

## Decision Time: Don't Sit This One Out

### From the Selectboard Chair

6:10 AM, September 30, 2020: Walpole went dark. Not a blink or a hint, just dark. The wind was blowing steadily and hard; it caught my door as I opened it to get the morning copy of the WSJ. The rain was coming down in proverbial buckets. My cell phone was in my pocket, so the handy flashlight guided me to my emergency lanterns. I expected the lights to come on any minute – they always do – but not this day. An oak tree came down on Main Street, near the Walpole Elementary School. At 2:00 PM, on came my lights, and by 4:00 the internet slowly returned. But by that time the sun was bright, the breeze softer and many of us were on our way to say farewell to Gary Levesque, our smiling UPS driver for thirty years!

Since I wrote last month the Selectboard has continued to deal with concern about political signs, political writing on roads, defacing stop signs and political signs. Everyone has the right to post as many political signs in his or her own private property as they want. Removing signs from private property can only be done with the permission of the owner of the property. Political signs may not be posted in the interstate or on or off ramps. They may appear on state roads unless they are deemed to create a hazard or get in the way of mowing or road work. The DOT and our local highway

Continued on Page 2



PHOTO: JAN KOBESEKI

*Another bumper crop at the  
bottom of Prospect Hill*

### Why Turkey?

In November 1621, the Pilgrims held a celebratory three day feast after their first corn harvest was successful. Popular myths have perpetuated about their days of thanksgiving. Pilgrim chronicler, Edward Winslow (1595-1655), wrote "our governor sent four men on fowling..." and in one day killed "much fowl." There is no evidence those were turkeys.

Continued on Page 6

**Vote**  
**November 3**  
**7AM to 7PM**  
Walpole Town Hall  
St. Peter's Church  
**BE COUNTED**



### Wear Your Mask – Socially Distance – Wash Your Hands

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and is out of respect and concern for your neighbor,  
and also to save your life





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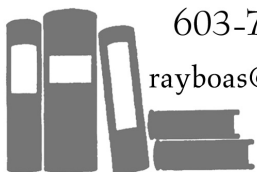
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Continued from Page 1, Selectboard

crew have removed political statements sprayed on town and state roads; they have also removed some signs. Our local crew has also tried to stay up with the defacement of stop signs. Nothing should be posted on utility poles – even the “I have lost my dog or cat” signs are considered illegal.

Litter is also alive and too well in Walpole. Put a litter bag in your truck or car for those beer cans or Sunny D bottles or those empty cigarette packs: stop using our roads as disposal bins. Local citizens shouldn't have to clean up after everyone who treats the streets as their personal dump. The Selectboard is grateful to each one of you who takes the time and makes the effort to keep Walpole streets clean.

Steve Dalessio, along with Mark Houghton, John Peska, Mike Rau and others have been working this month with the engineering firm of Fuss and O'Neil to correct the problems associated with the bridge over Houghton Brook (identified as a red listed bridge for several years), as well as the Reservoir Dam which has also been identified as a significant risk dam unless specific repairs are made. None of the issues are new and have been the subject of years of discussion, evaluation and planning for repairs. One of the frustrations of the work is, quite frankly, that the professional with whom we work at DES changes nearly every year. Each time we are assigned a new contact the requirements change and the price tag for repair goes up. Yes, I am expressing a bit of frustration with the time and cost and the frequent delays we experience. Patience can be exhausting.

The Selectboard is working to resolve the inequities of bond charges for our sewer bills. Our waste, as you all know, goes across the river to Bellows Falls to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is old and is being brought up to current standards for treatment plants. We share in the cost of those upgrades by paying a share of the bonds. We are aware that the costs of those bonds should be applied equally to every house or apartment who uses a sewer line. We are in the process of changing our billing to reflect that fairness in 2021.

On October 14, we were involved in a public meeting on Zoom to discuss the clean-up process for the Brownfield Project. Steve Rickerich of Ransom Consulting was speaking when we were “bombed” by disrupters posting pornographic pictures, shouting and other loud noises. We shut the site down and started over again with only limited

access. I have been reading about this “bombing” in New Haven, CT, in Keene, but it was a first for us, and disconcerting to say the least. How do they get in, you ask? Public meetings are required so access is available on the town website and public notices in places such as the Keene Sentinel tell everyone how to access meetings. We completed our meeting without further incident.



Consolidated Communication crews are rapidly stringing fiber optic cables all over Walpole roads and in some already beginning a process of splicing the cable in boxes hanging on poles so that, once we people begin to subscribe, the individual lines can be connected to individual houses. It is exciting to think, by this time next year, many of us will have significantly better internet service. Dennis Marcom is our local project chair who regularly posts updates on the Walpole Town website. Keep checking the website for marketing material which will be posted soon. And while you are driving around, pay close attention to these work crews, their flaggers and the police. SLOW DOWN. We see too many drivers on cell phones and not noticing workmen on or near the road.

We urge you all to keep healthy by limiting your travel, safe distancing, wearing masks. Cheshire County Covid-19 count is increasing, and Walpole is back on the map. My doctor daughter tells me Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon is ordering new restrictions: she may not travel out of the State without quarantining when she returns. No more mountain biking in the Northeast Kingdom.

Remember to have a flu shot – even if you feel it is not necessary. This year it is. Take a walk, wave at your neighbors, visit the library, call your family members who lives away, make some soup! Vote! We will survive.

– Peggy Pschirrer



*Gracie telling it like it is...or was...  
or perhaps she heard it wrong...*

## The "Surprise Party"

During troubled election cycles, third parties have often arisen offering their candidate as the solution. This is exactly what happened in 1940 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to run for an unprecedented third term. The GOP put their hopes on political novice Wendell Wilkie. The Socialist and Prohibition parties also offered political unknowns. Then comedian George Burns offered the solution for these depression times. During their radio show in February, he announced the establishment of the "Surprise Party", with his comedic partner Gracie Allen its candidate for President. The idea caught on, bringing hope to a troubled country.

"Vote for Gracie" buttons sprouted up around the nation. Harvard students pledged their support for her campaign. In May, the "Surprise Party" held its convention with 8000 delegates in attendance. For the country, she proposed offering correspondence courses for unemployed workers, so they could fail to find jobs in three or four different depressed industries. Geographically challenged, she promised to settle the Florida-California border dispute. And, finally, she decided to run without a vice presidential nominee. She didn't want any vice in the White House. The campaign's 34 city whistle-stop train tour drew hundreds of thousands of supporters to usher Gracie into the White House. The campaign went "viral."

Finally, in a very rare serious moment, George Burns stopped what he called Gracie's "gag campaign." These are serious and troubled times he said, the country needed some laughs, but it was time to listen to the "real" candidates, and vote for the best agenda for the good of the country

— Ray Boas

## Great River Co-op

### Thanksgiving Farmers' Market

The Great River Co-op will be hosting this year's Thanksgiving Farmers' Market on the Common in Walpole to ensure safe social distancing. Join us on November 21 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

We hope you will come out and peruse the seasonal goodies available from your favorite local farms and producers, while catching up with good friends and getting ready for the Thanksgiving Feast!



We will be taking extra safety precautions as we did with this past summer's farmers' market. We ask that vendors wear masks, especially while in close proximity to customers. We will also encourage customers to wear masks and will have disposable ones available for those who need them. We will also provide hand sanitizer and make sure that booths will be socially distanced as well.

For information about becoming a vendor, contact Karen West at karenwest916@gmail.com. The cost for a space will be \$20 - please reserve by November 3.

Please share, and invite friends and neighbors to attend!

— Gretchen Markiewicz

## Non-fiction Book Group

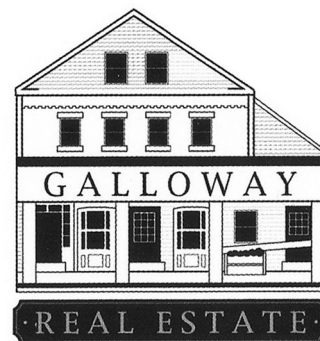
On Monday November 9, a week after the election, we will discuss *Let the People Pick The President, The Case For Abolishing The Electoral College* by Jesse Wegman. This will be a Zoom meeting, and will begin at 6:00 PM.

On Tuesday, if a popular minority vote surfaces with a majority electoral vote and neither candidate gets help from the Supreme Court, as happened in 2000 (Gore v Bush), the House of Representatives will elect the new President. It is highly likely that no definitive winner will emerge for several weeks after Election Day, but someone will be inaugurated on Wednesday January 20, 2021. There will be a push for a 28th Amendment ending the Electoral College. Join us for an extended discussion on the Presidential Election 2020. For more information, email ronmaclachlan03608@gmail.com

— Ron MacLachlan

## Notice from the Walpole Cemetery Trustees

- No Dogs Allowed
- Trees & Shrubs Prohibited
- Artificial Floral Displays Permitted only in Moveable Pots; all others will be removed.
- Pots Must be Removed by November 1



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## Veterans Day

**November 11**

This holiday will be remembered by many older Americans because it is a day honoring the men and women who served in World War I and II. In recent years it has included those who fought in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Central America and Africa. The American military forces have fought, died and continue to serve in multiple places around the world. How can we best remember them and their service this year when the coronavirus is still going strong and all Americans are urged to forego gatherings of all kinds?

A variety of people who have served in the military, families who have lost fathers, sons and daughters, and patriotic Americans who appreciate the sacrifices our military have made have found ways of showing support. For those who wish to honor our military on Veterans Day, I offer the following suggestions, knowing that any choice you might make will be greatly appreciated.

For the troops overseas, these organizations provide boxes of welcome supplies:

- **HEROBOX** Communications Center

PO Box 17458

Washington, DC 20041-0458

Note: Make checks payable to **HEROBOX**

- **For the Troops**

FTT Correspondence

PO Box 96873

Washington, DC 20090-6873

Note: Make checks payable to **For the Troops**

Moving stateside, there are a variety of choices:

- **The USO**

PO Box 96860

Washington, DC 20077-7677

Note: The USO purchases free phone calls home and kits containing movies, video games, snacks and sports equipment for their sites overseas. Make checks payable to **The USO**.

- **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

406 West 34th Street

Kansas City, MO 64111

Note: VFW helps veterans fight for their rights to ensure they receive quality medical care; full funding of VA budgets; assist veterans in getting VA benefits quickly and efficiently. Make checks payable to **Veterans of Foreign Wars**.

- **Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (CSAH)**

PO Box 96440

Washington, DC 20090-6440

Note: Provides emergency aid to severely disabled War and Terror veterans and their families. Emergency drive now to help our military families in NH and around the USA desperate for food because of the coronavirus crisis. Make checks payable to **CSAH**.

- **Operation Finally Home**

PO Box 1218

Merrifield, VA 22116-9838

Note: This non-profit organization provides custom built homes for severely wounded veterans who have special needs. So far, 250 homes in 30 states have been built Veterans are given a deed when their house is ready. Make checks payable to **Operation Finally Home**.

- **Help Heal Veterans**

36585 Penfield Lane

Winchester, CA 92596

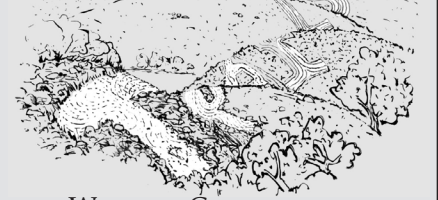
Note: Every \$10.00 covers the full cost of manufacturing, preparing and delivering one clinically-proven HHV Therapy Kit to a veteran. Doctors have confirmed HHV therapy Kits help the wounded, sick and disabled veteran develop dexterity in the fingers and overcome the challenges associated with artificial limbs. Make checks payable to **HHV**.

The seven opportunities outlined above provide a representative cross section of the choices to support our military men and women serving here and around the world. There are approximately 200,000 servicemen and women serving outside the United States today. Please consider supporting at least one organization on November 11, 2020 – Veterans Day.

– Bruce A. Martin, Colonel, US Army (Ret.)



## Conservation Chatter



WALPOLE CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

This article serves as the first of a monthly contribution from the members of the Walpole Conservation Commission (WCC). We hope these help to enlighten members of our community as to what we do and what is happening in relation to conservation in our town.

We'd like to start off by announcing the WCC is forming a Trail Committee. The Trail Committee is composed of members of the WCC, but we also highly encourage, and need, residents of Walpole to join. The meetings will be flexible, but generally will be held once a month. Our goals are: to identify trail maintenance needs, develop and distribute trail maps, strategize upgrades or extensions of existing trails and discuss the need for new trails. A few times during the season, the Trail Committee will organize trail work days to provide maintenance on the existing trails in our town. If you are interested, please email Steven Dumont (dumont.steven.p@gmail.com).

As always, we invite you to join our public Conservation Commission meetings held on the first Monday of every month, at 7:30 PM on the first floor of the town hall. In the meantime, enjoy the colorful leaves and the beautiful fall weather!

– Steve Dumont

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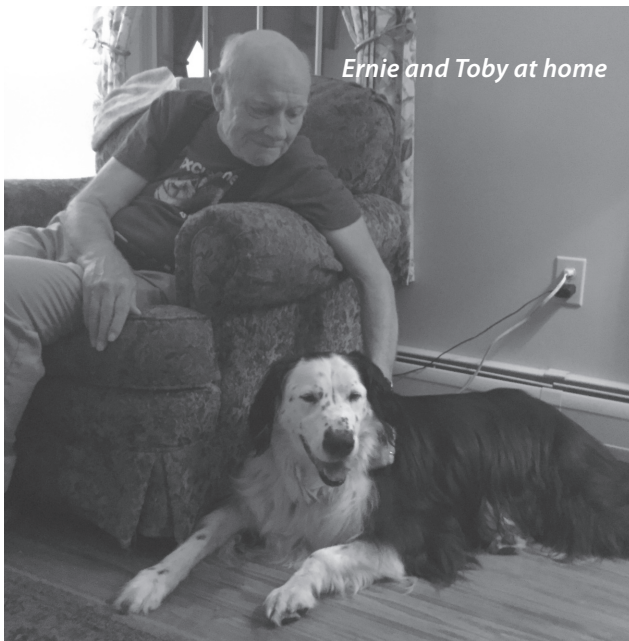
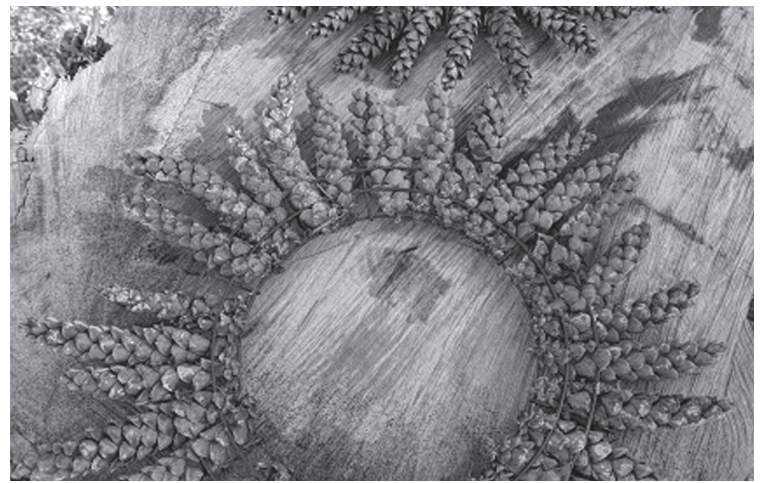


PHOTO: DIANE NICHOLS



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Sample pine cone wreath (above); evergreen wreath (below)

## New Dog in Town

Toby joined the Walpole community on September 21, 2020 when he arrived at the home of Diane and Ernie Nichols. Toby will be assisting Ernie as a service dog. He was adopted from Jackson County Friends of the Animal Shelter in Phoenix, Oregon, where he was dubbed "Mr. Happy Guy."

Diane and Ernie's daughter, Lisa, had been on the lookout for a potential service dog for her dad. A large dog, Toby was a good candidate for mobility work. When Lisa met him, she knew he was perfect for the job, because he was obviously a very stable, smart, and people-loving dog. She, Diane and Ernie have been training Toby under the guidance of Denise Mazzola of Keene.

You may see Diane and Toby going for walks on the streets of Walpole. He often enjoys carrying a stuffed animal as he walks.

— Lisa Nichols



## Hooper Institute

### Wreathmaking at the Hooper

On Friday, December 4, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM, and Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the Hooper Institute will present a workshop in Wreathmaking at 165 Prospect Hill Road.

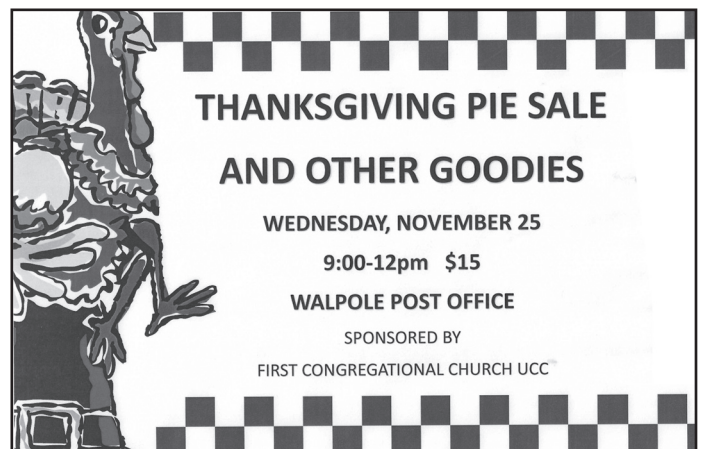
The cost is \$30 for an evergreen wreath or \$40 for a pine cone wreath

We will use all natural materials and greens to make a fragrant, long lasting, and truly beautiful seasonal wreath. The cone wreath ring is pre-assembled and will be decorated by you with materials we supply. This is a Hooper Institute original skill-based workshop. Pre-registration with payment is required.

Call 756-4382, 566-2805, or email [hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net). There will be social distanced instruction; masks are required, limited space available.

Thank you and I hope to see you in December.

— Helen Dalbeck



Continued from Page 1, Turkey

George Washington in 1789 issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation, calling for Americans to express gratitude for the successful conclusion of the War for Independence and the ratification of the US Constitution. New York was the first of many states, beginning in 1817, to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday. These days of thanks were celebrated on different days, by mostly northern states.



Newport, New Hampshire's Sarah Josepha Hale can be credited with giving us our national Thanksgiving holiday. An author, her efforts can be traced back to a passage in her 1827 novel Northwood, in which the celebration, much as we know

it today, was depicted with a roasted turkey "placed at the head of the table." Thus began Hale's campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Her years of effort concluded when Abraham Lincoln made an official proclamation for the holiday in 1863.

Besides the Northwood farm family's turkey, Charles Dickens in A Christmas Carol (1843) had the Cratchit family gathered around a turkey, anonymously sent by Scrooge. Goose was the traditional feast at the time, but a turkey, was harder to find, more expensive, thus a showing of wealth and prosperity. Dickens' popular tale helped propel turkeys into prominence.

But, still, why turkey? Turkeys are native to North America. Fossil records show they have been around for five million years. Turkeys are pretty useless and are big (as they have been bred - not originally). They just hang around a farm, ready for slaughter, with no other purpose. One bird can feed an entire family. Thus, the lives of a dozen chickens are saved and they continue to lay eggs. Cows and goats are also worth more alive for their milk and resulting milk products than on the table. Serving turkey is an end unto itself, and our tradition. Happy Turkey - Happy Thanksgiving Day.

- Ray Boas



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# Trash Talk

An educational smorgasbord  
of everything trashy  
From the Recycling Center

The grand opening of the REUSE CENTER took place Saturday, October 10, with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a full day of volunteer help, and very generous financial donations to kick off a new chapter in the history of the REUSE CENTER. The REUSE CENTER received more donations on our (RE)opening day than we used to make in an entire month at the old reuse center.

Please remember to wear a mask at the recycling/REUSE center, make all checks payable to the town of Walpole, and bring donations through the recycling center to be weighed (free of charge) by a recycling attendant. Donations that are not in mint condition, dirty, damaged, stained, chipped, or not within the acceptable donation list may be refused by the recycling center staff. Thank you to all of the volunteers, Walpole staff, Walpole selectmen, and Walpole

community for coming together and making something great happen at the Walpole recycling center with the addition of the new REUSE CENTER. The REUSE CENTER is the new home of the friends of the library book sale. Hardcover books are \$2, all other books are \$1. The friends of the library have a separate cash box from the REUSE CENTER. Donations to the REUSE CENTER are split between Fall Mtn. Foodshelf and Fall Mtn. Friendly Meals.

**Cutting the ribbon to the new Reuse Center (below); (below, right) some of the cleanup results.**



On September 27, Walpole recycling partnered with Savings Bank of Walpole, Kara and the crew from Dexpart, Sir William Corbett, and the Connecticut River Conservancy to help out with a Source to Sea Cleanup off of the rail trail on Halls Crossing Road in Walpole. We had 25+ people volunteering at the cleanup, which required a full team effort to haul 125 tires (some of them truck tires) from the bottom of a 60 ft. ditch. Kara helped with totaling the weight of refuse removed from the ditch, which came to 3,518 pounds! Some of the participants of the cleanup referred to the activity as a "tough mudder," which ended up being a pretty good time with a great group of people! Thanks for helping keep Walpole clean, and please remember to reduce, REUSE, RECYCLE!

— Ben Hoy



PHOTOS PROVIDED



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Have you noticed the sweet and spicy aroma of wild grapes this autumn?

When the winds are quiet or the air pressure is low, the distinct smell emerges. Grapevine grows along edges between habitats, the yard and forest, the stream and field. A vine is in a tricky position, as it needs sunlight to grow but is unable to support itself to rise above competing trees. However, with curly tendrils a grape vine climbs to sunlight using those very trees as its arbor.

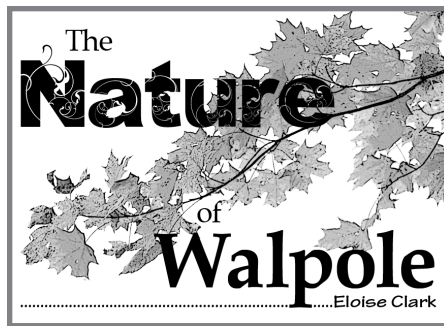
There are a number of woody vines in our area. They climb by using tendrils, the grape for example or aerial rootlets attached to some type of support. Some vines have neither; instead they twine around the tree or host plant. Yet others trail their vines along the ground. Let's look at some common ones.



*Fox Grape*

Fox grape (*Vitis labrusca*) has large grapes in fist-sized bunches. I use these to make wild grape jelly. Summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) has much smaller fruit with many more in a cluster. Grapes tend to sprawl over any shrub or tree, spreading their broad leaves to catch sunlight. Grape vines have dark reddish brown bark that peels loosely. Catbirds will pull off long strips for their nests. A mature grape vine is so thick it looks sturdy enough to climb, but don't attempt it!

Woodbine or Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is another high climbing vine. Its leaf has five leaflets (quinquefolia) that turn a brilliant scarlet red in the autumn. It tends to follow the trunks of trees skyward to the tree canopy. It also produces berries about the same size and color as the Summer



*Virginia Creeper*

Grape. Its berries are for wildlife only as they are highly poisonous to us! The arrangement of the fruit is on branching stalk and not a bunch as the grapes are.

The three-leaves of poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) turn brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow in the autumn. Its vines have aerial rootlets that secure it to the trunk of a tree. We also know its vines can spread aggressively along the ground much to a homeowner's dismay. Common Dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*) also has vines that scramble along the ground. Walking through a field with dewberry can be a trial. It tangles around ankles and really scratches. A redeeming feature of this member of the raspberry family is its tasty black fruit.

Clematis sprawls over shrubs or tall flowers. Purple clematis (*C. verticillaris*) and Virgin's Bower (*C. virginiana*) are two varieties in our area. Perhaps you grow a cultivated version of Clematis in your garden? They really become visible in autumn when the seed heads form. Their orb of white, fluffy filaments lights




*Bittersweet*

up in the slanting light of autumn. Small seeds form a tight cluster at the center of this array. The featherlike filaments are designed to help the seeds travel on the wind.

Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*) is a non-native vine that has become widespread. It's easy to identify without leaves this time of year as the mature vines produce distinctive fruit. The bright yellow-orange berries form along the vine. Eventually this covering opens to frame a half-inch red berry. Bittersweet vine has been popular for autumn décor. But please don't gather the vine as it helps spread the seeds of this invasive species.

Bittersweet has no tendrils or aerial roots to support itself on a tree or shrub. Instead it winds its way around the trunk, boa constrictor-like as it reaches for the sunlight. As the vine grows, and thickens, it eventually has the lethal effect of cutting off the circulation of the tree.

The fruit and berries of the native vines are very valuable for wildlife. I watched with fascination a pileated woodpecker feast on Virginia creeper berries. Berries of non-native plants, including bittersweet, tend to be lower in nutrients and not favorable for wildlife. But that's a story for another time.



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The 2020 CROP Walkers

## CROP Hunger Walk

### A Success Despite COVID Precautions

The Walpole CROP Hunger Walk was very successful this year! On Saturday morning, September 26, twenty-nine walkers gathered in front of the First Congregational Church UCC for a photo op before embarking on a 3.5 mile walk around the village. All of us were masked, and were able to stay a safe distance from others while walking (Walpole's a great town for that) due to the coronavirus pandemic. Others chose to walk on their own schedule during the weekend. Teams from First Congregational Church, St. John's Episcopal, and Walpole Unitarian as well as community members participated not only by walking, but also by raising money to help fund Church World Service disaster relief projects and community sustainability ventures worldwide. Although the final tally isn't in yet as of this writing, we have raised more than \$12,000 in donations. This is a record-breaking number! Our theory is that folks were so Covid weary, anxious about the upcoming presidential election, and uneasy about all the social unrest in our country that they decided to give money to something POSITIVE—and indeed a plus is that the Fall Mountain Food Shelf will receive twenty-five percent of the donations. Thank you to all who supported this year's CROP Walk. We are so grateful for your generosity.

– Ellie Shaw

## Walpole Unitarian

### For November

Sunday worship services continue on ZOOM each Sunday at 10:00 AM. The link is available on the church website (below) each Sunday morning prior to the service.

## FOOD COLLECTION for Food Shelf

We continue to collect food for the Fall Mt. Food Shelf. You may leave your offerings of non-perishable food or personal items in the crate on the porch of Hastings Memorial Parish House, 14 Union Street. Deliveries go to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf at noon the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month (November 13 & 27). Thank you for your contributions! For the Zoom link, go to [www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org](http://www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org)

– Wendy Harty

## St. John's

Following our four Sunday services held outside in September and October, we are back to Zoom services Sundays at 10:00 AM. It was nice to greet others with smiling eyes while we remained masked. Hymns did not sound quite the same with a quiet hum. (One benefit of a Zoom service is that one can sing as loud as one wishes without regard for disturbing other parishioners as everyone but the organist remain muted.)

Unfortunately, there will not be a St. John's Holiday Fair with the tempting Cookie Walk this year. We will miss the camaraderie that comes during the preparation and execution, but maybe our waistlines will benefit from a simpler holiday time. However, St. John's parishioners do hope to participate in the Walpole Christmas Giving Tree. The timeline for distribution of tags and return of unwrapped gifts is compressed this year, so stay tuned for instructions from the organizers at the Congregational Church.

These are hard times for people everywhere. Remaining in social communion with physical distancing is hard, but it is what we must do. Sharing our neighbor's burdens is ever more important. We welcome all to join in our services via Zoom. More information on Sunday service and possible weekday offerings is on our website [www.stjohnswalpole.org](http://www.stjohnswalpole.org)

– Marilyn Wilking

## 1st Congregational

### Fill the Boxes

On November 14 from 10-2, we will be holding a drive by and drop off "Fill the Boxes" event, on the Common, at the First Congregational Church for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. This is to help them supply Thanksgiving boxes for the community. Some requested items are: pie crust mix, pie filling, stuffing, cranberries, canned vegetables and fresh potatoes. Basically, non perishable Thanksgiving food. Church members will be outside to receive the donations. You don't even have to exit their cars.

–Chris Miller

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## S.T.A.G.

Gracie Allen (see page 3) was not the first comic to launch a satirical run for the White House – that honor goes to Will Rogers, who represented the Anti-Bunk Party in 1928. (He vowed his first act – if elected – would be to resign.)

There have been several wits who have taken aim at American political theater since Gracie as well. Perhaps the most notable, and certainly the most persistent, arrived courtesy of the Smothers Brothers, whose mid-60s variety show combined music and comedy with social/political commentary, sometimes controversially.



*In 1967, the brothers introduced an obscure, West Coast comedian named Pat Paulsen. He had the face of a disappointed beagle, the demeanor of a mortician, and a molasses-slow delivery that mixed sarcasm and deadpan. With each show his visibility increased, his cockamamie, nerdy persona flourished, and his popularity grew.*

In the chaotic election year of 1968, it made perfect sense to run Pat Paulsen for president. As the standard bearer of the STAG Party (Straight Talkin' American Government), Paulsen used the Smothers show as his pulpit. He described himself simply as, "Just a common, ordinary, simple savior of America's destiny," and addressed issues with a straightforward, "To get to the meat of the matter, I will come right to the point, and take note of the fact that the heart of the issue in the final analysis escapes me."

Paulsen appeared on the ballots of several primaries – including New Hampshire. His anti-establishment message had some appeal: 1992 he came in second to George H. W. Bush in the North Dakota primary, receiving nearly 11,000 votes.

Paulsen may have failed in his 1968 presidential bid but it did not deter him from trying again in '72, '80, '88, '92 and '96 – the year before his death. He left a satiric legacy that contemporary pundits and politicians would do well to heed.

– Jan Kobeski

## Walpole Business Notes

### Walpole Artisans

The Walpole Artisan's board has decided it will not hold the annual fall tour this year due to Covid-19 concerns. The shop on Main Street will be open on Sundays, starting in November. Our hours will be Tuesday thru Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 PM each day – Wayne Cotton

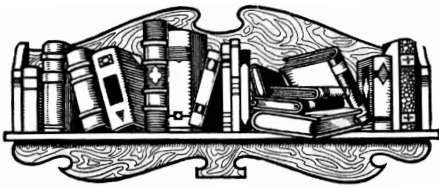
Your 100 word submission of "business notes" is welcome for possible insertion.



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## Walpole Library

### November Services:

We have many fabulous new books for you to check out! Interlibrary loan has started up again, so if there is something you would like us to request, please stop by or call the library so we can help you. Masks are required, and you will need to sanitize your hands.

Library staff continue to work on plans for reopening the North Walpole Library.

### Programs:

Outside Wiggle Time and Story Time programs with Miss Julie will continue in November, weather and daylight permitting.

The library will offer a winter reading challenge for all ages with the theme of reading across the United States. Details will be posted on the library's website and Facebook later this fall.

Our Story Walk at Distant Hill Nature Trail will continue to feature a new book each month. November's book is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.

– Jane Malmberg

# Gleanings

## from the Town Minutes

### Conservation Commission - October 10

A lengthy discussion considered the Walker Road Property, its use, and easy access to the river by the community. Chair, Alicia Flammia, stated, "...the land belongs to the people and that should be acknowledged," continuing, "...an open forum would be important. She said a date for the forum should be set this evening before the end of the meeting." The group decided on a date of January 13, 2021, for the public forum at Town Hall.

### Planning Board - October 13

Sidewalk from Walpole School to North Meadow Plaza - In two of the updated sections of the Master Plan, there is mention of the desire for a sidewalk from the Walpole School to North Meadow Plaza. With this goal in mind, the Board looked over a possible grant suggested by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). The grant that the Board looked at was called Transportation Alternatives Program from the District Department of Transportation. This is a daunting project. The final decision was to go back to SWRPC and see if there is someone there who could help the town.

### Selectboard - October 8

Notice to Dog Owners: Mr. Dalessio moved to adopt the Notice to Dog Owners, dated October 8, 2020, with the intention of bringing it to Town Meeting with a Warrant Article. This replaces the existing Dog Owners Notice.

A request was received from the Pinnacleview 4-H to be reimbursed for plantings around the Fountain in the amount of \$81.55. Mrs. Pschirrer mentioned the 4-H drops off a lot of miscellaneous items to elderly and disabled people in Town. Mr. Dalessio moved to donate \$200 to the Pinnacleview 4-H for their work doing plantings around the Fountain and Town Hall.

### Selectboard - September 17

Mrs. Pschirrer advised that the Town is not ADA compliant as there are no entrance railings on Elm Street. Mr. Dalessio suggested bringing in a rail company to look at the entrance and have them make recommendations. For Election Day, a handicapped ramp from the Westminster Street Entrance / Exit from the Town Hall will be rented.

### Walpole Staff Meeting - September 17

The Recycling Center reports a 20% increase in attendance at recycling center from last year. Walpole bag sales are up. There are many out of state plates. A new security camera system will be installed soon.



## Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.



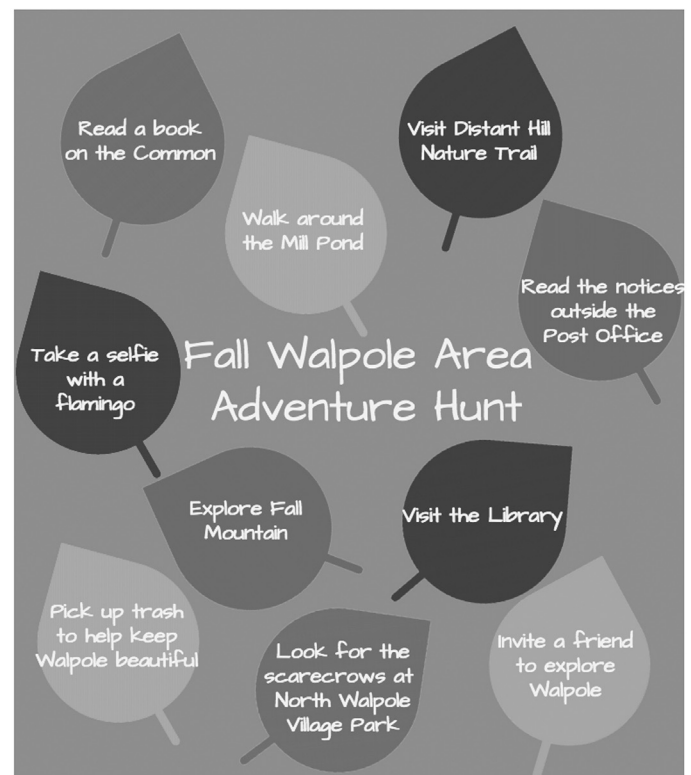
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# Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

Morning, February 19, 1920

**...at approximately 3:30AM,**

February 19, 1920, the Unitarian Church, at the corner of Main and Union Streets, collapsed under the heavy weight of the snow and rain that fell through the night? Religion in Walpole, as in most New England towns, was originally a responsibility of the Town, and supported by taxation. Both secular and religious meetings were held in the Meeting House. As differing religious beliefs developed, those differing groups objected to being taxed to support the Town religion, which was usually Congregationalism.

The New Hampshire Toleration Act of 1819 (see *Did You Know That...* in the January 2020 **Clarion**) changed that, allowing residents with religious affiliations, other than Congregationalism, to voluntarily withdraw from the Town's church by written notification. Thus, they would no longer be liable for religious tax payments to the town; and could now form their own societies, admit members, establish governing rules, and raise money by taxing their own members for their ministers and buildings. In Walpole, three separate churches evolved.

In 1842, "The Walpole Town Congregational Society," now the Unitarian Church, purchased the land between School and Main Streets bounded on the north by Union Street. A new church, with horse sheds, was built, and dedicated June 14, 1843. That year the Rev. Dr. Henry W. Bellows, a Benjamin Bellows descendant, pastor of the All Souls Church in New York City and a Walpole summer resident, gave the church a large bible. The next year, the clock from the Academy Building was placed in the church's tower. Breaking with the norm of boarding ministers or renting a house for them, the ladies of the Sewing Society, in 1848, decided to build a parsonage. Funds were raised, and the parsonage completed on Union Street in 1850. On the bluff between the parsonage and church, the Hon. T. Nelson Hastings gave the Hastings Memorial Parish House to the church in 1896, in memory of his wife, Amy Bridge Hastings.

Fire struck the church in 1901. It started from an overheated furnace in the basement. Mr. Hastings was first on the

scene, and, even though the church was filled with smoke, he ran down the aisle, retrieved the bible and got back out. The fire was contained in the basement and extinguished. Hastings's son later said, "Father said he would shoot the first man that broke the windows as that would spread the fire."

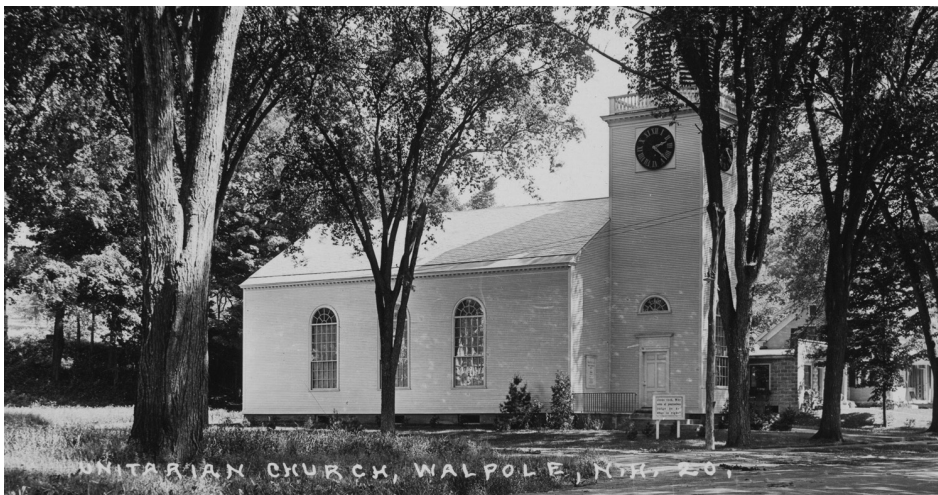
But tragedy struck nineteen years later with the church building collapsing. A neighbor on School Street later recalled, "The last thing we saw before dark was the church steeple. Upon looking out the next morning, to see how much snow



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From Page 14

*The rebuilt church*

had fallen, we could not believe our eyes. The church, steeple and building, had vanished! We thought we must be dreaming!"

Rotting timbers, broken with the unusually heavy snow fall, caused the collapse. The steeple, with its bell, crashed into the body of the church. The front wall remained standing, and that protected the organ, which was soon covered with a tarpaulin. The bible was again saved, along with the Parish Registry, but everything else was lost. The loss was reported by one Boston

newspaper as around \$100,000. The insurance policy only covered loss by fire. Immediately fundraising began.

Robert Peabody Bellows (son of Rev. Henry W. Bellows) of the Boston architecture firm of Bellows and Aldrich, drew up and donated plans for the new church. Construction was completed in 1922, with the interior designed to resemble, in part, the interior of Boston's famous King's Chapel. The new church was dedicated April 10. A replacement clock was given by the Town, becoming known as the 'Town Clock'.

## **You Need to Know That...**

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- **Clean a Shower Head** - If a shower head cannot be removed for cleaning, fill a Ziploc bag with vinegar, wrap it around the shower head, and secure in place overnight with a rubber band

*Adapted from: MAGIC BRANDS:  
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## Life As...

### A Hybrid Student

You're at school, but you're not at school. It's easy but hard.

I'm Aidan, a new sixth grader at Walpole Elementary School and new member of the Newspaper Club. I'm a hybrid student, which means that some days of the week I'm at school and some days I'm at home. When I am at home, I am attending the livestream of classes through Google Meets. The teachers are able to teach us and talk to us through our computers.

Honestly, when I'm at home, everything is much easier. I have everything in one spot when I'm learning from home. At school, it's a little harder, having to transfer things back and forth from school to home.

Either way, I think the homework is easier with technology. I like to type instead of handwrite, especially since I'm faster on a computer, which is my default on days I'm at home. So far, that is all I have to share as a Hybrid Student!

— Aidan Suozzi (Grade 6)

### ...And Full Remote

This year has been tough for every student due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the restrictions of everyday life.

Being a full remote has its positives and its negatives. Being full remote means that I attend every class virtually so I am actually at home every day. I attend classes by joining the livestream of classes on Google Classroom. On Fridays, full remote students meet with each of their teachers for one-on-one instruction or extra help.

Being full remote, I have to say, is not just fun and games. We don't just get to play video games during class.

We have homework and have to pay attention and, to be honest, that part is great! It helps keep you in line. Doing work feels great! Every day, we log on to our Google Meet and the teacher will teach the class. It's almost like normal.

— Maya Carbone (Grade 6)

## Walpole Girls Soccer

### New Coach Welcomed

We all know that this virus is making life a lot harder, but schools are trying their hardest to keep our town healthy; so far so good! So far we are tackling this virus and new remote ways! Having two days of in-person school a week is better than having no school at all. It is also great that we were able to have a sports season in Walpole.

I'm on the girls' soccer team and while it is different (for example, masks), it is so great to be back. Another difference is that we are only playing against the two other teams in our district: Charlestown and Villas in Alstead. It's going to be a lot harder than the last few years of soccer due to these changes but we have a great team, a great coach, and an awesome town. I interviewed our new coach, Libby North.

*Q: What made you want to be a soccer coach?*

Libby North: "I have played soccer my whole life, and I have been coached by a selected few people, who made a real impact in my life, and not just soccer, I am hoping to be that person for others."

*Q: How did you get into soccer?*

LN: I began playing rec league when I was very young, and loved playing. I continued to play throughout my whole life and couldn't imagine my life without soccer.

*Q: Do you enjoy being a soccer coach?*

LN: Being a soccer coach brings so much joy to my life. I love the relationships I build with players, and helping kids be better teammates and players is extremely rewarding.

*Q: Have you played soccer?*

LN: Yes! I believe being a player is an essential prerequisite for being a coach. My experience has made me a better coach, and being a coach has made me a better player. I definitely miss playing competitive soccer. I played club soccer, high school varsity soccer, and college soccer. There is nothing like the feeling of stepping on the field at the beginning of a match.

*Q: Have you coached soccer before?*

LN: Yes! I have volunteered for the Putney Rec League, where I played as a kid myself, I coached the Middle School Boys Soccer team in Brattleboro, and I was the Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer Coach at Brattleboro Union High School.

*Q: What are your plans for the team?*

LN: My number one goal is for everyone to have fun! I also hope that our team can build on our skills, practice the things we're good at, and learn something new!

— Olivia D'Alessandro (Grade 6)

## Trick-or-Treat?

### Should we... or Shouldn't We?

Should we be allowed to trick or treat, is one of the main questions on people's minds this October. This is due to the fact that we are living in a strange time during a global pandemic. Some of the fears people have about trick or treating in town are because they are afraid of kids coming up to their doors for their annual dose of candy in a time when it

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Continued from Page 16

is encouraged that we maintain social distance from one another. However, I have some reasons why trick or treating, this year in particular, is important for Walpole's kids.

I believe that kids should be allowed to trick or treat, because it would give them a break from all the chaos going on. Social media, the news, and their everyday life remind them of all that is going on and how everyone's lives have changed due to COVID-19. Trick or treating would be a welcome distraction from that.

Also, every year that kids trick or treat, they go in small groups with their friends that they have already been around and know to maintain distance, so it's not like all the kids are going to be close to each other. Also, trick or treating is outside, which makes it easier to maintain that distance, and most everyone will be masked anyway.

In short, I believe that kids should trick or treat this year. It's a time to just run around and forget about reality, and we all need that sometimes.

– Lauren Gould (Grade 7)

## Walpole Volleyball

### New Season Begins

The Volleyball team at the Walpole Elementary School is a team of ten, which includes about half returning players and half new players. The volleyball team members are in the range of fifth grade all the way to seventh grade. There are three fifth graders, six sixth graders, and one seventh grader. Most of the sixth grade members of the volleyball team are people who are returning from last year. Jacob Gagnon is the coach of the volleyball team again this year. The whole team has been excited to play again in this shortened season.

Walpole has a huge home gym advantage with the beams on our ceiling because our school was built a long time ago when they used beams to hold up the ceiling. When girls from other schools serve the ball, it is a perfect serve, but it is so high up that it hits the beams. The girls from other schools are used to having a

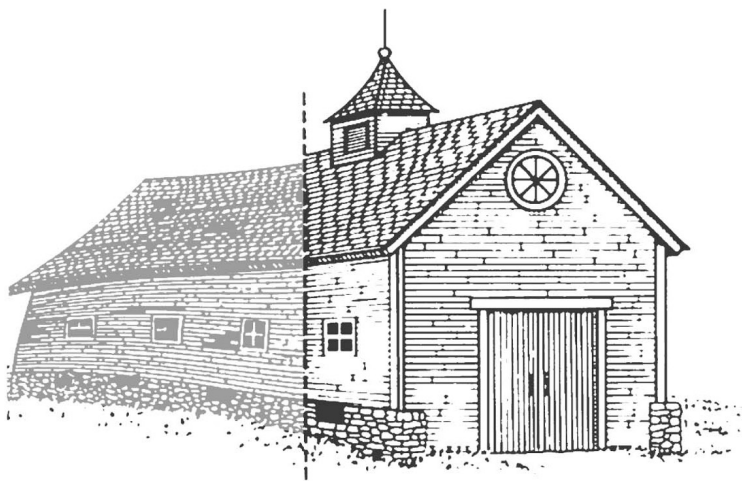
higher ceiling so their serves are higher. You are able to serve it through the beams, but the volleyball can't touch any of the beams for it to count.

The Walpole volleyball team will only be playing Charlestown and Vilas this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We all have to wear masks. There won't be any spectators (people watching) in the gymnasium, but the link for Google Meet live stream will be sent out to any of the family members of the Volleyball players.

Our first game was against Charlestown and they won, so we just played a couple more rounds for practice. Our team did great. On Thursday, October 15, the Walpole Volleyball team defeated Vilas Middle School in two straight sets. We played the remaining sets for practice, with everyone getting a lot of extra time to play. There are three games remaining in the season. The final event will be a round-robin mini tournament against Vilas and Charlestown in Charlestown.

– Amelia Blaine (Grade 6)

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# From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

## Halloween Disaster

Sitting in my pick-up truck outside the big box store, a couple of days after Halloween, waiting for Fran to finish shopping, resting my eyes. Suddenly I'm overcome with this wicked odor and a severe burning of my eyes.

I look to my left and there stands Elwud, and I realized this overwhelming stench is coming from him. "What the heck have you gotten yourself into?" I ask.

"Long story." Aren't they all, I think?

"Well sir, you know that Halloween was t'other day, and how I likes ta dress up and try to scare the little ones by jumpin' outta the bushes. Of course living at the end of the road in the cool d sack, we don't get lots of treaters or tricksters as it is. Most of them are repeaters from one year to the next, sews they knows what to 'spect! So this year I went to this real scary store and got me one of those "Walkin' dead" outfits. It was real scary. I tried it on and when I looked in the mirrow I even screamed. Well sir, Velma came a'runnin' and didn't know it was me and wacked me a good one with the cast iron fryin' pan.

Anyway, after a couple of days I was able to move around under my own power, so I dressed up and went out into my favorite spot to hide in the hedges and waited for the first visitors.

Well this pandemonium stuff has sure got people staying home and lots of 'em are doin' a trunk or treat thing. Not sure what that is but guessing that if'n ya

## Reader Commentary

### To the Town of Walpole –

September 30th is a day that I will never forget. The week leading up to my last day delivering to your town was very emotional for me. I tried to keep my emotions under control, but I could not. After delivering in Walpole for all those years, the people I met became part of my life. The way you ended my day at Burdicks was very special to me and my wife. To see all of you there when I turned the corner was unbelievable. Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and signs. I will never forget you all and how you made my last day so special.

Best wishes

– Gary Levesque

don't give the driver a treat, he stuffs ya into his trunk.

Well sir, I gits myself all situated in the bushes an' I hears this russelin' and I figure I got me my first victum. It appears to be a little one dressed like a cat. Well 'bout that time my masks slips and impairs my vision. That's 'cause I have to wear the covid mask under my costume mask. Anyway I jump out and screech and am hit with a barage of wet stinky spray. Turns out that little kid is actually the local polecat.

Velma went to several stores and bought up all the tomato juice they had, 'cause she heard that that would kill the smell. I have been sitting in it for two full days and I think it is helping."

"Elwud", I says, "It ain't helping a darn bit and I would appreciate it if you would go to the other side of the parking lot. No offense meant but you stink to the high heavens!"

He slowly turned and walked away. As he did the wind picked up and blew from the direction he was headed. Fran returned and had to drive home. My vision is still blurry.

Have a safe and odorless November and enjoy your Thanksgiving Dinner, remotely!

## 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

December issue deadline: November 20

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

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## FROM THE CLARION...

**A sampling of what we've reported after more than 9 years of publication:**

**One Year Ago (November, 2019)** - Work was recently completed on an information kiosk on the Route 12 Walker Road Property at the head of the trail leading to the Connecticut River.

**Three Years Ago (November, 2017)** - Walpole Zoning Board of Appeals approved a new sign in the village. But it is good news! Walpole's Jake's Market is switching from vending Sunoco to Irving gas. Gone will be the large yellow sign with a red arrow piecing it that measures 6 by 13 feet. And, gone will be three signs on the pole adding up to 102 square feet of signage. The new sign is 32 square feet..

**Five Years Ago (November, 2015)** - After a seven year run, and \$24,197 in cash donations raised for area food shelves, only 25 percent of the cast of forty needed to stage *A Christmas Carol*, produced and directed by Ray Boas and Tara Sad, auditioned. A fund-raiser instead was developed to continuing raising funds. Donors were then eligible to win a local shopping spree..

**Seven Years Ago (November, 2013)** - Haunted Hijinks - More than 1,000 thrill-seekers found fun and frights at the first Haunted Walpole Weekend several days ago. From the opening-night horror movies (*The Blob* and *Night of the Living Dead*) to the Cemetery Tour finale, the weekend provided a wealth of Halloween-themed activities.



# MILESTONES

## Passed

Phoebe Evans Dey  
Groundhog Day, 1935 - September 26, 2020

Peter Jeffries  
July 22, 1933 - September 24, 2020

Elroy M. Truell, Jr.  
1964 - 2020



## Born

Keenan Paul Bisson

September 6, 2020

7lb, 1 oz, 19.5"

To Nathan & Allegra Bisson  
of Walpole

Grandparents:

Brian & Kerry Pickering of Drewsville

Paula Roberts & Carlos Borrayo  
of Berlin, NH

## Born

Oliver Lewis McNamara

October 21, 2020

7lb, 13 oz, 21"

To Emily & Jason McNamara

Grandparents:

Vincent & Carol Malnati

Patrick & Mary McNamara



## Wed

Nicole Guimond & Menelaos Peters

September 26, 2020

at the Inn at Valley Farms

The couple are from Norwalk, CT and will reside there.

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Two themes continue on our pages: Voting November 3, and COVID-19. The national election, with luck, will be resolved soon, but as winter approaches, and the numbers are going up, I am afraid that COVID-19 is with us for a while - with no end in sight. The facts are clear and truthful - science is correct, wearing masks and social distancing can help curb the spread. We are all responsible, not only for our own welfare, but that of our friends, family, and neighbors. I am pleased to see that our community is adhering to these guidelines.

The November issue is normally packed with upcoming holiday events to enjoy, get you in the mood, and to find that special gift while supporting local businesses, churches, and non-profits. But not this year. But our students are back, sharing their stories and views, and what it is like for them in the "new school" environment.

You will begin to see more reporting from the Walpole Conservation Commission (WCC). A new separate column has been established, and they have committed to monthly updates. Top on the list is work on our extensive trails in town, and to have discussions so, as spring begins, the Walpole Gateway, with its 1,000 feet of Connecticut River shoreline, will serve the needs of residents. I attended the last meeting of the WCC, and at that time an invitation was extended to all residents to join their meetings on the first Monday of the month (see page 4) and contribute to the conservation conversations. And follow the future articles leading up to the January 13, 2021, public forum at Town Hall to develop plans for our "Gateway."

Finally, safely enjoy the upcoming holidays, but modify settings and behavior to stay safe and stay well. Together, and only together, can we stop the COVID threat to our health and overall wellbeing, and get back to some sense of normalcy.

- Ray Boas, Publisher

**Stay safe & be well!**

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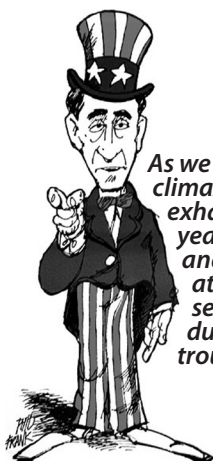
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As we reach the climax of an often-exhausting election year, see pages 3 and 12 for a look at some not-so-serious campaigns during earlier troubled times.

