

Some Things to Celebrate...Some Not

From Peggy's Desk

Today, as I sat down to write, I groaned at the possibility that we were about to have a repeat of July 29, 2021 – a Thursday when five plus inches of rain fell in Walpole. As we met that night for our weekly Selectboard meeting, Steve Dalessio's phone was beeping with messages – "Where are you? I am trying to call Town Hall, and no one is answering. My driveway is washing away." We were in the large meeting room; aware it was raining but unaware of the destruction going on all over town. Three weeks have gone by, and today's weather forecast calls for torrential rain. As the days have passed, we have waited for someone from the State Government to come view our damage, which is well over Two million dollars. What will today's events add to that?

We have been told that we will be able to plead our case on Monday, August 23, when Liz Giboy will be here to inspect all our damage. We have worked with Liz from Homeland Security when we worked on our Hazard Mitigation Plans; we know her, and she knows, us which gives us a level of comfort. We need access to FEMA funding, because the cost for engineering work and repair work to roads and bridge far exceeds our funds.

Also on Monday, August 23, assuming Hurricane Henry does not set us back, Green Site Services will begin the take down of the Red Garage on our Brownfield site. Once the garage is removed, the contractors will go straight to digging the soil out of the larger site. The soil will be tested to determine where it will be sent, so there seemingly be no activity for about two weeks. Once the testing is complete, work will begin again. Contaminated soil goes to Canada, noncontaminated to Pennsylvania.

Continued on Page 3



PHOTO: JAN KOBESKI

Dunkin' Done? Solar Still?

The August 10 Planning Board meeting began with new presentations by the Dunkin' applicants on the advantages of a massive six acre solar array on Route 12, adjoining the shopping plaza. In reply, the Planning Board explained that, in its continuing research, with 85% of the power going off site, this installation is considered "industrial strength" and the proposal must first go to the Zoning Board to request a special exception for industrial use in a commercially zoned district.

Dunkin' representatives did not appear at the Zoning Board meeting on August 18 to request a hearing for a special ex-



See pages 11 -14



Happy 10th Birthday, Us.

Continued on Page 4

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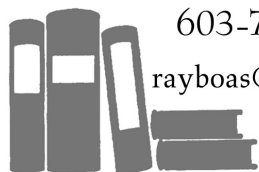
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Art After School...

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It is with deep regrets that the staff have decided to postpone indefinitely the return of Art After School. We have concerns about the contagiousness of the new variants of the COVID -19 virus and susceptibility amongst the elderly staff despite vaccination, as well as the increased risk for a mixed cohort of unvaccinated children who need to eat a snack and be relieved of masks after a long day of school. We hope that in several months, with vaccination of the elementary school age and decline of virus spread, we will be able to start up. We are very sorry for this change in our plans. Your comments/ suggestions are welcome - Mnwilking@gmail.com

— Marilyn Wilking

The Walpole Foundation

Alberta (Bert) Wiemers has joined the Walpole Foundation as Executive Director as of July 26, 2021, replacing Raynie Laware, who submitted her resignation to the Board of Directors July 14, 2021. Raynie will be working with Bert in the office for the next few weeks, and will remain available to the Foundation on an as needed basis.

Raynie has been with the Foundation since its inception; no one could replace her historical knowledge. She has dedicated many years to the smooth operation of the Foundation and its Board of Directors. We are very grateful for her service.

Bert comes to the Foundation with strong bookkeeping skills and local knowledge. Many of you may recognize her as one of the regular walkers in town. She will be working closely with Karen Crowley, the Facilities Manager.

Please welcome Bert, and wish Raynie well in her retirement.

— Peggy Pschirrer

2020 Census

Walpole Loses Population

The results of the 2020 US Decennial Census have been released. Between 2010 and 2020, Walpole's population decreased 2.7 percent to 3,633 from 3,734 in 2010. One hundred years ago, in 1920, Walpole's population was 2,553. New Hampshire's population grew by 4.6 percent between 2010 and 2020. One of three counties losing population, Cheshire County's population decreased by about 1% during this period.



Overall, New Hampshire's population grew by 4.6% to 1,377,529. Historically one of the whitest states, there was a shift from 94% to 88% white, making the state a tad more diverse. New Hampshire is the fourth whitest state behind Vermont, Maine and West Virginia. In addition, New Hampshire remains one of the oldest states, ranking fourth behind Washington, D.C., Vermont and Maine for its percentage of residents age 18 and over. The over 18 population increased 9% to 81% of the total during the past ten years.

Our Nation's Founders, in writing the U.S. Constitution, mandated that a census population count be made every ten years to determine the apportionment of representatives among the states. Decisions on federal funding for roads, schools, housing and social programs are also apportioned based on population.

— Ray Boas

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2021 Banquet Filling Up; Reserve Now

As mentioned in the July and August Clarions, the "Walpole Horse Thieves" will hold our banquet September 16 at the Alyson's Orchard banquet facility. Reservations have come in briskly with 100 reservations by early August. The banquet facility seats 150, and reservations are taken in the order they are received.

The speaker for this year's banquet is Steve Taylor, former Ag Commissioner of the State of NH. Mr. Taylor will share with us some stories about farming in the Connecticut River Valley in the past and present. As he has real-life experience running the family farm in Cornish, NH, these stories are very close to home. Mr. Taylor has a widely varied career, including as a newspaper reporter, farmer, Ag Commissioner for the State of NH for 25 years, town moderator, trustee of the university system and as a public speaker. Mr. Taylor graduated from UNH in 1962 and has run the family farm before, during and after the other pieces of his long career.

Doors at the Alyson's facility will open at 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. As Horse Thieves know, reservations are non-cancellable unless the banquet itself is cancelled. This year the meal costs \$25 per person, and payment must accompany your reservation. The Horse Thieves accept cash or checks. Reservations may be mailed to Lewis or delivered in person (331 North Road, Walpole). If you want to see if there is still room before mailing your check, feel free to call Lewis at 603-756-0001

As always, the evening will include a few moments to honor our current Riders, and we will hand out our 2021 membership poster listing all members as of August 1, 2021.

Attendance at the banquet is open to any member of the Horse Thieves and their guests. Membership is open to any man 18 years or older who lives in Walpole, who pays a \$2 lifetime dues and signs the membership book. If you are interested in joining please contact Lewis LaClair, Clerk (603-756-0001, or LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com).

- Lewis LaClair

Continued from Page 1, From Peggy

Our Community Power Committee, chaired by Paul Looney, now has a seat at the table of Board of Directors of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. Dennis Marcom is our alternate to that Board as it works to incorporate and develop the organization that will become a very large public non-profit to support Community Power programs across the state. At this week's meeting our local committee began to examine the business model for the coalition, which has the potential to deliver long-term energy cost savings, as well as allow us to develop local clean energy. The Coalition will also enhance our ability to influence state energy policy, which will directly benefit our residents as well as our businesses. We will schedule public meetings this fall to open the energy discussion to everyone.

I share everyone's angst as fall comes on and we watch the Covid virus mutate and affect our residents. Masks have never really gone away, and many are wearing them for personal protection and more stores are requiring they be worn. There is not doubt this virus will not go away. How can we best protect ourselves and each other?

We have all sides of the issue in Walpole, and each of us is entitled to have an opinion. But I made the decision a long time ago that I would support "shots" and vaccines when my children were little, when annual flu shots came along, polio, measles vaccines, shingles, pneumonia and now covid. My father wouldn't sign the permission slip when I was in grade school to allow me to participate in the mass vaccinations for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. So, I was college bound when I had all those plus smallpox. By that time, I un-

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derstood the need to protect myself as well as those around me, and, as a parent later, there was never any doubt of their importance. Certainly, living in a medical household and part of the medical community had its influence. All these years later, I trust the medical research, the development of vaccines and urge us all to get the Covid vaccine for self-protection and the protection of your neighbor.

- Peggy Pschirrer

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The Walpole Players

Egad! Jeeves and Wooster Return to the Common!

What ho! Bertie Wooster inflicts his charming ineptitude on America when he ventures across the pond armed only with his handsome fortune, talent for trouble, and his remarkable manservant Jeeves. But when a childhood friend gets Bertie mixed up with a vengeful thug named "Knuckles" McCann, he ends up mistakenly engaged to the meddling Vivienne Duckworth. Could it be that even the illustrious Jeeves may not be up to the task?

Come find out on Saturday, September 11, at 5:30 PM, on the Walpole Town Common, when The Walpole Players present a staged reading of *Jeeves Takes a Bow* by Margaret Raether, adapted from the stories of P.G. Wodehouse.

We are asking audience members to support The Walpole Players with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults, but any amount is greatly appreciated, and will help us keep the curtain up and lights on at the Helen Miller Theater!

Don't forget to bring your choice of outdoor seating (lawn chair, blanket, etc.). In the case of rain or thunderstorms, the performance will be postponed to another date in the near future. This decision will be made on September 11. Please check our website, call (603) 756-2535, or email WalpolePlayers@gmail.com AFTER 2:00 PM if bad weather is imminent on the day.

For more information and updates, check our website TheWalpolePlayers.org, call 603-756-2535 or email WalpolePlayers@gmail.com.

— Lisa Bryan



PHOTO: LISA BRYAN

Binky (Rebecca Saunders) and Vivienne (Juliana Stevens) rehearse the play within the play with Bertie (Tom Durnford) while Jeeves (Mike Delaney) stands by.



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Continued from Page 1, Dunkin

ception to regulations for the installation of an industrial solar array field in this commercially zoned area. To request a hearing for consideration of an exception to Walpole's zoning regulations, an applicant needs to show up at a meeting (either with a prior written request or not) to explain the exception that is desired. The board then votes to hold a hearing at the next scheduled meeting pending receipt of the required paperwork and fees.

Next discussed August 10 was the continuing Dunkin' Donut site plan hearing. Board members expressed traffic concerns in this "high crash area" of Route 12. Dunkin' has moved their proposed entrance further south, closer to the intersection with Upper Walpole Road and the crest of the rise while traveling north. The rise for south bound traffic just before the plaza entrance already has most drivers exiting here concerned.

Board chair Jeff Miller stated he was "apprehensive to moving forward ... making a bad situation worse." Selectboard representative Dalessio stated he appreciated the work done by Dunkin', but this is not a safe area. Board member Dennis Marcom then moved that the site plan be approved contingent upon NH Department of Transportation final comments and approval. With no majority vote for or against, the motion failed, thus the proposed site plan failed.

— Ray Boas

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Crop Walk

Annual Event Targets Local & Global Hunger

We are gearing up for the annual Walpole CROP Hunger Walk on Saturday, September 25th! For 20 years, churches in Walpole have collaborated to organize the walk in order to raise funds to alleviate hunger locally, and also to assist with sustainable farming and clean water practices in the U.S. and throughout the world. Please join us again this year with your friends and family to support the effort with your steps and your donations. Registration starts at 9:00 AM, and the walk begins at 9:30 AM at the First Congregational Church on The Common.

The route takes you around Walpole - approximately 3.5 miles. To participate, or to find out more about Crop Hunger Walk, go to the website for the Walpole Crop Hunger Walk (shown below) and register. If you aren't associated with a church, you may sign up to walk as an individual, a family, or friends group. Unable to participate in the walk, but would like to donate? Please consider donating as an individual or to an associated group or walker through a donation by check or by using the secure link below. Walkers are encouraged to invite friends and family to support them and use the website to donate once you have registered yourself.

Through donations last year, Walpole raised a total \$12,325.00. One fourth of the total, or \$3,081.00, went to our local Fall Mountain Food Shelf, our local designated beneficiary.

For more information about the CROP Hunger Walk, to register online or to donate, please use this link: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/walpolnh>.

Questions? Please call Ellie Shaw at 603-756-4866.

- Wendy Harty



Walpole recycling is happy to welcome cooler weather, which helps to tone down the garbage juice fragrance at the bottom of the compactor known in the industry as leachate. Leachate can be reduced with proper composting at Walpole Recycling. Leachate attracts maggots and numerous flies that hover over the compactor piston on hot days. We do all that we can to limit these conditions, but what goes into the compactor decides the fragrance of the leachate and the volume of larvae encompassing the compactor area. The cooler weather helps to alleviate many of these undesirable conditions.

Did you know there is a compost pile at the center? This is where food scraps

Turkey Trot

Plans for the next Turkey Trot are underway, so please Save the Date - November 25, 2021.

The Fall Mountain Cross Country Running and Skiing Teams are hosting a benefit 5K Race in Walpole on Thanksgiving Morning. The race registration will be on the Walpole Common beginning at about 8:00AM and the race starts at 9:00. For More Information you may contact: Kelly at 756-9528 or Holly at 445-5104.

- Holly Gowdy



(vegetables, fruits, greens, coffee grinds) should go instead of into the compactor. We do not accept meat or dairy in the compost pile, or diapers. Fun fact - somehow a bag of diapers makes its way to the spill point every time we switch compactor trailers on Friday mornings. Every time. Please don't ask me how I know this. Please do what you can to sort, separate, recycle, and compost at Walpole Recycling. To get to the compost pile, drive straight past the green recycle trailer and take a right. Follow the road in front of the trailers to end. The compost pile is tilled once or twice per week and is teeming with nutrient rich soil from the Walpole compost community, and the ready compost is available for the community to retrieve and use.

The friends of the Walpole Library have been keeping our shelves stocked with literature worth reading, and the donations being left by Reuse Center customers reflect their fine work. Thank you to everyone who has donated their reusable items to benefit the progress of the Reuse Center! Hope everyone has a wonderful September (my favorite month). Keep recycling, Walpole.

- Ben Hoy

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First Congregational

September Events

Sunday worship is held each week at 10:00 AM

Worship in-person and indoors has resumed. We continue to require masks in the building, and social distancing until further notice, out of an abundance of caution. We continue to make the sanctuary worship service on Zoom.

Communion Sunday is every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome at the table. We currently use Covid-safe, sealed communion elements. Our practice on Zoom has been for worshippers on the internet to take part using their own bread and cup.

Bible Study meets every Wednesday, 4:00 – 5:00 PM, led by Pastor Richard Malmberg, following summer hiatus, resumes on Wednesday, September 15 on Zoom.

Book Discussion - Discussion of our summer book: *Don't Label Me: How to Do Diversity Without Inflaming the Culture Wars* by Irshad Manji, will take place on Sunday, September 19 at 2:00 PM, on the north side of the church, by the Memorial Garden. In case of rain, we will gather in Fellowship Hall (mask required).

Installation of Pastor - Sunday, September 26, at 3:00 PM, with the Southwest Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, we will install the Rev. Richard Malmberg as Pastor of The First Congregational Church of Walpole, United Church of Christ, in a festive service celebrating this moment in the church's history in Walpole. A reception will follow. All are welcome.

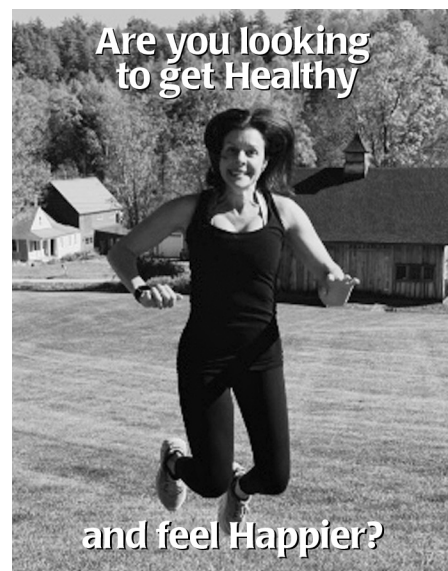
Join First Congregational Church of Walpole Worship and Study on Zoom using the following link: <https://us-02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxZD09>

The Zoom link can also be found on our website: www.walpolenhucc.org as well as on the church's Facebook page.

Walpole Unitarian

Following summer recess, the Walpole Unitarian Church will resume worship services on Sunday, September 12. We welcome all who are fully vaccinated, and ask that you wait until you are fully vaccinated before coming. Things are changing rapidly with the pandemic, and, although we hope we will be "in person" on September 12, please check our website: walpoleunitarianchurch.org for updates prior to coming.

– Wendy Harty



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What's Happening in Walpole Schools



A Summer Full of Learning

The students at the Walpole Schools have always been exposed to a high level of learning, while also having the opportunity to adapt to an ever changing society and define success for themselves in whatever opportunities they pursue. This pandemic has tried to prevent our students and staff from achieving these goals, but they continue to overcome each challenge and make the best out of every situation as much as possible.

Our students experienced multiple types of learning throughout the 2020 - 2021 school year. The students started the year off in the hybrid model, then switched to fully remote learning, and finished the year fully in person for the remaining three months of school. The staff worked endlessly to ensure that they continued to provide a high quality education to each and every student. It was an exhausting experience for every student and staff member, and everyone was ready for their summer break.

This year, Walpole was able to offer a summer school experience for students in first through fifth grade. Students in sixth through eighth grade attended the district's summer school program at Vilas. We were not sure how many families and staff would be willing to continue their learning over the summer, but it wasn't a surprise when we saw all of the permission slips being returned. Our staff and families continue to put the education of the children first. We understand that the last year and a half has been challenging, but we want to continue to push our students to get the best education possible.

Thirty-six students participated in our summer school program. This program ran Monday through Thursday, for three hours each day, during the entire month of July. Each student was given a breakfast when they arrived at school, and then was given a bagged lunch to take home with them as well. There was a

focus on reading and math, which was done through games, projects, technology, and in class assignments. Each time I would walk into the classroom, every student had a smile on their face and were excited to show me their work. This shows that our amazing staff continues to put in the time and energy to make each and every child's learning experience fun and memorable, while still addressing their academic needs.

We are hoping that we will be able to offer summer school to the Walpole students in the future, so that we can continue to provide a rigorous and exciting experience for our students. The staff and I are very excited for another amazing school year! We will see you all soon!

— Justin Cassarino



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Gleanings

from the Town Minutes

Selectboard - July 29, 2021
Storm Water Damage:

At the beginning of the discussion, Mr. Dalessio thanked the Walpole Highway Dept, Fire & EMS, a private contractor and local citizens who helped the Town make quick repairs. In less than 36 hours, damaged roads were made passable. Cold River Road was badly damaged and is now re-opened. Blackjack Crossing had two washouts. One home was evacuated due to foundation damage. They are addressing each report of damage as they come in. Emergency access is a top priority. Tomorrow a preliminary estimate is due to the State to see if the Town will have access to emergency funds. The estimated damage is in excess of 2 million dollars which includes large projects.

More than a dozen people in the School Street run-off area spoke (limited to three minutes each) of damage to their property; including:

Christopher Sink, 16 Union St.: Asked if drainage issues on School Street were included in funding. Mr. Dalessio stated yes, that cost was included. Mr. Sink stated they have 8,000 pounds of debris at their curb.

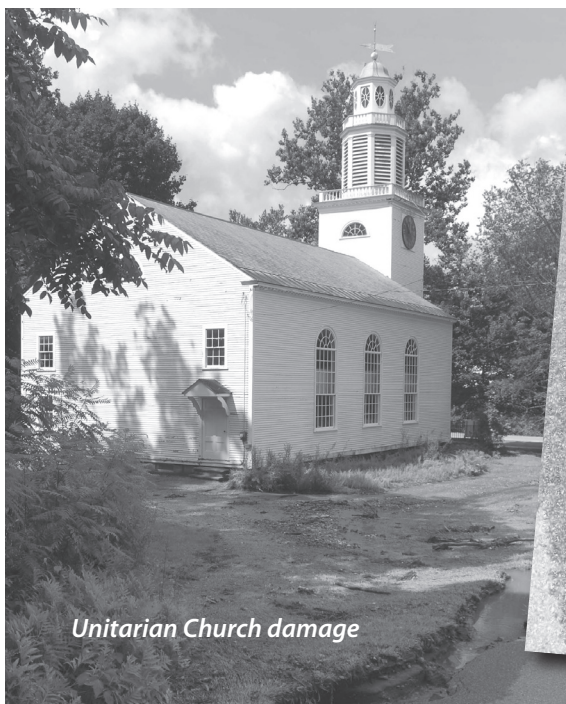
Judy Epstein, 46 School Street: Stated that School Street damage has been a continuing problem. Mr. Dalessio stated with the School Street area, water is coming down Prospect Hill, bringing down debris which then blocks up the catch basin. That is the problem that needs to be solved. He further stated that Rt. 12 is closed, north of Walpole, due to underlying issues.

Joe Coneeny, 11 Main Street: Mr. Coneeny stated that damage is not just on School Street. He agreed the issue is the same each time with the drain being blocked resulting with debris shooting over his yard. The situation is frustrating since it has happened on more than one occasion. Mr. Dalessio used School Street as a generic term. He knows it includes properties downhill from the culvert.

Jim Baucom, 40 School Street: Mr. Baucom thanked the Highway Department. They always show up and try to do as much as they can.

Pam Baucom, 40 School Street: Mrs. Baucom thanked the Selectboard for their service. She and her husband, along with help from friends, spent the last week cleaning their yard. That is a lot of unpaid manpower. Mrs. Baucom agreed it's no one's fault, but they cannot keep picking up their yard.

Becky Brown, 23 South Street: Ms. Brown handed out copies of pictures



Unitarian Church damage

PHOTOS: JAN KOBESKI



Erosion on Union Street

of the damage on her property to the Selectboard. The culvert under Ford Avenue washed out on their side. The Duprey side of the brook was fixed years ago. No bank repairs happened on their side of the brook and they keep losing banking. They had a lot of water in their basement. They have to throw out their carpets and water-damaged books.

Alan Duprey, 10 Ford Avenue: Mr. Duprey stated all the problems with the culvert down at Ford Avenue come from upstream where the brook reaches over the banks. The water and the bank are level right now with no containment. Mr. Dalessio felt that the brook needs to be reviewed by someone who understands storm water management.

Joy Dannenberg, 34 Ford Avenue: Ms. Dannenberg lives at the other end of Ford Ave. There is a culvert that runs under the road from Ms. Chandler's boundary with her neighbor. The stormwater comes down from Old Keene Road, between the two houses on the other side of the

street, along with another neighbor's drain into the culvert.

Marina Coneeny, 11 Main Street: There are a lot of things property owners have already done to improve the drainage. Property owners have the experience of seeing what is happening when it floods, which an engineer would not experience.

Jon MacClaren, 16 Union Street: Mr. MacClaren wanted people to be aware that Union Street has eroded underneath the pavement in several spots. Those parking for Hastings House events could have cars collapsing into the road edge.

Jody Spivey, 171 Whipple Hill Road: Mr. Spivey lives on a class VI road. He wants to make sure the damage on their road is not overlooked. There were two areas compromised.

Elm Street – Due to rainy weather, the paving of Elm Street has been delayed until September.

Clearing debris on School Street



Walpole Town Library

What's Happening?

Adult Programs:

Library Knitters. Meets every Monday, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Bring a project to work on and get to know other knitters in the community.

Library Book Discussion Group. Meets the last Thursday of the month, from noon to 1:00 PM.

Social Justice Discussion Group. Meets the third Wednesday of the month, from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. In September we will be discussing the book *Don't Label Me: How to Do Diversity Without Inflaming the Culture Wars* by Irshad Manji.

Crafternoons. Meets the second Friday of the month, from 1:30 - 2:30 PM. Crafting and camaraderie for adults. Materials will be supplied. **Space is limited. Registration is recommended.**

Author talk. Tuesday, October 5, at 4:00 PM. New Hampshire author Anders Morley will visit the library to talk about his new book, *This Land of Snow: A Journey Across the North in Winter*, the story of an entire winter he spent living outdoors and traveling on cross-country skis across northwestern Canada. **Space is limited. Registration is recommended.**



For more information or to register for adult programs, please call Jane Malmberg at 603-756-9806 or email jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org.

Children's Programs:

Wiggle Time. Monday mornings at 10:00 AM, outside behind the library, weather permitting. Bring a blanket to social distance.

Story Time. Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM, outside behind the library, weather permitting. Bring a blanket to social distance.

Code Club. Starting in October. For kids in grades 2-5. Meets every Tuesday, at 3:30 PM at the North Walpole Library and every Wednesday, at 3:30 PM at the Bridge Memorial Library. **Space is limited. Registration is recommended.**

For more information or to register for children's programs, please call Julie Rios at 603-756-9806 or email jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org.

Have you tried **Universal Class** yet? Check out our webpage at <https://walpoletownlibrary.universalclass.com/> to see a list of classes offered and to register. Have questions or need assistance? Call the library at 603-756-9806.

*This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the New Hampshire State Library.

– Jane Malmberg

Walpole Grange

Harvest Dinner

The Walpole Grange will be having their 12th Annual Harvest Dinner on October 9th at the First Congregational Church. We will be having a full turkey dinner,

Take-out only, with pickup from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Tickets will be available at Galloway Real Estate office. The cost is \$12.00 per person.

– Adam Terrell

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Neighbors Needing Help



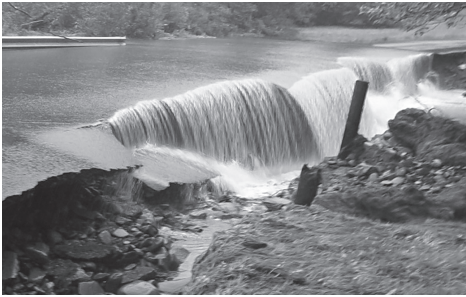
During the recent deluge on July 29, water poured off North Road down the bank and through the Colonial Drive home of Maureen and Roland Caskin, where they have lived for more than 60 years. Their house has sustained \$60,000 in damages from the water which washed out a portion of the foundation, leaving three feet of water in the basement, and the house uninhabitable. A large portion of the foundation is crum-

bling, living space and personal belongings were lost as well as their furnace and electrical damage, leaving three feet of mud and silt, and a completely impassable driveway.

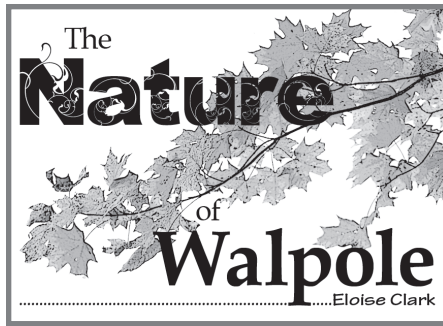
Roland and Maureen, in their mid-80's, have been living with family since the flood. Insurance has denied their claim on the basis of an "act of God." They are not eligible for support from FEMA, the State of New Hampshire or the Town of Walpole. As you can imagine, this is an

extreme hardship for a retired couple on a fixed income. All avenues for assistance have been found closed to them. They are a proud family who were initially opposed to a Go Fund Me campaign, but at this point they have no other options. Organized by Stacie Gay, would you be willing to help the Caskins in true Walpole tradition? Please visit - <https://www.gofundme.com/f/walpole-nh>, or <https://gofund.me/e5122ab4>

Southwestern New Hampshire just experienced the wettest month on record this July! Ever! We averaged 18" of rain! Not one but two heavy rainstorms unleashed between 3 to 8 inches, depending upon your locale in the county. As our annual average is 40", this proportion of precipitation was astonishing!



Water scoured road edges, forming gullies and crumbling the tarmac. Culverts popped out of place. Route 123 was blasted apart in places by the force of water on unstable bedrock. Brooks and rivers turned coffee brown from the load of soil and other sediments churned into the water. Basement sump pumps worked overtime, mine included. Despite this damage, our natural infrastructure spared us a worse outcome, as they experienced in Western Europe during the same time period.



leaves use water, along with sunlight and carbon dioxide to make their food during photosynthesis. Water vapor and oxygen are released from the underside of leaves into the atmosphere. This process is called transpiration. Think of a tree as a very large sump pump!

Soil beneath trees on a forested hillside tends to be spongy and soft from layer after layer of old leaves atop the mineral soil. The soil is riddled with tunnels created by soil critters, plant roots, mi-



Silver Maples



Forested hillsides, wetlands, floodplains and the soils that underlay them, all did their jobs. Trees slow the force of heavy rain. As pelting raindrops smash against the tree, leaves blunt the impact. The water briefly adheres to the leaf surface before it slides to each leaf tip and drips off. Imagine the thousands of leaves on each oak or beech tree intercepting the rain, each a tiny shield.

The root system of a tree anchors both the tree and the soil that sustains it. Roots hold soil and prevent erosion. Roots also wick groundwater up the vascular system of the tree trunk to the branches and into the leaves. The

crobes and the mycelia of fungi. These air pockets allow the soil to act like a sponge when it rains. Water that drips from the leaves or trickles down the trunk of the tree has time to sink into the soil and fill these pockets. It becomes groundwater and replenishes our aquifers.

On a steep hillside during a heavy rain event, not all water can be absorbed, nor all the soil retained. The run-off finds its way into trickles then rivulets. Smaller streams swell and dump the excess water down the hillside and into the valleys, sometimes causing flooding. Both wetlands and floodplains help lessen the impact.

Whether it is a swamp, marsh, bog or vernal pool, wetlands hold water! The stems of wetland plants such as cattails

or pickerelweeds slow the rush of water. Soil settles in the slack water. The spongy soils beneath can also absorb water for later release. Willows, alders, buttonbush and other woody plants again play sump pump.

If the volume of water is too great for the river to contain it within its banks, the water will spill over and spread out on the flat floodplain beside it. Water slows dramatically. Sediment carried by the current drops, enriching the soil. Silver maples are emblematic of a native floodplain forest. These large trees tolerate standing water. Their trunks impede water flow and stabilize the soil. All the while their leaves transpire water into the atmosphere, reducing the floodwaters.

Fortunately, we live in an area where deforested hillsides are not the norm nor landslides common. While wetlands have state protection, many have already been filled. The impermeable surfaces of roads and cityscapes have covered some of our floodplains, Keene in particular. With the intensity of storm events occurring more frequently, it's to our benefit to protect the natural infrastructure of forested hillsides, wetlands and floodplains from development.



Hubbard Farms: 1921 - 2021

One hundred years ago, about this month, Hubbard Farms had its genesis. In 1914, Ira Hubbard decided to raise chickens. The next year his son Oliver brought home two cases of fertilized eggs, hatching them in the cellar. Oliver began his studies, in 1917, at the New Hampshire agricultural college, which became the University of New Hampshire in 1925. Following graduation in 1921, Oliver "was intent on building a commercial poultry business." Begun as Maple Hill Farm, in 1925 the venture officially became Hubbard Farms with Ira and Oliver as proprietors. Merck purchased the family business in 1974 for \$70.4 million, about \$408 million in 2021 dollars.

A Puritan, George Hobart Hubbard arrived in the New World in 1633. His son, Jonathan, was the first of the line born in America. Jonathan's son Samuel was born in 1713, and Samuel's son, Levi, was born in Holden, Massachusetts in 1764. In 1791, Levi purchased 50 acres of land from John Kilburn, Jr. Moving to Walpole in 1792, he built his homestead in the early 1800s on Hubbard Road, now known as Old Drewsville Road. The family has been on that land since. Ira (1872-1961), living in the family homestead, raised his family here. Mildred was first (1898-1928), Oliver born in 1900; Austin in 1902; Leslie 1904; and, Donald in 1915. It was in a small chicken coup here that led to the family business and the family's "exceptional generosity."

Raising chickens was a sideline for Ira. His focus was raising and not selective breeding. That changed in 1921 when Oliver, who had majored in poultry production, returned home after graduation. At college, Oliver had the

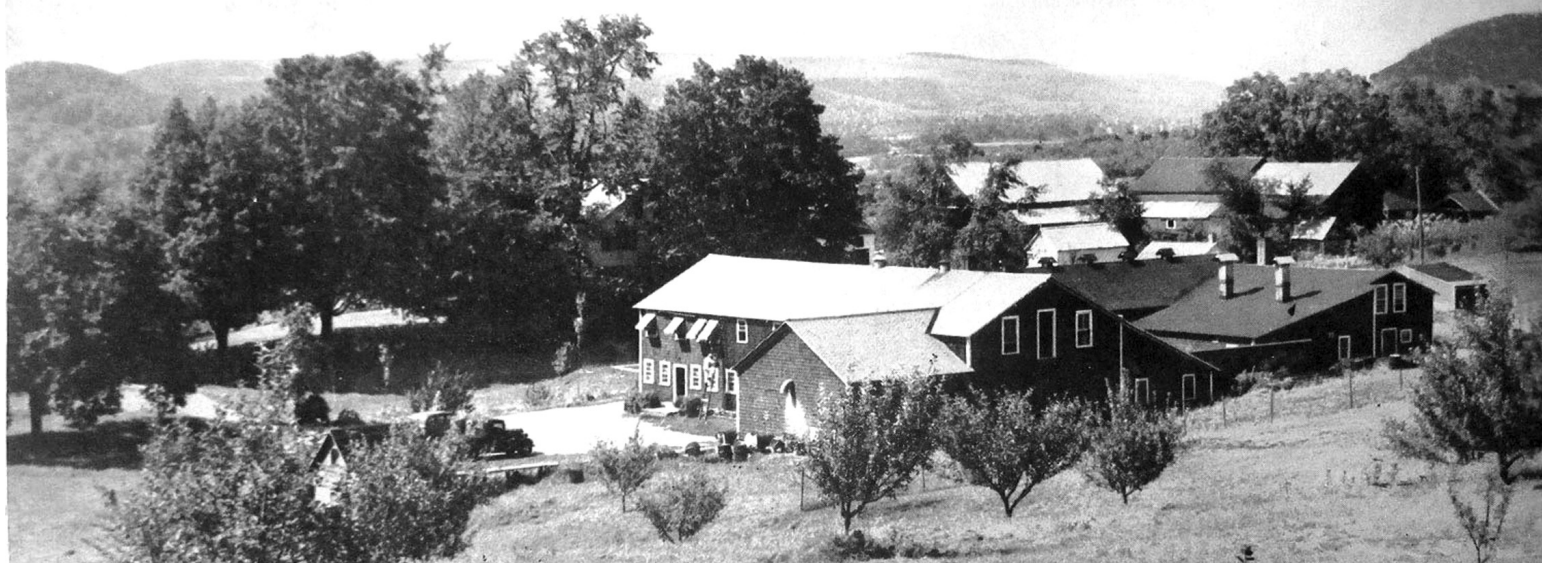


good fortune to be mentored by A. W. "Red" Richardson. A young professor, Richardson was studying the commercial poultry industry to develop new concepts and procedures. At that time, a bacteria, salmonella pullorum, was devastating chicken flocks. Testing flocks throughout the state, Richardson found only five flocks pullorum-free. One disease free flock was the Hubbard's Reds

*Hubbard's first chicken coop, 1914 -
The Walpole Foundation book*



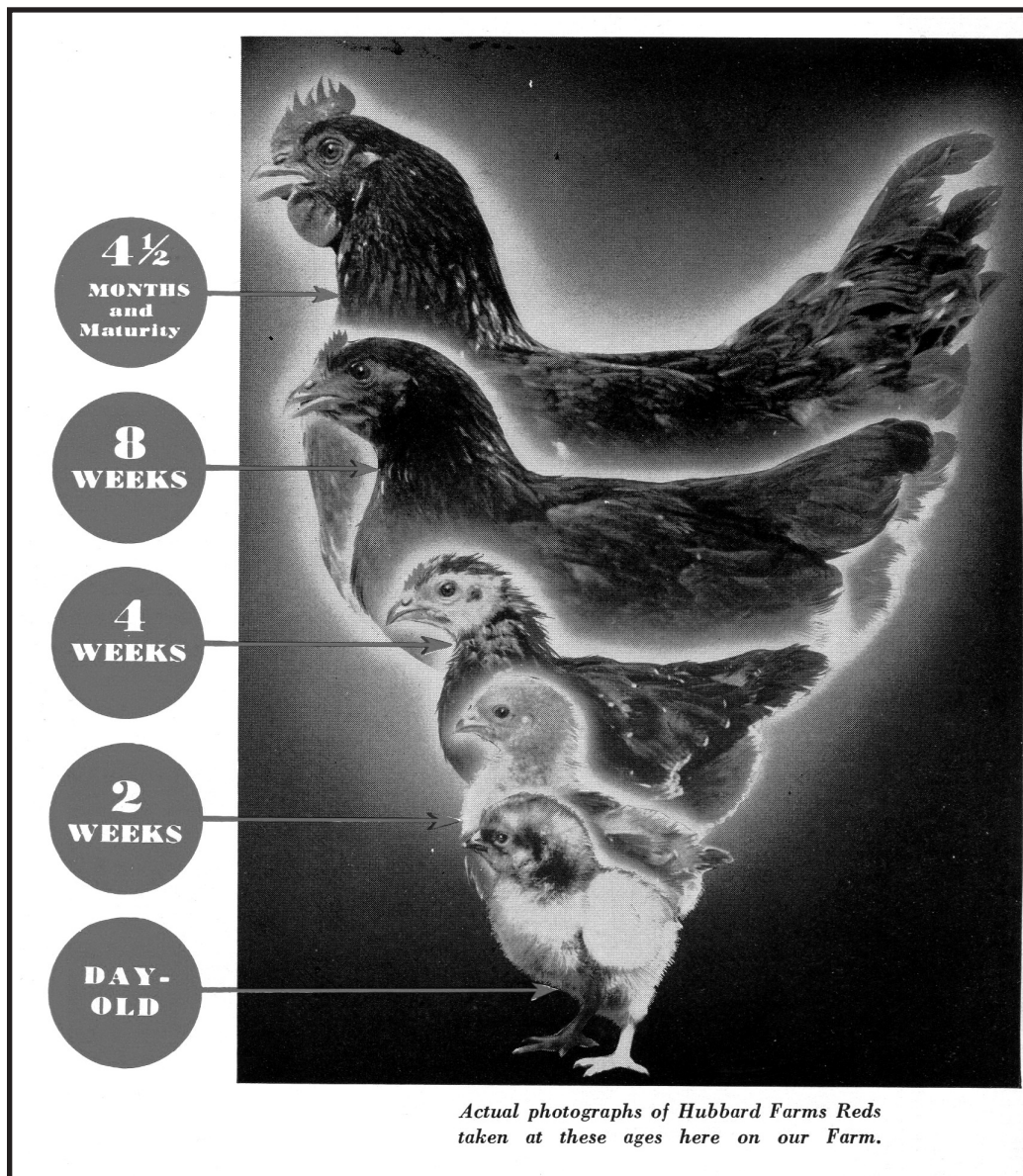
*First Hubbard Farms
catalog as
Maple Hill Farm 1924,
Ray Boas History Collection*



that came from the eggs hatched in their cellar. A flock with pullorum could have a mortality rate of up to 75 percent in the first two to three weeks. Chickens were breed at the time for plumage and bird shows. Genetic breeding was basically unheard of. Instead of fighting the bacteria, Richardson advised Oliver to work with the disease free "clean" birds, saying, "To hell with color, get a chicken that lives, grows and lays."

Maple Hill Farms began in 1921 with a flock of about 1,000 pullorum-free birds, producing somewhere between 5,000 and 10,000 pullets (a hen usually under one year of age) that first year. Within two years Oliver and Ira were developing a reputation for supplying extremely healthy birds, and for their honest business practices. In 1924 they hatched and sold 30,000 chicks, still not enough to meet demand. 1925 saw 100,000 chicks, and Maple Hill Farms officially became Hubbard Farms. Also in 1925, Austin graduated from college, and after a brief stint with the US Forestry Service joined his brother and father in the family business. Rapid growth continued with the family investing profits to improve the breeding stock, and for equipment and facilities. The Huntington Farm on Route 12 was purchased. Production again doubled in 1926 with 200,000 chicks hatched and sold for \$22 per 100. The US Postal Service recently began allowing the mailing of day old chicks which helped expansion to rural purchasers. When Leslie graduated from UNH in

Hubbard graphic showing chick development, Hubbard Farms catalog 1935



Actual photographs of Hubbard Farms Reds taken at these ages here on our Farm.



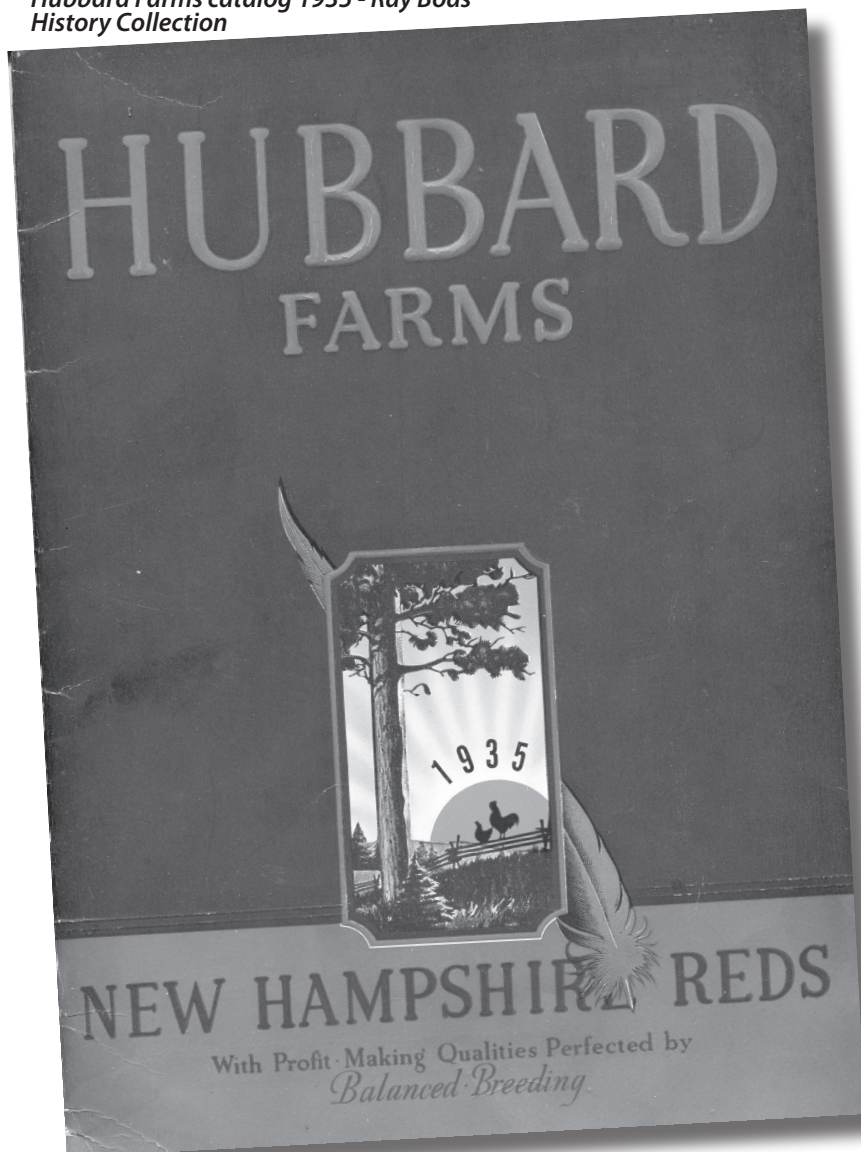
1927 he headed to New York to work for the phone company. Oliver called Les telling him they were thinking of buying a large poultry farm in Ransomville, NY, and would he like to manage it for them. Shortly Les joined in.



*Ira Hubbard, 1925
The History of Hubbard Farms*

It is difficult for us to now relate to the Great Depression years. Families were struggling to eat and survive. Purchasing healthy and robust Hubbard stock, many Depression era families began hen and broiler operations, and with that income were able to survive and escape foreclosure. A culture change also came about. In the 1920s and 30s, chickens

*Hubbard Farms catalog 1935 - Ray Boas
History Collection*



would be shipped to big markets on Saturday, and butchered and plucked for Sunday dinners. To process these "New York Dressed" birds was expensive, and chicken considered a special meat for special occasions. In the late 1930s a device was developed to mechanize the de-feathering of birds. This revolutionized the boiler industry, and increased demand for Hubbard Farms.

Hubbard Farms incorporated in 1931, and also added a location in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, expanding its breeding and hatchery operations. In Walpole, Oliver and Austin were continuing to use new innovations to improve the quality of their egg-laying stock, and a "barred feather broiler" for the developing chicken meat market. Their Barred Cross breed soon became the dominant bird in the growing broiler industry. World War II further exploded the demand and development of the industry. Les was said to remember, "The government asked for a doubling of production and we pretty much made it in two or three years." Hubbard Farms by this time also had operations on the Delmarva Peninsula. With war's end, there was a surplus in production. A solution, get people to eat more chicken. The brothers worked to encourage organizations and clubs to establish barbecues, often donning cooking aprons and serving to dignitaries around the country. Discharged from the Navy, Donald joined his brothers in the company as treasurer. Contributing to their company's success, the brothers recognized each others strengths and weaknesses, and worked with "luck and an absence of disagreements."

Joining the company in 1950 was Oliver's son, Wentworth ("Went"), now a third generation in the family company. The decades of the 1950s had many industry challenges. A big challenge was to produce a white feathered bird for the broiler market. As in the past, the Hubbards knew that the ultimate customer drove the market. Tracking their breeding numbering the chicks, successful genetic lines were developed. Caring for their employees, many who were with the brothers for decades, and employee profit sharing program was set up. In 1956 the sale of breeding stock was begun. Went later said this decision was the key to get through a rough decade setting the direction for future growth.

In 1962, keeping their pledge to each other, Oliver and Austin retired at the same time. Went took over as president and general manager. John Hubbard,



**Ira Hubbard and Bill Skofield 1954 -
The History of Hubbard Farms**

Austin's son, stepped in as hatchery manager. Extensive breeding and research programs kept Hubbard Farms at the forefront of the industry as the company entered the 1970s.

Hubbard Farms was now a world leader at the forefront of the production and distribution of broiler breeding stock. Their parent stock provided 1,580 million chicks in 1971, 20% of the market. There were 300 employees in the US and 600 worldwide. By 1974, with a return of investment of 30%, offers to buy were coming in. Time was right, but Wentworth knew what he wanted: a high enough price to entertain only the most serious; the acquiring firm had to be blue chip, public, and international involved in research and development; and, a purchase had to be structured in a

John Hubbard



way that Hubbard would maintain its identity. In an unheard of move, Went handled negotiations himself, closing a deal with Merck. The stockholders approved the merger July 31, 1974.

Changing ownership a number of times, you may recall that the main office building on Main Street was for sale in 2016. It would have been sad to lose the Hubbard presence in Walpole, but in February, 2018, Hubbard became part of the Aviagen Group of the German family group Erich Wesjohann Group (EWG), and the sign came down. Earlier this year building and expansion plans were announced for the Walpole farms and facilities.

Unassuming and thankful for their good fortune, the Hubbard family has for decades exhibited "exceptional generosity" with a "preference for anonymity." They have given countless hours of their time, and funds to support many charities, and the University of New Hampshire. In 1966 the Hubbard brothers established the Hubbard Farms Charitable Foundation "to support programs and institutions that work to improve and enrich the quality of life in the communities where Hubbard employees live."

The Village of Walpole exhibits its nineteenth-century ambiance and charm for two reasons. First, NH Route 12 was re-routed in 1962 bypassing the "downtown," and, second with thanks to the foresight and interest of Hubbard family members giving back to the community with the establishment of The Walpole Foundation. Bill Doyle, of the New York William Doyle Galleries, when in town in 1991, commented to the family that the downhill look of the village must be stopped. Earlier in 1989, Leslie Hubbard purchased the run-down former Peck's Drug Store. After four years of restoration, Leslie's son, John Cooper Hubbard, opened John Cooper's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop (now the Tavern). But it did not stop there. Studying the Windham Foundation's work in Grafton, Vermont, The Walpole Foundation was founded in 2004, getting non-profit status in 2005. The foundation's purpose is the purchase, rehabilitation, operation and management of historical buildings in Walpole. The foundation currently owns, and has carefully preserved, eleven properties. We have much to thank the Hubbard family for.

— Ray Boas

Adapted from: *The History of Hubbard Farms: 1921-1996*, and *The Walpole Foundation: The Hubbard Family - A Legacy of Preservation*



September at the Hooper Institute

We have two programs at the Hooper Institute this month.

Tour a hidden treasure, the Walpole Community Garden, on September 11, 10:00 AM at the Hooper Institute. Bring your gardening questions and learn new skills. Explore the fun of saving your own seeds! Donations are cheerfully accepted to benefit the community gardens. No registration required.

The Hooper Institute and Friends of Hooper present our 1st Annual FALL FESTIVAL, Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the Hooper Institute, 165 Prospect Hill Rd, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There will be crafts, lawn games, cider pressing and a cookout lunch. Get ready for Cow Plop Bingo, Farm Animal Corral, make and take home your very own scarecrow, plus beautiful end of season squash and pumpkins! There will be baked goods, homemade preserves, popcorn, a raffle table and so much more. Costs are in tickets (i.e. \$1/ticket for a craft, 10 tickets to make and take a scarecrow home, and everything else in between). All proceeds support our educational programs in schools, camps and greater community. See you at the festival!

Contact Helen Dalbeck hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net or (603) 756-4382 with any questions.

– Helen Dalbeck

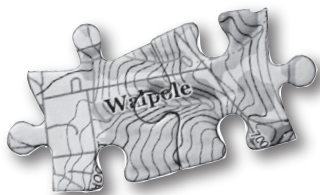


PHOTO PROVIDED

River Valley Artisans

Wine & Art Tour

The 10th Annual River Valley Artisans Wine & Art Tour 2021 will be held September 11 and 12 from 11am to 5pm on both days, rain or shine. Over 20 juried artisans will gather at one of two wineries in Westmoreland, NH - Poocham Hill Winery, 226 Poocham Rd., and Summit Winery, 719 Route 12. You will have an opportunity to sample and purchase wines, eat lunch, and purchase that special gift(s) from a variety of artisans including woodworking, paintings, stained glass, weaving, leatherwork & much, much more. Each of the wineries has their own selection of wines to offer and there will be some artisans inside and others outside in tents at each location with social distancing observed. Come spend some time in beautiful southwestern New Hampshire and check out our website for more details. www.rivervalleyartisans.com

– Carol Corliss

Plant a Tree...

Or Three

WMUR's show *Grow It Green* recently aired a segment, *Trees and Climate Change*, extolling the advantages of planting trees, particularly in your yard. Just three trees planted on the south and west sides of your yard can save you 30% in energy costs, the commentator shared. Shade and cooling from trees can cut temperatures in cities and towns by ten percent.



The show referred listeners to I Tree Tools - <https://www.itreetools.org> - which provides additional reasons to plant trees, and the resulting benefits. Tree leaves intercept rainfall, softening the drops descent, thus allowing roots to more easily absorb water into the ground. This helps control storm water run-off. Carbon dioxide from the air is absorbed by trees. Thus, instead of going into the atmosphere adding to the "greenhouse effect", the carbon is stored as wood, and the oxygen is released into the atmosphere. Trees removing pollutants from the air help reduce poor air quality. Poor air quality leads to health problems, landscape damage, degraded ecosystems, and reduced visibility.

The best time to plant a tree they said is twenty years ago, and the second best time is now. As a tree grows and matures, care must be taken in mulching and pruning for the best results. Large trees around your home will help the most, and also increase property values and appeal. Smaller trees provide benefits for habitat. Take the time to learn more at I Tree Tools, and plant now for cooler summers and to help slow climate change.

– Ray Boas

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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...this month, September 2021, completes the tenth year of publication of THE WALPOLE **Clarion**, making it the longest running publication in the Town's history? One hundred and twenty issues, one special edition, and a total of 2,480 pages keeping residents informed of past and future events.

In keeping the community informed and involved, some of the lead and feature stories covered on those 2,480 pages have included: Town Meetings; the Flood of July 2013; the transition and conservation of the Hooper properties, including the mansion and the golf course; Old Home Days' festivities; school events, including articles from our young reporters; the library renovation; a number of conservation projects and easements given throughout town; Hooper Institute and "The Nature of Walpole"; Walpole's EMS - the best in the state; the playground project at the middle school; local baseball; clean-up

Bottom, left: the first issue of The Walpole Clarion:

Below: First newspaper published in New Hampshire by Daniel Fowle, October 7, 1756



The Printer to the PUBLIC.

UPON the Encouragement given by a Number of Subscribers agreeable to printed Proposals, I now publish the first WEEKLY GAZETTE, for the Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE; depending upon the Favour of all Gentlemen who are Friends to Learning, Religion and Liberty to countenance my Undertaking, as this is the beginning of Printing in this Province, so that I may go on cheerfully, and continue this Paper in a useful and entertaining Manner.

Fondness of News may be carried to an extreme; but every Lover of Mankind must feel a strong Desire to know what passes in the World, as well as within his own private Sphere; and particularly to be acquainted with the Affairs of his own Nation and Country—Especially at such a Time as this, when the British Nation is engaged in a just and necessary War with a cruel Enemy, the French, a War in which the American Colonies are most nearly interested, the Event of which must be of the utmost Importance both to us and all the Britons, every true Englishman must be anxious to know from Time to Time the State of Affairs, at Home and in the Colonies.

I will therefore take Pains to furnish my Readers with the most material News which is collected from every Part of the World, particularly from Great-Britain, and its Dependencies.

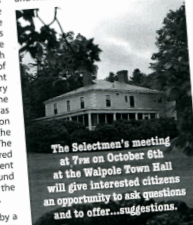
I beg you to consider me as a subscriber to your paper, which you will be pleased to send me accordingly, directed to Mt Vernon, and be pleased to let me know the terms of subscription, and to whom I shall make payment. I am Gentl. Yr mo. obdt st G. Washington



The Future of Hooper Golf Course

In 1926, George L. Hooper created a trust which now includes the properties known as the Hooper Institute and the Hooper Golf Course, their attendant buildings and acreage. After he and his wife, Mary D.B. Hooper, passed away, the Trust went into effect. It preserved the Trust property as a school for the study of agriculture, forestry, botany and soils, and included 148 acres, known at the time as Meeting House Hill Farm. The provisions of the Trust named the Trustees of the Town of Walpole as the Trustees of the Hooper Trust during the term of their terms. The Trustees are responsible to the Trust as legal entities, are elected singly each year by the townspeople for a term of three years their terms end on different years. Currently, these trustees are Jerry Galloway, Joe Dion and Bob Kimball. The Trustees are responsible to the Trust as legal entities and have a legal obligation to administer the Trust to achieve the highest return on its investments. The Hooper Golf Course is considered under the law to be an "investment property." The Trustees of the Trust Fund are responsible for actually writing the checks and monitoring the accounts.

In 1995, the Trust was modified by a Cheshire County Probate Court decree directing the Trustees to preserve the principal of the Trust while using half the income to support the Institute and the other half as scholarships for Walpole students intending to study in the fields advanced by the Institute. These are two separate trust funds within the Hooper Trust. The Trust derives its income from the rental of the golf course by the Hooper Golf Club and the rental of the cottage adjacent to the course. In 1996, the Club paid \$18,000 in rent per year. A committee was organized to study the lease agreement and concluded the value of the property was far below market value. It was determined that \$36,000 was a reasonable figure and the rent was immediately increased to \$22,000. Each year thereafter, the rent was to increase



The 1995 decree also removed many of the restrictions that were originally part of the Trust. A key change prevents any limitation on the sale of any part of the property in the Trust. In other words, were the golf course to be sold, the Trustees cannot prevent the buyer from developing the property as he or she chooses.

Another pivotal phrase in the decree reads that the income from the Trust can be used "...for the maintenance and repair of the Frederick S. Hooper Institute building and grounds..." Opinions differ as to whether "grounds" refers to only the grounds around the Institute, or includes

those surrounding the historic Inn and the cottage. If the Institute's grounds were the only ones the Trust included, the drain on the Trust's annual income would be considerably lessened.

During the years that Jay and Pam Chase ran the Inn, they were not required to make any changes to the building to conform to building code changes. When they left, the building's systems needed to be drastically updated. Mandatory improvements to the inn and grounds (including replacing a leaking oil tank and removing contaminated soil) cost the Trust nearly \$43,000. Paying for these necessary repairs forced the Trustees to use some of the principal, which in turn reduced the investment earning interest for scholarships. Less principal equals less interest, which equals diminishing returns. Nor are repairs to the Hooper properties finished—the cottage needs a new roof.

The Trustees cannot legally allow the inn and cottage to fall into disrepair. Thus, in order to fulfill their fiduciary duties, they have a limited number of unattractive options:

- Raise the rent again, and modify the terms of the lease to include maintenance of the inn, golf course grounds and cottage by the lessee;
- Sell the inn and golf course; or
- Try to go back to court to modify the Trust provisions once again.

Most townspeople would likely prefer things to remain as they are for, were, when the inn was in operation and one could enjoy a lovely and reasonably-priced dinner on the porch. The golf course was listed as one of the top 20, 9-hole courses nationally in 2010, and it's a jewel in Walpole's crown. Even non-golfers like walking or driving by those beautiful greens. So why not sell the rent? The Trustees would first have to determine what a reasonable rate of return is for the golf course property, which is currently assessed at \$1.8 million.

Continued on Page 6

FLORENTINE FILMS

day; Walpole Players' productions, including *A Christmas Carol*, which raised over \$26,000 for area food shelves; the Boston Cane; Connecticut River bridge issues (which have included some April edition articles that piqued interest). We have followed Elwud's exploits. And the **Clarion** can take pride in having made

Making films in Walpole for 40 Years.

But, *The Walpole Gazette*, published by the late Jeremy Paulus and his wife Aine, definitely counts as a Walpole newspaper. Their weekly was published a full seven years, from September 20, 1986, until September 24, 1993. When I moved to Town in 2002, I met Jeremy, and he and I chatted local history. Learning of that love of mine, and affinity for books, printing, and my previous writing and publishing work, he encouraged me to pick up where he left off. As a result, in October of 2011, you received your first copy of *The Walpole Clarion* in your mailbox, and have every month since.

A Farmer's Museum from 1802

*One of the last issues
of The Walpole Gazette*

The WALPOLE GAZETTE

A Weekly Social, Historical, and Literary Review for New England Readers

Free Copy

Friday, March 26, 1993

Vol. Seven, No. 26

WALPOLE ACADEMY AND ITS LOST ORRERY
 BY GRETCHEN P. ACKERMAN

"The building is commodious and elegant. Maps, globes, Orrery (author's emphasis), and a very respectable Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus, belong to the institution."
 —Walpole Academy Catalogue, 1657

In the New York Gazette for July 1, 1734, a writer reflected on the current fashion for matters astronomical: "It is therefore hoped that in time, not

STEELHEAD TROUT
 by George Bahrakis

Well folks, if you are going to do it, now is the time to get yourself and your fishing buddies together, pack your spinning and/or fly rods, tank up your rig and drive only 5 to 6 hours west to the best world-class fishing action you've dreamed about! "Steelhead trout on the Salmon River and surrounding tributaries."

April is to steelhead trout fishermen what Christmas is to children—absolutely the best month of the year to insure success for one of the most sought after trophy fish available.

This year throughout the winter there have been more than an ample supply of steelhead trout in the Salmon River, and most catches were in the ten- to twelve-pound class with many in the teens and an occasional twenty-plus pounder caught.

Now that I have your attention, let's back up a little and let me tell you just what a steelhead trout is, and how we have this great fishery in this area.

A steelhead trout is a strain of rainbow trout that can achieve a weight of 20 pounds plus. This fish lives its summer months in Lake Ontario and begins to enter the Salmon River and other rivers that empty into Lake Ontario in early fall, usually about mid-October.

They follow the king salmon runs, eating and living on the millions and millions of salmon eggs deposited by king and coho salmon throughout the river. This provides us with winter steelhead fishing and if any one has tried this, he knows it can be one of the most challenging and rewarding fishing experiences available.

Just now comes the month of April. Spring rains, the snowmelt and runoff, with temperatures warming the air and waters. All this combined triggers the annual spring steelhead spawning season which starts about the end of March, and some years lasts a couple of weeks into May.

The warmer water makes the steelhead move around more and they become a lot hungrier and a lot more aggressive. They will run up river seeking long slow pools with a gravel bottom. Here they will

RILEY FONTAINE AND BOBBY DAMON, FIRST GRADERS AT THE BELLONS FALLS CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, know a good way to use pennies. Their school is trying to fill a big bottle with pennies—or other money—for the Book Bag Fund. Two local businessmen, Tom Hernon and David Phelps, have each offered to match the total amount each offered to match the total amount collected, up to a hundred dollars. So, 10,000 pennies could buy \$300 worth of books—a wonderful deal for all the young scholars at the Central School!

There are 250 children at the Central School, grades K through 4, under the supervision of Cathie Davignon, Principal. Their Book Bag Program is just one of their special projects of this time

Keep Up on Walpole Happenings

Receive almost daily updates

Visit The Walpolean

<https://thewalpolean.org/>

Sign Up to FOLLOW BLOG VIA EMAIL

FACT8 Documentary

Bellows Falls Community TV Documents 40th Anniversary of Tragic Fire

To protect life and property is a Firefighter's duty. On December 29th, 1981 at 6:12PM Terry Brown and Dana Fuller were called to duty when a fire erupted at the Star Hotel in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Believing that someone was in the building Terry Brown and Dana Fuller entered the fully engulfed Star Hotel with the intent of saving lives. Tragically, both young men died in the line of duty. The loss of Terry Brown and Dana Fuller rocked the small community of Bellows Falls as people grappled with the reality that no one was in the building when they entered.

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the tragedy, Bellows Falls Area Community Television (FACT8 TV) is putting the finishing touches on a documentary, *Called to Duty*, to commemorate the event. The Premier of the film will be at the Bellows Falls Opera House on September 23 at 7PM. Through firsthand accounts of friends, family, firefighters, and community members, *Called to Duty* is a documentary that seeks to honor the memory of Terry Brown and Dana Fuller.

In making this documentary and telling the story of Terry Brown and Dana Fuller, we intend to honor their service and their sacrifice and illustrate how the events that took place on the night of December 29th, 1981, at the Star Hotel forever changed the Bellows Falls Fire Department and the community of Bellows Falls.

Today Terry Brown and Dana Fuller are remembered with benches set in a park where the fire took place. The Bellows Falls Fire Department and the Village of Bellows Falls wish to expand the park to include a memorial plaque and sculpture in addition to community green space to create a dynamic memorial park to honor these two fallen heroes and become a focal point for village events. However, donations are needed to complete this project.

Beyond honoring the service and sacrifice of Terry Brown and Dana Fuller, an additional goal of this documentary is to be used as a fundraising tool for the new memorial park and as an accessible feature of that park that will tell their story to future visitors and generations to come.

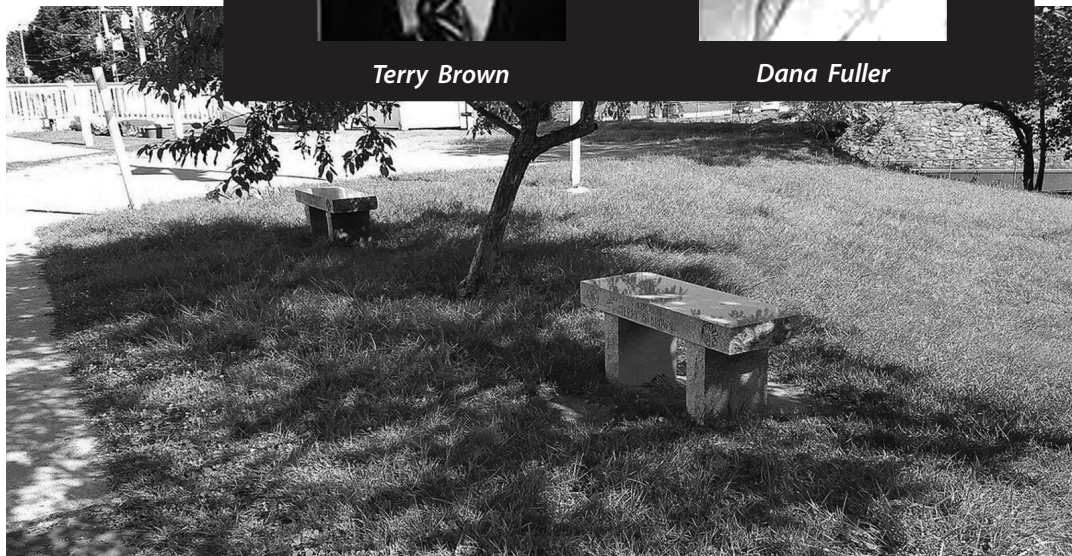
– Alex Stradling



Terry Brown



Dana Fuller



The Bellows Falls memorial benches

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COVID 19

LET'S DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE KIDS

As of this writing there is no approved vaccine for children under the age of 12. Just 51% of Americans are fully vaccinated. In Cheshire County 54% are fully vaccinated. Case numbers have increased 102% in the last 14 days. Cheshire County and the surrounding 5 counties are all in the highest risk category.

- Our economy is starting to slow due to the delta variant. Travel plans, lodging reservations and restaurant meals are declining while fear of adequate medical care is increasing.
- With more children forced to stay home more moms and dads who cannot work from home are dropping out of the labor force.
 - Most of the children under the age of 12 who get COVID are getting it from unvaccinated family members.
- From the 2020 – 2021 school year we know the impact of loss of classroom participation on the psychological, emotional, and physical health of children. Dr. Leana S. Wen states: "It is a sad indictment of our society that children are paying the price for irresponsible adults and reckless policymakers."

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Get vaccinated
- When inside, wear a mask.
- When outside, don't wear a mask. This signals that inside is where transmission happens.
- Be careful regardless of your vaccination status. The good news is that the vaccines have been highly effective at minimizing hospitalizations and deaths of those vaccinated.
- Support our medical community. They are human too. They are strained and tired. They are still trying to do an excellent job while not feeling love and support from the entire community.

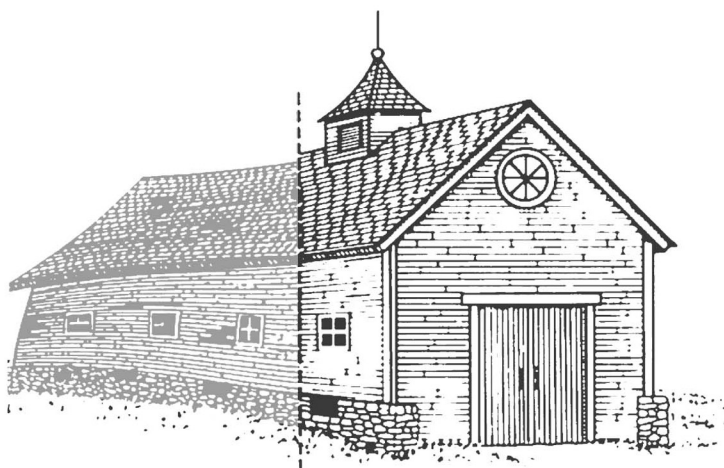
Most of the current cases are in unvaccinated people under the age of 40. Dr. David De La Zerta, an ICU doctor in Miami, says: "Every single patient regrets not getting the vaccine. I don't have one that doesn't. They look really young. You can see somebody now talking to you and the next time you see them, they're dead."

Please get vaccinated, wear a mask when inside and pray for those who don't.

– Charles P. Shaw, DVM, Walpole Health Officer

Chris Parker

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Cow Art

"Art has the power to transform, to illuminate, to educate, inspire, and motivate." – Josie Britton

We can always use a smile, especially when feeling stressed, and this mural that Josie Britton created certainly makes one stop and smile, even more so when one of the cows or bulls at their farm is also looking out the real window and admiring this work of art. Josie's father, Larry Britton, has been slowly and meticulously renovating this barn first built in the 1700s by his great, great grandfather. At first, the side of the barn was just white-washed. It wasn't until the past few weeks, with the help of her sister, Emily, that Josie was able to finish this very eye-catching and beautiful mural. It will definitely be a wonderful addition to Britton Farm and to Walpole. It's already been attracting many Walpoleans and visitors to the area, and inviting them to slow down and appreciate this new addition to Watkins Hill Rd. Larry and his wife Josephine are so proud of their daughter Josie and the very talented artist she has become. And for Josie, she has the passion, talent, inspiration, and love to be a great artist, for this will be the start of her life as a professional artist-muralist.

- Harvey Edwards

Cow art in progress

PHOTOS HARVEY EDWARDS



A Britton cow admires the finished product.

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CHESHIRE KIDS by Erik Doescher



The Birds

Continued

For better or worse, there's still more to say about the birds.

First, I was pleasantly surprised by the response the piece produced. I don't know what it is about suicidal birds that folks found appealing, but either in person or via email I was gratified to hear from several readers who either enjoyed the piece or had information to share: e.g., that there were window decals designed to discourage avian collisions.

I did not follow up on that and probably should have, since I found myself wondering what would work... so I googled "window decals" and was surprised by the variety. It looks like pretty much anything you can stick to a window will deter a bird from flying into it: geometric shapes, butterflies, snowflakes, leaves, dragons and mandalas; plus vinyl sheets that cover the entire window. There was even Stop Bird Attack Spray Paint.

And I discovered I was not alone. The prize of the feedback is printed at right. Amy Howard shared the moment of impact between a determined robin and her door. When I asked how she managed to capture such a fleeting event, she said it wasn't hard — the robin was relentless, attacking the door multiple times. Still, a remarkable shot, and I believe the bird survived.

Back here, things have quieted considerably. I found one more sign of bird remains on the lawn, but the window collisions have stopped. There was one final moment worth sharing. The day after going to press last month, I was heading back to the house from our garage (the doors are about 20 feet apart, joined by a covered porch) when I noticed a commotion above the front door. A wren was desperately trying to force its way through the siding where the 2 walls and porch ceiling meet. It was not succeeding. I watched for about 10 seconds before the wren realized there was a human present; then it fluttered to a nearby gutter where it could keep an eye on me. Perhaps embarrassed for its species, it abandoned the attempt.

From my reading, I gather that territorial birds will attack their reflections — thinking it's a trespassing rival. The behavior supposedly is common in the Spring, which might explain last month's assault, even though Mother Nature did not exactly deliver what I would call Spring, perhaps birds regard 90+ temperatures as Spring.

Still, I'm keeping my head down... and an eye on the chipmunks — a shifty crew if ever I saw one.

— Jan Kobeski



PHOTO: AMY HOWARD

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(Automated External Defibrillators)

This information could save a life.

Locations:

Walpole School – Elementary
(during school season)
8 Bemis Lane

Walpole Town Pool
(during summer season)
14 Bundy Lane

Walpole School – Primary
18 Primary Lane

North Walpole School
17 Cray Road, NW

Walpole Town Hall
34 Elm Street

Walpole Recycling Center
Rte 123, North Walpole

Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Walpole Clinic
11 Westminster Street

Bensonwood Homes
6 & 10 Blackjack Crossing Road

LaValley's Building Supply
40 Meadow Access Lane

Hooper Golf Course
166 Prospect Hill Road

Congregational Church
15 Washington Street

Chamberlain Machine
14 Darling Lane

Alyson's Orchard
Wentworth Road

Bowman Dental
48 Meadow Access Lane

Hubbard Park
30 Upper Walpole Road

Savings Bank of Walpole
North Meadow Plaza

Police & Fire vehicles in Walpole and North Walpole are also AED-equipped.

From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Quarantined

Headed to my friend Elwud's place. Got a phone call, "Urgent! Need help setting up tent in backyard!"

Sounds like some of Velma's relatives are coming for a visit and this is Elwud's way of telling them to make it a short stay!

When I arrive, Elwud is dragging this large piece of canvas out behind the barn.

"Before we get started, I have to ask, why are you setting up this tent?"

"Well sir, Velma went to her weekly tea and nitpicking session ova ta her cousin Sally. While they was there, Elsie got sick and they rushed her to the clinic. They shoved a stick up her nose to test for that Covid and they got the results back. She tested positive. They told all the nitpickers that they had to quarantine for two weeks. So Velma calls me and says I need to get outta the house and find a place to sleep for two weeks."

I scratch my head and said, "And the tent is your only option?"

"Well sir, way I see it is I could crawl in with the pigs or nest with the hens."

"What about that condo you built for Rufus the hound?"

Elwud shook his head and replied, "He gets pretty persnickety about sharing his abode. Last time he emitted some horrific smells that made my eyes burn. I crawled outside and during the night we got a thunderstorm. No sir, not taking a chance this time. Help me set up this tent."

Two and one have hours later we finally figured out the directions and drove the last stake into the rock-riddled ground. As we reached for a celebratory ice cold beer, the back door to the house opened and there stood Velma with a big grin on her face.

"False alarm", she shouts. "The clinic called and Elsie's test was a false positive. She retested and is negative! Isn't that great news?"

Elwud's response wasn't fit for human ears. Heck, even the pigs squealed!

I hustled into my truck and headed for home as fast as I could.



Deers like veggies too. A doe helps herself to a Flat Street garden. PHOTO: JAN KOBESKI



FROM THE CLARION...

A sampling of what we've reported in 10 years of publication:

One Year Ago (September, 2020) - Several ways [were developed] to vote absentee if you do not want to go to the polls on Primary Day, September 8, and Election Day, November 3 out of concerns about COVID-19.

Three Years Ago (September, 2018) - Introducing: Walpole Town Website "Now you can!" That's the official - unofficial, tagline for our new town website. <https://www.walpolenh.us>

Five Years Ago (September, 2016) - Walpole Playground Committee Raises \$87,342.00. The committee is pleased to announce that they have surpassed their goal of \$80,000.00 to install a new playground at the Walpole Primary School. The generosity of the Walpole community and its dedication to their young people is overwhelming.

Seven Years Ago (September) 2014) - Recipients of this year's George L. Hooper Scholarship have been announced: Brian Perry, Levi Frye, and Will Tyson.

Nine Years Ago (September, 2012) - One year ago, Hurricane Irene inundated the region, ravaging much of neighboring Vermont, but sparing New Hampshire communities.

The
**Walpole
Clarion**
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MILESTONES



Born
Linli Brennan-Chen
July 21, 2021
In Beijing, China
6.4 pounds
To Logan Brennan-Sawyer
and Yabei Chen
Grandchild of Marty and
Susan Brennan-Sawyer
of Walpole

.....

Passed
John Hubbard
June 25, 1928 - August 2, 2021

.....

Memorial and Celebration of Life of
Gregory J. Macri
Saturday, September 18
First Congregational Church of Walpole
11AM - 12PM
Reception 12PM - 3PM
Bellows Walpole Inn

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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

October issue deadline: September 22

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Happy Anniversary Hubbard Farms. A century in business is always something to shout about. The world has benefited from their work, and here in Walpole we have benefited from the family's generosity in preserving the Town we love, and donating to projects benefiting everyone. May I extend my personal thank you.

Is it also alright to wish yourself a Happy Anniversary? The mortality rate of new businesses is significant. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that approximately 20% of new businesses fail during the first two years of being open, 45% during the first five years, and 65% during the first 10 years. I have always considered your Clarion really as a service to the community that I love, and has been good to me, instead of a for profit business. So the analogy may not be correct, but data shows that the U.S. has lost 2,100 newspapers since 2004 - a quarter of its weeklies or non-dailies. The internet, social media, and how we get our news has changed so much of the world I grew up in. I hope I may be able to provide you another ten years of monthly news and coverage of local items of interest.

The summer is gone, and July was a wash-out causing problems to Walpole's infrastructure, and delayed other projects in town. It is hard to say what the "new norm" will be. But we must do what we can to protect our environment. Stay safe and stay well..

— Ray Boas, Publisher

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And, now on Watkins Hill Road... See page 20.