, however, are very easy to recycle, or can even be used as fuel for a bonfire.

Hopefully I solved all your Christmas tree problems.

– Camden Fuller (Grade 8)

Walpole students and staff welcomed community veterans to partake in a Thanksgiving feast... in a show of gratitude.

Sky Zone

8th Grade Trip

I ran for class president a long time ago. I ran because I wanted to change the 8th grade for the better. My idea was a trip to Sky Zone. Imagine how much happiness this would bring to the kids' faces as they bounced on endless amounts of trampoline.

In case you don't know, Sky Zone is a massive trampoline park with many trampolines. Some kids were really excited to go to Sky Zone.

"I'm super excited. I am so glad that Mr. Jacobs has allowed us this fun opportunity," said one eighth grader. Another added, "I am omega excited and I am going to flip when we get there."

The drive was worth it because we got an hour and a half on the trampolines. I think that that sounds like a great amount of time. Mr. Jacobs, the principal, said, "I wanted to choose an activity that the kids were really excited for." Normally the eighth grade goes to the Holyoke Mall for their annual December trip. Mr. Jacobs realized that most kids didn't think that sounded fun. He wanted to come up with a better idea, and when I proposed the idea of Sky Zone to him, he accepted.

When we got there they gave us the special socks and explained the rules, then we were let loose. There was one part of just a lot of trampolines. The trampolines went up onto the walls. In that section there were two special trampolines that you could use to play a game. There was a foam pit, a basketball zone, an obstacle course, and two dodgeball courts. Finally, there was a wipe out. There was a circular trampoline with a thing that spun around in the middle. There were two poles attached to it, one high, one low. You had to dodge the poles. About halfway through the time, some kids had a trick competition into the foam pit. It ended up in a tie between Porter Willett, Sydney Palmiotto and Ben Tetu. They all got t shirts.

On the way home, kids were still excited from the fun and the memories that their time at Sky Zone created.

– Ben Frithsen (Grade 8)

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Visit: www.cvtc-nh.org





Photo: Jade Nadeau (Grade 8)

The Walpole Elementary School Chorus sing holiday songs to ring in the season.

Holiday Concerts

Since the beginning of this school year, kids of all grades have been preparing for the winter concert. On December 3rd, Pre-K through 4th graders sang and did a wonderful job, bringing joy to the parents and each other.

On December 4th, the 5th through 8th graders had their concert. The 5th grade band did a great job performing "Hot Cross Buns" and a few other Christmas songs. The 5th grade chorus also sounded very good, a testament to how hard they practiced.

The 6th through 8th grade band played well and sounded marvelous playing mashups of Christmas songs. The middle school chorus also sang Christmas songs such as "Charlie Brown Christmas". The chorus and 6th through 8th grade band closed out the concert with a mashup of songs. The band played while the chorus sang. It was the start to a wonderful holiday season!

– Sydney Palmiotto (Grade 8)

NaNoWriMo

National Novel Writing Month

NaNoWriMo is short for National Novel Writing Month which Walpole Elementary School students participate in each November.

NaNoWriMo is one of the many things that we students look forward to. Each student sets a goal of how many words they want to get by the end of the month. These goals range from 1,000 words to as many as 10,000. The students mark their progress as they write each day, working towards accomplishing their goal. Many people are quite competitive when it comes to word count, trying to get the highest in the class.

When we are assigned to write our novels, we get to choose the genre of book we write. Some students focus on writing horror stories, like we learn about the previous month in October; while other students choose genres that interest them, from historical fiction to fantasy and everything in between.

All you have to do is start the novel and continue writing and editing through the month. Students are not required to finish their novels, but to push themselves to get as far as they can. Some students continue to work on their novels throughout the school year and beyond.

This year, several eighth graders went over 5,000 words. The person who got the most words was eighth grader Luca Leone who wrote over 18,000 words!

– Jade Nadeau & Morrigan Farnum (Grade 8)

Community Service

On Tuesday, December 17th, the middle schoolers at WES got a chance to fulfill their required community service hours and continue to reach out to help the community.

Students in grades six through eight went to various places for their community service. One group went to Walpole Primary School, and played, did crafts, and read with the little kids. Another group went to the Home Away from Home Daycare down the road to make Christmas ornaments and enjoy the snow outside with the little kids.

As part of the Walpole Elementary School Community Service Program, sixth graders are required to complete 8 hours, 7th graders are required to complete 10 hours, and 8th graders are required to complete 12 hours of community service.

"Oh goodness, it was amazing!" said Emmaline Cook, a seventh grader at WES, who went to Home Away from Home for her community service.

Eighth grader Ian Gould said: "It was pretty fun. We helped a kid make a wreath and an ornament. He was pretty cute." There you have it. Cute kids and community service. It doesn't get much better than that this holiday season.

– Etta Bea Harrison
(Grade 8)



7th graders (from left) Ledger Willett and Francis Aldrich guide kids during a craft-making project at Home Away from Home.

Photos: Jake Gagnon

WES 7th graders (from left) Emmaline Cook, Cora Buswell, and Trenten Hill help create Christmas ornaments at Home Away from Home.



In Bethlehem Inn

On Saturday, December 14, the Walpole Players held their annual holiday fundraiser in the lower part of the Walpole Town Hall. This year's production, *In Bethlehem Inn* by John Carter, was first directed in Walpole over 30 years ago by Helen (Chickie) Miller. The evening was a great success, raising \$1200 to be shared between Our Place Drop-In Center in Bellows Falls, VT, and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf in Langdon, NH. This comedic telling of the Christmas Story was co-directed by Becky Pearson and Jenny Plante. Upon arrival, all of the audience members were lucky to become guests of the Bethlehem Inn, where Jim Baucom, Karen Soohoo, Fran Kemp, Jeff Miller, Dave Westover, and Jan Kobeski kept the crowd laughing throughout the show.

The Walpole Players

A yummy three-course dinner was served throughout the play, with many compliments overheard about the delicious cheese donated from the Grafton Cheese Co, baguettes donated from Burdick's Grocery, homemade soup made by the cast, and baklava donated by Diamond Pizza. This special show ended with the audience outside in front of a small live nativity where everyone sang 'Silent Night' together.

Other cast members were Matthew Hunter, Kathleen Dole, Ben Robison, Melissa Whittaker, Adam Terell, Kaia Powers, Becca Robison, and Lily Vickers. Supporting the cast was an amazing group of servers - Maggie Struthers, Emma Soohoo, Hayden Anastasio, Grace Conety, Ethan Rilling, Bella Smith, Amelia Sethi, Maddy Rilling, Savannah Halperin and Deb Robarge. Helping out in the kitchen cleaning dishes for over 100 people were the amazing and diligent Kathy Reilly and Jean Kobeski.

We are grateful for all of the generous donations received from other groups such as KSC Chartwells Dining Services, Lisai's Grocers, Panera Bread, Shaw's, Hannaford's, Mr.G's/DFW, Home Away From Home, LLC, and the Walpole Congregational Church. We are also grateful for Nate Kelly Lawncare for the use of the trailer for the crèche and Larry Sayers woodworking class for the beautiful sign they created for the entrance into the show. What a wonderful world we live in to be able to all come together and enjoy some holiday food, stories, music and laughter to benefit our beautiful community!

– Jenny Plante



Ice and snow have made their presence felt at the Recycling Center, as we find ourselves immersed in the wonderful winter months ahead. Please use caution when entering/exiting your vehicle, and be alert for slippery conditions. Always drive with caution at the Recycling Center, and please avoid backing up when finished throwing your yellow Walpole bags into the compactor.

Running an effective recycling program is a community effort, and Walpole residents have been doing their due diligence in properly sorting their recyclable commodities. When your recyclables arrive rinsed out, cap free, and properly sorted, it helps our staff and volunteers promote environmental and financial value for the town of Walpole. When old milk jugs caked with something close to cheese enter our bins, they are much less likely to find their way into the proper recycling stream, as we must live with the rather odorous #2 (Natural) plastic jugs until a full bale is compressed (several weeks/13 full cages = 1 bale). Please do not crush your aluminum cans. There is no redemption value for crushed cans. We are now recycling #1 (Pete) lettuce containers.

PHOTO: JENNY PLANTE



In Bethlehem Inn cast and volunteers gather beneath the inn's No Vacancy sign.

Rockstar recyclers drop off cap free redeemable glass in six packs, making our job easier and more efficient. Reducing the number of disposable water bottles that are consumed and dumped in our bins should also be a priority in order to qualify as a rockstar recycler. Reduction of waste is on the forefront of the recycling movement today. Reduce/Reuse/Recycle! Keep tabs on your plastic waste for a week, and try to decrease your consumption the following week.

There are transfer stations within Cheshire County that are not able to recycle plastic. We have the proper equipment, infrastructure, and, luckily environmentally conscious townspeople, allowing us to recycle over 99% of the plastics that reach our bins. I would like to encourage local members of communities not recycling to participate in our recycling program, and keep plastic out of landfills in upstate New Hampshire. Slight changes in corrugated cardboard (OCC) recycling have been implemented to improve the value of our shipped commodity. Nothing but corrugated cardboard is to be baled in the giant blue baler effective immediately. Thank you!!

Keep recycling Walpole!

– Ben Hoy, Walpole Recycling Director

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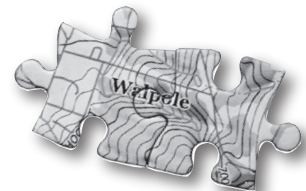
Gleanings

from the Town Minutes

Select Board - December 5 - Broadband Update and Bond Engagement Letter -- The board recommended Consolidated Communications as the preferred vendor. Their proposal is the only one that included the construction and operation of broadband solution (fiber) and included a means of funding the total project. It involves the town obtaining a 20 year bond from the NH Bond Bank, and Consolidated paying the town for use of the town owned portion of a broadband network. The board voted to sign the Engagement Letter with Devine Millimet, Attorneys At Law, for the Proposed Issuance of General Obligation Bonds by the Town of Walpole; and that the Broadband Committee begin to negotiate a Walpole specific contract with Consolidated Communications, Inc. which will allow the board to approach the Town for Bonding for Broadband services. Ms. Mayberry has learned this bond counsel is the best there is. Mrs. Pschirrer reported that Attorney Hockensmith reviewed this proposal of the Broadband Committee. The proposed subscriber fee will be \$9.00.

Staff Meeting Minutes - November 21 - Recycling Center - Mr. Ben Hoy distributed copies of drawings for the new proposed Reuse Center. They are proposing to build the new Reuse Center to the right of the entrance where the garage door is. Mr. Bill Hatt advised it will cost about \$50,000 to put the new addition on that side. There would be complications with the existing angled roof. If it were built away from the building, it would be cheaper to build a four-sided building on a slab. A separate building would be about \$30,000. There are the options. Mr. Dalessio said they could build far enough away so there could be a breezeway between this building and the Recycling Center.

Zoning Board - December 18 - Boggy Meadow Farms, 13 Boggy Meadow Lane, rural/ag district, wants to put a mobile home in the barnyard area of the farm. They are hoping to start milking cows again (he has 250 new heifers), and the mobile home is for two employees to be near the cows 24 hours a day. Postponed until January meeting.



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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

New Year's Celebration!

At my age, the wild New Year's Eve parties of yore are no more! So you can maybe understand that, at 2:30 am on New Year's Day, I was confused when awoken by my telephone's loud ringing. I stumbled out of bed, caught my toe on the corner bed post, grabbed the phone with an outburst of profanity, only to hear; "Help, you need to come to the police station and bail me out!" The voice sounded like my friend Elwud. "Is that you, Elwud?" I asked. "Yes, Chief Murphy threw me in a cell. Come and get me out. I'll explain when you get here!" "I'm on my way." By the time I reached the station, I was laughing out loud, just trying to imagine what Elwud had done to get himself arrested. Bail was paid and I got him loaded into the pickup and headed home. "So what happened?" I asked.

"Well sir, me and Velma was planning on sitting around and having a quiet evening, when my cousin, Daryll and my other cousin, Fred showed up and wanted to go to the local waterin' hole. Velma was agin' it, but finally said go ahead; she had a headache and would stay home. Well we headed down to Stoney's Bait and Pool Parlor, where we met up with some rivals from across the river, and we got to matchin' drink for drink. You know, a beer and a shot, a shot and a beer. Then it became two shots

and a beer. Well pretty soon, Cousin Fred either fell asleep or passed out. So Daryll and I threw him in the back of the pickup and headed home.

"Now we all live a short distance from each other, so that should have been an easy exercise, which it would have been except for the amount of alcohol we had consumed. Well sir, we got Fred up to his front door, and the Mrs. opened the door and he fell in. But instead of inviting us in, she slammed the door. So then I drove around the corner and dropped Daryll off and didn't even bother to stop. From there, I made it home around 1:30 am, quietly snuck into the house, got undressed, crept up the stairs and crawled into bed. That's when I heard a strange voice say, 'You're DRUNK!' So I said, what makes you think I'm drunk? To which she replied, 'because you are in the wrong house'.

"Well sir, at that point I recognized the voice as that of the Widder Millicent. I jumped out of that bed and went racing out the front door and headed across the street to my own house. Two problems occurred; one was in my haste I forgot to grab my clothes, and the other was that Chief Murphy chose that moment to cruise our neighborhood. He arrested me and charged me with indecent exposure."

"Well, I hope you have learned a valuable lesson from this evening," I said.

"Sure did. Next time, try and find a friendlier house to crawl into!"

I noticed the look that Velma gave Elwud at that moment and doubted that there would be a recurrence of this event next year!

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:
rayboas@comcast.net

February issue deadline: January 22

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

Walpole Business Notes

Eos Study Tours

Eos Study Tours has been awarded "Best Outbound Educational Travel Specialists 2020 - North East USA" in the 4th Annual Travel & Tourism Awards, hosted by LUX Life Magazine. For over 35 years, the Eos Study Tours team has been planning and managing international group adventures led by faculty and curators, as well as local guides and trip managers. Eos designs and manages unique, customized trips, and also supports organizations with long-term planning and management of their entire travel programs. Eos has created four non-profit travel programs, and has been contracted to direct more than ten organizations' complete travel programs. Since 1993, Eos Study Tours has been based in lovely Walpole, NH. For information, call 800-856-8951/603-756-4004, email eos@studytours.org, or visit www.studytours.org

— R. Todd Nielsen

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

Filing Period for Town Office Elections

Will begin January 22
and end at 5 PM Friday, January 31.

The Town Clerk's office will be open 3-5 PM, January 31
per State Law.

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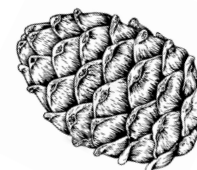
Norman F. LaCoille

June 23, 1942 - December 1, 2019

Reader Commentary

Thank you to the Walpole Players for a magical evening last Saturday at the *In Bethlehem Inn* performance! The Town Hall was packed, and the players and the "guests" all enjoyed a delicious supper of homemade soups, bread and cheese, fruit, and baklava together, all while hearing the story of Jesus' birth in a humble stable in Bethlehem. There were lots of laughs and tears -- kudos to the actors and to the directors! We witnessed Becky pacing around the hall, mouthing all the actors' lines, while a host of young players led by Jenny made sure that food was placed on all the tables. The surprise at the end, when we all left the hall to witness Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger, was truly wonderful. Thank you again for your gift to Walpole.

— Ellie Shaw



FROM THE CLARION...

A sampling of what we've reported after more than 8 years of publication:

One Year Ago (January, 2019) - Rep. Lucy Weber has just been named Speaker Pro Tem(pore) of the NH House of Representatives. ... After 13 years of dedicated service at the Walpole Recycling and Transfer Center, Manager Paul Colburn retired on December 29.

Three Years Ago (January, 2017) - Retiring from the NH House of Representatives, Tara Sad has taken a new position as Agricultural Policy Advisor with the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference. In this position, she is dealing with issues relating to agriculture in the region, which includes the 11 northeastern states from Maryland to Maine, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and five Canadian Provinces.

Five Years Ago (January, 2015) - The Walpole Town Library announced the launch of its Email News Alerts service to provide up-to-date library events, kids programs, book clubs, holiday hours, weather closures and more. Contact Julie Rios - jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org.

Seven Years Ago (January, 2013) - Twenty-two Walpole residents have filed suit in Cheshire County Superior Court to challenge the Walpole Planning Board's approval last month of a 33,000-square-foot, two-story, 67-unit apartment complex behind Tractor Supply Co. on Route 12, aimed at people age 55 and over. The group alleges that the Board acted improperly in approving the project proposed by the Avanru Development Group

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Happy New Year — Some of you know I write a travel blog documenting my adventures. I write for myself to remember, but also to share with others who then may explore those same experiences. I find the same pleasure in memory and reflection when I review past issues each month to bring you *From the Clarion* snippets. Each issue of the **Clarion** has documented all that is available to our community of a currently estimated 4,000 people. It is truly amazing all that is going on in town. On our pages you find events that have been enjoyed, folks contributing to the community, and neighbors helping neighbors. And that is before we look outside our borders.

If you have the time, you too may enjoy reflecting back by reading **Clarion** past issues on our website. In doing so you may find something you wish to do again, an organization to join, a town board to contribute to. Opportunities for pleasure, education, entertainment, and adventure abound. Combined, it all contributes to making Walpole our home. You just have to look, and be open. Enjoy the new year and all that is offered.

— Ray Boas, Publisher

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**Walpole
Clarion**
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EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

“With SBW’s help, our restaurant is full of local flavor.”

Best bank for a community business? Ask a *local*.

From locally sourced meats, cheese, bread and milk, to the lumber and tradespeople used to build the restaurant itself, The Hungry Diner represents owners Chris and Caitlin Caserta’s commitment to sustainability and supporting our community.

As a truly local bank, Savings Bank of Walpole embraces a similar ethos when it comes to our customers and community; that’s one reason Chris and Caitlin chose us as their business bank.

Ready for state-of-the-art business banking that comes with a side of community focus? Come see us, call 352-1822 or learn more at walpolebank.com.



The savings bank of *you*.



Member
FDIC



Chris and Caitlin Caserta
Owners | The Hungry Diner
SBW customers since 2004

Kid-Friendly prize winner



Business prize winner



PHOTOS PROVIDED



A sampling of
contestants in this
year’s Light Up the
Holidays Contest.
See page 9 for more.