



Happy Holidays from All of us at the Clarion

From Peggy's Desk

When Ray first sent me a reminder that the deadline for the Clarion is November 19 for the December issue, he commented that I might not have much to write about this month! Au contraire!! There is always something to write about in November. Afterall, it is the month we give thanks.

We can all give thanks that November 3, 2020, ran smoothly with a record turnout of voters who, by 6:30 am were lined up in the waning light of night, out the door and to the corner of Westminster and Elm.

Double the number of election workers – I dare say a record number as well – kept lines moving with smiles and efficiency. Our voters have been generous in their praise for a well-organized operation. We even had a brief snow squall to remind us it was November.

But soon after election we were blessed with a stretch of unusually warm weather- I kept checking the calendar to see if it were really November. But that was just a tease and we have returned to the usual wet, dreary days we expect.

The Select Board has kept busy with the issues I have been writing about for the last two or three months: Broadband, Reservoir Dam, litter, off road vehicles , and how can I forget – Covid 19.

If you go to the Town website, you can find a link to CCI's web page and register your interest in signing on for Broadband service. Dennis Marcom keeps the information very current, and

Continued on Page 2



The Kids are the Losers

"As NH coronavirus numbers increase, state abandons universal contact tracing". Keene Sentinel, November 16, 2020.

We knew it would come to this. The failure to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the spring, summer and early fall of this year has resulted in the surge we knew would come. A robust contact tracing

program is essential to containing the disease and we're not prepared for this. There was no significant help from the federal government.

Europe closes its bars, the US closes the schools. At the school board meeting last night the board voted to change to 100% remote learning from November 30, 2020, until January 19, 2021. History with this virus tells us that these periods

Continued on Page 4



Wear Your Mask – Socially Distance – Wash Your Hands

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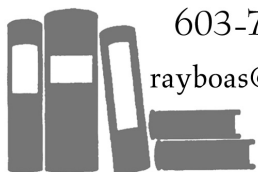
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Continued from Page 1, Peggy

I am happy to say the work crews are making remarkable process string fiber optic cable and now splicing that cable into splitter boxes. Huzzahs to Dennis for his staying on top of the local project.

At a recent meeting with Fuss and O'Neil, the engineering firm with whom we work on the Reservoir Dam, Select Board members, Mark Houghton and John Peska reviewed the current status of the Dam, the DES requirements and the Dam's category. Is the dam's status Significant Risk (Walpole's opinion) or High (DES potential designation) Risk? After thorough discussion of our options, we agreed to ask Fuss and O'Neill to do a two-dimensional model of the dam so that we could have more accurate data of its risk. When we know that risk, we can then more accurately plan the best way to remediate the problems.

Drive any road in Walpole and look at the side of each road; how much litter do you see? It isn't just the so-called back roads that suffer from trash. It is everywhere. If you have children who need to burn off some energy, take a walk with them down your road, bag in hand, and be amazed by how much you can collect in a short period.

Since early spring we have had calls about misuse of Class Six Roads and private property. The Select Board has had discussions with the Conservation Committee, Lew Shelley who is very knowledgeable about our Class Six Roads and Trails, as well as concerned citizens. If you read our Select Board minutes you have been following these discussions and you know that the Department of Fish and Game are responsible for oversight of some of these vehicles. This isn't new; it has just come to everyone's attention because so many vehicles are not licensed properly nor used appropriately. All the requirements and required equipment for Utility vehicles can be found at the NH.gov website in RSA 259-2a, RSA 261:41-a and the penalties for misuse may be found in RSA 262:41. Our Fish and Game Warden, Jonathan De Lisle, will be in to speak to the Selectboard on December 3.

And now the Covid-19 - we have talked about it every week. Dr. Shaw and France Menk are printing some signs for distribution around the schools and our business centers (Walpole, North Walpole and Drewsville). They will also be have buttons and magnets that we can wear and stick on the fridge to remind each one of us that it is individual responsibility that will lead to the diminishing Covid cases.

By the time this **Clarion** has been published, there will undoubtedly be some more specific measures put in place by the Selectboard. We are discussing

closing Town Hall for all meetings and ask that all committees return to Zoom sessions. Stay posted, please. We will give an immediate heads up as decisions are made.

My tax bill arrived today, and you probably received yours. Every December Walpole has a County Tax Bill due December 17. We are dependent upon tax bills being paid promptly so that our check for \$1,601,6686 to Cheshire county is paid on time, thus avoiding interest for late payment. So, please; and thank you.

This Thanksgiving we may not see the family or friends who gather around our table to recognize our abundance. Take time to give thanks for good health, warm houses, good food. Share what you are able to share. We seem to have escaped the ravages of this pandemic, but it is knocking at our doorstep. Keep it at bay - wear a mask, keep a safe distance - wash your hands. Be responsible - call family and friends and plan for next year.

- Peggy Pschirrer

School Update

At its meeting the evening of November 18, the Fall Mountain Regional School District School Board discussed the rise of COVID-19 in NH, and discussed the best alternative for all concerned. It was decided the district "will be moving to a remote model of instruction beginning Monday, November 30 and returning to schools Tuesday, January 19 [2021]." More information may be found at the district website - <https://www.sau60.org/>

- Ray Boas

New Service

Walpole On-Line Resources

Besides websites, social media has become an important means of getting the word out. Recent **Clarion** posts about COVID concerns have received thousands of page views on the **Clarion** website, **Clarion** FaceBook page, and the North Walpole Forum FaceBook page. But not all Walpole residents may be aware of the information resources available just a few clicks away. There are church websites, and the Walpole Conservation Commission has a FaceBook page. There may be more non-commercial Walpole entities with an internet presence with information to share with the community.

I have established a new page on the **Clarion** website for these resources. From the menu bar at top of the **Clarion** website, click on "Walpole Town Resources". This page is under development, and you are invited to submit your non-commercial website or Facebook link for possible inclusion. Submit your link, and a brief description of your group, to rayboas@comcast.net

- Ray Boas



PHOTO PROVIDED

A Holiday Thank You

To Our Walpole Fire-EMS Team

I think most of us agree that every day the officers of our Walpole Police force are putting their lives on the line the minute they walk out of their homes to go on duty, to patrol and protect us. And we are grateful. I have the same gratitude for the men and women of our volunteer fire department who never know what they will be facing every time the fire trucks pull quickly out of the station to face another emergency.

Today, in this time of COVID, I would like to give a big holiday thank you to everyone who serves voluntarily on our incredible EMS Responders force. On top of the countless hours of training and practicing, when we make that distress call, EMT is at our side in minutes, day or night.

If necessary, they ride to the hospital in the confined box of an ambulance, sitting shoulder to shoulder with their patient, giving the best of care, not really knowing if they might be in the presence of a COVID infection.

This is a serious business, and every precaution is taken to help protect our EMT crews.

The screening process starts when a call is made to 911, and information is passed on to our EMT team. The responders will ask a series of questions prior to physical contact and proceed based on the possibility of the presence of COVID. EMT responders will wear masks, glasses or face shield, and gloves. But the danger is still there.

I want to thank every member of the EMS team for their dedication to us all. For putting themselves in possible harm's way, and sometimes saving our lives. Wouldn't it be great to send a thank you note or card to the EMS Responder unit? Their address is Walpole Fire – EMS, PO Box 243 Main Street, Walpole, NH, 03608.

COVID is real with potentially devastating consequences. PLEASE be respectful. Wear your masks, practice your distancing, and wash those hands when you get home from the store.

– Eric Merkley

Taxes Due On or Before December 17

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Continued from Page 1, Kids

expand because as we approach mid-January the data will not be good. Our goal as a town and member of the Fall Mountain Regional School district should be, in my opinion, to keep the kids in school. It didn't work and now the kids and the moms have to pay.

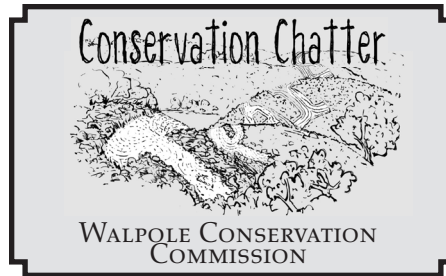
All is not lost. We can be proactive and minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The absolute best way is to keep the incidence in the community low. Listen to science. How do we do that? It's simple:

1. Wear a mask
2. Stay 6' apart from others
3. Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer
4. Get outside
5. Avoid gatherings

We're entering a critical time with the holidays impacting our activities and we must be careful about letting our guard down. As of this writing New Hampshire has 3,767 active cases and Vermont has 1,027. With reluctance at the national and state level to implement the controls that could have helped to manage the impacts of this disease, it is up to us to lead. Stay safe. Stay home.

When I think back to the outpouring of passionate support for the United States when the 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred my hope was an equally robust outpouring would occur to defeat this virus. There still is hope and we will succeed but we have to get through the winter first. Walpole is implementing an awareness campaign not because we don't know about the virus but because we're not done with it yet. Pins, refrigerator magnets and signs will show up soon. See you in the spring.

– Charles P. Shaw, Health Officer



The Walpole Conservation Commission (WCC) is hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, January 13, at 7PM. The topic is The Walpole Gateway property on Walker Road – access and desired use.

The WCC will be placing comment boxes around town where residents can drop off their ideas for suggested uses. At the meeting, a facilitator will lead the discussion as we navigate the comments and discuss the merits of each. Look for the boxes at Town Hall, the Library and other public areas. All locations will be included on the Walpolean and the WCC Facebook page after the boxes are out.

The public meeting will be held in the Town Hall, though it may be held virtual. Further announcement on the meeting location will be found in the January Clarion, on the Walpolean and on the WCC's Facebook page.

Many residents have contributed time or money to help preserve this property. It is important for us all and we all feel we have a say in what the future is. From the day the idea came up of the town buying the property and conserving it, the WCC has worked behind the scenes, discussing proposed use suggestions. With outside help, we developed deed language to protect the property. Our mission is the protection and conservation of Walpole's public land. We have been careful not to rush to do anything, nor to do anything which can't be undone. The land is not going anywhere.

Meanwhile, commentary and suggestions are welcomed, and the public is encouraged to attend the WCC meetings (held monthly on the first Monday of the month, 7PM in Town Hall).

– Steven Dumont

Walpole Grange #125

Two delegates from Walpole Grange #125 attended the 146th annual session of the NH State Grange in Portsmouth, NH on Saturday, October 24. Adam Terrell and Kathy Yardley represented Walpole Grange by voting to adopt the proposed 2021 budget, listened to discussion and voted on one resolution, and took part



in the election and installation of a new slate of officers for the NH State Grange. The election was an exciting one for Walpole Grange as three of our members were elected to state offices! Bob Trombi was elected Master (president), Jane Trombi was elected Ceres and Kathy Yardley was elected Chaplain - the first woman to be elected to that office in the history of the NH State Grange. Another member, Beth Merrill is a member of the executive committee and was not up for re-election this year. Also selected to serve in leadership roles for the state grange are: Leroy Watson, Legislative Director – Kathy Yardley, co-director of the Family & Community Department – Adam Terrell, co-director of the Agriculture Department. Bob and Jane attended the National Grange session which was held virtually via Zoom on November 17 & 18. Leroy was elected to another term on the national executive committee, serving as chairman.

Walpole Grange #125 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM at the town hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information contact Adam Terrell at 603-903-4113.

– Kathy Yardley

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Going Viral

As a Boomer in good standing I grew up in Pittsburgh, attending Holy Family parochial school with my predominantly Polish classmates. There were a lot of us. My parents chose not to send me to kindergarten for reasons I never learned, but if they had I would have been the 71st child in the class. When I eventually found my seat in the first grade, attrition had set in and I was only the 69th student tucked into the antique desks (wrought iron sides, hinged wooden tops, drilled hole for inkwell); at least two of us per desk, sometimes three.

We would adapt to learning like sardines along with other childhood realities: playing in the street during recess (no dedicated playground), waiting patiently for the test patterns to disappear from our TV screens for the evening broadcasts, and enduring the usual childhood diseases like measles and mumps.



But we also became aware of another childhood reality that our parents did not take lightly – polio. And the memory of that viral menace is what spawned this essay in the year of COVID-19.

Certainly, the pervasive threat and immediacy of the current pandemic far outstrips the threat of polio in the early 1950s, but the threat – and the fear – were no less real. Polio had been around for centuries, but it steadily grew to epidemic proportions through the 40s and 50s – something like 50,000 cases a year, with paralysis and death the ultimate result. What made it particularly hideous was that its victims were predominantly children.

I don't recall any neighborhood outbreaks, and none of my classmates were stricken, but the images of children in iron lungs – those cylindrical, coffin-like mechanisms that preserved the lives of those who could not breathe for themselves – were impossible to miss. There was something chilling and grotesque about those small heads protruding from those metal tubes,

reflected in the mirrors fixed above them to provide a marginally wider view of the world from which they were now irretrievably excluded. It was every parent's nightmare.

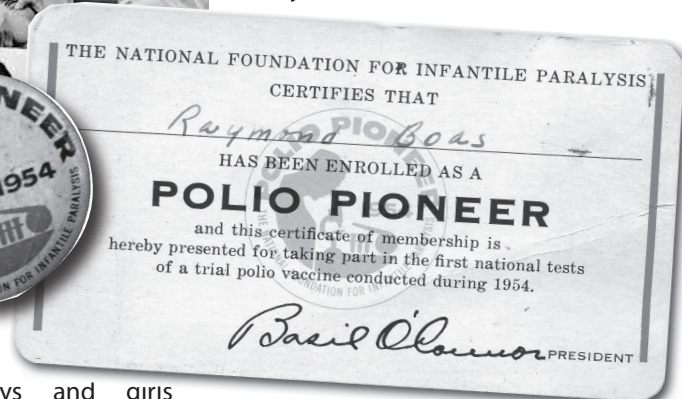
And the original March of Dimes was everywhere. I associate it particularly with the neighborhood bakeries. The cardboard posters perched next to the cash registers – the rows of circular slots ranged beneath the inevitable iron lung photo usually filled with spare change dimes. Summer seemed to be particularly dangerous, with swimming pools a major concern.

And then there was Jonas Salk. In 1953, Salk, a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, announced he had developed a vaccine that could defeat the poliomyelitis virus. It had to be tested, of course, and that's where Ray and I enter the story. Ray, in Wilton, Connecticut, and I, in Pittsburgh, were among the

Jonas Salk



A ward of iron lungs. Note the balloons.



Ray's Polio Pioneer button & card

several thousand boys and girls who were inoculated as part of that validation. The first injections were in February 1954, at Arsenal elementary school – about 3 blocks from my home. In March, several Catholic grade schools, including Holy Family, were added to the mix. I don't recall any discussion at home about whether or not to participate, or carrying a permission slip to school. It just happened – in my case in the 2nd grade – and I recall one moment vividly.

We were not inoculated in our classroom. I believe the auditorium was used for that. We went as a class, lined up, got skewered, and returned to our desks individually. Most of us were already back in our seats nursing sore arms when Dennis Sadowski (I still remember his name) walked in. Bleeding. Dennis was a big kid (bigger than me,

and I was labeled as "husky" early and often) and his upper left arm proved a stiff challenge for the hypo. A hush fell over the classroom as he walked to his desk and we all stared at the thin trickle of blood that ran from his shoulder to nearly his wrist. He was surprisingly unmoved by the experience – as he told it, the nurse had aimed badly and bent the needle. He lived. So did we all.

In the next month communities across the country loaned their children, and 3rd grader Ray earned his Polio Pioneer pin.

And, in time, Salk's vaccine (and a few years later Sabin's) would eradicate polio. In retrospect, it seems almost miraculous, particularly in the current pandemic-burdened, disinformation-plagued, anti-science environment we now inhabit. We yearn for the magic bullet – the vaccine that will vanquish COVID and let life return to normal. Yet we're already seeing the vanguard of the vaccine skeptics who will resist whatever the laboratories produce, and unnecessarily politicized attitudes among many toward public health issues. We've come a long way since 1954...and not always for the better. It's not just viruses that mutate.

– Jan Kobeski

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Walpole Unitarian

Christmas Eve Service

In this pandemic year, we are very sorry that we cannot hold our beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service in the church this year. However, we will hold a service via ZOOM, and those who would like to, are invited to join us from your homes. Although we cannot replicate our traditional service on ZOOM, we hope this service will help provide the continuity of many decades of Christmas Eve services provided at the church.

Thursday, December 24,

5:00 - 5:45 PM

"In the Christmas Spirit"

You are invited to bring your candles and join Rev. Elaine Bomford and Keith Penniman, musician) on Zoom for an informal Christmas Eve service. We will share fellowship, words of hope, humor and prayer, and the quiet joy of lighting our candles and singing *Silent Night*.

If you would like to join this service, email the church at wuuch@myfairpoint.net and we will forward a ZOOM link to your email address. Or, you may go to our website www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org the afternoon of Friday, December 24th and find the link there.

Regular Sunday Services

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

Food Collection For Food Shelf

Thank you to all who have left contributions for the Fall Mountain Food shelf! If you would like to add to the collection, 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, Walpole. NOTE: The second Friday of December (the 11th) will be the only pick-up and delivery this month, since the fourth Friday falls on Christmas Day. Thank you. Your contributions are very much appreciated at the F.M. Food Shelf.

— Wendy Harty

Just In Time Christmas Candy/cookie Sale

Saturday, December 12

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Walpole Recycling and Reuse Center has been busier than ever since the grand RE-opening of the Reuse Center. We have experienced a consistent increase in traffic, and must highlight the need to keep the "one way" traffic pattern. Please don't back up (or drive into oncoming traffic) at the recycling center. Our recycling crew is happy to host the increased volume of visitors, but it is most important to put safety above convenience when attending Walpole recycling.

There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm put forth by everyone involved with the opening of the Reuse Center, and that translated into a seven-fold increase in the amount of money raised in one month as compared with revenue generated at the old Reuse Center. In one month, the re-opened Reuse Center covered the losses incurred from not being in business for the entire year!

There are plenty of reasons to be thankful this year at Walpole Recycling / Reuse, and we hope to continue the success we have earned in our first month for years to come. Half of the donations go to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, while the other half goes to Fall Mountain Friendly Meals. Friends of the Walpole Library are selling books at the Reuse Center for \$2 per hardcover book, and \$1 for all other books.

The volunteer support at Walpole Reuse is at 100% for the first time in our existence. We are still taking volunteers and offering shifts, but we have not missed a volunteer shift since re-opening. I would encourage those interested in volunteering to visit the new Reuse Center website and contact Michael Nerrie to sign up for a shift, or simply sign your name to any available shift within the Reuse Center. If you are a new volunteer, we will try to find a spot for you (even if the schedule is full). Special thanks to new volunteer Ben Buckley for helping us appraise items and spread the good word of our Reuse Center.

Happy holidays to all, and don't forget to put us on your list of shopping alternatives when gift giving this month!! Keep Reusing/ Recycling Walpole

– Ben Hoy



PHOTO PROVIDED

Linda Jacob (volunteer)

Friends of the Library

Ongoing Book Sale

Instead of our annual Book Sale in the fall, we are doing an ongoing sale both at the library and at the Reuse Center. High quality like-new books are available at both locations. Please take a look. Also at the library we have Foxglove gardening gloves available for sale. They would make a great holiday gift.

If you have books that you would like to donate, we could accept one box per household of books that are in very good condition. The books can be left at the reuse center, where we have limited space to display and store books.

As always, The Friends of the Library would like to thank the Walpole community for your generous support!

– Jana Sellarole

The Walpole Clarion ON-LINE

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

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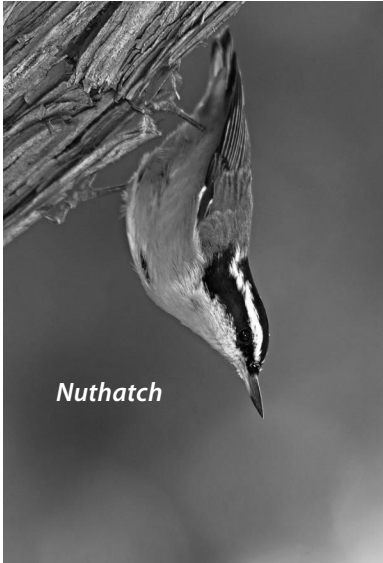
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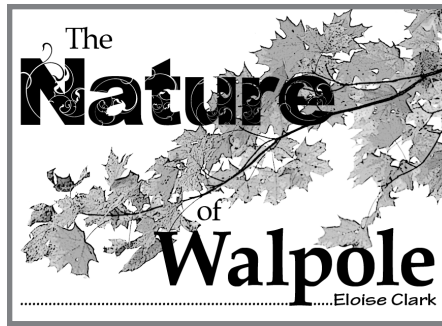
Have you noticed the red-breasted nuthatches this fall? These bright chips of life with their rosy breasts always make me smile. On my walks this late fall season, I've seen and heard red-breasted nuthatches in droves. These handsome mites flit from branch to bark deftly, all the time making their high-pitched "ank" call. At 4.5 inches long they are smaller than our white-breasted nuthatches who measure about 5-6".



Nuthatch

The increased numbers of red-breasted nuthatches signal an "irruption" in the avian lexicon. Not an eruption or a disruption, yet sharing some of the characteristics of both those words. It happens in years when the food supplies in the north won't support the population numbers through the winter, thus birds "irrupt" or migrate to new areas to seek food.

In the nuthatches case, they dine on protein-rich insects and spiders secreted in the bark of trees. You'll often see them hopping headfirst down the trunk of a tree as they search. Nuthatches will also eat seeds and nuts. The red-breasted hauntevergreen or conifer forests for their seeds, while the white-breasted stick to the hardwoods and prefer acorns. Thus



they divide up nature's larder without competing with one another. But they will both visit your birdfeeders and take a share of the black-oil sunflower seeds and suet.



Nuthatch at home.

Both nuthatches are cavity nesters. They'll use holes chiseled in trees by woodpeckers for a secure spot to raise their young. This winter, perhaps you can build a nest box for nuthatches with scrap wood? Plans are available online.

Building a bird box is an excellent carpentry lesson for the novice. Chickadees and titmice might also use the box, so it's well worth the effort.

Who else might we expect irrupting this winter? According to Tyler Hoar who penned the Winter Finch Forecast 2020-2021, we may see an uptick of several species. Purple finch, our State bird is one. Another is the small, striped pine siskin



Purple Finch

who likes Nyger or thistle seeds hung in silo feeders. The ruby-capped, common redpoll also likes Nyger seeds. In the wild they will feed on birch tree seeds and the tiny seeds of goldenrod and aster. The spectacular evening grosbeak may also make an appearance looking for maple and ash seeds still hanging from trees. They will also devour black oil sunflower seeds at your feeder.



Grosbeak

After the bears "go to bed" near the beginning of December, it's time to stock those feeders. Bird feeding is a hobby enjoyed by so many of us. It provides an opportunity to observe bird visitors closely. Their sizes, shapes and colors really help animate our lives during these short winter days. Their behaviors provide comedy and drama. Delight in the natural world around us and enjoy the show. It should be a good one this year.



Traditions

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Women of Walpole

On October 14, about 15 members of the Women of Walpole (WOW) met on the Walpole Common for our second Fall 2020 outdoor meeting. There was lively conversation about worthy causes around Walpole for the group to support. In November and December, WOW will be supporting The Walpole Village School, Distant Hills Nature Trail, the Giving Tree Project, local food pantries and Meals on Wheels, Christmas wreathes for the town hall, and other causes around Walpole to help brighten the holidays. The group also discussed promoting Women's Heart Health in February. Contributions for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf were collected.

Due to the lingering COVID-19 virus, our Mardi Gras event, like that held last year, will need to change. We are exploring a different sort of Mardi Gras Go Bag fundraiser. This could consist of food prepared and boxed or bagged for pick up. There may be a few surprises in the bag to get in the spirit of Mardi Gras.

With falling temperatures and the restrictions on meeting indoors, we will continue to consider alternatives such as Zoom for future gatherings. Please watch this space, your email, our Facebook page, and The Walpolean for information on future meetings.



Elisabeth Roos captured these Bald Eagles in the big elm in their front yard on Elm Street November 12. She said, "It was an astonishing experience. One would have been glorious on its own, but the pair was extraordinary." Chris Burchstead reported, "I saw them fly low down Main Street when I was unlocking the Library book return. The first eagle had a small creature in its talons. The second one let out a blood curdling screech. Stunning!"

The Women of Walpole raise money for worthy undertakings that benefit Walpole and adjoining communities; and is a group that provides opportunities for enrichment, education and social networking for women in the area. WOW welcomes any woman who is a resident of Walpole or adjoining communities, or who works in Walpole or the adjoining

communities. Former members no longer in Walpole are welcome to rejoin. For \$35 per year, we will add you to our mailing list and welcome you to attend future meetings. For further information on WOW, please contact Susan Johnson at 313-4018 (pete_suejohnson@verizon.net) or Nancy Lightner at 978-771-5265 (Nancy.hamblet@gmail.com).

– Susan Johnson



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Library

December Services & Programs

Join Miss Julie on Facebook Live for 'Wiggle Time' on Mondays at 10 AM and 'Storytime' on Wednesdays at 10 AM.

Book Bites is a new virtual book club for grades 3-6. Join us live on our YouTube channel on Mondays at 7 PM and Wednesdays at 4 PM (or watch anytime). The first book is *Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen.

Our winter reading program, 'Read Across the United States (and Washington, DC)', is underway. Read a book that either takes place in a particular state or by an author from that state. Books can be fiction or nonfiction. Log your books in ReadSquared, or pick up a paper log from the library. Participants who finish the challenge (51 books) will win a gift certificate to a book store. You can find more details and book suggestions on the library website.

December's *Take and Make* for Adults will feature a DIY luminary. Kits will be available the second week of December while supplies last.

Online Resources

Our digital resources, such as Libby, Hoopla, Newsbank and more, are still available. If you need help with any of our resources please email Julie at jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org, Jane at jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org, or watch one of Julie's fabulous tutorials on our website at walpoletownlibrary.org/tutorials

Curbside Pickup

Can't make it in to the library? Curbside Pickup is still available; call us to request materials and let us know when you can pick them up, and we'll put the materials in a bag on the front porch with your name on it!

Closings & Reduced Hours in December

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

– Jane Malmberg

Fran Moses Retirement

It is with sadness that the library announces the retirement of Fran Moses after 27 years of friendly and dedicated service. An avid reader and crafter, Fran loves helping patrons find new books, and particularly enjoys talking with the children who visit the library with their families. Many of these young patrons are now parents who come in with their own children. She is always willing to help with projects and anything else that is needed. The staff will greatly miss her warmth, smile and terrific sense of humor. We expect to see Fran regularly as she and Bill will need to keep stocked up with reading material. The library staff and trustees wish Fran the very best of luck and much happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

– Jane Malmberg

PHOTO PROVIDED



Non-fiction Book Group

The Non-Fiction Book Group will meet December 7 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. The book selected for discussion is *A Libertarian Walks Into a Bear: The Utopian Plot to Liberate an American Town (and Some Bears)* by Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling. For more information, email ronmaclachlan03608@gmail.com.

– Ron MacLachlan

Walpole Business Notes

Hooper Golf Course

Hooper Golf Course has engaged the services of Alex Metzger and Long View Forest, Inc. to oversee our forest management plan. This will be at least a five-year operation. This coming winter we will continue to cull trees from the golf course itself to enhance the quality of the course. Please be aware of these activities as you enjoy walking, skiing, sledding and snowshoeing.

– Patti Neal

Great Brook Farm Sugar House

As a summer promotion, Great Brook Farm Sugar House offered to give 10% of its gross sales equally between Our Place Drop-In Center and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. The offer was extended through Columbus Day. Owner David Westover reported to the *Clarion* that he wrote "...checks to each organization for just over \$330. Not bad for a small business like ours and in the middle of COVID to boot." He extended his thanks to all who helped. Through Christmas, he will give 10% of gross receipts to The Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association.

West Wind Fine Art

West Wind Fine Art, a gallery owned by new resident Kristen Thies, has won best Fine Art Gallery Award in New Hampshire from the annual Global Excellence Awards hosted by *LUX Life Magazine*. *LUX Life Magazine* is a fine art and luxury publication in England. Thies (pronounced like 'peace' with a T) has represented foremost artist and author Richard Schmid and national award winning artist Nancy Guzik since 1998. Schmid and Guzik have made their home and studios in Walpole for the past fifteen years. Thies recently moved to Walpole from Colorado Springs to assist Mr. Schmid with his latest book, *The Portraits and Figures*. Kristen told the *Clarion*, "Promoting beauty and Fine Art is my passion, and I'm so happy I've been recognized for my contribution to excellence in the Arts."

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

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Reader Commentary

To the Editor:

For many years this community has had numerous citizens volunteer to work at the polls at every election. Although there is a modest stipend paid to these folks, their primary incentive is to take part in preserving our democracy and upholding their promise to this community to make a positive difference.

But this year was notably different. Election tensions infused with pandemic fears, masks and social distancing should have been enough to scare anyone away from working at the polls; but rather than scare workers away, Walpole and North Walpole increased the numbers of workers at the polls. More than 26 citizens from this community volunteered to work the polls from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, and then spent the necessary hours counting, verifying and confirming that every ballot was correctly counted and accounted for. My role as the (mere) Town Moderator; the top election official for the town according to state law, means nothing without the dedicated public spirit and grueling work of these election workers.

I would like to thank each and every one of them, from the checklist managers and election day workers to the Town employees that worked hard to set up Town Hall to allow every voter to safely enter and leave the polling locations in Walpole and North Walpole. I would also like to thank the Selectboard members, each of whom worked at both polling locations all day, providing essential help overseeing the voting process. Without exception, every voter was responsible, pleasant and cooperative. As most of you likely know by now, more citizens showed up to vote than ever before. Thank you for the honor of being your moderator as we continue to push through this pandemic, each of us working hard to remain safe as we exercise our civic duty. Thank you all.

– Jack Wozmak, Town Moderator



Season's Greetings

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



Jessica Fuller

Financial Advisor

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Hooper Golf Course Closed for the Season

We would like to thank everyone for your support this season and invite you to take advantage of Hooper over the winter. Come walk the course, cross-country ski, snowmobile, take your kids sledding.



We do ask that you be respectful of the course and *please* pick up after your dogs. We do not want to have to ban our 4-legged friends.

Call 756-4080 to arrange for your holiday gift shopping. We have clothes, hats, coffee mugs, golf balls and much more!



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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the Christmas tree did not

appear in New England until the 1830s, and it was not until the 1930s that it became commonplace in the home? The Puritans forbade any holiday observance because of the Christmas celebration abuses they saw at home. In 1659, they passed a decree banning celebrations, and imposed a fine of five shillings for every offense. Curiously, the ban was repealed in 1681, but there were still no observances.

The Germans and Moravians of Pennsylvania practiced and enjoyed the customs they brought from their homeland. It could be said they had the first Christmas tree in America, decorated in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, Christmas Day, 1747. In the European style, it was a wooden pyramid covered with evergreen boughs decorated with candles, apples and verses.



Circa 1920 Christmas snapshot

*Queen Victoria
decorating the Royal Tree in 1848*

Unaware of how common a Christmas tree was becoming with Pennsylvanian settlers, credit for the first Christmas tree was given to Harvard professor Charles Follen, a political refugee from Germany, who "dressed" a tree for his son. In the 1832 article in a penny pamphlet, published by the American Sunday School Union in Boston, the writer was present at the "introduction into the new country of the spectacle of the German Christmas tree. ... The tree was the top of a young fir, planted in a tub, which

was ornamented with moss. Smart dolls and other whimsies glittered in the evergreen, and there was not a twig which had not something sparkling on it."

Sarah Josepha Hale (1788-1879) is not just credited with giving us Thanksgiving as a national holiday. The Christmas tree was by 1850 reaching fashion, and Hale adapted the 1848 Illustrated London News etching of Victoria and Albert's Royal Christmas Tree for the December 1850 issue of Godey's Lady's Book, which she edited. Hale, again in 1853 and 1855, mentioned the custom of Christmas trees; and, in an 1860 story, gave a detailed description of a typical tree with candles, food, ribbon, homemade paper decorations, and small toys as ornaments. Christmas, and the Christmas tree, was now becoming a frequent topic in publications.

Hale was from Newport, New Hampshire, and it was another New Hampshire native, President Franklin Pierce, who introduced the Christmas tree to the White House in 1856. Arriving in the White House in 1889, President Benjamin Harrison, told of the "old-fashioned" Christmas tree which his family would have. The tradition and custom of having a tree was now a cherished "old-fashioned" memory.

Twenty percent of American families had a Christmas tree in 1900. But by 1930, the tree was part of just about all American's Christmas. Even with the Depression, families dug into their pockets to have an "old-fashioned" tree during the holidays.

Gazette published a story on how to 'deck' a Kriskintle Baum (Christ Child's tree). The public liked the story, and it sparked a perennial December offering. Organizations began decorating trees as charitable fund-raising projects. Philadelphia's Saturday Evening Post, in 182, described "trees visible through windows." This is the first such report in a major city. Back in York, an 1830 advertisement in the Republican stated, "Tickets will be sold for 6 1/4 cents, which will admit the bearers to the 'Christmas Tree' during the time it remains for exhibition." By 1840, the Christmas tree was more or less common in Pennsylvania areas.

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Gleanings

from the Town Minutes

Planning Board - November 10

The Zoning Board of Adjustment wants to include short-term rentals in the current Bed and Breakfast ordinance. Ms. Jan-Galloway Leclerc, chair of the ZBA, was there to explain the rationale for that request. The board members received copies of the proposed new ordinance and current ordinance for bed and breakfasts.

Ms. Leclerc said that the ZBA had a question about an Airbnb and whether that required special attention. Ms. Leclerc checked with Walpole's town counsel, Jeremy Hockensmith, and asked if the bed and breakfast ordinance covered short-term rentals and he said no. He advised that Walpole should put something on the books as soon as possible that would address short-term rentals. Apparently, short-term rentals in New Hampshire towns are getting to be quite popular. So the ZBA Board decided to modify the bed and breakfast ordinance so a short-term rental would require site plan approval too. (You may wish to read the full discussion in the minutes)

Conservation Commission - November 2

Mike Kowalczyk of the Monadnock Regional Rail Trail Collaborative (MRRTC) made a presentation about this organization, whose mission is to restore and maintain the Cheshire, Ashuelot, and Fort Hill rail trails throughout the Monadnock region. He explained the benefits of maintaining these trails are numerous: provides economic activity in the towns where they are located, increases tourism, provides bike trails, increases healthy activities, preserves ecosystems, and reduces air pollution. ... The Cheshire Rail Trail plan includes restoration and maintenance from the NH/MA state line near Winchendon to the state line near Bellows Falls. Trail length is 43 miles.

Selectboard - November 5 - MRRTC Support Request: Mrs. Pschirrer reported that the Monadnock Regional Rail Trail Collaborative (MRRTC) would like to have the Town's endorsement on what they want to do. They made a presentation to the Conservation Commission last Monday. Ms. Mayberry feels it will be continued at the December meeting of the Conservation Commission. At this point they are asking for support; there are no financial obligations.

Hooper Wreath Making

There are still openings for wreath making at the Hooper Institute, December 4 and December 5. Choose to make a wreath on-site or, if you are being COVID-cautious, reserve a wreath making bundle, take and make it at home. You can also pre-order a wreath and pick it up on Saturday at 3:00 PM. Email hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net to sign up and make arrangements for any of these great options.



PHOTO PROVIDED

To all of our Friends of Hooper Institute, as a 2020 thank you, you are invited to drop by the Hooper Institute to craft an assortment of natural creations! Crafts include milkweed babies, forest gnomes, pine cone birds or a forest garden. Please get in touch with Helen to reserve a spot. Crafting will be 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm Saturday, December 5, after wreath making.

Call 756-4372 or 566-2805. All programs at 165 Prospect Hill Rd, Walpole, NH

– Helen Dalbeck

You Need to Know That...

Jell-O Gelatin

Invented 1897, May Davis Wait, the inventor's wife, came up with a name for the fruit-flavored gelatin by apparently combining the word jelly with "o," a popular suffix added to the end of a slew of food products at this time.

Can be used to:

- **Style your hair** - A teaspoon of Jell-O dissolved in a cup of warm water makes an inexpensive setting lotion. Or use prepared Jell-O as you would any hair gel product.
- **Make wine Jell-O** - *The Joy of Cooking* suggests boiling one cup water, mixing with gelatin powder in a bowl until dissolved, then adding one cup red wine. Stir well, then refrigerate for four hours or until mixture gels. Serves four.
- **Wrestle in Jell-O** - Pour 2,347 boxes of Jell-O into an eight-foot-square padded box, add boiling water, and chill for two days.
- **Watch seedlings grow roots** - For a great science experiment for children, grow seeds in Jell-O and observe the root structures.

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

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Pumpkin Contest

Homeroom Competition

For many years it's been a tradition at Walpole Elementary School to paint pumpkins near Halloween time. Normally, the competition would be between advisories but since our groupings are different this year, the competition was between homerooms. There were two categories: Scariest and Most Original.

Students brought in supplies and looked up ideas. We worked in any free time we had in study hall.

When all the pumpkins were submitted, they were put on a table in the hallway for everyone to see and enjoy as they walked by. The pumpkins were then voted on by the judges (the secretaries). Although Mr. Gagnon's homeroom had the best pumpkin, this year Mrs. McGuirk's homeroom won most original with BB-8 from Star Wars! The scariest pumpkin was one of the sixth grade groups for their zombie pumpkin.

— Kelsey Fillion (Grade 7)

Life as a Remote Student: Part Two

Being a remote student will always be hard. One of the main reasons it's a bit tricky is because you have to manage your time well. During the study hall times you could just play games and draw, but you have to do your work. I have to admit sometimes I think that it would just be so much easier if I didn't have to work during the study hall periods, but if I got to push through and get my work done. If I play games during my study hall then that will give me a boost of happiness for just that half hour. If I am

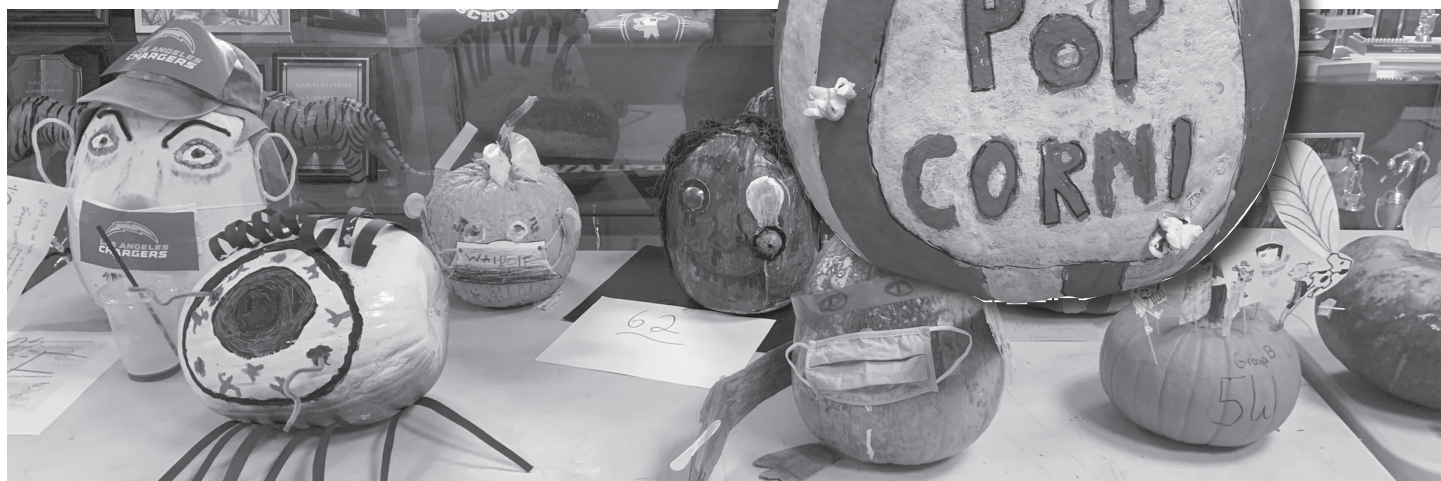
productive during my study time then I will get a long term boost of happiness because I know that I worked hard and I feel good about myself.

We have a good amount of homework but most students have learned how to manage their time wisely. In the end, being remote has its ups and downs but it's worth it especially with the rise of COVID-19 cases around the country. Stay safe!

— Maya Carbone (Grade 6)

A table full of disguised gourds (below); the Gagnon pumpkin at right.

PHOTOS JACOB GAGNON



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NaNoWriMo

National Novel Writing Month

The Walpole Elementary School, grades 6-8, are celebrating National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) this November. For us students, we try to write our highest word count! This is fun and quite a challenge. But this really helps with spelling and grammar, and setting higher goals! I set my spelling goal to 13,000 words. I want to also make a special thanks to Mr. Gagnon, our great Language Arts Teacher, who is an awesome teacher with great writing suggestions, tools, structure, community, and encouragement to help people find their voices, achieve creative goals, and build new worlds. Students are competing against one another, Mr. Gagnon, and themselves. Several students have already surpassed their goals. A couple of students in seventh and eighth grade are currently over 10,000 words and going strong!

– Olivia D'Alessandro (Grade 6)



Annual Zombie Run

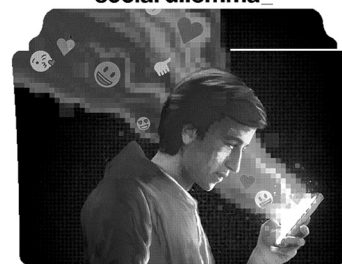
On the Tuesday and Wednesday before Halloween, Walpole Elementary School participated in their annual Zombie Run as a way to celebrate Halloween and reward students for their hard work so far this school year.

For this race, students wore their Halloween costumes and raced past the teachers, acting and dressed like zombies. The course began near the playground at WES and went down by the tennis courts, past the town pool, and back up by the soccer fields, around the little school, before returning up to the Elementary School. Students had flags that teachers were trying to take from them, like in flag football. The student groups with the most remaining flags were considered the winners. Students ran through the course twice. It was a lot of fun.

"My mind raced as I strategize how to get past the zombies," said Sophia D'Alessandro, a sixth grader at Walpole.

– Avery Richardson (Grade 6)

/the social dilemma



Movie Review:

The Social Dilemma

We deserve to know that every move we make on social media is recorded, every step is closely monitored by technology so that it can control us, make us want to come back to our devices, and take over our lives all because of the filthy greed of money.

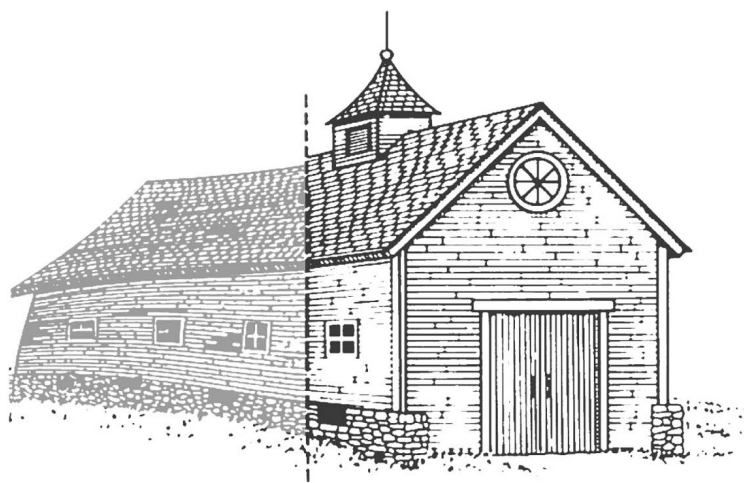
I would recommend a show now on Netflix called the Social Dilemma, which explains how our lives are being watched.

Quote from Netflix: Tech experts sound the alarm on the dangerous human impact of social networking.

This is a tv show I would highly recommend so we can have a better understanding on how technology takes over our lives.

– Aidan Suozzi (Grade 6)

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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Happy Thanksgiving?

We were invited to Elwud's place for Thanksgiving Dinner, but got a call the week before and our invite was cancelled. Well, our invite, but not the dinner. Seems that a bunch of his cousins decided to break quarantine and descend on Elwud and Velma for a free meal, as he put it. On top of that, a bunch of Velma's relatives also decided to come up from Massachusetts for a New Hampshire country thanksgiving. Two problems arose, their house is not big enough for all these people, and Velma's relatives do not eat meat/dairy products. So a couple of days after the big day, I decided to stop by and see if anything was left to the family farm.

I found Elwud sitting on a stump in the back yard with his head in his hands, mumbling to himself. "How did the gathering go?" I asked.

"Well sir, first off, to accommodate the crowd, I moved the pigs from the front of the barn to the rear. Then, due to lack of tables, I raised the troughs up on cement blocks for my cousins to eat at. On the opposite side of the room was borrowed tables for the city folks. Now feeding my cousins is no problem, just throw some slop in the troughs and let 'em root 'round like the pigs they are! But what to feed the others was a problem. So I asked some town folks who had outta state relatives, and they said they probably ate stuff like toe food and see food. Well I asked the meat manager at the local store if they had any toe food and he gave me some pigs' feet. I'm thinkin' 'Aint that meat?' But I took it home and ground it up and added a fair touch of Bailey's Creme to it. Then I ordered some Rocky Mountain Oysters and mashed them up and mixed in some of those red hot Mexican peppers. Well the big day arrived and we gathered in the barn. I slopped the cousins and they dove right in. There was a lot of snortin' and hemin' and hawin' from the city side of the barn. But they eventually dug into their toe food and oysters. 'Bout fifteen minutes into the meal, first one and then another of those city folks made a mad dash to the half-moon building out back.

Weren't long afore they was pilin' into their vehicles and heading south. Last I heard was they got stopped at the border and ordered to quarantine for two weeks. Velma was some upset and said it would be years afore they'd some callin' again!

I turned the hogs loose to the front of the barn to clean of the left overs and my cousins spent the night. Them and the hogs got along just fine.

We have stocked the pantry and the root cellar with enough food to last until Spring. We are blocking the road with a sign that says 'Gone South'.

By the way, there will be no Christmas gatherin' this year.

So before you go, let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.

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FROM THE CLARION...

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

One Year Ago (December, 2019) - The Walpole Fire-EMS was presented the EMS Unit of the Year award for 2019 at The Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. The award has been presented annually since 1998.

Three Years Ago (December, 2017) - The Monadnock Conservancy recently was given a 95.4-acre parcel of land from Walpole resident Jane Skofield that abuts Hooper Forest in the north central part of Walpole. The property offers incredible plant and tree diversity, and also provides key habitat for wildlife. Forested slopes, woodland views and stone walls are a few of the treasures of this special place.

Five Years Ago (December, 2015) - On November 12, New Hampshire released the results of last spring's Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students in grades 3-8 participated in the assessment. The Walpole School is pleased to announce that in each grade level tested Walpole students scored higher proficiency levels in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA)/reading than that of the other Fall Mountain District schools and overall state averages.

Seven Years Ago (December, 2013) - The Academy building, home to the Walpole Historical Society, had a full house on Saturday evening, Nov. 16, for the first of their new Speaker Series. Dr. Marcia Schmidt Blaine from Plymouth State University spoke to the group about Susannah Johnson, a settler at Fort No. 4 in nearby Charlestown, who was abducted by the Abenaki in 1754.

Stay safe & be well!

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Paul McIntire
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Born

Alma Bishop Seaver
November 4, 2020
To Meryden & Ryan Seavero

Wed

Kathryn Bjerkdal & Franklin Sibley
October 10, 2020
The couple will reside in Walpole.



Wed

Ellen Bryan & Ryan Robichaud
November 7, 2020
Ellen is the daughter of
Lisa and Stephen Bryan
of Walpole,
Ryan is the son of
Ramona and Jeffrey Robichaud of
Maynard, MA

Kudos

FMRHS Golfers Shine
Sophomore Mitchell Cormier won this year's
NHIAA Division III Boy's Individual Championship.
The team graduates two seniors – Spencer Harrington
and Kaylee Lintner. Kaylee placed 6th
in the Girl's Division III Championship,
with the team coming in 4th overall.
Home matches are played at Hooper Golf Course.

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

January issue deadline: December 22

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

I don't have to tell you the COVID situation is getting worse. Schools will be in session remotely from November 30 to January 14, 2021, and the science and medical professionals are encouraging that holiday activities be restricted. It only makes sense. Being foolish this year could destroy what we would like to return to next year. No special Thanksgiving Day out at an inn this year for me. My \$2.69 frozen turkey dinner is in the freezer waiting for the day, and I will have savored it (while alive) before you read this.

I would like to draw your attention to the new resource I am developing on the **Clarion** website - Walpole On-Line Resources. In one place I would like to have links to Walpole groups that have an on-line presence so you can stay in-touch even more with what is happening in town. Take a look (you can access the page from the menu bar at the top of the **Clarion** website) and, if you have a noncommercial suggestion that should be included, let me know.

Reading through this issue, I would like to think there is a variety of interesting reading for you. And take a look at the advertisements, which are also all of interest. I welcome new advertiser, Wilcox Tree Service. Megan Wilcox found me. The **Clarion** is known as a great venue, and I can say that I have never been out soliciting ads.

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year
- Stay Safe and have a healthy new year.

- Ray Boas, Publisher



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