

Town Meeting 2021

An extremely low number of voters went to the polls on Tuesday, March 9. Was the low turnout in order for people to remain safe from COVID (even with all precautions thoughtfully in place), or due to little competition for town offices and nothing controversial to be voted on? Article 1, "To elect the necessary Town Officers for their respective terms," had only one choice to be made. Bill Carmody was elected to fill a two-year term on the Planning Board. There was only one candidate for each of the other positions on the ballot. Also on the ballot were Articles 2 and 3, written to split the combined office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector. With legal terminology dictated by the state, and a tad confusing, voters understood and voted, as recommended by the Selectboard, and the currently combined office will revert to two positions as in years past.

Town Meeting then reconvened at the Walpole Elementary School Gymnasium at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13. This move from the Town Hall was to allow for increased space to accommodate social distancing. Again, an extremely low number of registered voters were in attendance. Fifty-three Walpole voters, only 2 percent, signed in. That number is a tad over one-third of the 137 voters in attendance in March 2020. An unusually long meeting began, with Moderator Jack Wozmak, covering Articles 4 through 17.

Article 4, the Town Operating Budget, was presented by Selectboard chair, Peggy Pschirrer. The small increases to the 2021 budget of \$4,151,177, are required by law, and include increases to both health care and New Hampshire retirement costs. Salaries and benefits account for more than half of the Town's budget. The budget passed without question.

Continued on Page 2



Newly elected Town officials sworn in at Town Meeting

PHOTO: RAY BOAS

The Sam Jacobs Scholarship

When you hear the name Sam Jacobs, you cannot help but think of The Walpole Schools and the Fall Mountain Regional School District. Mr. Jacobs has been a great teacher, principal, and most importantly a wonderful role model for our school, district and community for forty-plus years. Our children have benefited from his devotion to academic excellence, integrity, kindness and community service.

In order to honor Mr. Jacobs, last year a group of parents formed the Sam Jacobs Scholarship committee. The committee created two scholarships which were awarded to two Fall Mountain Regional High School seniors. These are \$1,000/year scholarships that will be given to two students annually who plan to attend a post-secondary school. The applicants must have graduated from Walpole Elementary School. The applicants must show good moral character, involvement in community, and compassion for fellow students. Students are assisted to apply

by the FMRHS guidance department. We hope when the pandemic ends to have an annual community gathering as a fundraising event for this scholarship fund, but this year we are limited and are simply asking for donations. Helping to fund the Sam Jacobs Scholarship will continue to honor a man who has given so much to our children and our community.

Sam began his career at Fall Mountain as an Agriculture and Horticulture teacher in 1980. He immediately had a positive effect upon young people. It was easy to recognize his passion for career education and his curriculum. His iconic smile and genuine affection for others was a great motivator for teens. Whether it was leading a group of Future Farmers of America to Kansas City, Missouri for the national competition, or raising a new barn for the high school program, Sam was at the forefront of each success. It wasn't uncommon for him to personally transport kids to the state events, and encourage them to become state officers in the organization.

Sam joined the Walpole Schools in 1997 as principal, bringing that personal desire

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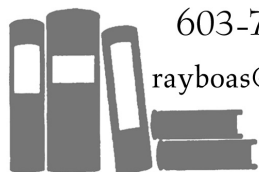
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Continued from Page 1, Town Meeting

Specific funding requests were covered in Articles 5 through 13. Building repairs, highway department truck purchase, and police cruiser purchase and outfitting were covered in these articles, as is usually the case. A few voters questioned the logic and need of these expenses, specifically the need for vehicle replacements. In careful response to those challenges the well thought out fiscally responsible plans were explained to maintain our fleets to provide services to the community. Challenges continued, even though it was announced by the Moderator at the beginning of the meeting that speakers would have three minutes to talk on one subject. All funding articles passed, as did Article 14, Notice to Dog Owners, which replaces the Dog Ordinance adopted in 1998.

Next were two Petition Warrant Articles. Prior to the meeting the Moderator received petitions requesting voting on these articles be secret ballot rather than a voice vote. Article 15 passed, and Old Drewsville Road, from North Road to the Valley Road, is now Walpole's second designated Scenic Road. Article 16, presented by Walpole youth Zoe Mitchell, requested an approval of this article "to call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation..." be transmitted to Walpole's State Legislators. Again, there was more discussion than normally seen at Walpole's Town Meeting on an article. Several people spoke against the article, resulting in it being defeated. With no further business brought up under Article 17, Town Meeting for 2021 was adjourned.

— Ray Boas

St. John's

All are welcome to join our Holy Week services leading up to Easter Sunday on April 4 at 10:00 AM. St. John's priest, the Rev. Duncan Hilton, will be leading his first Easter service at St. John's. For the Zoom link, and/or telephone access code, check the website www.stjohnswalpole.org. The website also includes the schedules for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. For some services, we will be joining with the New Hampshire Episcopal Diocese. When the weather permits, we will resume outdoor services. Write pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or call the church office at 756-4533 if you have any questions.

— Marilyn Wilking

Bridge Work

North Walpole to Bellows Falls

The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) announced March 15, that, beginning Monday, April 5, NHDOT will begin maintenance work on the Church Street bridge over the Connecticut River and Green Mountain Railroad between the towns of Walpole, NH and Bellows Falls/Rockingham, VT.

The work includes preservation and repair to the concrete deck and membrane, replacement of the bridge joints, and other safety improvements. Work will require intermittent, alternating one-way traffic, and is weather dependent. Two-way traffic will be maintained over the bridge during non-work hours. Temporary traffic signals will be implemented to facilitate traffic flow, and travelers should expect new traffic patterns. All tractor-trailers will be required to follow posted detours around the project. Lane width restrictions will be in place. CPM Constructors of Freeport, Maine, is the contractor for the \$1.7 million dollar project that has a completion date of October 29, 2021.

For further information: NHDOT Contacts: Ron Guyette, P.E., Contract Administrator, (603) 313-9949; Eileen P. Meaney, Chief Communications Officer, (603) 271-6495; NH Department of Transportation; P.O. Box 483 | 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0483

— Ray Boas

Caserta Elected to Board

Caitlin Caserta, of Walpole Valley Farms, was recently nominated and elected to the board of the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association. The American Pastured Poultry Producers Association is a national non-profit trade organization that encourages the production, processing, marketing, and purchasing of poultry raised on pasture. The association sees pastured poultry as the model for environmentally, emotionally, and economically sensible poultry production that can feed local communities uniquely nutritious, delicious, humanely-raised chicken, eggs, turkey, ducks, geese, and guineas.

Caitlin recently told the *Clarion*, "I will be joining other pasture-based farmers from around the country to work together to help spread the word about regenerative farming and pasture poultry systems. I'm hoping that with my board position I can help even local and backyard poultry producers when they have questions or concerns." Feel free to contact her with any questions.

— Ray Boas



A Community Effort

In 2019 Project Home was created response to the situation on the Mexican border to provide a community-based alternative to immigration detention. Project Home provides housing through the generosity of host families, but that's not all. People from the entire region have volunteered their time and skills to bridge between the families, schools and local health providers; to translate, tutor, drive, shop, teach driving and assist pro bono immigration lawyers in the preparation of complex asylum cases; and to raise money needed to support our guests as they adapt to life here in New Hampshire and await the outcome of their cases.

Project Home now houses and supports four families or individuals in our region. Since June I have been a team leader for Lina and her 3 children from Honduras. It has been heartening to see how the family has adapted to life in New Hampshire with support from their hosts and the generous Project Home volunteers.

In the fall, a trip to Alyson's Orchard was a highlight for the family. Apples in Honduras are very expensive and a rare treat. For weeks after apple picking, the family enjoyed everything apple - sauce, pies, crisps, and just biting in to the juicy red fruit. And winter has been so much fun with ice skating, sledding and horse-drawn sleigh rides. After a walk from my house to Burdick's for hot chocolate, we built a snowman in my yard. It has been my joy to see how far this family has come in 8 months.

Right now Project Home's first asylum seekers, a family of five from Mexico, have just completed a full year in a host home. The children are thriving in school, their parents are learning English and exploring their new culture, while Project

Home's legal team has been compiling the necessary paperwork to allow them to seek employment during the wait for their asylum hearing.

Project Home is now looking for a free or low cost living situation for this family for the next 6 months as the parents wait for their work permits. The family is able to live independently and would do well with a few rooms in a house, a separate structure or a house sitting situation. Project Home will maintain a role in this phase supplying financial support, transportation, medical and educational support as well as regular communication. We are committed to support our guest families on their journey to independence where they can begin to thrive on their own with less and less support from Project Home.

For more information or to become a Project Home volunteer, please contact: judyepstein327@gmail.com or www.projecthomenh.org

— Judy Epstein

Going Forward:

The Selectboard at its first meeting following Town Meeting is always opened by our Secretary, Regina Borden in order for the Selectboard to nominate a new Chair. Thursday, March 18, 2021, the Selectboard elected Cheryl Mayberry as Chair. Cheryl was first elected in 2017 to serve an unexpired term of two years and then elected in 2019 for a term of three years.

The Selectboard also assigned individuals to serve as liaisons to Town Departments.

Cheryl Mayberry will work with Recycling, Finance, and the Selectboard office; Steve Dalessio will work with the Office of the Town Clerk/Tax collector, the Highway Department, The Ad Hoc Committee for a new police office, Water and Sewer, the Planning Board and the Houghton Brook project, the Reservoir Dam project and the Elm Street project. Peggy Pschirrer will continue to work



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the Brownfield Project, the Broadband Project and serve a liaison to the Police Department, the Recreation Department, the Welfare Department, and the Walpole Town Library. Cheryl and Peggy will share responsibility for the Conservation Committee and all three Selectmen as Trustees of the Hooper Trust will work with the Hooper Institute.

Although each department has a liaison, all three Selectboard members share equally in decision-making and coordinating all town budgets and activities.

— Peggy Pschirrer

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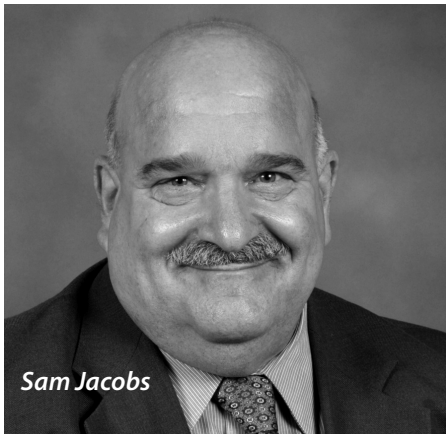


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Sam Jacobs

PHOTO PROVIDED

to improve others' lives. He is known for being fully involved with our students and families. Mr. Jacobs has always made the effort to know each and every kindergartener and their family by name, developing that relationship throughout their school career. In Walpole, students know they will always be cared for and families know they have an advocate because Mr. Jacobs is their biggest supporter. Our Mr. Jacobs was with our children at school dances, sporting events, the 8th grade White Water Rafting Trips, Camp Takodah, and even became a human Sundae for a reading challenge! He has

been right there with the students enjoying every minute of the fun. Who can forget the wonderful Air Band performances starring Mr. Jacobs? He has made all of our lives so much brighter. Our school is an amazing place because of his leadership.

These are only some of the outstanding achievements in Sam's career. Each one of these moments has always been about giving our children the opportunities of a lifetime. Please consider carrying on Sam's legacy by making a donation to the Sam Jacobs Scholarship Fund Your donation is an opportunity to share in a tribute to a man who has meant so much to so many people. Donation checks can be made out to the Fall Mountain Scholarship Fund with the memo line of Sam Jacobs Scholarship, and mailed to Fall Mountain Scholarship Fund c/o FMRHS 134 FMRHS Road, Langdon, NH 03602. Please also look for a Go Fund Me that is being shared on social media if this is an easier way for you to donate. Gratefully,

– The Sam Jacobs Scholarship Committee



Rte 12 Road Work

Walpole to Charlestown

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) will resume work on the reconstruction and widening of three miles of NH Route 12, from the intersection of Main Street in North Walpole to the intersection of NH Route 12A in Charlestown, on Monday, April 5.

The work includes the reconstruction of Route 12 to widen the roadway towards the Connecticut River, which will provide 11-foot lanes and four to five-foot wide shoulders. The widened roadway will be the result of an armored slope along the Connecticut River, updated drainage and storm water management, utility relocation, and guardrail installation.

Intermittent alternating one-way traffic will be in place during this project. Motorists can expect delays due to lane shifts and construction equipment. Message boards and signs will be used to alert motorists of current conditions.

Most of the armored slope and utility relocation was completed in 2018, and 80 percent of the drainage improvements were completed in 2019. Approximately two miles of road reconstruction were replaced last year.

– NH Department of Transportation

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Hooper Scholarship

Calling all Walpole Citizens! This opportunity is available for all! The Hooper Scholarship was established as a trust in the will of George L. Hooper to foster and promote the teaching and learning of agriculture, forestry, botany, conservation, environmental sciences, and the development and improvement of soils. This scholarship is available to all Walpole, NH citizens, regardless of age, who wish to pursue study in these and other closely related fields. Since its inception in 1998, 50 Walpole students and adult residents have received funding totaling \$405,281.



By May 15 of each calendar year, applicants for college or graduate coursework scholarships should submit: a letter of application outlining accomplishments to date and the proposed program of study for the upcoming year, recent academic transcripts, and household financial information

Applications for workshops or seminars such as bee keeping, seed saving, cheese making, sustainable agricultural practices, food security, alternative energies should submit a letter of application outlining the proposed workshop/seminar, its applicability to support study in appropriate fields, and fee information. Applications are accepted throughout the year.

All application materials should be submitted to Chair, The George L. Hooper Scholarship Committee, PO Box 729, Walpole Town Hall, Walpole, NH 03608

"The Hooper Scholarship has allowed me to take several more steps towards my ultimate goal of becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine for large animals in the agricultural field. I have gained the experience and knowledge academically to obtain this career throughout my life, but I lack the financial support. Without this scholarship I would not be able to pursue my dream." – Emily Britton

"Thanks to the early influence of the Hooper Institute and my commitment to the Student Conservation Association I know that conservation work is in my future. I am passionate about showing people the importance of our national lands. These places are meant to be shared and cherished and have been preserved for good reason. I appreciate so much receiving the Hooper Scholarship so that I can continue my education in this field."

– Elaina Badders

– Carol Malnati

"A Nightmare on Elm Street?"

Five years ago I gave the Town money for the purchase of 100 feet of granite curbing to be installed on Elm Street from the Town Hall south. It would have been an aesthetic improvement to the focal point of our community - the Common. That curbing project did not materialize, and my funds were returned.

For a number of years the water and sewer lines on Elm Street, on the west side of the Common, have needed replacing. In February 2021, I learned the water/sewer project would occur this year, beginning in May. Believing installation of granite curbing would be cheaper with the roadway being torn up, I again offered granite curbing to the Town during the Selectboard meeting of February 10. That discussion was tabled to be continued. I was then invited to the March 18 meeting of the Selectboard for that continuation.

At that meeting, I learned Elm Street, along the Common, may be widened eight feet to the west. That would cause



the loss of most trees on the west side of Elm Street. In addition, the trees alongside the Town Hall would be removed so the head-in parking could be moved west.

These proposals are safety related, but there are alternatives that will save the trees, not require widening the road, and not destroy the aesthetics around the Common (thus having an unbalanced roadway around the Common).

– Ray Boas



Survey Input Needed

Short-term rentals are becoming more and more popular, and because they have caused problems for some NH towns, Walpole's attorney has recommended that we address short-term rentals in our Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Board of Adjustment is beginning to work on this, and we need input from Walpole residents.

Short-term rentals (think AirBnB and the like) are rentals to overnight guests, usually for 1-30 days. A short-term rental may be one or more rooms rented out by someone in their own residence. It may be a brief rental of a house while the owners vacation elsewhere. However, many short-term rentals are in houses that are rented out year-round to tourists and other visitors, but the owner does not live there, and may not even live in the same state.

Please tell us how you feel about short-term rentals.

How much oversight do you think there should be? Why?

Do you have any particular concerns for the town, the neighbors, or the renters? For the short-term rental operators?

Should short-term rentals be allowed in all zoning districts? In some zoning districts?

Do you think owner occupied short-term rentals should be treated differently than non-owner occupied ones?

Would you like to have a chance to voice your concerns before a short-term rental opened next door to you?

A google survey form with the above questions may be found at - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVsFO PQa29UcPo0ixZuxJWzwDZ4GG6wA01 0BKgjUtl6QvX6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

But, even easier, go to the **Clarion** website, and on the right hand sidebar click on the Short Term Rentals logo to directly bring up, complete and submit the survey

You may email the ZBA chair, Jan Galloway-Leclerc (jan.leclerc@gmail.com) with your further thoughts and concerns regarding short-term rentals and Walpole's role in regulating them. For anyone who wants to speak to the ZBA, the board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The Zoom information can be found on the agenda, which is posted publicly about a week before each meeting.

– Jan Galloway-Leclerc

Bridge Lighting User Fee

As the work on the bridge between North Walpole and Bellows Falls commences, you may recall that part of the project involves new lighting insisted upon by the Walpole Board of Selectmen. It was a fight with the State of New Hampshire to finally agree to install new advanced technology lighting, but there was a compromise, and an ultimate cost to users of the bridge.

The April 2015 issue of the CLARION reported that toll booths were to be installed on the Westminster Bridge. That project did not materialize. Technology has advanced, and you are probably aware that toll booths have disappeared on most thruways having been replaced by cameras that record your plate number, or capture data from your transponder. To pay for the lights on the former "Arch Bridge" (called the Church Street Bridge in the state's current missive) cameras are being installed to capture license plate numbers. To save administrative costs, bills for crossings will only be sent weekly to the registered plate owners. The toll (often simply called a user fee) for the lighting will be seven cents per crossing, plus administrative costs of \$3.99 per bill. To avoid the administrative costs, users of the bridge are encouraged to establish deposit accounts with



the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). To open an account, send a check for at least \$35 to NHDOT in Concord requesting a Church Street Bridge account be opened in your name. Include the license plate numbers (family members only) that can be charged to the account. If you prefer, provide a credit card number instead (make sure to include the security code on the rear). That way when your

account gets down to \$5, your account will automatically be replenished with a new \$35 charge to your card.

In discussing this new "bridge user fee" with a State Representative (who requested I not identify her, or him), I was assured, "if you currently have a DOT transponder installed, you need to take no further action. Seven cents per crossing will automatically be deducted from your account."

– Ray Boas



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Volunteer Vaccinator

Walpole's Mary Anne Fenelon

As we sat in our heated car waiting our turn for our Covid vaccinations, I had a chance to look around. The Keene Krif Road vaccination site looked anything but pleasant. The lot was unpaved, frozen ground, the sky was a dull gray, and there was a steady arctic wind. The well-bundled National Guard members appeared to be handling the administrative tasks with their iPads in hand, and were also managing the flow and positioning of cars. The second group of those braving the cold were the ones actually giving the vaccines. Red vests topped their many layers of winter gear, and their heavy boots were the serious variety, the kind one hopes will block the pervasive cold. Only the eyes were visible between the lowered knitted caps and doubled face masks. It made sense that the risk of passing the virus along was lessened by vaccinating outdoors, but to work in this kind of environment obviously took some real dedication.

I later learned that this dedication, this life-saving, vital service of protection from the Corona virus was being provided by volunteers. Many states pay the people manning the vaccination sites. New Hampshire relies instead on a force of medical volunteers. The Keene vaccination site has been blessed with medical professionals from throughout the Cheshire region, and the process to become a volunteer is not a speedy or easy one.

Mary Anne Fenelon is one of those vaccinator volunteers, and she happens to live in Walpole. In 2001, she and her husband Pat purchased a second home in Walpole as a getaway from the demands of metropolitan living in New Jersey. After retiring from a career as a registered nurse in intensive and hospice care and Pat's stepping away from a family company, the Fenelon's moved permanently to Walpole in 2018. When the pandemic struck, Mary Anne knew she wanted to volunteer her medical skills to help. As 2020 unfolded, she heard from friends and relatives in New Jersey the brutal effects of the virus. After investigative phone calls and online sleuthing, Mary Anne learned that medical volunteers were being sought for a Keene vaccination site. Fortunately, she had kept her medical licenses in both



PHOTO: ANDREA GOINS

Susan Wyckoff receives her second vaccination from friend and fellow Walpolean Mary Anne Fenelon.

New Jersey and New Hampshire valid and active. This was a requirement to be able to volunteer, along with six hours of online training, and a background check. The state also requested that medical volunteers register to be included in a statewide emergency services volunteer cadre. This group can be called upon and deployed throughout the state in case of emergencies in the future. While Mary Anne thought that she was signing up specifically for the task of vaccinator, she was agreeable to lending a hand in future catastrophes.

When the vaccine was made available to first responders, Mary Anne felt that this protection from the virus would allow her to safely work with the public and still be able to return home after her shift. Once a week, Mary Anne arrives at the Keene Krif Road site at 7:15 AM to begin her seven hour duty. Partnered with a National Guard administrator, she makes the rounds to the parked cars to administer vaccines. She carries a tray of ten prepared syringes and returns to the site trailer to replenish. Mary Anne credits Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Jane Parayil for the tough job she must handle, scheduling and staffing all the volunteer staffs. The site is open seven days a week in two shifts, 7:15 am - 2:00 pm and 2:00 to 8:30 PM.

Mary Anne reports that, in her 30 year nursing career, she has never

encountered so many people who are so genuinely excited, eager, thrilled, relieved, and especially grateful to "get a shot." She also has discovered that the shedding of many layers of winter clothing to expose a bare arm, all while seated in a car so that it can be reached through a car door window, has been a definite challenge for many of her patients. There's been lots of laughter shared and a sincere sense of gratitude. "I'm going to live now!" was one heartfelt response. Mary Anne has been blessed many times by those receiving a vaccine and sprinkled with Holy Water for good measure. Her top vaccines-in-a-day number is 110, and she's determined to break it.

Mary Anne plans to be on the vaccine frontline site every week until the currently-planned closing in September 2021. Instead of the challenges of freezing temperatures, volunteers can now look forward to spring encounters with black flies and, later, summer afternoon showers and muddy parking lots. Mary Anne only wishes that everyone would realize the incredible importance of getting a vaccine. She fears that if people hesitate, it means that the herd immunity necessary to defeat this virus will be delayed and will cost additional lives needlessly.

— Andrea Goins



**Even with your shot(s)
Wear Your Mask – Socially Distance – Wash Your Hands**

It is the RIGHT thing to do, out of respect
and concern for your neighbor, and also to save your life



Clean Up Day

Save the Date: May 8th

For the ninth year, caring Walpole residents will be meeting at the Transfer Station on Saturday, May 8, at 8:00 AM and head off with their blue trash bags to pick all accumulated detritus from the roadsides of our beautiful town. This year, the Clean Up Day is sponsored by the Walpole Grange.

Come as a family, a group or just yourself. Social distancing is easy when you're outside! It's amazing how much trash can be picked up in just 3 hours! And after you have finished, bring the bags, tires, bottles, cans and other garbage back to the Transfer Station, where the wonderful staff will sort and dispose of it free of charge.

Wear mud-proof shoes and gloves. The clean up will happen rain or shine, so dress accordingly! It's fun, and you'll feel great afterwards. You'll be amazed by what you will find! In honor of Earth Day (a little late), let's do this! See you all Saturday the 8th.

– Tara Sad



First Congregational

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maudy Thursday Worship Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae on Zoom (link below) - April 1, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Prayer Vigil - 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Participants will pray in half hour increments, at home or in the sanctuary.

Easter Bake Sale - Saturday, April 3rd at 9:00 AM in front of the Walpole Post Office, sponsored by The First Congregational Church Finance Committee

Easter Sunrise Service at Hooper Golf Club, 7th tee, 6:30 AM (Please mask and observe social distancing)

Easter Communion Service - 10:00 AM on Zoom (link as below)

Bible Study - every Wednesday at 4:00 PM, led by Pastor Richard Malmberg on Zoom

Spring Rummage Sale: Scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 9-2; our rain date is May 22.

Join First Congregational Church of Walpole Worship and Study on Zoom using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09>

– Pastor Richard Malmberg

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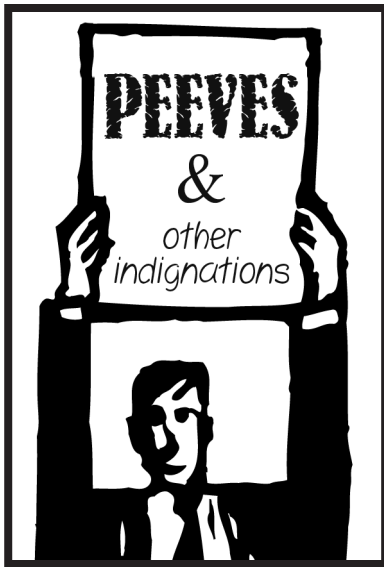
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Although there is still some question whether the Tokyo Olympics will be held this year – one year late thanks to COVID, there has been some muted buzz about the coming spectacle. Almost lost amid the various preparations and concerns (and the occasional scandal) was the announcement a few months back about what to expect in the next Olympiad. Two years ago one of the *Clarion's* April Fool stories floated some bogus “new” Olympic events, e.g., Luge a trois.

Imagine my surprise when the Olympic poobahs announced that the 2024 Olympics would introduce four new competitions for Paris: sport climbing, surfing, skateboarding, and breaking. That last one is the biggie, and, no, it does not involve destroying furniture or the contents of a china shop. It's breakdancing. Certainly a



noble activity that requires skill and athleticism of a sort. I'd rate it at least a notch above badminton as an Olympic sport. But what's next on the venue? Twerking? Why not ballroom dancing? Breakdancing... just what the Olympics need, another event that requires judges to determine a winner rather than the simple performance of the activity – by an individual or team (I expect the surfing and skateboarding events will also have panels to determine their winners).



Tugging for Gold – Antwerp, 1920

Let me confess that I enjoy watching many of the judged events – figure skating and gymnastics in particular. But for me, aesthetically pleasing and entertaining falls short of an Olympic event. If that's all it takes, why not Olympic Sit Coms? And don't get me started on synchronized diving, trampoline, and rhythmic gymnastics.

According to the IOC, the new sports, “contribute to making the program more gender balanced and more urban, and offer the opportunity to connect with the younger generation...inspiring a new audience and hosting socially responsible Games.” Well, OK then, why not add Synchronized Barristas and/or Competitive Parallel Parking? And how far off is synchronized breakdancing? Or 400 meter relay breakdancing? The permutations are endless.

At least the world will not have to endure the questionable impartiality of East German judges.

I think part of my pique stems from the occasional loss of some sports that seem like they ought to be included...the brief Olympic life of Baseball and Softball for example. Not being played in enough countries did them in.

Which brings me to a modest proposal: why not bring back an event that was part of five Games from 1900 to 1920? Tug-of-War. It's simple, requiring no elaborate facilities. It does not need to be judged. It can be easily gender-balanced. Urban as well as rural folks can pull on a rope. Every country on the planet could participate -- you don't need an enormous population and elaborate infrastructure to succeed (I'm thinking that Tonga would be as likely a champion as China). Oh, and did I mention that it does not need to be judged?

From the little research I did, it seems there were some special rules back in the day – i.e., tuggers were not allowed to sit on the ground. Apart from that though, this sport is about as simple as it gets. Seems to me like a sport whose time has come back. If the IOC continues down its current path they may need to rethink the Olympic motto: Faster. Higher. Stronger. Do they need to add More Upside Down?

– Jan Kobeski

*The **Clarion** invites its readers to share their personal peevs and annoyances for possible publication.*

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The seasons play seesaw this month of April. Spring lurches forward while winter still snatches at us from behind. The earth lays bear in fields and gardens, months away from the bounty of harvest. Let us consider the bare soil, the substance that gives our planet Earth its name.

Soil is a mixture of minerals, plant and animal life, water and even some air.

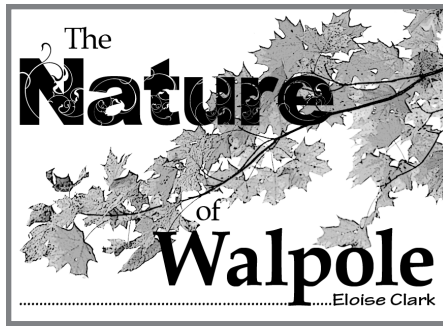


The proportion of each depends upon a wide range of climatic factors, weathering, time and topography. It might not surprise you to know there are more than 90,000 different types of soil or "soil series" in the U. S. alone.

Soil minerals come from the break-down of bedrock by the forces of weathering: the physical and chemical changes in the rock. Freezing and thawing, wind, moving water and glacial ice can cause physical changes. The Old Man of the Mountain is a famous casualty of the freeze-thaw cycle. Water infiltrated into cracks in the rock formation. When water turned to ice it expanded, forcing the rocks to split. Finally in 2003, off popped the overhang on Cannon Mt. that held the famous Profile!

Minerals in rocks also decompose because of chemical changes. For example, the roots of moss growing on rocks release acids that slowly dissolve the host rock. This makes minerals available to the plant. Depending on the chemical composition and hardness of the rock, soil formation proceeds rapidly or can take many millennia.

A visit to the old section of the Walpole



*The Old Man...
before*



and after



cemetery offers a lesson in how rocks age. It's easy to see the effects of weathering by comparing the granite monuments and the marble headstones. Despite being the same ages, the lettering of the granite looks unblemished, while names on marble headstones have been softly rounded,

Granite forms when magma cools beneath the earth's surface. This very hard igneous rock is made of silicate minerals such as mica. Silicates are the largest and most abundant class of minerals in the Earth's crust. Add quartz and feldspar to the mix and granite is formed. There are many different types depending on the color and quantity of the quartz, feldspar, mica and other embedded minerals, such as hornblende. When granite is finally broken down into fine grains, it produces acidic soils. Plant roots do not easily absorb the minerals and nutrients.

Marble is considered a metamorphic rock, previously an igneous or sedimentary rock changed by heat and pressure. It is derived from limestone. This sedimentary rock formed underwater from the shells and skeletons of animals and plants. Marble formed when the limestone was heated and compressed. The fossils were lost, transformed into sugary white crystals, still visible on the white marble headstones. Marble can be other colors as well, depending upon the introduction of other minerals. Dolomite gives a grayish color to the marble.

Marble is made of calcite, a form of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3). With a neutral pH, this stone is more readily dissolved by the acidity of rainfall, hence the damage to the headstones. However, it releases nutrients very productive for agriculture.

Limestone forms much of the bedrock of Vermont; while New Hampshire is, of course, known as the Granite State. Walpole is at the boundary between these two dramatically different types of bedrock. The Fall Mountain area has quite a complicated geology. We'll save that story for another time.



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Walpole Library

Programs

Beginning on May 1st, the library will co-sponsor a new reading program, Run and Read a Marathon! This program was developed to encourage children to keep their minds active and healthy by reading 26 books (the equivalent number to miles in a marathon). Through a generous donation by our co-sponsor, Advocates for a Healthy Youth/Cheshire Medical Center, Walpole students in grades K-6 will be able to pick up a log to keep track of the books they read. Students who read 26 books will win a free book to keep! More information coming soon on the library website: www.walpoletownlibrary.org.

If you were not able to register for our March program on IEP Organization, you can view the recorded presentation at your convenience on the Walpole Town Library YouTube channel.

Looking for a new book to read? Check out our fabulous staff member, Carolyn Norback, every Tuesday on our Facebook page as she highlights her favorite new books and classic reads.

From the Friends of the Walpole Library

Have you been to Walpole's new Reuse Center lately? First of all, it is bigger and beautifully organized. Secondly, Walpole is known for its book-reading residents, and on the back right side you will find Walpole Library's Book Sale! The Friends of the Walpole library have made it easier than ever to find the book you want or didn't know you wanted. Stocked with everything from biographies and current events titles to mysteries, sci-fi, cookbooks, and recent best sellers. Students will find a great selection of modern classics, and there are plenty of popular titles for children and young adults alike. Hardcover are just \$2.00 and paperbacks \$1.00. It all goes to support your wonderful Walpole Town Library!

— Jane Malmberg



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Non-fiction Book Group

On Monday, April 5, 2021, at 7:00 PM on ZOOM, the Walpole Non-Fiction Book Group will meet to discuss *Useful Assets: The Trump Family, the Russians, and Eurasian Organized Crime* (2019) by Robert Williams. *Useful Assets* explores the deep-rooted ties between the Trump family, the Russians and Eurasian organized crime dating as far back as 1977. How deep do those ties go? How involved were the Russians in the outcome of the 2016 presidential election? Dr. Williams holds a BA in Mathematics and Russian Studies at Wesleyan University, an MA in Russian history, and a PhD in History from Harvard University. The Walpole International Affairs Discussion Group (WIADG) will have Dr. Williams as their guest speaker on March 18th. This gives the Book Group members another unique opportunity to study the writings of a scholar and hearing them speak in person. For more information and the zoom link, email ronmaclachlan03608@gmail.com for the link.

— Ron MacLachlan

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Upcoming Programs!

Hooper Institute **Summer Camps** are happening both at 165 Prospect Hill (entering grades 1-4) and on the trails all around Walpole (entering grades 5-8). The camps will run for all ages in the mornings, June 21-July 2. The woodworking shop will be open for older students the week of July 12. More details to come. The fee for all camps is \$50.00 per week with scholarships available.

High School Work Program (for students entering grades 9-12) Applications are now available. Call 756-4382 or email hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net

Eyes on Owls, a live owl program to benefit the Hooper Institute educational programs. This event is scheduled for May 22, 1 PM. Fee is \$10 at the gate, children under 2 FREE. Venue: Walpole Recreation Fields. Bring your own chairs and blankets.

Circus in the Woods, a unique performance by troupers of the *Flying Gravity Circus* (based in Wilton, NH), who will perform along our field, garden, and woodland trails. This program is sponsored by the Hooper Institute, May 23, 2 – 5 PM. This will be a fun, innovative, youth circus arts extravaganza for all ages. The all-important registration and day of event (COVID safe) details will be posted soon. Until then, check out their website www.flyinggravitycircus.org

– Helen Dalbeck

Kudos

Walpole Native Contributes to U.S. Cross Country Ski Team History

In February and March of 2018, the Clarion chronicled Walpole native Tim Baucom's experience at the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, where Jessie Diggins and Kikkan Randall became the first U.S. Cross Country skiers to ever win a gold medal. He described the jubilant scene at the finish line, where the entire U.S. team shouted and hugged each other. This winter, the U.S. team again made history and, again, Tim was fortunate enough to be part of it.

On Sunday, March 14, Jessie Diggins became the first American woman to win cross country skiing's biggest prize: the World Cup Crystal Globe, awarded to the overall World Cup winner. Bill Koch is the only other American to earn the Globe, winning the men's title thirty-nine years ago. The final race was held in Engadin, Switzerland, concluding a World Cup season that began in Ruka, Finland in November, and was characterized as much by strict Covid-19 protocols as it was by training and racing on skis. With many doubts throughout the summer and fall about whether the World Cup season would even take place this year, the U.S. managed to overcome many logistical challenges and achieve its historic results. As Diggins herself posted after the final race, "I think it's fitting that the hardest season we've ever had ...has also been our most successful. We build a team that is strong from the inside out."

Tim, who now resides in Bozeman, Montana, has been a member of the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team service staff

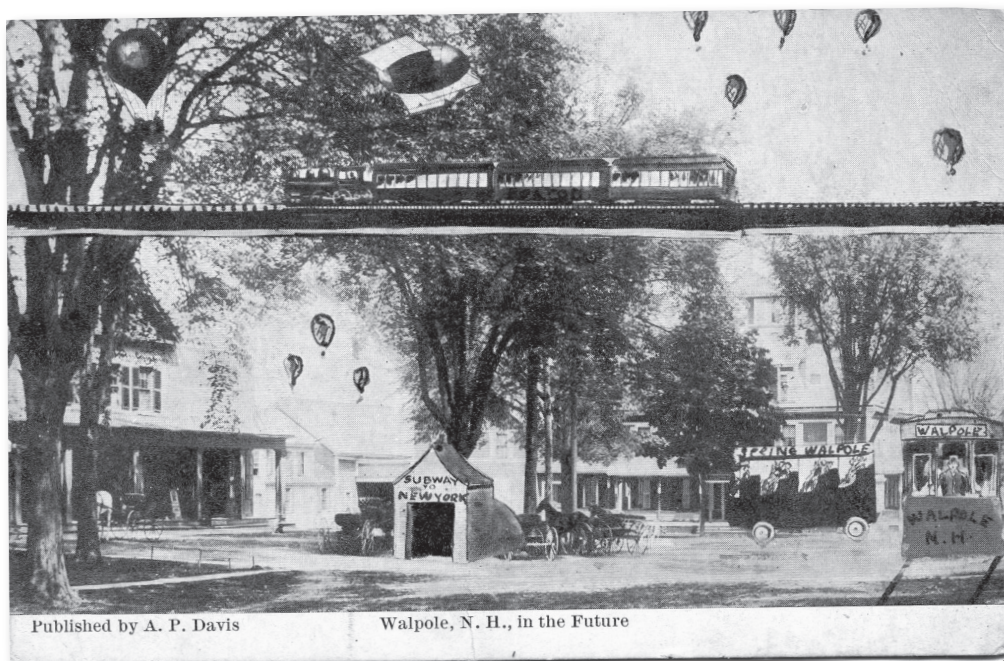


PHOTOS: CHRIS GROVER

Tim Baucom, Jessie Diggins and the Crystal Globe post race in Engadin.

since 2015. The staff manages hundreds of pairs of skis and other equipment for the U.S. team. Throughout the season, they work with the skiers as they choose and prepare skis that are best suited for each individual race. As Tim puts it, "Our job is to make sure our athletes have the best skis possible to compete with the best in the world."

Tim got his start in Nordic skiing right here in Walpole, skiing for Fall Mountain in middle school and high school, and then for the University of New Hampshire. He credits his Fall Mountain coaches – Kate Northcott, Chris Northcott and Larry Sayers - with instilling a life-long love of cross country skiing, which continues to this day in his work with the U.S. Team.



In 1912, Global Transportation International, a Delaware corporation, developed world-encompassing plans to open up remote villages and towns throughout America advocating use of the latest advances in transport. When making their pitches to prospective communities, they provided postcards showing how the Town center would be opened to the world. The card they crafted of Walpole's Square shows an express subway to New York City, a trolley line on Main Street, along with a sightseeing omnibus. Overhead an elevated express train runs unimpeded by cattle crossings, and various air balloons are floating by. Aeroplanes had not yet caught on with the public. At Town Meeting in 1913, irate, boisterous citizens voted down Global Transportation International's proposal proclaiming, "AS IT WAS...AND STILL IS... AND ALWAYS WILL BE ... WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE."

Published by A. P. Davis

Walpole, N. H., in the Future

Walpole Business Notes

Joanie Joan's

Joanie and I would like to thank all of the wonderful customers and community that have supported us throughout this trying time. We certainly could not have done this without your help!

As you probably know, Tom Murray is hanging up his apron and retiring his spatula. Joanie and I would like to thank Tom for all his years of hard work and dedication. Feeding the people of Walpole is no small task. Mr. Murray accomplished this feat year after year, decade upon decade! Cheers Mr. Murray, enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

Fear not, fellow Walpoleans! We at Joanie Joan's are happy to introduce our new addition - "Sam Miches Deli". Jake's Market will continue to have yummy salads, sandwiches, and, of course, those famous Breakfast McMurrays...only the label will change.

Joanie and I will continue to deliver premade meals, custom baking and catering. Have you tried Joanie Joan's homemade granola? It's pretty yummy indeed!

-Dan Ireland

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



Thank you Walpole residents for approving Article 9 at the Town Meeting on March 13th! Walpole Recycling will experience dramatic site improvements over the next several months with the paving of our work area in between the trailers and the south side of the building. We will also pour a new concrete pad encompassing the compactor area.

Walpole resident Seldon Lund will be back to work at the Recycling Center to provide a concrete pad that will allow us to maneuver the spare trash trailer. We can swap the full and empty trailers easily with the construction of the new pad.

Arlington paving will remove unsuitable materials, install gravel, and fine grade a compact sub base before installing a 3" asphalt driveway in our work area. We are all very thankful to have the support of Walpole as we move forward with progression at Walpole Recycling.

Remember to celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22nd

- Ben Hoy

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Your Monthly Horoscope

Let the stars be your guide...
and a planet or two, but not Pluto,
definitely not Pluto,
but check back in a month or two on that.

- Aries:** Prepare to wake up full of energy and ready for big things. It's an illusion. The stars aren't seeing it. You're on your own here...do the best you can. Tonight: Dental floss.
- Taurus:** You might be swallowing some anger or frustration. Be careful you don't take in an air bubble at the same time - that'll hurt. Much safer to lash out with unreasoning fury at whoever is annoying you. Tomorrow: Hubba-hubba.
- Gemini:** Be impulsive. If the unexpected happens and things run wild, look for scapegoats or tickets to Fiji. Tonight: Head home early.
- Cancer:** Be careful dealing with finances - don't leave a paper trail. Next month: Consider time-sharing.
- Leo:** It's critical that you connect with your boss today... or maybe your significant other... or your mechanic. The stars are a bit unsure. Anyway, it's important. Don't screw this up! Next month: Nutella.
- Virgo:** Are you still here? How did you get through the conjunction of Saturn and Uranus? Next week: Lottery tickets - lots of them.
- Libra:** Some interesting liaisons are in your immediate future. Mysterious, talented, and heavily-armed individuals are about to enter your circle (or trapezoid). Avoid abandoned warehouses, Dunkin' Donuts and sudden moves. This week: A clear path to romance... or indictment.
- Fiasco:** Embrace someone new... or an appealing conspiracy theory promoted on line by an anonymous source. Go all in. It's great to have something to believe in, no matter how ridiculous. Next month: Avoid federal property.
- Scorpio:** Get in touch with your inner child. The kid's been wondering why you haven't called lately. What's up? Scared of Legos? Next month: Get in touch with your inner teenager.
- Capricorn:** Take command! Return all phone calls, open all your email - even the SPAM. Help the Nigerian official transfer his millions to your bank account. Share your SSN & account number. What could go wrong?
- Aquarius:** Check your basement for invasive species. No telling what's sprouting down there. That spare bedroom closet has the stars worried too. Next week: Binge watch Green Acres.
- Giuliani:** Be calm. People have short memories. Don't sweat the small stuff. Don't sweat the big stuff. In fact, try to avoid sweating entirely. Next month: Two words, Copra futures... two more, plea bargain.
- Pisces:** The stars say you need to get out more. The stars are getting cabin fever too. Next month: Pretty much the same as last month.

Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...one of the rarest of 18th century almanacs was discovered in 1907 in Newburyport, Massachusetts? Following the death of Nathaniel Cutter, Esq., Edmund Lester Pearson was called in by Cutter's executor to arrange and catalogue the deceased's books. Dusting off thirty or forty years of cobwebs, Pearson found legal tomes of little interest or value, a file of the Newbury Herald from 1850 to 1895, and an interesting hoard of old almanacs, the most intriguing being *The Old Librarian's Almanack*.

Published in New Haven in 1773 "For the Year of our Lord Christ 1774," the almanac contained the requisite detailed astronomical and celestial data, along with weather prognostications. But, instead of advice for farmers, the almanac contains advice for librarians. In his research to learn more of the almanac, Pearson could find no mention of the work in the "Preliminary Check List of American Almanacs" compiled by Hugh Alexander Morrison of the Library of Congress. Finally he found an auction listing from the sale of the library of the Hon. John Stephney Wales in New York City. Wales' copy sold November 16, 1896, for \$14 (just a dime under \$450 in today's money) to Dr. Morris Kimball of St. Louis. Pearson corresponded with Kimball, learning that the Wales copy was defective, lacking the covers and title page.

Another puzzle was authorship of the almanac, signed on the title page as by "Philobiblos." A poem, "Ars Bibliothecarii" appears opposite the March entry, and is signed by 'J.B.' On that page in Kimball's copy, alongside J.B. is "writ by me, Jared Bean." With this added clue, Pearson located Jared Bean in Sarah Gilman Bigelow's "Literary and Genealogical Annals of Connecticut (1870)". Born in New Haven in 1705 or 1706, Bean became librarian of the Connecticut Society of Antiquarians in about 1754, serving in the position probably the rest of his life. Pearson further found Bean never married, believing "with Sir Thomas Bodley, that a librarian should never marry..." This personal fact, tied with his obsessive love and protection of his books, gives us insight into his comments and advice in the almanac.

On the verso (left side) pages, the reader finds almanac data for a month as expected. Opposite (on the recto side), Jared Bean shares his advice and wisdom. This advice ranges from how books

should be organized, the protection of books, strict rules for who should be allowed in the library, and books to be burned. In February he said, "Keep your books behind stout Gratings, and in no wise (sic) let any Person come at them to take them from the Shelf except yourself." Commenting on patrons, "Be suspicious of Women. They are given to the Reading of frivolous Romances, and at all events, their presence in a Library adds little ... You will make no error in excluding them altogether." Going further, "Let no Politician be in your Library, nor no man

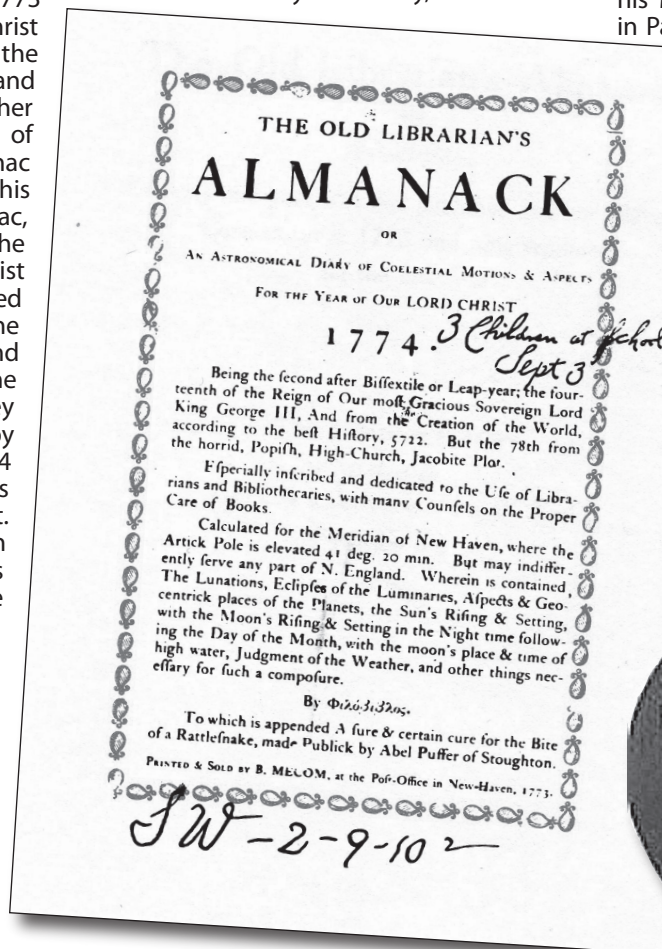
who Talks overmuch. It will be difficult for him to observe Silence, and he is objectionable otherwise, as well."

Bean respected the wisdom of his learned colleague, librarian Enoch Sneed, but disagreed that the domestic mouse is the greatest enemy to libraries. "Of the enemies of Books, I especially esteem the cockroach..." Bean portends, "...the Cockroach, more elusive in his Habits, & not less insidious in his Character, spreads destructions wherever his footsteps may wander." Bean concludes this page with a recipe for cockroach poison. One warning to miscreants, "For him that stealeth a Book from this Library, let it change to a Serpent in his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with Palsy, and all his Members blasted. Let him languish in Pain, crying aloud for Mercy." The last

two pages are devoted to "A sure and certain cure for the Bite of a Rattlesnake Made Publick by Abel Puffer of Stoughton." The Bulletin of Pharmacy reprinted the snake bite remedy upon the almanac's discovery. Hoping you do not need it, but in case, I have provided the entire cure on the [Clarion](#) website.

Following Pearson's discovery, in 1909, the Elm Tree Press in Woodstock, VT, reprinted *The Old Librarian's Almanack* for the first time. It would behoove any bibliophile to obtain and enjoy a copy.

Edmund Lester Pearson



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From Peggy's Desk

March 20, 2021, the first day of spring: snow mounds are disappearing, the sun is bright and promising, the daffodils are inching up though the slowly warming soil. We all sigh that the back of winter has been broken as daylight persists until almost seven. Last year at this time we were shaken by orders to "Stay at Home"; do not congregate. What was this Covid-19 and why should it govern our lives?

In March 2020, we debated whether to hold Town Meeting: the big issue was a bond warrant which would allow us to begin a private-public partnership with Consolidated Communications, Inc. to install fiber optics in Walpole. We decided to hold that Town Meeting and the bond warrant passed 135-2. Honestly, we all said, thank goodness we went forward as we watched towns struggle to hold Town meetings over the next four months as Covid-19 struck hard and fast in congregant living facilities, and hit families and friends all over New Hampshire and neighboring states. Cheshire County, and Walpole in particular, seemed to escape last spring and summer; but, as fall came in, the numbers in Walpole crept up almost every day.

We followed the Governor's instructions: we shut down Town Hall to

outside groups; we issued orders for all employees to wear masks and required everyone to make an appointment in order to do business with the Town Clerk or the Select Board office. We switched our meetings to zoom sessions - a new experience to which we are all too familiar a year later. And yes, we are all suffering a bit of zoom fatigue.

Nothing can replace the face-to-face meeting.

All the while we have been "safe at home", CCI has strung miles of fiber optics and numerous houses have been connected to high speed broadband. There have been some glitches along the way, but Dennis Marcom, our local Project Chair, has kept on top of every problem and success with his CCI counterparts to solve every issue.

The fall election cycle went smoothly with record turnout, distances maintained, voters and election workers all masked and single use pens, tables and chairs sanitized. This gave us the foundation for our decision to hold our Town Election and Town Meeting for 2021 as scheduled. Only half the usual numbers of voters turned out on both election day and at the Annual Meeting in the Walpole Middle School gymnasium.

One of the pleasures of working the election in Town Hall is watching the young children who accompany their

parents to the polls. Our last voters on March 9 arrived at 6:50 pm with a baby boy less than one month old, sleeping peacefully as his parents stepped up to exercise their right to vote. Someday, that baby can be told one of his first outings was to participate in an action every citizen has the right to participate in - indeed, an obligation, to shape the future of the community. Thank you to each and every voter and Town Meeting participant. Your input is valued.

And now, as some restrictions begin to loosen and vaccinations are given daily, we see some return to normal routines - but not without cautions to continue to wear masks, avoid large gatherings, wash your hands. The variants of Covid-19 are reason not to abandon all caution.

We have a new way of life. Register to receive your vaccine: protect yourself, your family and friends.

- Peggy Pschirrer

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WES Girls' Basketball

Team Caps Terrific Season

Even though the basketball season was short this year, players were at least happy they could play. The Walpole Elementary School girls' basketball team was undefeated this year. Due to Covid restrictions, we could only play the middle school teams in the district, consisting of Vilas and Charlestown. Spectators were not allowed in the gym so the games were live streamed, and players had to be socially distanced while sitting on the bench. Masks were also worn throughout the whole game.

The Walpole team had two 8th graders who were also the team captains: Cora Buswell and Mariella Tsitsonis. 7th graders included Bridget Bascom, Jenna Fillion, Kelsey Fillion, Sophia Grillone, Emma King, and Siera King. The 6th graders were Sophia D'Alessandro and Olivia D'Alessandro.

Coach Sandy Smidutz had a message for her departing eighth graders.

"Mariella Tsitsonis and Cora Buswell - You will be missed! Thank you for your positive leadership as second year co-captains. Your hard work and support of your teammates is commendable. I am looking forward to watching you play in The Den."

I asked Mariella and Cora "How do you think the team did this year," and this is how they responded.

"I think the team did really well this year considering the fact the season was really short and it went by so fast. There is so much talent on our team and I am really lucky I got to play with the team I did. We had a good coach and learned quite a bit from the time we had," said Mariella.

Cora said: "I think the team played incredibly well considering the circumstances. With our season unfortunately being cut short, we have limited time to practice and very little games. This didn't stop our team, though, from finding ways to improve both ourselves individually and as a team. Every player on our team is very passionate about the sport and worked hard to prove that on the court. There is so much talent and potential in the upcoming 7th and 8th graders, and I'm excited to see what next season brings them!"

The team this year did great on both defense and offense. They made great passes to teammates and took shots. Coach Sandy Smidutz also noticed this growth: "It was wonderful to see the growth of the players, especially in the shortened season. They embraced the practices and gave it their all."

They played six games. Three against Charlestown and three against Vilas.

At the end of the season the girls scrimmaged the boys. Unfortunately, the girls lost but they never gave up. The final score at the end was 50 - 38.

Coach Smidutz has high hopes for next season: "I hope that all the players will return to play. I hope they take the time in the off season to work on their shooting and ball handling skills. I can't wait for the next opportunity to work with this great group of athletes again!"

Hopefully next season is back to normal!

- Kelsey Fillion (Grade 7)

Book Review

One Time



One Time is Sharon Creech's newest middle grade novel. It is about a girl named Gina, and she is trying to figure out who she is, and who she wants to become. Throughout the book, she discovers a talent that previous teachers criticized her about. Gina also meets a new friend, although he seems to be quite strange. He sees things that the average human would never even imagine. Gina has been told that she has an overactive imagination, but it turns out to be a big help to her. She and the boy become very good friends, and they soon discover something very peculiar that they have in common. If you enjoy this book, Sharon Creech has many marvelous books that I have really enjoyed, including *Walk Two Moons* and *Absolutely Normal Chaos*.

I really enjoyed the clever ideas that the author included in the story, and the book is inspiring. This book could fall into two different genres. There are some fantasy features, but it is mostly fiction. I would give this book a 4 out of 5 stars for its creativity.

I would definitely recommend this book to others. This book is great for middle schoolers (grades 5-8). The Walpole Town Library has this book available.

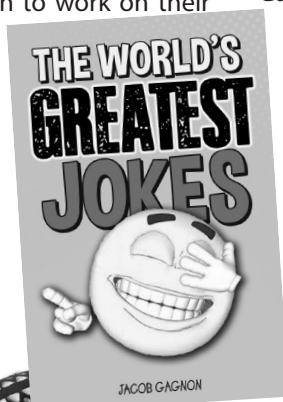
- Emily Heddon (Grade 7)

WES Teacher Published

I know what you are thinking: Mr. Gagnon, the Language Arts teacher at Walpole Elementary School, is known for his jokes, but they are not always good. It is a great surprise to many when he published his joke book after a publishing company saw "great potential" in his jokes. Also known as "dad jokes," Mr. Gagnon has created a series of them. From "Where does a polar bear store his money? (A snow bank!)" to "Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?" He has chosen his favorites to be in the book.

As most Walpole students know, Mr. Gagnon has always started his class with a joke. But if you buy this book, you'll always have them around! Purchase *World's Greatest Jokes* at your near-by store today!

- Sophia D'Alessandro (Grade 6)



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WES Curling

Set to Begin Next Winter

Many students in the schools north of Walpole have been enjoying the sport of curling as an after school activity for years. The sport is played by players moving a stone across ice and trying to get into specific zones. Sweepers attempt to slow the stone as it nears its mark. This exciting pastime will be introduced at Walpole Elementary School as of November 2022.

Many students are quite interested in signing up for the team, and the decision to create a Walpole Elementary School curling team has students and teachers excited to try something new. The teams will practice twice a week, starting at the beginning of November, and will hope to compete with neighboring curling teams from around the state. Some may even be further than a stone's throw away!

— Avery Richardson (Grade 6)



**ALL DOGS
MUST BE
LICENSED**



Reminder

State Law requires all dogs
to be licensed by April 30

NOTE

Liminal Spaces?

What are They?

Your curiosity may be engaged by the term liminal spaces. The dictionary defines the word liminal as, "relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process", or "occupying a position at, or on both sides of, a boundary or threshold."

So, in a nutshell, it's a transitional space. For example, an empty airport, or a school during the summer, or a playground at night. These usually give us a feeling of uncanniness, and/or nostalgia, like we've been there before, a kind of déjà vu feeling. For example, you may feel this way looking at the attached picture.

You may get the sense that you've been there before, even if it's in a state or country you've never visited. Part of this reason is due to the universal look of a place (like, for example, an airport, or a school). The most interesting part, to me, is the feeling that liminal spaces provokes in us. So next time you see a picture of a place, and feel that tug of déjà vu, you'll know the name for it.

— Aidan Suozzi (Grade 6)

Walpole Chicks

In Red and Yellow?!

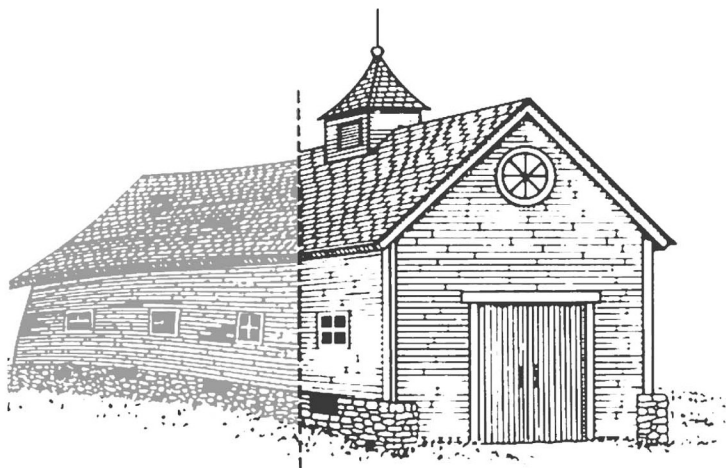
There is exciting news this month as the Walpole Schools have come to the decision that the Walpole School colors will be changed from white and blue to red and yellow. This decision was made after careful consideration of the students and staff about how they would feel. Blue is a common color within the schools of our district, so it was thought that Walpole could stand apart from the crowd with new colors. The red is said to represent the passion of our students and staff in the classrooms, on the courts and sports fields. The yellow is a nod to the color of chickens, our school mascot.

The Walpole Schools have also decided to have the students start wearing uniforms to school. For the gentlemen, a simple red and yellow striped shirt with black pants will be worn; and for the ladies, a yellow and red striped shirt with a black skirt. These decisions were originally brought forth by the student council who decided that Walpole needed a fresh start. So, beginning next year, get ready to rep the red and yellow for Walpole Schools!

— Emily Heddon (Grade 7)

You can renew an existing registration online IF the rabies certification is current and if the registration did not lapse. Go to: WalpoleNH.US Choose Departments: Town Clerk/Tax Collector then scroll to bottom and click on "Dog Licensing"

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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

A Tripe Type of Day!

Most times it is better to take a few seconds to think about how you want to respond to a question, than just blurt out your reply.

Hadn't seen my friend Elwud since his snow surfing accident, and was surprised to meet up with him outside a store in West Lebanon. Surprised, because Elwud doesn't venture that far from home unless there is an emergency.

"Hey, Elwud," I said. "Looks like you are recovering fine from your accident."

"Hrrumph!" was his reply.

Thought I better change the subject, so I said, "I heard you ran for a political office back in March. What was you running for?"

"There was an openin' for Animal Control Officer, which I felt qualified fer, so I put my name on the ballot."

"How you make out?"

"Hrrumph! Was doing okay, runnin' unopposed, that's until they held oneova them candidate nights. You know where concerned cityzins get to ask stupid questions. Well sir, all was goin' fine, 'til Maudie Leddbetter got up and asked me a question."

"What did she ask?" I queried.

"Well if'n I called you and told you that a fox got into my hen house and kilt a bunch ov my hens, what would you suggest I do?"

"'parently, 'invite family and friends ova for a Sunday bar-b-que was not the answer she was lookin' fer!"

"But if you was running unopposed, you only needed one vote to win. How could you lose?"

Seems she was so upset, she convinced everybody to not vote for me. And she wrote in her husband's name and checked it. He won by one vote."

"So you are shopping in West Lebanon, so you don't have to face people in town, due to you loss?"

"No, you idiot; shopping in West Lebanon due to the special on tripe, the local store is having."

With that comment, we both headed in opposite directions, without so much as a "See ya!"

Women of Walpole

COVID has really interfered with WOW's fun events this past year, especially our favorite social event of the season, the Mardi Gras Gumbo Gala. Fundraising is so vital to our mission of raising money for worthy causes that we are holding a fundraiser anyway. Many of you have helped us in the past. You baked, cooked, bought tickets and supported our organization in so many ways. Would you consider a donation to WOW to help us continue our community support in 2021? In 2020 we supported the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, Fall Mountain Friendly Meals, The Walpole Village School, wreaths on the Town Hall, school snacks, The Giving Tree Project, Kurn Hattin graduates, Distant Hills Nature Trail, The Hooper Institute and Christmas gifts for needy Walpole families.

Donations in lieu of the Mardi Gras Gumbo Gala may be sent Women of Walpole, PO Box 931, Walpole, NH 03608.

Our goal this year is \$4000 (the same amount we raised at last year's Gala). For further information on WOW, fee free to contact Susan Johnson (6033134018) or Nancy Lightner (978-771-5266),

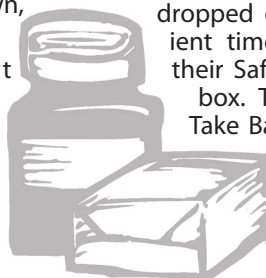
Women of Walpole is a registered 501 (C) 3 nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Tax id # 84-4709008

— Susan Johnson & Nancy Lightner

Drug Take Back Day

The Walpole Police Department is participating in the spring DEA National Prescription "Drug Take Back Day" Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Drop off points are at Walpole Police Department, located at 4 Russell Street, North Walpole; and at the Walpole Recycle Center, 207 Whitcomb Road in Walpole. This is your opportunity to dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medications for safe destruction. Officers will be standing by to receive your unwanted drugs.

If you are unavailable to drop off your unwanted drugs on the 24th, please call the Police Department 445-2058 to make arrangements to have your drugs dropped off at a more convenient time and disposed of in their Safe Medication Disposal box. This is the 20th Drug Take Back event. Last fall the Walpole Police Department collected and turned in 49 pounds of unwanted drugs.



— Ray Boas

Letters to the Clarion

Tom's Provisions

Even as Murray's Restaurant was running, an opportunity came my way to do convenience sandwiches starting in 1991 for Tole's Variety. Thirty years past, my re-named Tom's Provisions, LLC, titled in 2015, has finally decided to step out of the kitchen. My food service license ends on March 31, 2021. I think people really enjoyed the grab-and-go kind of food because sometimes (especially in the summer), they would go so fast it was hard to keep up.

I want to thank all of you for letting me serve your breakfast McMurray sandwiches and lunch appetites. It was all possible because of Tole's, Vicki Gohl (Walpole Village Market), and Jakes Market, new in 2011. Also bringing me on in 2014 was Tony and Diane James at the Shell Convenience in Bellows Falls, delivering the same fare. Thank you to these stores for allowing me to serve you.

I will say I will not let you go hungry. On April 1st, the sandwich business will be handed off to Dan and Joan Ireland and called SAM MICHES DELI, an addition to 'Joanie Joan's On The Go'.

Again, I appreciate and thank everyone for the whole sum of 41 years serving the patrons of Walpole and beyond.

Many Regards,

— Tom Murray

Kudos to Town Clerk's Office

If you haven't discovered this yet, you're in for a real treat!

Did you know that many of the functions of the Town Clerk that we are all so used to standing in line for at the Town Hall are now online! They've gone digital!

I visited the town website (walpolenh.us), went to the 'Departments' tab, then 'Clerk/Tax Office', and found a treasure trove of services to access with a click of a button! Need to register your vehicle? Just click the 'E-REG' button, and voila! Your registration is on its way! Need to license your Dog? Click 'DOG LICENSING', and Rover is now registered! Need a copy of your birth certificate? No fret! Click 'VITAL RECORDS', and your certificate is on its way!

Wow! No more booking appointments. No more waiting at a window. It is truly amazing. Such a pleasant change! And there's more. The Town Clerk has provided eleven handy, time-saving tips! Look for these in future issues of the Clarion

Congratulations, Megan and Vicki! Thanks for making our lives so much easier.

— Tara Sad

MILESTONES

Passed

Minnie R. Wright
July 8, 1933 - November 21, 2020

Nancy M. Shepard
August 28, 1926 - February 7, 2021

Richard A. Neilsen, Sr.
December 30, 1934 - February 27, 2021



FROM THE CLARION...

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

One Year Ago (April, 2020) - Even with global warming affecting our planet, it was a real shocker to see a flock of flamingos at the Mill Pond in Walpole this past week.

Three Years Ago (April, 2018) - The **Clarion** was the first to report a host of new Winter Olympic Games including Blindfold Curling introducing an element of uncertainty and edginess to a currently placid sport.

Five Years Ago (April, 2016) - The Walpole Fire Department will be holding a new fundraiser this summer, which - depending on its success - may replace its annual golf tournament. (Then) Assistant Chief Mark Houghton reports that a suggestion was made at the last meeting to sell calendars featuring "in the buff" photos of department members. Enthusiastic members confirmed the success of risqué calendars elsewhere

Seven Anos Ago (Aprilis, 2014) - With frustration intensifying over the stalemate over repairs to the Vilas Bridge connecting North Walpole and Bellows Falls, a concerned group of local business owners from both sides of the river recently met to discuss the crisis. Knowing a reopening is unlikely, a proposal was developed to convert Vilas to a walking bridge complete with shops and sidewalk cafes.

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
May issue deadline: April 23

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

It is April - No Foolin! As you know some items on this month's twenty pages may have some interesting twists, stretching your imagination a tad, and hopefully evoking a chuckle or two. One piece I wish was in jest, but still is not as I am writing at this moment, Tuesday night, 23 March.

Page one - another Town Meeting concluded, albeit one the least attended in my memory, and probably one of the longest held. And, what a nice honor to recognize beloved Sam Jacobs. COVID has been with us a year, and it is so special to be able to thank resident Mary Anne Fenelon for giving us those "shots in the arm." With spring, bridge and road work will begin in North Walpole, and the Village will soon be disrupted with water and sewer construction around the Common, and the Brownfield Project behind Spencer's and Mascoma Bank, which will ultimately provide needed parking for village shop employees and visitors alike.

You may know that I have been a full-time bookseller now for 31 years, and issued my first book catalogue ten years earlier in 1980. Thus I am thrilled to share the story of "The Old Librarian's Almanack for 1774." In just my professional book selling days the internet has changed even book selling. I now have found, and own, two copies of this little tome. Although a reprint, if you wish I will be happy to give one copy it to the library for everyone's enjoyment. Just ask Jane to ask me for it.

Enjoy spring's arrival, but even with your shot(s) to stay safe and stay well, wear your mask and socially distance.

- Ray Boas, Publisher

Stay safe & be well!!

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**Savings Bank of Walpole will cover all closing costs for the home equity line of credit however if the borrower pays off and closes the line within the first three years (36 months), the borrower must reimburse Savings Bank of Walpole for the closing costs the bank paid on their behalf. Borrower is responsible for obtaining and paying for satisfactory homeowners insurance.*



NMLS #466063



PHOTO: RAY BOAS



It wasn't hard to socially distance at this year's Town Meeting, as COVID concerns kept many Walpoleans away.