

Happy Holidays! From All of Us at the Clarion

Live Nativity 2022

The Christmas Eve Live Nativity is set to take place on the Walpole Common on Saturday, December 24 around 8:15 pm. All are welcome to share in this lovely tradition of the portrayal of the birth of Jesus in an outdoor setting with community members, farm animals and traditional carols. Hot cocoa and social time will follow in the Town Hall.

We are looking for volunteers young and old, who would like to be wisemen, shepherds, or angels (usually ages 4-10). If you would like to participate in this year's Live Nativity or help in any way, please contact: Kelly Patch kaptcg1444@gmail.com or Crystal Phillips crystalphillips088@gmail.com

– Crystal Phillips



Dunkin Update

On October 8, at the monthly Planning Board meeting, Fieldstone Land Consultants Civil Engineer Chad Branon presented the final site plan for the Dunkin on Route 12, diagonally across from Pete's Stand. Branon began by pointing out on the plan a dedicated slip lane turning into the Dunkin property from Route 12. Quoting from the meeting minutes, Branon stated, "Customers will drive in and may go into the parking lot for the restaurant. There are about 20 parking spaces with two dedicated to handicap drivers. Another parking area is in the southeast corner with eight parking spaces for employees. The restaurant has seating for 20 people, restrooms and an ordering/pickup area. The location of the parking lot restaurant will allow people to not have to come back to Route 12 but customers may leave via Red Barn Lane." Branon emphasized that Dunkin will importantly have access from Route 12 and Red Barn Lane.

From Peggy's Desk

November has been an extraordinarily busy month for Walpole with a wildly varied weather pattern – 70 degrees one weekend and high twenties the next! The word on the street is that we are glad we don't live in Buffalo!

The mid-term election brought out a record number of voters- over 1800 by the time the day was finished. About 120 voted in the first 45 minutes of November 8. Thank you all for stepping up to exercise your rights.

One warm, rainy Friday, November 11, the Walpole Historical Society entertained us with the introduction of the renovated Bellows-Alcott pianoforte which sat silent for many decades in the Society. Many Walpoleans contributed toward its renovation so that a packed house at the Unitarian Church were thrilled with its clarity and beauty as we listened to Ben Cosgrove perform his original compositions.

Continued on Page 7

Continued on Page 10



Mass Casualty Drill

On Saturday, December 3, Walpole Fire-EMS, Walpole PD and partner organizations will be conducting a Mass Casualty Drill at Cheshire Medical Center's Walpole Family Medicine clinic at 11 Westminster Street in Walpole at 10 AM. This drill will take place between the clinic and common area of town. This is only a drill. We ask residents to avoid this area of town from 10 AM to noon. If you have any questions please contact Walpole Fire-EMS at 603-756-3621.

– Mark Houghton, Chief,
EMD Walpole Fire-EMS

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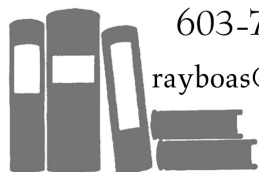
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Climate Resilience Grants

Two Local Farms Among Program Awardees

The New Hampshire Conservation Districts have announced their first round of grant winners. The 10 Conservation Districts announced twelve grant recipients for the 2022 NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant: Bascom Road Blueberry Farm of Newport, Boggy Meadow Farm of Walpole, Brookfield Farm of Alstead, Gentile Family Homestead of Fitzwilliam, Green Bough Farm of North Haverhill, Linden Woods Farm of Durham, LocaBerry at Emery Farm of Durham, Meristem Flower Farm of Strafford, Picadilly Farm of Winchester, Robinson Family Farm of Pittsburry, Tellman Hill Farm of Whitefield, and Winter Street Farm of Claremont. The NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant proudly distributed \$50,000 among these twelve farms.

The mission of the NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant is to support and empower local farmers to build climate resilience throughout the Granite State. This will be done through reducing the impact of agriculture on climate change (mitigation) through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration, and to increasing the resiliency of New Hampshire Farms in a changing climate (adaptation), while meeting farm's conservation goals and needs. Extreme weather events, frequent and prolonged droughts, and increased pest pressures are increasing challenges for NH farms.

This grant though the NH County Conservation Districts seeks to support farmers in meeting those challenges.

The NH County Conservation Districts have launched this farm viability pro-



gram to improve the resilience of NH farms in the face of extreme weather events and a changing climate. Direct grants to farms to invest in on-farm infrastructure, equipment, and innovative practices will support farm profitability and the long-term viability for NH's agricultural sector.

The Walpole farms receiving the award :

Boggy Meadow Farm, located in Walpole, NH, producing farmstead cheeses, will install a Johnson-Su compost bioreactor, to create a fungal-rich compost to improve on-farm soil health.

Brookfield Farm, a certified Organic Dairy Farm in Alstead, NH, will apply potassium to select fields to increase the quality and quantity of forage, improve soil health, and improve plant resilience during extreme weather conditions and drought.

For more information about the awards or the Cheshire County Conservation District, visit <https://www.cheshireconservation.org>.

— Amanda Costello



Mendelssohn
Schubert
Beethoven
Chopin

Piano Favorites at
Alyson's Orchard
Friday December 9, 7:30PM

Book online:

ashuelotconcerts.org





PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured (l – r) are: Pat Crotty, Heidi Crotty (Hubbard), Susan Johnson (Hubbard), Rachel Johnson, and Peter Johnson

The Hubbard Family

A Legacy of Philanthropy

At the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Northern New England Chapter's recent National Philanthropy Day celebration at the Doubletree Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire, John A. Hubbard and The Hubbard Family were bestowed the honor of the National Philanthropy Day, 2022 Outstanding Philanthropists award. The Award for Outstanding Philanthropist honors an individual or family with a proven record of exceptional generosity who, through direct financial support, demonstrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic leadership roles on a community, national, and/or international level.

The Hubbard name is well known as generations of the Hubbard family have shown selfless concern for the welfare of others and endeavored to alleviate their struggles. Over the decades, the family has assumed numerous leadership roles at dozens of charitable organizations throughout Northern New England. John A. Hubbard's leadership and philanthropy transformed organizations such as the University of New Hampshire Foundation, where he was a Founding Member; the Monadnock Conservancy; Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities; Crotched Mountain School; Harris Center for Conservation Education; New Hampshire Charitable Foundation-

Monadnock Region; Spaulding Youth Center; and New England Kurn Hattin Homes for Children.

This kind, quiet, and thoughtful family continue to strengthen the communities they care deeply about, constantly striving to create a better life for children, learners of all ages, and the environment. Their philanthropy has opened doors for those in need, and has inspired others to give back, in whatever way they can.

– Kim Fine, Kurn Hattin



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SBW Fundraiser

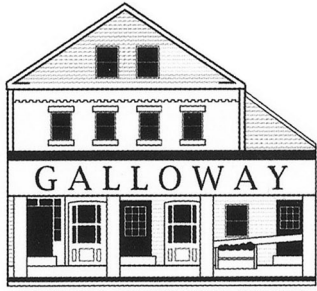
Annual Good Friends Campaign

Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) and the Monadnock Broadcasting Group/KNE-FM are once again teaming up with Douglas Cuddle Toys to raise money to benefit a local nonprofit. This year's nonprofit is Feeding Tiny Tummies. The campaign kicked off Friday, November 18.

Throughout the holiday season, SBW branches will serve as point-of-sale locations, selling stuffed animals generously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys for \$10 each. Feeding Tiny Tummies receives 100 percent of the sale proceeds and uses the funds to help the community and those in need. This year's warm and fuzzy fundraising ambassadors include Elijah the Spotted Dragon, Thunder T-Rex and Ivy the Sloth.

"The Good Friends campaign is an annual event that all of us at SBW look forward to each year because it helps us showcase our community's local spirit and commitment to help others," says Mark Bodin, President for Savings Bank of Walpole. "Raising money for a local nonprofit like Feeding Tiny Tummies is important because the proceeds enable them to provide food and a number of related resources that help children and families in our community. Of course, the campaign wouldn't be possible without the generous donation of stuffed animals and all the effort of everyone at Douglas Cuddle Toys, as well as the participation of KNE-FM and the Monadnock Broadcasting Group."

– Danielle Ruffo, Assistant Vice President



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Ashuelot Concert

Concert of Piano Favorites

Ashuelot Concerts continues its new series of classical concerts at Alyson's Orchard on Friday, December 9 at 7:30PM. British Concert Pianist, Nicholas Burns will perform a program of solo piano favorites by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Beethoven & Chopin on a beautiful concert Steinway that will be shipped in for the occasion.

This is the second of three concerts that will take place at Alyson's this year and Ashuelot Concerts' musicians will be visiting many of the area's public schools to perform and talk to children this academic year.

Tickets are \$30 and available to book in advance on Ashuelot Concerts' website ashuelotconcerts.org. Young adults, aged 18-30 can attend for just \$10 and children are welcome to attend for free.

— Nicholas Burns



The Walpole Foundation

Happy Holidays!

As winter is ready to set in and the holidays are fast approaching, it is time to reflect on accomplishments that we have all made this past year.

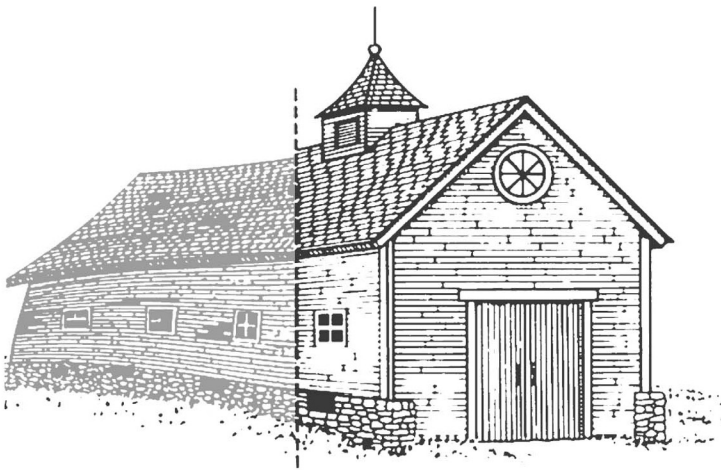
The Walpole Foundation has had a busy year maintaining properties and keeping things looking nice. New bollards were installed at the gas pumps at Jakes Market, an AED was installed outside on the entrance to the building. The major project was the water line and sewer repair next door at the Walpole Village Store building. The road was dug up to get to the pipes, the bricks were removed from the walk and put back in place after the repair. Once all the repairs were completed, that portion of the road was repaved.

As we look forward to next year there will be the installation of the two electric vehicle charging stations. These will be placed in the new parking lot beside the Old Firehouse property. That project should be completed in the spring of 2023.

From all of us at the Walpole Foundation, we wish everyone a happy holiday season.

— Bert Wiemers

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Bellows-Alcott Pianoforte Concert



PHOTO: RAY BOAS

As the concert begins: Ben Cosgrove, Pianoforte, Christie Winmill and Chris Sink.

The Unitarian Church was filled with magnificent music November 11 as Composer-Musician Ben Cosgrove introduced the community to the magical comforting sound of the recently restored c1790s London pianoforte. In the collection of the Walpole Historical Society for almost 100 years, this is the piano that Louisa May Alcott tells readers about in her acclaimed novel, *Little Women*.

Cosgrove, a traveling composer, pianist, and multi-instrumentalist from New England, played his own compositions that explored themes of landscape, geography, and environment as he has observed and interpreted the world with his music "while straddling a line between folk and classical music." The Walpole Historical Society plans to continue its concert series featuring the piano. You will wish to attend one this coming year.

– Ray Boas



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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the "Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Hen Roosts and Clothes Lines" ("Horse Thieves") will be Saturday, January. 21, 2023, at 700 PM in the Walpole Town Hall. At the meeting, we will elect officers for 2023, and will handle routine reports and other business.

If you would like to join the Horse Thieves, please contact Lewis LaClair at 603-756-0001, or at LLaclair@advancedrisk.com. Membership is open to any man whose legal residence is in Walpole and who is at least 18 years old. To become a member you must also pay the lifetime dues of \$2 and sign the membership book.

– Lewis Leclair

Walpole Worships

First Congregational
Sunday, 10 AM
<https://walpolenhucc.org/>

- Bible Study,
Wednesday afternoons, 4–5PM
- December 4, 3PM,
Organ Recital by Seth Phoenix.
Varied program including
Advent and Christmas music,
to showcase the organ's range.
A freewill offering will be taken
for the musician.

• Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 7:00 PM

• • • • •

St. John's Episcopal
Sunday, 10 AM
<http://stjohnswalpole.org/>

- Christmas Eve
4 PM Lessons and Carols Service,
including observance
of the Eucharist.
- Christmas - No Service

• • • • •

Walpole Unitarian
Sunday, 10 AM
<https://walpoleuuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian>

• • • • •

Drewsville Seventh-day Adventist
Saturday, 11 AM
<https://drewsvillenh.adventistchurch.org/>

• • • • •

For more information, visit the church website.
Links may be clicked from the CLARION
Walpole On-Line Resources page.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Walpole Unitarian

Holiday Food Sale

The Walpole Unitarian Church would like to thank all of you who stopped by and purchased items at our Harvest Food Sale in October. We look forward to seeing you again on December 10 between 9:00 and 11:15 AM in front of the Walpole Post Office. We will have our popular boxed holiday cookies ready for gift-giving. There will also be holiday breads and desserts, along with savory items such as quiches, casseroles, lasagnas, etc. These items will be ready to take home and serve, or kept in the freezer until later. There are always unexpected surprises that arrive at our table the day of the sale! All of our foods are homemade. Come early to get the best choices!

– Wendy Harty



S'mores galore

WPTG

The Walpole Parent Teacher Group hosted a S'mores Fall Fun event on November 5. Attendees had fun choosing what to use in the S'mores - from the traditional chocolate bar with graham crackers with a chocolate bar to chocolate chip cookies with a peanut butter cup. Hotdogs, popcorn, music, games, and of course bonfires, rounded out the beautiful fall night with family and friends. The WPTG has lots of fun community events planned for the upcoming months, such as our Trivia Night and Comedy Night. We hope to see you there!

– Anne Jenkins

TOWN OF WALPOLE RECORDING SECRETARY VACANCY

The Selectboard of the Town of Walpole is seeking a Recording Secretary. Job duties include:

- Attending Selectboard and Staff Meetings held at the Town Hall on the Thursday evenings.
- Transcribing minutes for scheduled meetings.

Applicants may submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town of Walpole Selectboard Office, 34 Elm Street, PO Box 729, Walpole, NH 03608. For more information, call 603-756-3672 or visit walpolenh.us for a job application and description.

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Merry Christmas

Wishing you and yours peace, joy and hope this holiday.



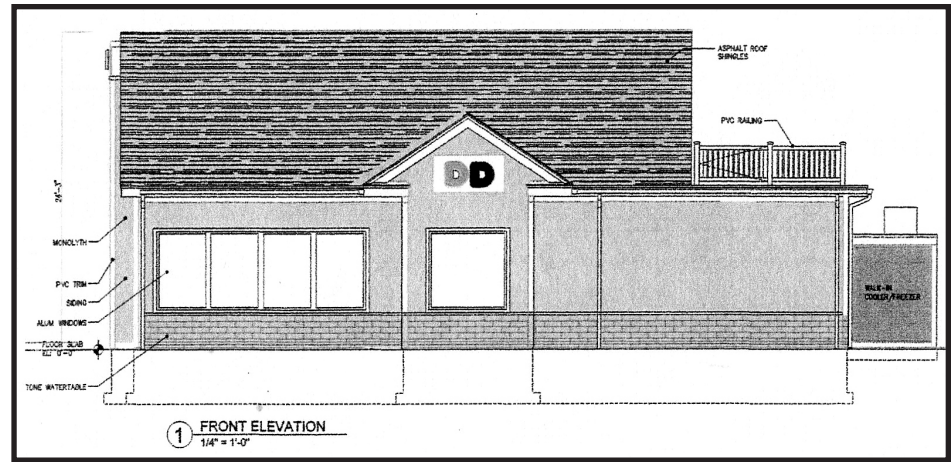
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Continued from Page 1, Dunkin

Branon's firm worked with the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) addressing access to this parcel, turning into the site and leaving from Red Barn Lane. Further quoting the meeting's minutes, "...according to Branon, the state is resolved the application is certainly in a good place to go forward. Branon said the company consulted with a traffic engineer to work on improvements to allow through traffic. An entrance has always been proposed there, but Dunkin has found a way to have two entrances and two exits. The area has been researched and it is no more a hazardous exit than any all along Route 12." A letter from DOT Office 4 detailing this was given to Chairman Miller by Mr. Branon.

When this property was originally developed by Avanru, one lot was divided into four "condo units" based upon road frontage on Route 12 for all units to thus comply with Walpole zoning regulations. At the meeting, Surveyor Joe DiBernardo related, "This designation of the property being condominium land units was done without Avanru coming to the Planning Board to get permission ... because Avanru's counsel said Avanru did



not have to go to the Planning Board." The board at length discussed how these lots should be handled, the definitions of condo lots and their subdivision regulations, and how to be subdivided as "condo lots." A motion was made and seconded to hold a public hearing in December to approve the subdivision of these condo units proposed by Avanru Development Group.

Two public hearings will be held during the December Planning Board meeting on December 13. First the "condo subdivision" must be officially approved, and

Proposed building elevation

the second hearing will be for approval of Dunkin's plan for the front lot of that subdivision. The complications relating to the development of the Avanru properties over the past several years points out that further development of this commercial stretch of Walpole deserves closer consideration and review of regulations to bring them more in line for proper development, and to avoid unintended improper development.

– Ray Boas



Welcome
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Dr. Alex was raised in California and North Carolina. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley and Master of Science degree from the Colorado School of Mines before completing his dental education at Columbia University. Dr. Alex enjoys hiking, biking, gardening, playing poker, and exploring historic sites. Dr. Alex is looking forward to being part of the Walpole community.

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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

(Editor's Note: If this article on the history of holiday window candles looks familiar, it is because it was originally published in the December 2019 Clarion. But, since the online posting has, in the three years since, garnered over 18,500 views worldwide, I thought it might deserve reposting. Enjoy!)

...the tradition of lighting

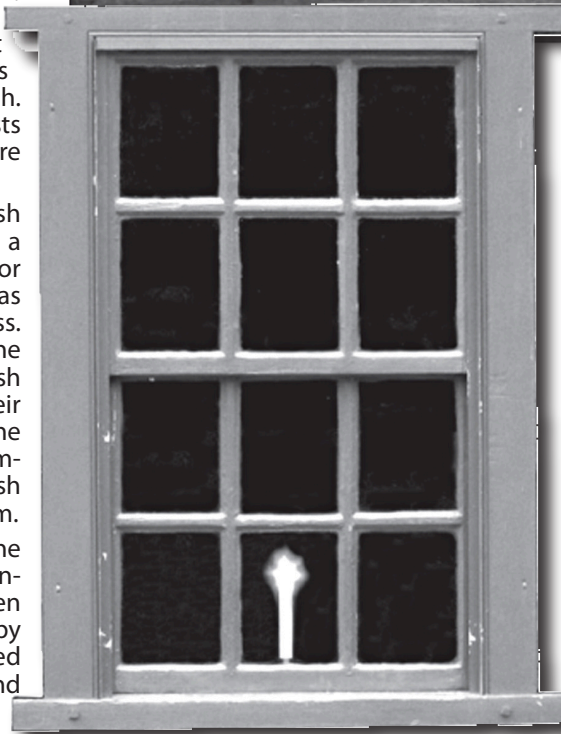
candles in the windows of homes during Christmas, dating to colonial times, was brought to America by the Irish? Candles in windows have always been considered a sign of welcome to others. In early America, when homes were often miles apart, the sight of a distant candle in a window was a sign of "welcome" to those wishing to visit.

Religious practices and persecution have a long and complicated history in Ireland. As early as 1171, King Henry II's invasion of Ireland began persecution against the Irish. Pagan solstice celebrations were replaced by Christmas celebrations. Protestantism attempted to replace Catholicism. The British Government, between 1691 and 1778, perfected their oppressive Penal Laws, targeting Catholics in an attempt to squash the religion. Catholic priests were not allowed to practice their faith. Ordered to leave the country, the priests instead went into hiding. The Irish were forced to obey British Rule.

During Christmastime, faithful Irish Catholics would, in darkness, light a candle in the window and leave the door unlocked. This was a sign to priests it was safe to slip into their home to say Mass. In return they offered hospitality to the priest. The British, questioning the Irish about the candles, were told it was their way to welcome Joseph, Mary, and the Baby Jesus as they sought shelter. On immigrating to the United States, the Irish brought this holiday practice with them.

The tradition of the lit candle in the window in colonial America has been interpreted in many ways. It has been seen as a beacon of hope for any passerby during the holiday season, and signaled strangers that there would be food and shelter there, should they ask. Candles also showed hope that Mary and other saints would pass by their home and bless it. The candle's welcome was part silent prayer for the safe return of an absent person, and part sign there is someone waiting and tending the fire. Other interpretations say the candle would be sending a message - a child had been born or a family had received a blessing of some nature. Often the candles would be commemorating a community event or celebration. Inns (and now bed and breakfasts) used candles announcing rooms were available, and leading travelers to the door. The key being the sense of welcome.

When Colonial Williamsburg was established, they were unsure how Christmas should be represented. Remember, it



was not much of a holiday in colonial America. They hung colored lights on ten evergreen trees in 1934, continuing to search for decorations representative of the period. The landscape architect remembered his family's practice of placing a candle in their Boston window in 1893. With that idea, the next year a single lighted candle was placed in the windows of the four buildings open to the public. The candles were lit from 5 to 10 PM between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Worried of fire, four janitors were paid \$1.00 each to light the candles and guard against fires.

Electric candles solved the concern with fire. Colonial Williamsburg visitors liked what they saw, and wanted candles to take back home. In 1941, Williamsburg department stores sold their entire stock of 600 electric candles by Christmas Eve. Today, having candles in the windows is even easier. My candles take batteries, and are remotely controlled.

FLORENTINE FILMS

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Steeple Project Success

In the spring of 2022, the members of the First Congregational Church, UCC, of Walpole voted to make structural, electrical and exterior improvements to the steeple. Dale Woodward and the trustees estimated the cost would be around \$110,600. The great news is that between the church and the community we have raised \$106,200 to date. We're waiting for the final cost figures to come in.

One third of the money raised came from the individuals and organizations in the community. The contributions of the Savings Bank of Walpole and the Walpole Foundation were very helpful. Two thirds of the money was raised by the church members and former members who had moved away.

Built in 1831, the First Congregational Church, UCC, has been a vital part of the spirituality and visual imagery of Walpole. For 191 years the steeple has

been the tallest, most visible part of the village. It has been part of Walpole through the Civil War, the Depression, WWII, the Korean War, the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, 9/11/2001, and the wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

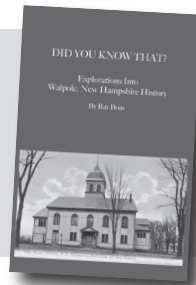
The steeple is expensive to maintain, but a lot of good care since 1831 has actually kept it structurally sound. When the lift arrived in July, we finally got a closer look and saw that the steeple's vinyl clapboards are brittle and chalking. They are still functional but have a limited lifespan. At \$55,000, the replacement was beyond the scope of this project.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this project. Contributions came from a few dollars put in buckets during Old Home Days and band concerts pie sales to \$20,000. We're all the beneficiaries of a beautifully restored steeple.

– Chuck Shaw



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And this weekend we had a Farmers' Market on the Common, Soup at Noon at the Congregational Church, and a Christmas Fair at St. John's.

On a serious note, I am asking for your help. The Pocket Park on Main

Street many of us zip by every day is suffering from vandalism. One of our new residents who goes there frequently to read and or write, has been cleaning up the graffiti regularly. As soon as she erases it, it reappears and now the vandals are also disturbing the stones on the path to the gazebo. This park was given to the Town of Walpole by Robert Hubbard who left an endowment to the Walpole Foundation for its maintenance. Please take note of who is in the park, call the police if you observe anyone practicing their graffiti art on the gazebo or stones. The small gazebo in the grassy area in front of the Walpole Savings Bank/Clinic Building is also suffering from mistreatment. Be aware, please.

For several months now I have been writing about both the Walpole Power Committee and the Walpole Police Committee. The Power Committee is moving closer to finding sources for cheaper power for all of us in Walpole. We are members of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire which expects to be fully functioning by spring 2023. In the meantime, we are seeking funding for establishing a Community Solar Field for those of us who cannot put solar panels on our individual houses/land. We are also investigating the potential for solar panels for the Recycling Center.

The Walpole Police Committee is actively seeking land and has a preliminary drawing of what a new station would look like. My first experience with Town Meetings began in March 1996 after coming to Walpole in August of 1995. I still hear what I heard at those first town meetings: we don't need a police force – or why do we need a police force? Nothing ever happens in Walpole. Would that that were true!

If you read the Keene Sentinel, you read this week of a young woman who was arrested as a serious drug dealer due to the persistence of one of Walpole's newest officers: Josh Healy. Thanks to Officer Healy's careful and thorough work, we have one fewer drug dealer on the street. We know we must begin to publish our work on a Police Blotter to illustrate how busy and how effective the department is.

Tax bills have yet to arrive, so anxiety levels are high, increasing misinformation. Our tax rate is determined by the State of NH DRA.

The rate includes not just Walpole's budget but Cheshire County, State Education, The Walpole Fire District, and the Fall Mountain School District. In North Walpole, the Commissioner's budget also is added in.

Every entity has multiple forms to file before the DRA sets a rate. When Walpole receives a rate, the Selectboard immediately determines how much to add for abatements, and how to use the unassigned fund balance. Then our forms go back to the DRA. When the DRA agrees to our decisions, the tax bills are quickly sent from the Tax Collector's Office and taxpayers have thirty days to pay their tax bill.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Peggy Graves, this past weekend, the matriarch off a family who has been part of this Community since at least 1762. Peggy introduced Walpole's Old Home Days among many other things. Her and her husband Bob Graves' imprint on Walpole endure.

We all have much to be grateful for as we come into Thanksgiving Day.

A special thank you to all the Walpole Employees who work for each of us year-round, as well as the many volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and talents. Walpole is blessed, indeed.

– Peggy Pschirrer

Great Decisions

The "Great Decisions" public forum in the Walpole Town Library will pause during the winter months of December, January and February, resuming on Monday, March 13, 2023. Our first topic of discussion will be "Energy Geopolitics." Look for announcements in the February "Clarion" and in the library. The Foreign Policy Association's *Great Decisions 2023 Briefing Book* will arrive in January. Topics for discussion next year are Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, Global Famine, Climate Migration, China and the U.S., Iran at a Crossroads, Politics in Latin America and Economic Warfare. Visit fpa.org for details or to order a 2023 *Briefing Book*.

To close the year on a positive note from our "Climate Change" forum, the second round of Earthshot Prize winners will be announced in Boston on December 2. The Earthshot Prize challenges us to repair and restore the Earth by awarding one million pounds sterling to innovators in five categories every year for a decade. That's a total of 50 million pounds! The categories are: Protect & Restore Nature, Clean our Air, Revive our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World and Fix our Climate. Human ingenuity is truly inspiring, so keep a look-out for this event on December 2: earthshotprize.org

Best wishes for a Healthy, Happy New Year!

– Sue Kibbe & Ron MacLachlan



Keene Festival of Trees



Once again, Mascoma Bank and the Keene Community will decorate trees with care, creativity, and some amazing stocking stuffers.

The trees, which will be displayed in the Keene branch at 255 West Street, are decorated with gift cards for local businesses, unique presents, and all sorts of creative

treats. Bid on your favorite in our online auction for the opportunity to take a tree home and enjoy all the gifts affixed to the trees. For information and bidding visit <https://keenefestivaloftrees.com>

Funds raised support vital services provided for children by the Winchester Learning Center.

– Mascoma Bank

Women of Walpole

With the holidays approaching, Women of Walpole (WOW) are participating in a variety of activities around town, including hanging festive wreathes on the doors at Town Hall and the Library, and participating in the Giving Tree Project to help make sure Walpole children have a wonderful holiday. We are also sponsoring a gift list from MCVF Crisis and Prevention Center. This fall WOW helped the Dance Institute program at the Middle School and after school snacks at the North Walpole Elementary School.

Our annual holiday potluck luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at noon. Look for an email with all the details so you may RSVP. If you are not on our current email list, please contact Susan (pete_suejohnson@verizon.net) or Carolyn (carolynlebal@gmail.com). At our January meeting we will welcome a member of the Police committee for a presentation on Walpole's need for a new police station. We still need a hostess for the January 18 meeting. If anyone would like to open the doors of their house, please let Susan know.

Women of Walpole meetings are open to any woman who lives or works in Walpole. Annual dues are \$35.00 and help defray our charitable giving. For further information, please contact Susan Johnson at 603-313-4018 or pete_suejohnson@verizon.net.

– Susan Johnson



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– Leah Kristin

'Twas The Day Before The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the Day Before the Night Before Christmas,
and all through the house

Everything was frantic, haven't seen my spouse.

The stockings weren't hung yet, can't find them anywhere
Need them for St. Nick, not leaving the chimney bare.

The children weren't doing their homework, playing instead,
While visions of Tylenol danced in my head.

My wife is shopping and searching everywhere,
Must find the new, cute-talking teddy bear.

When out in the yard there arose such a clatter,
I ran from the attic to see what was the matter.

My wife was racing home, she went too fast,
And hit the garage, with such a crash.

The snow was falling, too slippery out there
She should have slowed down, used more care.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
The police had followed her, ... a ticket I fear.

With a little old officer, so lively and quick
He instead helped her unload. Is that his shtick?

More rapid than eagles, the kids they came running,
"Is that package for me, for me, for me?!" So unbecoming.

The officer called out their names, as he drove away,
And gave them instruction, a tip for the day.

"Now, Billy, Jimmy, Chester, and Charlie,
Now, Susie, Julie, Katie, and Carly."

"Get back to your homework, go indoors,
Be good now, oh, and help your mom with the chores!"

"You're wonderful people, Merry Christmas to you all,
I have to go, there's a burglary at the mall."

– Charles B. Wright

Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Selectboard - October 27 – MOOver Bus: The Walpole Foundation is negotiating an agreement to have the MOOver bus stop at Abenaki Springs, Shaws Plaza, the Walpole Clinic and one other location. The Walpole Foundation and Mascoma Bank are sponsoring the bus route for one year. There is also a matching grant for the service from the State of Vermont. Ridership will be tracked.

Selectboard - November 3 – Mr. Winmill presented two proposed zoning ordinance petition warrant articles. First, the penalty provision would change for the area south of the Cold River. The current zoning article has a \$500.00 maximum penalty which is out of sync with the NH Statue maximum penalty of \$550 per day, with no maximum.

The second petition article is to amend the definition of restaurant and retail businesses. The change would exclude under the restaurant definition "to provide food for offsite consumption". It would also define a retail building as one to exclude drive through service. This would redefine the development of Walpole's commercial area.

Save These Instructions

It's a sad commentary on how my mind works that something as disposable as an instruction sheet should pique my curiosity. And, no, it has nothing to do with its incomprehensibility. I long ago surrendered any hope that any object's attached assembly/operating instructions would read like anything other than the sad efforts of a native-speaking dyslexic Bulgarian wrestling a Mandarin original into something resembling English. (Case in point: the pellet stove that came with our home was made in Italy, but its manual may have been translated on Mars. It also doesn't help that the "helpful" illustrations are for a different model...)

But I digress.

The instructions in question came with a pack of outdoor lights we picked up for Halloween. The tightly-folded instruction sheet is mainly a collection of safety warnings provided to protect the manufacturer from liability when a clueless consumer electrocutes himself while stringing the lights underwater. Made in Cambodia, the instructions are refreshingly clear, having survived the transition from Khmer to English quite nicely.



But it's not the English instructions that puzzle me. In the attached photo, the English version is the small sheet on top — perhaps 3" x 5", printed on both sides. The larger sheet (standard letter size) is in Spanish. No other languages are represented. Among the questions that came to mind:

Why only English and Spanish? Are no other cultures interested in festive lighting? Though purchased for Halloween, the string isn't spooky-themed — no glowing skulls or pumpkins. Could be used anywhere at any time. Maybe only English and Spanish speakers need to be cautioned. The rest of the planet understands the hazards of electricity.

And the size. Do Spanish speakers need a more macho approach? The sheet is four times the size of the English version. Is there some language-based vision deficiency I'm unaware of? What fragments of my ALM high school Spanish remain (I can order meatballs in a library) suggest that the wording is identical. Same information. Same organization. The English sheet uses a smaller, condensed font, but the all-caps, bold admonition to SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS (GUARDE ESTAS INSTRUCCIONES) and everything else appear to be identical.

Yet the flip side is blank. You quadruple the paper size and enlarge the type and then print nothing on the reverse. Why not just double the page size and print front and back? Or keep the larger size and really increase the point size for the visually-challenged — using both sides.

Just plain puzzling. I wonder how large the sheet would be for Arabic or Cyrillic?

— Jan Kobeski

Hansel & Gretel

In late October and early November, the Walpole Players presented *Hansel & Gretel* to the delight of children and adults alike. The show, written by Mike Wright, featured many roles for children, and was very well attended, despite having to cancel the first weekend due to Covid. The show was extended for an additional weekend and two shows on the second weekend were sold out.

The minimal set featured a curtain of trees setting the stage for a spooky trip into the woods for Hansel and Gretel, who, after getting lost and falling asleep, wake up when a life-size house of gingerbread magically makes its appearance through the dark forest. As in the original Grimms' fairy tale, the children outsmart the evil witch and everyone lives happily ever after, but only after some thrilling and scary moments when the witch captures the two children, puts Gretel under a spell and locks Hansel in a cage to fatten him up for dinner!

— Lisa Bryan



PHOTOS: JAN KOBESKI

Left: Gina Richardson as a witch having a bad day; Right: Hansel, Gretel and Papa (Asa Whittaker, Harper Rodenhauser & Denis Fortier)

The Walpole Players

Holiday Fundraiser No Show Dinner Theater

The Walpole Players invite you to host your Holiday dinner with friends and family at the Helen Miller Theater in the Walpole Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM). Tickets are \$10 each or \$50 for a table of six. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Our Place Drop-in Center in Bellows Falls and The Fall Mountain Food Shelf. We thank you for your continued support of these two much needed, worthy organizations!

The Players will provide everything but the food and drink: linens, dinnerware, wine glasses and silverware, on a beautifully set festive table. Dance under the lights to our holiday-inspired music, take a group photo on our cozy decorated stage, and enjoy a bite of scrumptious dessert donated by talented local bakers. You just need to dress up, bring your favorite food, beverages, and friends—the Players will handle all the set-up and clean-up!

No Show Theater means the stage will be dark, but it also means you can donate and still not show up for this event! All private and business sponsors of \$50 or more will be announced throughout the evening, advertised within the table centerpieces and posted on The Walpole Players website.

Tickets can be purchased at Galloway Real Estate and Mascoma Savings Bank in Walpole. Only 20 tables are available for this one night event, so get yours soon because they will sell fast! If you purchase a table you will receive 6 tickets (room seating is limited to 160 people). If you can't come to the event but wish to donate, you can do so on our website or by mailing a check made out to the Walpole Players to PO Box 951, Walpole, NH 03608. For more information, please email us at walpoleplayers.org or call (603) 756-2535.

— Jenny Plante



Walpole Town Library

For more information, visit the library website - <https://walpoletownlibrary.org> or call 603-756-9806.

Links may also be clicked from the CLARION On-Line Resources page.



- **The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs The United States of America**, with author Eric Cervini, Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 - 8:30 PM via Zoom. Uncovers the secret history of the fight for gay rights. To receive the Zoom link, please email jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org.
- **Coding Club**. Monday, December 12 - Winter session begins. For details, email: jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org.
- **Caregiver Support Group**. Tuesday, December 13, 2:00 PM
- **ELF Movie**. December 16, 4:00 PM, Main Library - Bring your friends and some snacks and enjoy a special showing of this holiday classic.

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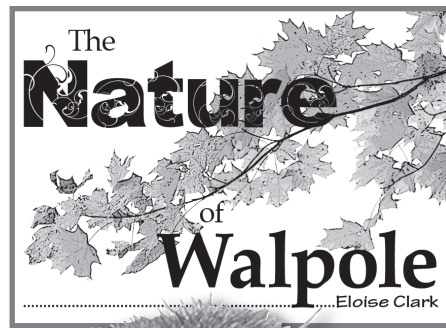
By December, nature is buttoned down for the onslaught of winter. Migrants have fled to warmer climes where food can be found. Hibernators and deep sleepers are living off reserves of fat. Animals that remain active have either hoarded food or prowl hungrily for available prey. With the food chain pared down, it's a tough time of year to survive! Let's look at how one large, hoarding species of rodent adapts.

The beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is well suited to life in a northern climate. Beavers are famous for their engineering skills, sometimes to the chagrin of humans. The dams and lodges of stone, mud and wood give beaver some control over their environment. A waterproof lodge offers a cozy space when the body heat of a family of beavers warms it during the frigid weeks of winter. Water covers the entrance to the lodge. It seals out cold air and discourages predators.

A beaver's stout physique helps it conserve body heat. Adult beaver are good-sized animals, 25-30" long and weighing 30-65 pounds. Add a 15" tail and beavers impress! The tail stores much-needed fat reserves for the long winter season. For wildlife, stored calories in fat are key to the survival of an individual.

As with many mammals, beavers have two layers of fur. A dense, wooly undercoat next to the skin traps its body heat. Atop these are longer guard hairs to help shed water. The guard hairs are kept oiled, making a tight "wet suit" that never lets the undercoat or the skin become wet. This prevents hypothermia. Oil glands are located besides the urogenital opening. This waterproof coat of oil is spread when the beaver grooms its fur. A split nail attached to each hind foot acts like a comb.

The hind feet have webbing between each of the long toes. These act like swim fins to help the beaver maneuver

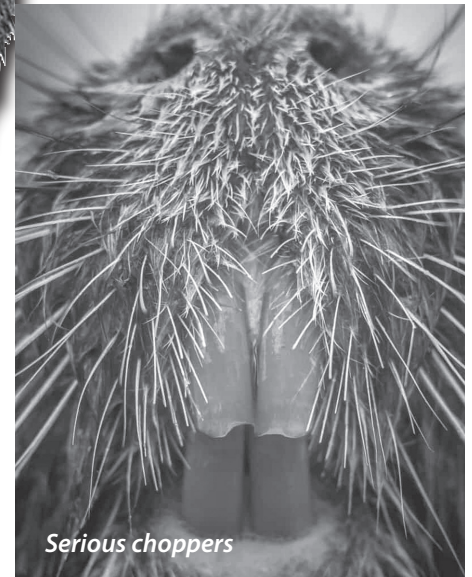


in water. The beaver also uses its broad, scaly tail to propel itself by pulsing it up and down. Beaver can swim up to five miles per hour. You're probably familiar with the loud noise a beaver makes when it slaps its tail on the water surface. It serves as a warning. The threatened beaver can dive for as long as 15 minutes underwater. Its eyes are equipped with a transparent inner eyelid or "nictitating" membrane. This acts like a pair of goggles to help the animal navigate.

On land, the beaver's tail is a prop while the beaver gnaws trees. Beaver

are entirely plant-eating herbivores. For winter stores they will submerge branches of aspen, willow, birch and maple. They place these piles handy to the underwater entrance of the lodge. In other seasons, beaver enjoy water plants such as yellow pond lily flowers. One autumn, we had a beaver in our backyard that feasted on fallen apples. Yet another removed an entire pear tree over a weekend!

The beaver are after the nutritious cambium layer beneath the bark of the tree. To gnaw off the bark, beaver have chisel-like incisor teeth curving from the top and bottom jaw. As the incisor teeth continuously grow, beaver need to continuously chew. If the beaver needs to chew underwater its loose lips can slip behind the incisors. This seals off the mouth from water and woodchips. The orange colored enamel of beaver teeth indicates high iron content, giving the teeth strength.



Serious choppers

Beaver have an outsized role in the ecosystems they inhabit. The wetlands they create benefit many other critters, such as ducks, herons, turtles, fish and aquatic insects. Beaver dams slow the flow of water, trap sediments and help purify water. Beaver ponds tend to raise the water table surrounding them. When drained, these "beaver meadows" offered rich soil for early settlers to cultivate their crops.

I highly recommend a book about beavers by Ben Goldfarb called *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*. Not only does it contain information about the biology and ecology of beavers, it traces the historical importance of the species for native cultures and European settlers. It pivots to a discussion of the ways beaver are currently being used to bring back healthy riparian ecosystems in areas where they were extirpated.



Beaver dam and pond



PHOTO: ERIC GJERDE

It's been a while since we've shared images of Walpole wildlife (we missed the moose at Hooper last month). However, it appears a large Barred Owl has taken up residence in the backyard of the home of Eric Gjerde on Middle Street. According to Eric, "We see it often in the morning and afternoon, parked in a tree overlooking a low overgrown area and eating up all the resident creatures therein. I did some reading and it seems these owls typically live within just a few square miles, so hopefully this lovely owl will continue to visit us and eat up all the mice!"



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What's Happening in Walpole Schools



Zombie Run

On Halloween, the Walpole Elementary School held their 4th annual Zombie Run. Some may not know what that is, and that's why we are here to talk about one of the many fun Walpole School events. Each grade from 5-8 can participate during the Zombie Run. This event will contain running but also mixed with the thrill of Halloween Spirit. To start, let's explain what the Zombie Run is. Teachers of the school will dress up, apply spooky makeup, and hide in various locations of the course given to the students. This course starts at the Walpole Elementary School playground and continues down to the Walpole Pool, Recreation Center, and back up to the Walpole Primary School all while trying to avoid the Zombie-Teachers. The Zombie's goal is to try to grab flags from student's clothing. Each student will attach or tape two colored ribbons to their sides. Once they reach parts of the course where the zombies are, they will try to run and dodge the zombie's attacks. Once completed, students may choose to run the course again.



7th Grader Haley Harwood gets focused for the upcoming Zombie Run.



Taylor Latham (7th) and Ms. Lake show off their costumes.



Mrs. Mulhearn (left) and Mrs. Sherrod are in the Halloween spirit!

Teachers and students alike had so much fun during this year's Zombie Run, and hope to continue with the tradition. Before the excitement of the Zombie Run took place, a few teachers throughout the WES Middle School chose to add a few of their unsettling comments to this very article, and how they felt about the event. They couldn't wait for the moments of victorious revenge on the students. And they got it.

Interview Quotes from the Zombie-Teachers prior to the race:

"I'm coming after all of you..." - Mrs. Parrott, Science Teacher

"Confident, as always." - Mr. LeBail, Social Studies Teacher

"Eloise, Beatrice, and I are looking forward to giving out free hugs on Halloween Day." Mrs. Treat, School Counselor and SEL Teacher, Eloise, (School Therapy Dog) and Beatrice (School Therapy Dog)

"Run for your life or you're welcome to give me a hug (that's a trick to get the flags)." - Mrs. Sherrod, 6th Grade Teacher

"One of the highlights of the year because we get to scare the students and chase them around." - Mrs. Ronning, 5th Grade Teacher

"What is fun about the zombie run is to be able to do something scary, and there is nothing more scary than motivated zombie-teachers." - Mr. Gagnon, Language Arts Teacher

- Sophia D'Alessandro, Xavier Bruder & Perry Lent (Grade 8)

PHOTOS: TAYLOR LATHAM

Our Local 4-H

Walpole's 4-H Club (Pinnacleview) is very popular. Chances are you've heard of them somewhere or another. They do lots of community service projects such as planting flowers on the fountain and in front of the Walpole Town Hall, hosting and helping with many events such as the Horse Thieves Dinner, Pancake Breakfast and so much more!

Lately children and teens haven't been interested in farming and agriculture, and the Pinnacleview Club wants to promote 4-H and agriculture so that local farms and businesses won't suffer!

Pinnacleview focuses on dairy cattle when it comes to showing. The club travels to many fairs to promote 4-H and to present their animals. The club also takes part in many activities in Cheshire County.

Members of the club go to many different events to help with their fitting and showing skills, and some members even get to go to Madison, Wisconsin to the National Dairy Expo and many others showing supply headquarters!

The importance of agriculture cannot be underestimated. We need our local farms and we need to have younger generations to be interested in farming.

Everything that the club does couldn't happen without the help of Crescent Farm, so the club is giving out a huge thank you to everybody who works at the farm and makes 4-H possible for all of the members of the club!

If you are interested in being a part of the wonderful experience of the Pinnacleview 4-H Club please reach out to the club.

- Savannah Anderson (Grade 6)

Primary school marchers had jellyfish for company.



Interview with Coach George Tsitsonis

This past year, George Tsitsonis was hired as Fall Mountain girls' varsity team head coach. He had a rich history in coaching and a love for soccer. He shares that love of soccer throughout the season with his team.

Q: Are you planning on coaching again?

A: Yes, I plan on coaching again next season. I had a wonderful experience with these kids and I look forward to working with them again.

Q: Have you enjoyed coaching this season?

A: I enjoyed this season as much as I have enjoyed any season in over a decade of coaching. It was incredibly fulfilling watching the girls improve and compete at this level. They came together as a unit and a family and that brings me so much joy as a coach.

Q: Do you feel you got everything out of your team this year?

A: I'm not sure if that's for me to answer. I feel like these players did everything they could to be the best they could be. They did everything I asked and more. I believe in their potential and honestly they worked as hard as any team I have ever been a part of.

Q: Are you proud of your team?

A: There is no one prouder of this group than me. They fought through adversity with lots of injuries all season long, but through it all they stayed united. We were the youngest team out of 41 playoff teams in the top three divisions of high school

soccer in New Hampshire. They played beyond their years, and everyone who watched them should be proud of what they accomplished.

Q: How much has your team improved over the span of your coaching?

A: Again, I can't answer this, someone else from the outside would know better. All I can say is that all the concepts, techniques, and tactics we exposed these girls to they took on. They improved their game on an individual level and then as a team, so their progress I believe has been visible.

Q: Do you expect progress next year?

A: Expectations are always there for promising teams. However, as a coach my job is to ensure that we build upon the work we've done this season. Our improvement came from the efforts of everyone on the team and our potential will only be fulfilled if we come back next season ready to put in even more work. I'm optimistic these kids will do that.

Q: We know that your team was very young this year, do you think that affected your season?

A: In the beginning I believe our inexperience counted against us. But, after the halfway point of the season we never even talked about that. This special group grew up fast. They learned a lot about themselves and gained lots of confidence and belief. If anything, we used our youth as a strength this season. It made us focus more and strive to get better every single day.

– Artemis Lakin & Elias Tsitsonis (Grade 6)

Girls Basketball

New Season Approaches

Hello. Most fall sports have ended and basketball season is going to start soon. We are looking forward to the beginning of the basketball season! Most of the eighth graders played school basketball, and they are now in high school, so we only have a few players returning this year for the Walpole Elementary School girls' basketball team. We have around 14 players for the girls' basketball team, but we will still make a great team. I hope we will have a great season this year. We will play hard and work very hard and travel in our school district. So far we believe we do not have a girls' basketball coach. So for those who are reading this we hope you or some other adults might be looking forward to coaching for this season of girls' basketball. It would mean a lot for someone to coach the girls' basketball team, or we might not have a team!

Also, if anyone is interested in playing basketball this year, please sign up! 6th-8th is allowed to play for the school

team. If you're below 6th grade you can also sign up for girls' and boys' rec basketball.

There is also AAU basketball for the spring season. For those who don't know what AAU basketball is, it's basically playing basketball in the spring against other teams, and there are basketball tournaments almost every weekend till the season for that team starts to the end of the season. You may not know anyone on your team or some of your friends might be on that team that have decided to join but, either way, it's an opportunity to get better at basketball, meet new people, and have a lot of fun.

That's what basketball, after all, is all about. According to the greatest, Michael Jordan, "It doesn't matter if you win as long as you give everything in your heart."

– Ashlyn Bascom & Stella Grillone (Grade 6)

WES Volleyball

Finishes Strong Season

The Walpole Volleyball team has just wrapped up their season. This year the girls' volleyball team was a wonderful experience, as it was coached by Walpole's Physical Education teacher Coach Baird-Torney. She worked us hard, but it was always fun.

We had a team of 16 girls and a team manager, 8th grader Jake Buswell. We had two team captains: Luna Loch and Violet Walz, both 8th graders. The year started off hard with a loss against South Meadow, 4 sets to 1, but we quickly regained confidence with a win, 4-1, against Charlestown Middle School. As the season went on, our skills grew and we got closer as a team. Our teamwork improved and our plays got better and better. While there was no postseason championship tournament, Walpole finished as one of the top teams in our conference with multiple wins over Vilas and Charlestown and close losses against Indian River.

– Adalynn Fuller (Grade 7) &
Violet Walz (Grade 8)

2022 Soccer Seasons

Girls

This year soccer was so much fun. Both the girls teams had a limited number of players. This led the girls to combine with the girls' soccer team from Vilas Middle School. In the end, we had great chemistry and won a lot of our games! After thinking about our past games and the hard and fun times we had, I will really miss this team. As a fellow 8th grader this will be my last practice ever for middle school. So I will really miss playing in middle school!

– Olivia D'Alessandro (Grade 8)

Boys

The boys, as well, were short on players, but we barely got enough from fifth graders so we didn't need to join with Vilas like the girls had to. We had a great season just like the girls. We won some and lost some, but we always had fun and had a good time.

There were a lot of solid players through all four grades. With these returning players getting a year older and a year of experience, there are high hopes for the boys' soccer team next season. We ended the season against Leland and Gray, but sadly lost. We will end up having the same team next year but with new 5th graders and we hope Xavier Bruder does well in high school and we will miss Madden Wright as well and hope he does soccer in his new school.

– Joseph Paulette (Grade 7) &
Ethan Elliott (Grade 6)

From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Not a Hijack!

Ran into my friend Elwud at the local Gas and Go the week after Thanksgiving. So naturally I asked, "Did you all have a great Thanksgiving?" His response puzzled me for a few minutes, until he fully explained. "I aint neva gonna go pick up nobody at the airport eva agin!" he shouted. "Whats that got to do with the question I asked," I queried.

"Well sir, Velmas brother, Jackson, from Georgia was comin' for a few days and was flyin' into Bawstin with United. Didn't say who he was united with, so I took the big car in order to get them all seated. Well I gets ta the airport, which is called Logan, and parked the car. Next thing I knows is im gettin' yelled at for parkin' in a taxi only spot. So this big burly, very unpleasant fella tells me where to go. As I left, I told him where to go. He didn't like it very well. Anyhow, I gets into the place where ya sposed ta meet arriving people and it is crowded. Like being in a corral of greased pigs catchin' contest. Well sir, way on the far side of the crowd I spots Jackson. So to get his attention I yell real loud three times, HI JACK!

Next thing I knows is two big fellas in brown uniforms got me spread eagle on the floor, and people are running every which-a-way. Two more grab my legs and I find myself in a little room shoved up against a wall. One guy starts runnin' his hands all ova me, which I dont like, unless Velma is doing it. He asks me if I got any weapons on me or any drugs. I said no, except a plug of tobacco. The second guy says, 'We better do a strip search, just in case.' I didnt know who was doin' the strip-pin' but soon found out it was me. Agin he says, 'You got any weapons on you?' Now Im against the wall nakid, so I said, Just where do you think I could hide them," which got me shove harder against the wall. Then the biggest guy pulled some rubber gloves out of a box. Without goin' into a lotta detail, let me just say it was the most inbareassing moment I eva experienced. I finally got a chance to explain that I was calling to my wife's brother, Jackson, who we call Jack. They let me get dressed, get Jackson and leave the area.

Needless to say, I was the Butt of jokes all through Thanksgiving. Now Velma tells me her cuzin Regina from New Mexico is plannin' on comin' for Christmas. I put my foot down and said 'Tell her to take a Greyhound or Amtrack, because Im not goin' to any airport and start yellin' her name. No way Im runnin' through an airport yellin', Im lookin' for a Regina!"

Merry Christmas to one and all from The Far Side of Walpole.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Walpole Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (with Debra Pawelczyk and Andrew Atkin) present Fall Mountain Food Bank's Mary Lou Huffling with a check. See page 19.



FROM THE CLARION...

A sampling of what we've reported in more than 11 years of publication:

One Year Ago (December 2021) – The Walpole Community Power Committee (WCPC) was looking to explore the opportunity provided by a NH state law that allows municipalities to become electricity suppliers, negotiating lower electricity rates and clean, sustainable energy on behalf of their communities.

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

Five Years Ago (December 2017) – The Monadnock Conservancy recently was given a 95.4-acre parcel of land from Walpole resident, Jane Skofield, that abuts Hooper Forest in the north central part of Walpole. The property offers incredible plant and tree diversity, and also provides key habitat for wildlife.

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

Nine Years Ago (December 2013) – Repairs to the Town Hall cupola were completed. The total cost, as approved at the 2013 Town Meeting, was \$22,750. Corrective measures included removing the existing roof, and replacing it with new membrane roofing. In the process, rotten wood was removed and replaced, and finally all exposed carpentry was scraped, primed, and painted. Low-cost illumination was soon installed.

Eleven Years Ago (December 2011) – The curtain rises on Wednesday, December 14th for the fourth year when The Walpole Players welcome Mr. Charles Dickens to the Helen Miller Theater at the Walpole Town Hall to give a public reading of his classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*.

MILESTONES

Passed

Rose Marie Brooks
November 7, 1947 - October 7, 2022

Isaac T. Given
September 22, 2002 - October 20, 2022

Janice L. Perkins
1942 - October 31, 2022

Alfred E. Field
June 8, 1935 - November 3, 2022

Charles Phillips
February 26, 1944 - November 7, 2022

Peggy Graves
October 28, 1931 - November 9, 2022

Lisa A. (Chickering) Johnson
March 29, 1965 - November 9, 2022

Reader Commentary

Thank You from the Friends of the Walpole Library

The Friends of the Library would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Walpole community for your generous support of our recent book sale. We raised about \$6,400 at the sale, plus another \$1,700 at our ongoing book sale at the Walpole Reuse Center, where you can still find an extensive variety of quality books.

Many months of planning and preparation go into the book sale. Many people join in this effort, but we would like to especially thank the following: Tedd and Christine Benson for the use of their "chicken coop" building; the Fall Mountain Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams for their help with setting up the sale; Tim Graves for the use of his flatbed truck; Ernie Vose, Ben Hoy and

the staff at the Reuse Center; Pinnacleview Equipment, and our gracious hosts at Walpole School, especially Justin Cassarino, the principal and Brian, the custodian!

Thank you again, Walpole, for a very successful sale! All proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new books and other materials that make our beautiful local library so special

– Jana Sellarole

Scouting for Food

Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299 and Boy Scout Troop 299 would like to thank everyone who made our Scouting for Food drive a huge success. We collected 975 items of food and \$2,497.00 in monetary donations. All of this was donated to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

– Debra Pawelczyk

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Submissions about community events and achievements are encouraged for both the calendar and features.

Submit ads, articles & photographs to:
rayboas@comcast.net
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Tara Sad: Copy-Editing
Jan Kobeski: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

I cannot believe this year is almost behind us. But, I have a theory. Each year is a smaller percentage of our entire lifespan. One year is a tenth of a ten-year olds life, but for a fifty year old, each year diminishes to two percent of one's life. Two percent is, of course less, and goes faster, than ten percent. That means it is important to cherish and use that time even more effectively.

As I recently related to readers of my travel blog "Shunpiking with Ray," my curiosity takes me in many directions of research, learning, and travels. It all helps keep me young. An historical program in Guilford, Vermont, in October lead to my curiosity of early burial grounds. Then I purchased the newly published *Over My Dead Body*, learning much more, and, from that book's bibliography, found additional books to purchase and peruse. Do pick up a copy of *Over My Dead Body*.

A passage in Margaret M. Coffin's *Death In Early America* struck me as a lesson for us all. Sadly, included in this month's Milestones are a number of passings. In reading the obituaries I found while compiling the list, it seemed appropriate to share that passage, "The dead live on through their work, their accomplishments..." Something to remember.

Also this past month I learned that between November 20 and January 24 there are at least fourteen religious holidays. Thus, may I wish you Happy Holidays, and a prosperous New Year filled with good work and accomplishments.

– Ray Boas, Publisher

1991-2021

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