

A New and Hopefully Better Year

Dunkin Delayed

Two related Public Hearings were held at the monthly Planning Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 13. Both hearings involve properties developed by the Avanru Development Group. Avanru has developed The Residences at Abenaki Springs, provided the property for Tractor Supply, Dollar General, and the future storage unit business. Three commercial pad properties remain undeveloped, with the lot fronting Route 12 proposed for the Dunkin.

The first hearing for the evening considered the request for a Condo Lot Subdivision proposed by Avanru for Tax Map 12, Lot 13-2 into 3 lots, 2A, 2B and 2C. 2A is the proposed Dunkin lot and 2B has been sold. From the November 8, 2022, Planning Board Minutes, "Avanru divided the property into land condominium units. All the property, which is still owned by Avanru Development Group, is one lot but divided into four units – Unit 1 is delineated as wetlands and unbuildable. Then there are Unit 2A, Unit 2B and Unit 2C. Unit 2A is 1.43 acres, Unit 2B is .92 acres and Unit 2C is .98 acres. Individual companies such



as Dunkin will have rights on Unit 2A if their site plan is approved. According to the condo rules, all units share Route 12 as its frontage. This designation of the property being condominium land units was done without Avanru coming to the Planning Board to get permission, and, according to Surveyor Joe DiBernardo,

Continued on Page 2

From Peggy's Desk

Public Transportation has arrived in Walpole thanks to grants from the Mascoma Bank, C&S, the Walpole Savings Bank, and the Walpole Foundation. The Moover Bus from Bellows Falls now stops at Abenaki Springs, Shaw's, and the Walpole Clinic. Ridership will be tracked so that, if other stops are needed, we may be able to expand services. Watch for information which will soon be posted for everyone to know the routes of the bus. Hop aboard the bus to learn the routes and support our new transportation.

The NH PUC approved Walpole's Electric Aggregation Plan, which means we are moving forward in our efforts to find cheaper, greener electric power for Walpole through our membership in the CPCNH or independent brokers.

Continued on Page 6

Preserving Walpole

On Tuesday, January 10, 2023, the Walpole Planning Board will hold a public hearing on whether to recommend a zoning ordinance designed to preserve Walpole's unique and distinctive appeal and character in light of commercial development. The proposal is a Petition Warrant Article, on the ballot in March 2023, which, if approved by voters, will control the growth of formula businesses in Walpole. How? By limiting the total number of these businesses to twelve. What is a "formula business?" The legal definition is clunky, but think chain stores like Dollar Tree, franchise restaurants like Kentucky Fried Chicken, etc.

Further details will be provided in the February and March issues of the *Clarion*, but to begin the process and learn, you are encouraged to attend the Planning Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

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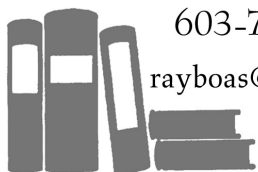
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Horse Thieves

2023 Annual Meeting

The "Horse Thieves" annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 7:00 pm in person at the Walpole Town Hall. We are holding this meeting "in person" after two years of holding our meetings on Zoom due to COVID.

The Horse Thieves have had annual meetings almost every year since 1816 when the organization was founded in a local tavern here in Walpole. For our new residents in town, the full name of our organization is the "Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Clothes Lines and Hen Roosts" – most of the locals simply refer to us as the "Horse Thieves." Back in 1816, "Horse Thieves" societies sprang up in many places. They were needed because horses were valuable and therefore a target of thieves, because sheriff departments were less robust (or nonexistent) and because most horse thieves promptly fled town therefore being out of reach of the local sheriff. Against all odds, the Walpole organization has survived these many years, and is now probably the second oldest surviving Horse Thieves society in the country.

Our annual meeting on January 21 will include approving our annual reports and electing officers for 2023. Although we have annual election of officers, most officers serve on a two year cycle. In addition, the Horse Thieves will probably hold our highly acclaimed banquet this fall and therefore produce a poster listing our officers and members.

The Walpole Horse Thieves is open to any man 18 years or older who lives in Walpole, who pays a \$2 lifetime fee and signs the membership book. If you are interested in joining contact Lewis LaClair, Clerk (LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com or 756-0001).

– Lewis LaClair

Update

Community Power Committee:

On December 6th the NH Public Utility Commission (PUC) approved Walpole's Energy Aggregation Plan (EAP), which we approved unanimously at our 2022 Town Meeting. The next steps are to obtain Energy Usage for Walpole from Liberty Utilities. Once we have the usage, our committee will approach vendors who can meet the requirements of Walpole's EAP.

The committee is charged with recommending a vendor to the Select Board. As per the EAP, we will only implement Walpole Power if we can confirm rates that will be less expensive or equivalent to the Liberty default rate.

From Page 1, Dunkin'

it was because Avanru's counsel said Avanru did not have to go to the Planning Board."

Chairman Jeff Miller pointed out the disparity in regulations. Avanru claims the arrangement is a division of ownership, and not a division of land. But as pointed out by Miller and Selectboard Representative Steve Dalessio, the proposal does not meet subdivision zoning requirements of road frontage for each lot, 30% open space maintained for each lot, and other items from the site plan review ordinance. Miller specifically asked, without receiving a definitive reply, where the Dollar General's 30% open space was, pointing out it cannot consider it part of the other the units or the retention pond. The Planning Board, and the Selectboard, are both waiting clarification of the condo unit subdivision regulations from the Town Attorney. The public hearing was continued to January.

The Dunkin Public Hearing for its site plan followed. Back for his second presentation since October 11, Nate Chamberlain, from Fieldstone Land Consultants in Milford, NH, presented Dunkin plans. At the November 8 meeting, Fieldstone Land Consultant Civil Engineer Chad Branon was the presenter for what was to be the final site plan for Dunkin. At this second presentation questions still remained, and the hearing continued. At the December 13 meeting, Chamberlain again left questions unanswered, specifically: open space, if Walpole's Fire Department had reviewed the plans for safety, and discussions held with the Water and Sewer Department. Asked at an earlier meeting as to Dunkin's hours of operation Chamberlain stated he thought 4:00 am to 10:00 pm, maybe sometimes 11:00 pm. Since consideration of Dunkin's site plan hinges on the clarification of the subdivision and use of these "condo lots", this hearing, too, has been continued to January 2023.

– Ray Boas



As a reminder, Walpole Power would replace Liberty as default energy source - that's the "Energy Service" line item on your bill. Walpole Power would be buying the electricity, Liberty would still deliver the electricity, fix the wires, receive outage calls and bill us for our electricity, as they do now.

By buying our power as a group we expect to pay less. We are hoping to complete the process in April/May. Stay tuned to this space for additional informational meetings as we learn more in the months ahead.

– Dennis Marcom

The MOOVer Bus

New Stops in the Village!

Do you live in town and sometimes don't have a way to get to Shaw's for groceries or to downtown Bellows Falls for shopping? Well, help has arrived!

The Walpole Foundation has been working with the MOOVer Bus (you know, the cute little buses that are painted to look like cows – hence the name 'moover') to extend the current route that used to end at Shaw's Marketplace into the Village of Walpole. The Savings Bank of Walpole, Mascoma Bank, C&S and the Walpole Foundation are the sponsors that have funded the project. The rides are free and handicapped accessible.

There are two new bus stops: the Savings Bank of Walpole / Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic in the Village and Abenaki Springs Apartments behind Tractor Supply. (For schedule information and maps, go to <https://www.moover.com/>)

In order to see what this bus was all about, Bert Weimers (Exec. Director of The Walpole Foundation) and Tara Sad (Exec. Director of River Valley Seniors At Home) decided to see for themselves, so we took a ride!

The bus arrived promptly at 9:45 AM outside the Savings Bank of Walpole / Clinic for the Route #2 Bus, which leaves Monday through Friday at 9:45, 10:45, 11:45 and 12:45 from there. We hopped on the shiny clean and wonderfully warm bus and were cordially greeted by Greg Lent, the driver on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. He was so nice, we highly recommend riding his bus. Four stars, Greg! And off we went.

Our first stop was Shaw's Marketplace, arriving at precisely 9:51. The bus will be there to pick you up every hour, and there's plenty of room on the bus for all your grocery and shopping bags!

Back on the road, we head over to Bellows Falls and stop at Penguin Mart (the gas station and convenience store right off of the Arch Bridge). A nice gentleman named Steve joined us – he was heading over to the Walpole Shopping Center. Steve told us he likes the bus, and takes it frequently. We're off again at 10:00.

Our next stops were the American Legion Hall, and then the Riverview Apartments, where we picked up Maurice (who is, Greg tells us, a frequent rider and 90 years old!)

We drove on to the BF Health Center and Greater Rock Fitness, then to the Bellows Falls Recreation Center. (Did you know they have a ski hill with rope tow here?) On to the corner of Atkinson and



Bus



Intrepid riders Tara & Bert

Williams Streets, then to the BF Senior Center.

Our next stop was the Rodeway Inn, then we turned back into Bellows Falls. On this ride, Bert asked Greg if pets were allowed, and he said yes. Also they have a bike rack on the front of the bus. Great! And did we mention the buses are handicapped accessible, with easy wheelchair access? They take care of everyone on the MOOVer!

At the Arch Bridge, we said goodbye to charming Maurice, who likes to get coffee and supplies at the Penguin Mart every day. Then we cross the bridge and head to North Walpole.

Mr. G's was our next stop. Just before we get to Aumand's Furniture, we pick up a gentleman named Bob who had waved us down. We asked the driver if he makes stops along the routes when people flag him down, and he said 'sure'. But he reminded us that he is on a very precise loop, and timing has to be perfect.

We then drove south on Route 12 and turn left on Red Barn Lane to Abenaki Springs Apartments, then to Shaw's to drop off our two passengers, and we head on to our final stop, the Walpole Clinic in downtown Walpole at exactly 10:45 – one hour from hop on to hop off.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Whether or not this Walpole route continues after a year trial period depends on people using it. We spent a delightful hour riding on this friendly bus, and we had a great time! We think you will, too. So, if you ever want someone else to do the driving, we highly recommend hopping on the MOOVer. And tell Greg we sent you!

– Bert Weimers & Tara Sad

Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Selectboard - December 1

Reservoir Dam: The Town received the formal grant paperwork today per Mr. Dalessio. The grant award is for \$740,400. It is a 100% funding with reimbursements from the State as expenses are incurred.

Replacement Trailer for Highway Department: Mrs. Pschirrer moved to approve the purchase of the 20' x 82' trailer for \$11,000.00. Seconded by Ms. Mayberry. With Mrs. Pschirrer, Ms. Mayberry and Mr. Dalessio in favor, the motion was approved. There was a question if the old trailer should be kept or sold by the Town. A larger trailer is needed to move the new snow machine. (Editor's note: Questioning the 82 foot long trailer it was indeed a typo. The trailer is 20 feet long and 82 inches wide. But as a resident and taxpayer, I question effectiveness and appropriateness of the new massive snow machine pushing a plow. The old snow blower could move snow up and out of the way, and directionally, not causing inappropriate build-ups. I have personally observed the large "new machine" falling off the sidewalk on Route 12 in North Walpole, and pushing piles up on Westminster Street causing residents further snow removal which I also observed. Unlike the previous effective snow-blower, snow piles now line the sidewalks, often blocking drives and adjoining crosswalks.)

Old Trophies Needed

Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299 is looking for trophies that people don't want anymore. It doesn't matter what sport. We refurbish them and use them as prizes at our Annual Pinewood Derby, which will be held this year January 21. If anyone has any trophies they would like to donate prior to then, please call Deb Pawelczyk at 603-445-5475.

– Deb Pawelczyk

St. John's Church is very appreciative of all the folks who stopped by at our Holiday Fair in November. We improved our operating budget, donated leftover cookies to Our Place in Bellows Falls, and donated extra merchandise to a school for gift giving by the children.

We would like to thank the following businesses for their donations:
Walpole Village Salon, The Village Blooms, Burdick's, Fossilart, and Westminster Fit Body Boot Camp.

We wish you
a blessed and happy new year!

Trash Talk



An educational smorgasbord
of everything trashy
From the Recycling Center

The holiday and winter seasons are upon us at Walpole Recycling Center, and we have as much holiday spirit as those folks up at the North Pole. You can get your shopping done at our Reuse Center, recycle your boxes, and sing a song with Tom on our karaoke machine if it suits you. There is no judgement at Walpole Recycling on those willing to belt out a few tunes while they recycle. That said, please keep "trashy" lyrics to a minimum. All joking aside, Walpole Recycling is operating efficiently with the collective work of the public attending Walpole Recycling, the staff of Tom, Sheana, Patty; and of course, our volunteers.

I have combed through every corner of Walpole Recycling, and can tell you that we have almost all that we could hope for in a recycling center. The most significant issue we are facing today is our lack of safe storage space for baled recyclables. Our storage trailers have



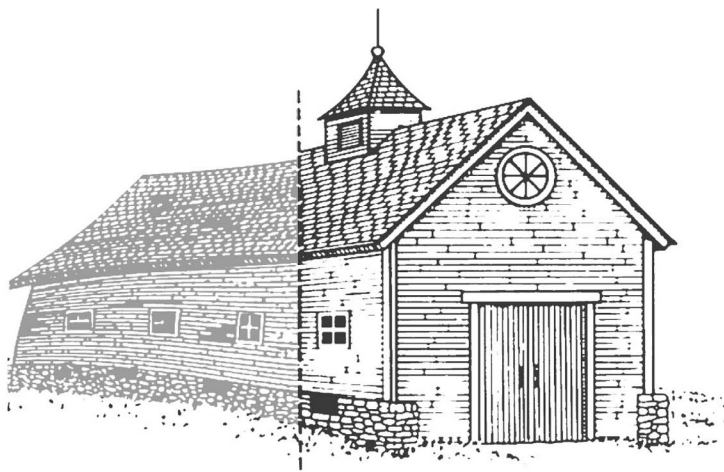
Old Storage Trailer

PHOTO PROVIDED

holes in the floors, walls, and ceilings. The trailers creak and they crack...they even talk back when I drive in them with a heavy load. A new 60'x30' pole barn is to replace the pictured storage trailers with the 2023 warrant article for Walpole recycling. We have a winning quote from a local builder (who built the Reuse Center) that I would like Walpole to approve this March at the town meeting. Follow Walpole Recycling on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/walpolenhrecycling/>. Please keep recycling, and enjoy a snappy good January Walpole!

– Ben Hoy

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Jared Atkin

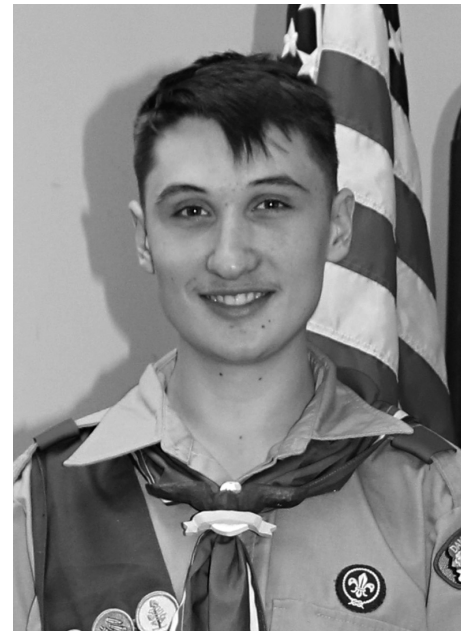
Eagle Scouts Honored

Eagle Scouts Honored

Boy Scout Troop 299 held an Eagle Court of Honor on December 10, 2022 at the Walpole Fire Station to honor two Scouts who have achieved the highest rank awarded in BSA Scouting.

Jared Atkin of Bellows Falls and John Leclerc of Walpole earned the rank of Eagle Scout on July 14, 2022. These young men have been members of Walpole Boy Scout Troop 299 since 2015, and members of the Walpole Cub Scout Pack prior to that. Their parents are Melanie and Andrew Atkin of Bellows Falls and Jan and Laurent Leclerc of Walpole. Jared's grandparents are Sally and Hollis Ryea of Westminster West, Vermont. John's grandmother is JoAn Galloway of Walpole.

– Jan Leclerc



PHOTOS PROVIDED **John Leclerc**

Project Home

A month ago, Project Home heard from a Peruvian mother, now in New Jersey with her eight-year-old son and an infant about to be born. We will welcome them soon to our community. In the last two weeks, four other requests for hosting have come to us.



tained as a minor in Tucson, AZ, but unless a sponsor steps up by his birthday on Jan. 19, 2023, he will be taken into adult detention on that day, as he has no family or friends in the U.S. to sponsor him.

It was fortunate we had a host home ready to take in

the Peruvian mother, but we do not have any other hosts lined up, and people in need are showing up at our doorstep.

Would you consider being a host, either now or later on? A Project Home support team works closely with the host and their guest(s), so you would not be on your own.

If you have questions we could answer while you explore the idea please refer to our website: <https://www.projecthomeh.org/hosting>

Or call Judy Epstein at 603-345-0230.

– Judy Epstein

- Paola from Peru, a single woman needing housing and support including follow-up cancer treatment, now in NYC.
- Jaime, his wife and child from Ecuador, just arrived in Dallas and needing a host home.
- Moubarek, a single man from Djibouti, now in a NYC shelter, needing transitional housing and support before the end of January, when he will be forced to vacate the shelter. He is a university graduate and was enrolled as a medical student at the time he fled his home country.
- Angel, a youth from Honduras turning 18 on January 19. He is currently de-

Town Elections

Filing Period

January 25 – Feb 3, 2023

Three Year Positions on Ballot

Selectman (1)

Town Treasurer (1)

Trustee of Trust Funds (1)

Planning Board (2)

Zoning Board (1)

Cemetery Trustee (1)

Library Trustee (3)

File at Town Clerk's Office

Monday 7-12 & 1-6 PM

Tuesday 9-12 & 1-7:30 PM

Wednesday 9-12 & 1-5 PM

Thursday 8-12 & 1-4:30 PM

Friday Feb 3 - 3-5 PM

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Thank you one and all for your contributions to the Hooper Institute and Friends of Hooper Institute in 2022. The George Levi Hooper Birthday Fund and the Lend a Hand Fall Appeal were so helpful in raising the needed funds to support all of our wonderful programs and scholarships, serving the youth of Walpole and our entire community. You are all the reason we can continue with this important mission.

Did you know there are other ways to help us in 2023? We are looking for new board members to serve on the Hooper Institute Board. We are hoping to increase our Friends of Hooper membership and we need new leadership members! The Hooper Institute is woven into the lives of Walpole residents. Join us to lift up the work we do in agriculture, the environmental sciences, botany, forestry and soils. Teaching children to garden, to conserve, to notice the world around them, to work on local farms is at the heart of what we do every day, year round. Join us: hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net

– Helen Dalbeck

Continued from Page 1, Peggy

In addition, the Power Committee, through the Northern Borders, is seeking contacts through Economic Redevelopment Grants for three-phase power to extend into the Industrial Park. Three-phase power could also be used in a Community Solar Park.

On January 18, the Walpole Police Committee members' Steve Dalessio and Chief Justin Sanctuary will present the need for a new Police Station before the Women of Walpole in Town Hall at 2:00 pm. If other groups are interested in such a presentation, please contact the Selectboard.

Renovation of Town Hall includes new tile floors in the kitchen, hallway, and restrooms. In addition, the second-floor ceiling has been repaired. The kitchen refrigerator died about a week ago, so there will soon be a new refrigerator for the events scheduled in Town Hall in early January. Town Hall is Walpole's home; it requires the same care and attention any house does.

When winter announced its arrival on Friday, December 16, the heavy, wet snow fell in silence that suggested a 60's song: "The Sounds of Silence". I can't tell you why but the grey skies, the heavy flakes suggest silence. The only sounds were the occasional plow hitting the road or the whirr of the snowblower. My

grand-dogs reveled in the drifts behind the Institute. We were waiting for my daughter who was driving from Colorado Springs. She arrived at dusk to tell us of the numerous accidents she witnessed through PA, NY, and MA. The chili and the cornbread were ready when she arrived. And silence turned to chatter.

Many thanks to all of you who have wished me well these past three weeks. I am recovering and am very grateful for your prayers and good wishes.

– Peggy Pschirrer

Walpole Worships

First Congregational
Sunday, 10 AM

<https://walpolenhucc.org/>

St. John's Episcopal
Sunday, 10 AM

<http://stjohnswalpole.org/>

Walpole Unitarian
Sunday, 10 AM

<https://walpoleuuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian>

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



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Happy New Year!

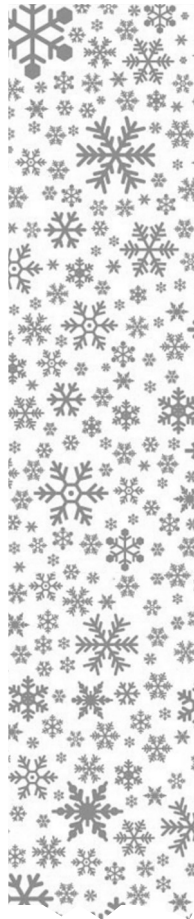
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Women of Walpole

The Women of Walpole celebrated the Christmas season with a potluck luncheon at the home of Peg Dion. Wonderful array of potluck foods and treats along with good company. WOW also celebrated by hanging wreaths on the Town Hall and the Walpole Town Library. We were very pleased to be able to support the Giving Tree project, and also gifts for a client of MCVP- Crisis & Prevention Center. On January 18, the Police Committee will speak at our meeting to be held at Town Hall. On February 15, we are welcoming Louisa Stonehill to our meeting to talk with us about Ashuelot Concerts and their work in the area schools introducing the children to instruments and classical music. WOW welcomes any woman who works or lives in Walpole. For further information, please feel free to contact Susan Johnson (pete_suejohnson@verizon.net or 603-3123-4018) or Carolyn LeBail (carolynle-bail@gmail.com or 714-717-4184).

— Susan Johnson

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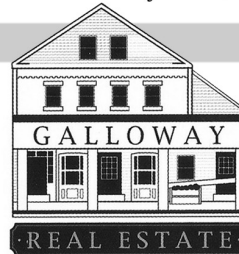
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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...Drewsville was an important

stage stop and industrial center in the 19th century? The Cheshire Turnpike (chartered in 1804) passed through Drewsville from Charlestown and Langdon, down the Walpole Valley to Surry and Keene, and eventually connecting to Boston. This popular route gave a boost to Drewsville's economy. In addition, the Cold River provided the power for a large number of mills, including cotton and woolen factories; wood-working and sash, door, and blind manu-

facturing of the public. On the turnpike, it became a famous stop for stages and large freight wagons, with passengers and merchandise passing through to and from Boston. In his history, Aldrich tells us "as a house of public entertainment it was favorably known, and many a jolly hour was spent by the Colonel, with such men as Gov. Henry Hubbard, Aldis Lovell, Esq., and others of like kith, who were in the habit of occasionally congregating there."

Thomas Collins Drew died in 1843. The tavern property remained in the Drew family until Thomas Taunt purchased it in 1875. He kept tavern here after he was burned out at his old boarding house down by the mill. By this time, travel on the old Cheshire Turnpike had dwindled with the arrival of the rail lines to the west of Drewsville on both sides of the Connecticut River.

Taunt named the old tavern the Mountain House. He sold it in 1886. It was again sold in 1895, and again in 1907 to Dennis Brennan. By now it was not really profitable, income now coming mainly from the sale of liquor. Sadly, the old hotel burned shortly after Brennan purchased it. Fire broke out at 2:00 AM one August night, and all at once the whole building was aflame, leaving just the original brick walls. The lot then passed through several hands, finally in 1912 to David A. Mann, who built the house now there.



facturing; gristmills and sawmills. Even pillboxes were made there in the 1820s and 1830s. More business was done in Drewsville than in the village of Walpole.

Drewsville is named for Col. Thomas C. Drew who moved there in 1810 from the south end of Main Street in Walpole Village. Before that time, very few families resided in what is now Drewsville. Drew manufactured brick, which he intended to use in building a house on land which is now the south end of Elm Street. The bricks were made on land just north of the bridge on Mad Brook. George Aldrich relates in his 1880 history of Walpole, "[the brick]... were already drawn on to the contemplated location of his house; but owing to some unpleasant occurrence between Drew and some of the leading men of the village, he resolved to abandon his project of building in the village and immediately removed his brick ... erecting a commodious building..." on the lot that was to become the northwest side of what became the Drewsville Common.

Built in 1810, after its completion Drew opened the building for the accommo-

*Circa 1870s
Stereoview
of Drew's Tavern
built in 1810*

*Real Photo
Postcard Taken
Right After
the Fire*



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Could I Have a Word?

I like words. I'll admit that freely. I try to use them whenever I speak... or write. This past summer, Jean and I came across a fascinating item in a bookstore in Maine: *Speaking American* by Josh Katz. It's a largish, soft cover that might best be described as a graphic non-novel. With copious maps, charts and illustrations it celebrates the eccentricities and ongoing evolution of American vernacular speech — words, phrases and pronunciation. It's a blast. We bought it as a gift, but I've taken the liberty to browse at length.

Katz covers some familiar ground — legendary local dialects in Boston, Philadelphia or New York. But he pays special attention to words or phrases unique to a given area (sometimes quite small) or oddly widely separated. My initial interest was in the distinctive English common in my hometown— Pittsburgh. To begin with, there is an unmistakable "Pittsburghese" dialect you will be familiar with if you've ever heard Bill Cowher comment on CBS Sports broadcasts. It is not a sophisticated sound. "Dahntahn," "sahtside" and "djeet" are typical (for "downtown," "south side" and "did you eat.") However the cornerstone of the lingo is "yinz." Youse in Brooklyn; Ya'll in Dixie; You Guys in most of the civilized



world. So pervasive that Burghers have enthusiastically adopted Yinzer as their own appellation of choice— scuppering attempts to make it a perjorative. Katz covers it thoroughly.

Yet I was surprised that one significant curiosity was conspicuously absent: "chipped ham." This sandwich staple is something of a mystery to non-yinzers. (It's simply thinly-shaved pressed ham generally dumped on a roll or bread and sometimes heated in a tomato sauce to create a hammy version of a sloppy joe.) You won't find it prepackaged anywhere,

and outside the Burg, that "chipped" adjective throws countermen for a loop: woman asks butcher for a pound of chipped ham; he nods vaguely, retrieves a hunk of ham, busies himself at butcher block; presents customer with cardboard tray of ham chunks in assorted sizes — chipped off the mother load.

And he provided no enlightenment on two words from my childhood that I've never encountered anywhere since. One might simply be a neighborhoodism, while the other is likely a family oddity. The family word is "beal." Not in any dictionary I've seen. If I had scraped a knee, as the wound healed, the fluid-generating, scab-forming process was "bealing." Had occasion to use/hear it a lot. Did anyone else use that term?

The neighborhoodism had to do with what the rest of American youth called baseball cards. In Lawrenceville, they were "posties." I have no idea why. As we bought them, traded them, gambled with them (flipping the cardboard rectangles — match your opponent's face up/face down pattern and you win; if not you lose your cards) they were always posties. Again, anybody else out there familiar with the term?

It's a fun read. Yinz'll like it.

— Jan Kobeski

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The low sun of January glints off freshly fallen snow. Between snow cover and frigid temperatures, the challenge of survival becomes acute for wildlife. Both snowshoe hare and ermine evade predators by blending into the winter landscape. That is, if the ground is white! Let's discuss the color-shifting weasels in our area.

Walpole is home to both the short-tailed weasel (*Mustela richardsonii*) and the long-tailed weasel (*Neogale frenata*). The short-tailed weasel ranges from the northern U. S to above the Arctic Circle. This weasel was considered the same animal as the Eurasian stoat (*Mustela ermine*) until 2021 when it was declared its own species, native to North America. The long-tailed weasel ranges from southern Canada to the Equator. The ranges of the two species overlap here.

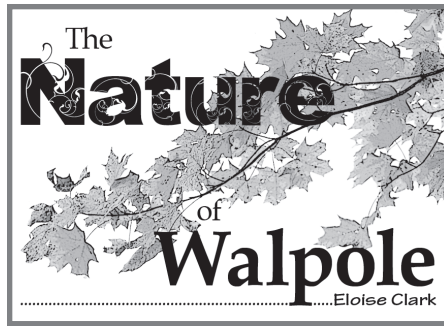
One can reliably identify both weasels by their long, slender bodies and short legs. Just as the names imply, their sizes do differ. The males of both species are slightly larger than the females. Male short-tailed weasels are 6-9" long; add 2-4" for the tail. Male long-tailed weasels measure 9-10.5" with a 4-6" tail. Weasels never exceed 10 ounces in weight. They carry very little fat.



Their coloring varies from summer to winter pelage. During summer they are a warm shade of brown with a white underbelly and throat. With the shortened days of late autumn they molt to a crisp white color we know as the ermine. The black tip of their tail is much more visible in the winter. The white fur is denser and longer, better able to trap the weasel's body heat and conserve calories.

These creatures are wholly carnivorous. Their size and slender frame drives them to hunt continuously day and night. They primarily eat small mammals: mice, rats, voles, moles and shrews, with voles being the preferred meal. They also capture young rabbits, nesting birds and small snakes during the growing season. They dispatch their prey with a quick bite of their canines to the nape of the neck.

Sometimes being a smaller size has its advantages. Their body shape allows them



Short-tailed weasel with dinner



Long-tailed weasel in summer & winter pelage

to travel where many other predators cannot. They follow vole tunnels beneath the snow to find prey. This subnivean habitat also offers protection from the elements and predators too. They are snug under the snow. They often cache some of their kill in an underground den. These extra calories are eaten during lean times.

In 2004, we had a long-tailed weasel follow a mouse tunnel into our cellar. It eventually found its way up the stairs and into the kitchen! Could that be where the old nursery rhyme "Pop! Goes the Weasel" originates? We were able to close off the room and open a window. After a bit of time our visitor found its way outdoors.

The curious thing about our surprise visitor was it did not have a white coat, despite being the end of January. It sported its summer pelage! Individuals are genetically programmed to change

color or not. Long-tailed weasels in the south do not change to white, while those in the north will don the ermine coat. Perhaps because we are at the northern edge of their range, "our" weasel was an exception? Individuals that have partly molted have also been seen. We do know during years with little or no snow, a white coat offers little protection from predators. These include owls, hawks, foxes, coyotes and cats.

Weasels prefer to live along forest edges bordering old fields, agricultural land and wetlands. Stonewalls are favorite places to hunt. Short-tailed weasels will den in old chipmunk burrows. The long-tailed weasels den under tree stumps or a tangle of tree roots. They line the natal nests with fur and feathers from their prey, making a cozy cradle for their four to nine pups.

These handsome little predators are an important link in the food chain. They help keep rodent populations in check, a very important service from my perspective! While Walpole offers perfect habitat for them, it's a rare sight to see one of these elusive sprites.

Peterson's, *A Field Guide to the Mammals* by William Burt and Richard Grossenheider is a helpful reference. NH Fish & Game's *Wildlife Journal* (November-December 2022 issue) has a very good article on the six species of Mustelids in the Granite State.



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The Walpole Players

The Show Must Go On...Or Not?

For many years the Walpole Players have performed a holiday show and donated 100% of the proceeds to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center. With heating, gas and electrical prices on the rise, this annual fundraiser was needed now more than ever.

Sadly, the production did not come together as planned and with only a few weeks to ad lib, an idea came up to offer a No Show Dinner Theater. The Players Dinner Theater has become very popular over the years – the audience brings their own wine and food and buys a table to fill with friends to watch our staged shows.

No Show attendees



For 2022, even though there was no actual show, we still wanted to raise the \$1000 to share between these two valuable and much needed organizations. The idea was to host your holiday friend gathering with us! The Players would set the table, provide the music & desserts and even offer a cozy photo shoot opportunity on stage. Or, you could NOT show up at all and just send in your tax deductible donation and stay home in your p.j's.

The idea was there, the stage was set and the music was ready...but the timing was too late. Many people loved the idea, but December calendars were already full. It was looking like The Players would not be showing up at the food shelves with their annual donation this year. And then...

A few days before the event, tickets were bought, donations trickled in and as we held our breath hoping that against all odds we could meet our goal, a holiday surprise came through. The Browning Family Foundation offered to donate \$1000! The night of December 10th was truly a celebration with dinner, dancing and laughter – all the makings of a typical holiday gathering!

The Walpole Players would like to thank everyone that came out to dine and dance, and of course to those who sent in their generous donations. We raised a total of \$2310.00 for our local neighbors in need! The holidays mean different things to each of us, and I believe they are an annual reminder to be grateful for what you have and to help others when you can. I feel blessed to work and play in a community that shares these same views.

– 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.



- **Caregiver Support Group.** Tuesday, January 10, 2:00 PM, Main Library.
- **Crafternoon.** Friday, January 13, 1:30 PM, Main Library.
- **Step Into the New Year with Less Stress.** 1 hour workshop with Naomi Hall, EdD. Monday, January 23, 5:00 PM, Main Library.
- **Wiggle Time.** Mondays, 10:00 AM, Main Library
- **Story Time.** Wednesdays, 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM, Main Library.
- **Learn something new in 2023.** Take a class through the library with Universal Class. <https://walpoletownlibrary.universalclass.com/>

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2022 World Cup

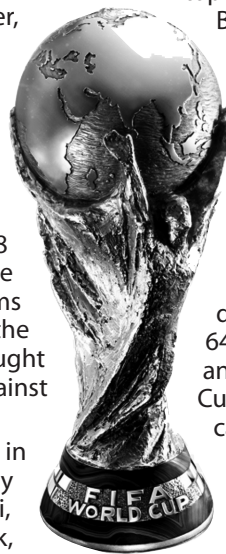
Led by Lionel Messi, Argentina won their third World Cup title on the 18th of December at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. In a thrilling final which finished 3-3 and was decided in a penalty shootout (4-2). Argentina defeated defending champions France. In what was probably Messi's last World Cup match, the seven time World Player of the Year scored twice in a fairytale ending.

The World Cup is the world's biggest sporting event and has taken place every four years since 1930. The only time the competition has stopped was between 1938-1950 because of World War II. This was the first World Cup to be played in late fall/winter. Usually the tournament is held in June and July. This was the 22nd edition of the tournament. It was hosted by Qatar and began on November 20th.

The 2022 World Cup was full of surprises from the start. Favorites such as Belgium and Germany were knocked out in the

Group Stage. Instead, the likes of Japan, South Korea, and Australia shocked many by making it through to the knockout rounds. However, the biggest surprise of the tournament was Morocco. The Moroccans became the first African nation to advance to the semi-finals of the competition. The United States performed well after missing out on the 2018 World Cup. The American side was one of the youngest teams in Qatar. They qualified for the Round of 16 where they fought hard, but sadly lost 3-1 against The Netherlands.

Some of the brightest stars in world soccer were on display in Qatar. Players like Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Virgil Van Dijk, and Harry Kane had superb performances. Some young talents that impressed were Jamal Musiala, Jude Bellingham, Cody Gakpo, and Gavi. Enzo



Fernandez won the Young Player of the Tournament award. Mbappe finished as top goal scorer receiving the Golden Boot award. Penalty-kick specialist, Emiliano Martinez, took home the Golden Glove for being the best Goalkeeper at this tournament. Last, but not least, Lionel Messi was selected as the Golden Ball winner for being the tournament's MVP.

206 countries entered qualification three years ago and only 32 qualified for the World Cup. After 64 games filled with excitement and drama, Messi lifted the World Cup trophy in the Lusail Stadium to cap an amazing tournament and career. Looking ahead, the exciting news is that the next World Cup in 2026 will be hosted by Mexico, Canada, and the United States. There will even be games close by at Gillette Stadium and in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

— Elias Tsitsonis (Grade 6)

Dolly Parton... A Tribute

On November 5th, 2022, Dolly parton was inducted into the Rock and Roll hall of fame!

Dolly Rebeca Parton, age 76, took the stage at the rock and roll hall of fame induction ceremony November 5th. She originally turned down the offer to be inducted, saying that she was not worthy and she didn't deserve the honor of being inducted.

She finally accepted the offer and said "I feel honored that all the people that voted for me did." Parton opened her speech with an unforgettable line, "I'm a rockstar now!" Dolly then went on to say how honored and grateful she was to accept this award. Pop star P!nk later said, Dollys timeless songwriting is something that "Can make you feel like God is listening and that help is right around the corner." Dolly then went on to say, "I figured if I'm gonna be in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, I'm gonna have to earn it," before busting out into a new song that contrasted her rural Tennessee upbringing. She ended the song with saying, "And you thought I couldn't rock!"

Along with being inducted, Dolly is co-hosting the ABC New Years Eve Special with her goddaughter, Miley Cyrus! "Billboard" says, "The pop star and her famous godmother will team up to

ring in 2023!" Fewer than 100 women have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, with the first being Aretha Franklin.

"I'm one of the lucky ones to have seen Aretha perform in the very beginning of her career. She was amazing then and just became greater through the years. Talk about R.E.S.P.E.C.T., we have it for you, Aretha. You will never be forgotten," said Parton a few years ago, when Franklin passed away. Dolly has so much respect for Aretha. Seeing that the two were born only a few years apart in Tennessee, Dolly and Arethaut had a lot in common.

Dolly Parton created the Imagination library. The Imagination Library is an organization that distributes books to infants and children all around the world. The imagination library was founded in 1995 and by 2003, the program had sent over 1 million books! After the United States, the program launched in Canada in 2006 followed by the United Kingdom in 2007, Australia in 2013 and the Republic of Ireland in 2019. Now over 2 million books are mailed monthly worldwide!



Parton has made over 400 TV appearances and been in more than a dozen movies. Dolly's most famous movie is 9-5, along with the song 9-5 being a number 1 billboard hit multiple times.

With Jolene being Dolly's most successful song to I Will Always Love You being the most loved song by fans, Fans have stood by Dolly for years and years... and now Dolly decided that it was time to say goodbye to the performing life. Well, let's not say "Goodbye," Dolly decided to stop touring in october of this year. She said, "I like to stay a little closer to home with my husband. We're getting older now, and I don't want to be gone for four or five weeks at a time." Dolly has not given up on writing music, or performing, she just is at the point where performing on tours is unnecessary.

Thank you Dolly for being such an inspiration and leader! We love you for your talent and humor, but also for you being your beautiful and loving self!

— Savannah Anderson (Grade 6)

National Novel Writing Month

This year, every grade in the Walpole Elementary School participated in the National Novel Writing month, or better known as NaNoWriMo. Every class tried their very best in this competition to achieve the highest word count. Everybody in each grade set a word count goal, for themselves including our teacher, Mr. Gagnon. Gagnon has won NaNoWriMo more times than not while going against his students, but this year a fellow student, Olivia D'Alessandro, won the Nanowrimo ending with about 42,000 words. While Gagnon ended with a proud 33,000, though not enough to beat D'Alessandro's sleepless work. At times it came very close to the point where Olivia typed until midnight at some points! But in the end, D'Alessandro won by 10,000 words after being fully committed to the foreseeing victory. Below are the word count totals for the month of November.

7-2 Total: 31,018

Lyza Andrade won with 5,978 words. Taylor Latham had 5,504 words. Just behind her was Emma Gascoyne with 5,433 words. Aiden Sweeney quadrupled his goal from last year with 5,096 words.

7-1 Total: 31,603

Addie Fuller won with 9,181 words. Tristan Stahler got second with 7,693 words. Joseph Paulette had 4,035 words while Rowan Aude wrote 3,025 words.

6-2 Total: 30,261

Stella Grillone won with 11,025 words. Elias Tsitsonis earned second with 4,134 words. Colton Mousley wrote 3,901 words while Sam Weeks finished with 2,182 words.

6-1 Total: 29,976

Savannah Anderson won with 9,156 words. In second was Artemis Lakin with 5,020 words. Connor Heddon finished with 3,326 words. Joe Griffin wrote 3,256 words while Maddox Neilsen had 2,797 words.

8-1 Total: 23,140

Sophia D'Alessandro won with 3,526 words while Violet Walz finished a close second with 3,238. Isabella Bowman wrote 3,178 words. Avery Richardson finished with 2,861 words. Carson Bruzgis wrote 2,592 words.

8-2 Total: 93,716

Olivia D'Alessandro was the Walpole Elementary School Champion with a total of 42,640, beating out even Mr. Gagnon by nearly ten thousand words! Josh Edson came in second with 16,885 words. Violet Colburn wrote 11,878 words. Luna Loch had 4,871 words. Maya Carbone wrote 3,240 words while Kayla Forbes finished with 3,102 words.

– Olivia D'Alessandro (Grade 8)

Getting to Know the Teachers, Part 1

Interview with Mr. Gagnon

Question: Why did you start teaching
Answer: To work with students and see them grow as writers and as people. To help kids improve. Teaching, especially in middle school, is pretty fun.

Q: Growing up, what was your dream job?
A: When I was really young, I wanted to drive a taxi cab. I thought it would be cool to drive around and meet new people. As I got older, I wished that I could play left field in Boston where they would name a candy bar after me.

Q: What do you most enjoy about teaching?
A: It's really fun most of the time. I like to joke around with the kids. I also like to share stories and styles of writing that I think are important and interesting and try to get students excited about it too.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher growing up?
A: I had a couple of teachers in high school, specifically Mr. McDonough who taught American History. He was the first person that made me think that sharing things you're passionate about as a teacher would be a cool way to make a living.

Q: What was your favorite moment as a teacher?
A: Getting asked these questions for your article (laughs). I have so many wonderful memories with each group of students I've had in Walpole. It's tough to pick just one. It seems like with each group, we have inside jokes and things I won't ever forget about them. My favorite thing now is having students that I've had in the past reach out to me or come up to me when they see me. It always means a lot to me.

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

WES Baking Competition

It was a huge success! We had over 20 contestants and wonderful judges. Our winner was 7th grader Sophia Westover. Second place came Ila and Ian Sivret and third place was 5th grader Lily Vickers. We congratulate all who won and we thank PTG and Andrea Vickers- Sivret separately for their support. It was organized by sixth graders Sam Weeks, Savannah Anderson and myself. Many others helped out. They spent their whole Halloween free time on the half-day to be their judges or helpful even though they didn't have a lot of time. They got through it with all these desserts no matter how full they were. The contestants made very creative desserts with cupcakes, cookies, cake balls and many others. It took over a month to organize. We hope to do this wonderful competition next year and years to come.

– Ila Sivret (Grade 6)

Field Trip

WES Eighth Graders Go to Boston

In early November, the Walpole Elementary School Eighth Graders enjoyed a day in Boston with their Social Studies teacher, Mr. LeBail, and a few other staff members. During Social Studies class, the Eighth Graders are learning about events that occurred during and before the Revolutionary War. They took a few historic tours around Boston, including the Freedom Trail Tour and an interactive Boston Tea Party experience. Afterwards, they all visited Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market to shop and get a bite to eat. The whole day was a historic experience, and they are all very thankful they were able to take an exciting trip to Boston, Massachusetts. Thank you, Mr. LeBail!

– Sophia D'Alessandro (Grade 8)

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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Phone Calls

Stopped by friend Elwud's place to see how his Christmas was and wish him and Velma a Happy New Year. I could tell right off that he was upset.

"How was your Christmas?" I asked.

"Well sir, it were fine and we're lookin' forward to the New Year, exceptin' we's thinkin' 'bout takin' out the telephone."

"Why would you do that and be out of communication with friends and family?" I asked.

"Well sir, got me a weird call 'tother day. Fella called, said his name was Oliver and he was offerin' a winter special to clean my ducts. I informed him that my ducks were clean and I didnt need him or anyone else to come and clean them."

But he continued by saying how do you know they are clean unless you have a perfessionel come and check them. Well, I says they march themselves down to the pond and bathe and they pick at each other to get rid of bugs.

He laughed and said, you misunderstand my service, I'm talkin' 'bout the ducts in your house. Well sir, I informed him in no uncertain terms that we didnt 'low ducks to come in our house and poop all ova the place.

He proceeded to say that perhaps we was talkin' 'bout two different type of ducts. I replied that we had three different type of ducks, and none of them was or ever would be in the house. I then hung up the fone.

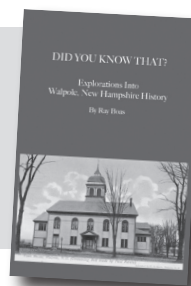
Then the phone rang 'gin and it was some guy from India or Pakistan tellin' me my warranty had run out on my truck. Ol' Bessie is a 1947 Ford pickup and her warranty run out the minute I drove her home. 'sides how does a guy in a foreign country know I've even got a truck?

"No sir, my truck is still runnin' and my ducks are in a row and outdoors and I dont need no darn phone."

That was my cue to leave, so I said to him and to all of you, Happy New Year, be safe and stay healthy in 2023!

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FROM THE CLARION...

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

One Year Ago (January 2022) – The infrastructure for Walpole's fiber optic cable is going great guns. Of the 3 phases of the 'backbone' of this project – 97% of the fiber is laid, 75% of the splicing is done, and now the testing of the network has begun..

Three Years Ago (January 2020) – Donald "Chip" Wood made a promise to his father that he would never sell their family land to a developer. He kept that promise late last month when he finalized his voluntarily agreement to conserve 28 acres of Wood Farm in partnership with the Monadnock Conservancy. (Note: this parcel extends from Route 12, south of Aubuchon Hardware, northeast along Cold River Road).

Five Years Ago (January 2018) – "An historic event" is how Gregg R. Tewksbury, President and CEO of the Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW), began the press conference December 14. "I am pleased to announce the Savings Bank of Walpole will be the third mutual bank to join the New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp (NHMB)..

Seven Years Ago (January 2016) – Unity Homes, Bensonwood's new initiative dedicated to building more affordable high-performance homes, recently erected a 1600 square foot home on Wentworth Road that will be "net zero" as soon as the solar panels are installed. This means the home will produce as much energy as it consumes.

Nine Years Ago (January 2014) – More than 450 theater-goers "joined the party" and attended the four performances of The Walpole Players 6th Annual production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol – December 11th through 14th at the Helen Miller Theater. Held as a benefit for The Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center, the event collected more than \$3,488 this year, bringing the six-year total to an astounding \$20,249.

Eleven Years Ago (January 2012) - The Inn at Valley Farms was recently named among ten top historic inns in New England by Yankee Magazine. The Inn at Valley Farms is one of two New Hampshire inns topping the select list, the other being the Hancock Inn in Hancock.

MILESTONES

Born

Kai Aatami Huoppi
December 16, 2022
8 lbs 7 oz

To David & Hannah Huoppi
of Exeter, NH

Grandparents:

Jan & Jean Kobeski of Walpole
Rich & Marge Huoppi
of Pomfret Center, CT



Passed

Peter J. Waysville, Jr.
July 18, 1948 - November 25, 2022

Race the New Year

A brisk chill of the new year,
Night sorrows were left in the past,
Even the loudest lark silenced her song,
With blankets of lies lying down for rest.
Early may the meadows sing,
After the echoes of new hopes and dreams.
Race the new year, beating the sun to its morning light.

— Keira Doescher (Grade 8)



Walpole Elementary School Holiday singers

PHOTO: JAN KOBESKI

The WALPOLE Clarion

published monthly for the Walpole community.

Ray Boas, Publisher
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Submissions about community events and
achievements are encouraged
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February deadline: January 21

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

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PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Happy New Year. This year went way too quickly for me, and it was filled with adventures and work, maybe not as much as in past years. To remember what I did, I write about my explorations and adventures and post those stories to share on my website, "ShunpikingWithRay." So, it is then easy for me to go back, reflect and relive. Just as we would do it years past with a diary or journal.

Searching past issues of the **Clarion** is another good way look back and see what has happened. I have past issues on the **Clarion** website, and most search engines have indexed those files, so with the correct search terms you can find what we published about something. A reader recently contacted me remembering the damage done to the Common by Walpole's Highway Department. That damage was documented with a photo in the April 2022, issue. That reader had similar extensive damage to his yard this recent first major snow of the season. Second hand, I have recently heard of other damage to property and mailboxes by plow drivers. In my opinion, the equipment is too large for our roads and sidewalks; and, unless greater care is taken, damage will continue. If you have a problem, document it and contact the Select Board Office. If you desire, you can at any time request to be placed on the Select Board Meeting agenda to discuss your problem(s).

And, as I concluded last month's column, have a prosperous New Year filled with good work and accomplishments..

— Ray Boas, Publisher

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L to R: Pete, Jack, Heather, Alex | Keene | SBW customers since 2014

More happy faces from the Walpole Elementary School Christmas concert

PHOTOS JAN KOBESKI

