



Walpole's Boston Post Cane

Walpole's Boston Post Cane was presented to Walpole's oldest citizen, Mrs. Shirley Sanctuary, by Selectboard member Peggy Pschirrer on May 31 at a ceremony in the Town Hall with family and friends in attendance.



As a publicity gesture, on August 2, 1909, Edwin A. Grozier (Editor and Publisher of The Boston Post) sent 700 letters to the Boards of Selectman of towns in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The towns were asked if they would be trustees of one of the 700 ebony, gold-topped canes he recently had made. Mr. Grozier stipulated that the canes were to be given to the oldest citizen in the town. Upon that person's death, the cane would return to the town to be presented to the "new" oldest citizen. It appears that only New Hampshire towns with a population greater than 500 received Grozier's letter. Originally, the senior Grozier's intent was that only the oldest male was eligible to receive and use the walking stick, but in the 1930s his son, Richard, extended the eligibility to women.

Over the past almost 114 years, a number of canes have gone missing. Walpole received one of the canes and still has it, but the names of all recipients is incomplete. In January 2016, it was decided that Walpole's cane would remain on display in the Town Hall for all to see. As Walpole's oldest citizen, Mrs. Sanctuary received a certificate of honor at the ceremony.

— Ray Boas



Peggy Pschirrer (left) making the presentation to Mrs. Sanctuary.

PHOTO: SARAH DOWNING

From Peggy's Desk

With apologies to Robert Burns: The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry! In May, Liberty Utilities invoices should have had a 15.8 per kilowatt hour. But instead, invoices arrived with the old 22 cents per kilowatt hour. The Agreement between Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) was to begin in late April so that invoices in May reflected the lower cost negotiated by CPCNH. Instead, the change was made in early May, too late for the invoices you all received.

Paul Looney and officers of CPCNH went to work immediately to correct the mistake. Liberty has agreed to send each customer a corrected invoice. If

Continued on Page 5



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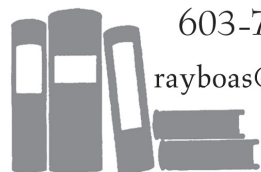
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Horse Thieves 2023 Banquet Sept. 21 at Alyson's Orchard

The Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Hen Roosts and Clothes Lines ("Walpole Horse Thieves") reminds our members that we'll hold our biennial banquet September 21 at the Alyson's Orchard banquet facility. Invitations for the banquet will be mailed to members around July 1, and reservations will be taken starting then for this delightful banquet. There will be many similarities to recent banquets, and the officers have decided that, again this year, they will allow "Riders" to attend the banquet with one guest at no cost.

The Horse Thieves "Riders" are the 12 most senior members of the Horse Thieves (those who joined the earliest), and in principle they are the members who would vault onto their trusty mounts to chase down stolen or missing horses. They are honored by the Horse Thieves at almost all our events, and as a special honor at this banquet we are inviting the Riders to attend along with one guest at no cost. Present Riders are Sheldon Sawyer, Jim Johnson, Dave Ramsey, Bob Rhodes, Ed Reardon, Albert Bushway, Jr., Paul Galloway, Lewis McMahon, John Burrows, Jerry Galloway, Ed Potter and Doug Smith. Sheldon Sawyer joined the Horse Thieves in 1959.

Moover Bus Promotion

Now that summer is here it is time to ride the bus! During the month of July gift bags will be handed out to the first fifty riders that get on or off at the bus stop that is located at the Savings Bank of Walpole on Westminster Street in the Village of Walpole. To receive your bag, go into the Savings Bank of Walpole on Westminster Street and tell them you are a bus rider. The bus travels into the Village four times a day, Monday thru Friday starting at 9:46 AM and ending at 12:46. The Savings Bank of Walpole and Mascoma Bank have contributed to the gift bags.

— Bert Wiemers

Our "ticket" price remains unchanged this year at \$25 / person. As always, "tickets" are non-refundable. The menu for the banquet will be similar to recent Horse Thieves banquets, and will be hand-cooked by the Committee. As in the past, there will be entrée options for the very popular roast beef or vegetable lasagna. The meal will include rolls, salad, vegetables and dessert. There will be a cash bar run by Alyson's. Doors will open at 5:00 PM and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM.

The speaker for the banquet has not yet been selected by the officers and committee but will be finalized shortly. In addition to the fabulous food and an entertaining speaker, the evening will include a few moments to honor all our Riders, and a picture of those Riders in attendance. At the end of the banquet we will also hand out our 2023 membership poster listing all members as of August 1.

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

— Lewis LaClair

Great Decisions

Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Migration

"Great Decisions" will take a summer break in July and August, returning in September to tackle *Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and Migration*. An urgent, inescapable topic of global concern and an appropriate follow-up to our discussion of Latin America, we hope you will join us in the Walpole Town Library on Monday, September 18, at 6:00 PM. Until then, enjoy some trashy novels... or better still, Elizabeth Kolbert's *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future*.

— Sue Kibbe



GREAT RIVER CO-OP
NOURISHING OUR COMMUNITY

The Great River Co-op Lives.

It has survived the pandemic and continues to endure as the economic recovery becomes more settled.

Now the plot of land next to the Hungry Diner is ready and waiting to welcome our own local co-op grocery store, with locally grown foods, locally made soaps and personal care products, and hand-crafts from you and people you know.

The Great River area's growers have told us how much they would value a year-round outlet that would allow them to invest in more production and earn a fair income. Artists and artisans will have a place in the store, not just a table at a farmers market.

The store also will be an economic driver for the dozen towns that straddle the Connecticut River around Bellows Falls and Walpole. A study found that our towns spend millions of dollars a year buying groceries in Keene, Brattleboro, Claremont, and elsewhere. Our store can keep a significant amount of those dol-

lars here at home, helping our farmers and artisans thrive, enriching our area's economy, and giving us more independence.

Just as important, our store can be a source of pride unifying our region in a common identity that sees the Connecticut River as a connection, not a border line dividing us.

But a co-op isn't like a usual business. Creating a co-op takes community co-operation – we all have to motivate, activate, and "operate" together.

That means some of us who have time can give a few hours a month to help guide the organization as a member of its Board of Directors. Some of us who like meeting folks can promote the co-op at community gatherings and invite people to join as members. Others who have no time or energy to spare can buy additional shares, moving us toward our capital goal.

We have almost 900 member-owners. We have a site, being held for us by Tedd Benson and Bensonwood. We have a market research study and a financial model conducted by external organizations that specialize in food co-ops.

Now we need you.

For our September meeting, we need a few more folks to take a leadership role – nothing demanding, just a few hours each month to keep the project on track. We also need volunteers who can be available occasionally to staff a table at an event, update the co-op's website and social media, and similar things.

It's now or never and the decision is yours. If you pitch in, however you can, the dream of a Great River Co-op can come to life. It depends on you because it depends on all of us. Come and be part of something great.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at your co-op, please visit www.greatriverfoodcoop.com. To offer your energy and passion as a Board or committee volunteer, please email info@greatriverfoodcoop.com.

Yours in co-operation,

– Great River Co-op Board of Directors

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

- **Bible Study** will be on summer hiatus from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

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

.....

Walpole Unitarian
Sunday, 10 AM
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For more information, visit the church websites.



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*Rev. Fred Chisholm, Alison Chisholm
and six parishioners in Concord, NH.*

PHOTO PROVIDED

St John's Episcopal

Announces New Priest

John's Episcopal Church is pleased to announce that Rev. Fred Chisholm will be joining us July 16 as priest-in-charge. He was recently ordained as a Deacon, a title he will retain until December when he will be ordained to the full priesthood. For the next six months he will lead Sunday service and preach while being assisted by ordained priests in the serving of the sacrament.

Rev. Fred has been a professional engineer and plant manager for most of his adult life. While continuing to work professionally, he has studied to become a priest via a new program of the Episcopal Diocese of NH (The School for Ministry) that offers seminary training on a part-time long-distance model.

Rev. Fred has always been active in church life and has felt called to preach for decades. Born in New York City, educated at Yale, Princeton (engineering) and University of Chicago (MBA), he has lived in California, Chicago, Mexico, and Littleton, NH. He and his wife, Alison, are currently living in the Hanover area.

The parishioners of St. John's are very excited to have him with us; several of us attended his recent ordination to become a deacon in the Episcopal Church. We look forward to hosting a meet-and-greet for the community later in the summer. All are welcome to join us at that time, or come to any Sunday service at 10:00 AM.

— Marilyn Wilking

Scholarship Fund

Another Strong Year for Community Scholarship Giving

On June 1st, during the Fall Mountain awards and scholarship event, the Fall Mountain Scholarship Fund (FMSF) presented a series of scholarships to over 60 deserving students, totaling over \$200,000. For over 53 years, FMSF has been raising funds and providing scholarships to students who are looking to continue their education beyond high school.

"The organization has always been about building a stronger community by funding continuing education," said Rich Nalevanko, FMSF chairman. The 100% volunteer organization independently reviews, selects and helps administer scholarships from multiple endowments, family funds and FMSF direct funds.

"We take the responsibility of selecting scholarship recipients very seriously, and we are honored to have helped so many deserving students in our area over many years," said Randy Rhoades, FMSF's Award Chairman.

FMSF is the oldest running scholarship group in the community and has administered over \$2.2 million over the last 52 years to over 1750 students who are pursuing careers in technical education (CTE), college, and other continuing education programs.

Donations to benefit Fall Mountain students can be sent to FMSF, Inc., 99 Proctor Road, Alstead, NH 03602. FMSF (formerly Dollars for Scholars) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, and all donations are tax deductible.

— Garrison Macri

Come Celebrate!



**Please Come & Give Well Wishes
To Richard Parkhurst
As He Celebrates Retirement
(And His 68th Birthday)
On July 11**

**On The Town Common: 2 - 4 PM
He Has Delivered Mail to Walpole
For More Than 34 Years.**

Continued from Page 1, Peggy

you have already paid the bill, you should receive credit for that payment. Several other people in Town receive notices that they hadn't paid their last bill. Again, a mistake. We expect Liberty to correct all those mistakes. Keep your fingers crossed: the best laid plans take many turns and, in this age of rapid communication, mistakes are abundant. Ninety-nine percent (1,714) of Walpole customers accepted the Granite Basic Rate, while a total of fourteen (14) customers chose a combination of some form of clean energy. Walpole was the first Town to switch to the new Power rate with CPCNH. The Power Committee and CPCNH appreciate your patience as we correct the errors. On June 30, the CPCNH Board of Directors will announce a new, lower rate for Electricity which will become effective in August.

The Police Committee has mailed RFP's (Request for Proposals) to several Architects as well as had conversations with landowners about properties on which a station could be built. The Committee strongly supports an area on Route 12 with easy access not only to Route 12 but also Route 123 and the two active bridges across the Connecticut River. A public meeting will be held

August 23 in Town Hall to discuss plans and hear from residents. Specifics will be in next month's **Clarion**.

Yes, the best laid plans for Middle Street have been pushed forward or back by at least three weeks. Some work on the Common has been completed and, perhaps by the time this issue of the **Clarion** reaches you, the engineers will have completed their work and Middle Street will be a hub of activity.

The Brownfield work is nearing completion. The site which housed the old garage has been ringed with granite and the center of the area will soon be filled with pavers. We expect to put planters and benches on that site. The Walpole Foundation paid for the four electric vehicle stations installed at the north end of the new parking lot. One of the EV stations is handicap accessible. The new parking lot adjoins the old parking lot which Walpole leases from Mascoma Bank. Walpole maintains the lot in exchange for no rent.

It appears at this writing that we may have a wet summer as we also have smokey skies from Canadian wildfires! Enjoy the longer days, relax, take heart – those prebuy contracts remind us there will be a change in the weather in our future.

– Peggy Pschirrer

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Friends of the Library

Book sorting will begin on Wednesday, July 19, from 10:30 to 11:30 at the Chicken Coop behind the Hungry Diner. Sorting will continue through the summer on the following schedule: Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30, and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00. If you love books, you will enjoy this task and working with other bibliophiles! Please join us whenever you are able. We cancel sorting on days that are very hot.

Book donation days will be announced in the August Clarion. Please continue to gather clean, gently-used books that you would like to donate to the library book sale in October.

We are still looking for more plant donations for our sale at the Reuse Center.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of our local library.

– Jana Sellarole



Walpole Souvenir Bone Dish Showing Washington Square (the Common).



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.



• **Attention:** The installation of the new front door has been delayed. The Main Library and North Walpole Branch will be open their regular hours. Updates will be shared as we have them. Thanks so much for your patience!

• **All Together Now Summer Programs & Reading Challenges at the Library!**

For kids, teens, and adults of all ages, June 17-July 29

• **Special Summer Programs:**

Grafton Nature Museum, Thursdays 1 PM, June 29-August 10, Main Library

Wiggle Time, Mondays at 10 AM, Main Library, Outside Weather Permitting

Story Time, Wednesdays at 10 AM and 5:30 PM, Main Library; Outside, Weather Permitting

Teddy Bear Parade, Saturday, July 15, 11 AM, Distant Hill Nature Trail

Adult Author Talk with Ryan Bernsten, Monday, July 24, 5 PM, Main Library

Family Concert with Lisa Nichols, July 29, 10:30 AM, Main Library

• **Summer is here, check out a S.T.E.A.M. kit!** These kits, which check out for a week, help kids to learn, create, explore, and have fun!



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Happy 4th of July!

Wishing you a bright and happy July 4th.



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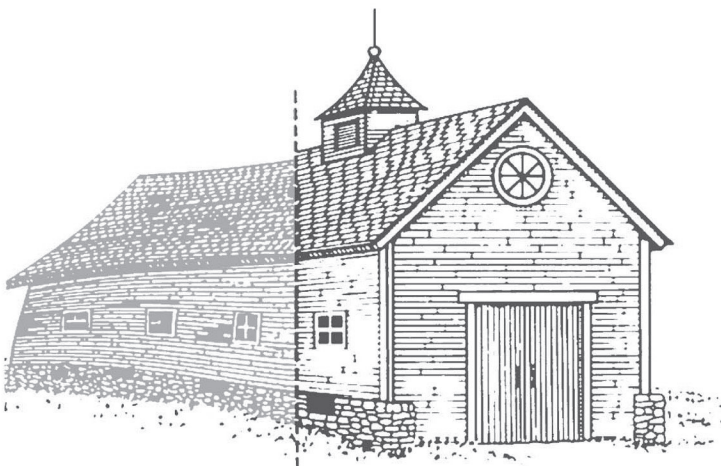
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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...Russell Memorial Hall

located on Church Street in North Walpole, north of St. Peter's Church, and dedicated in May 1902, became the social center of North Walpole until it was destroyed by fire January 31, 1949?

Prior to the erection of Russell Hall, Albert Nims made available for activity rentals and community events the upstairs of the "engine house" that he built in 1892 on a narrow strip of land between the railroad and Church Street. Just south of Ash Street, that red building, a former store, still remains. When built, the downstairs was the fire department and jail. School for a while was held upstairs, which was also used as a clubhouse. The Boy Scouts also met upstairs in 1919.

William Russell built and gave to the village Russell Memorial Hall. The impressive two-story building was 60 feet by 80 feet, with a tower raising 75 feet on the north side. A formal porch was on the east side facing the street. The village library was on the first floor, along with offices for the village administration, two rooms for the fire department and a banquet room and kitchen. An assembly hall with a stage took up the second floor. Costing about \$12,000, the building had steam heat, electric lights, and hardwood floors. Six hundred invitations were sent out for the formal dedication. A promenade began at 7:30 with music by Exner's Orchestra, followed by speeches, refreshments and dancing.

With the best dance floor in the area, a dance was held every Friday night. The firemen's balls were held here, and even prize fights every few weeks. Social, dramatic, and sports clubs utilized the space. Baseball teams meeting here included: The Bon Ami Social Club, Holy Name, Pastime Athletic Club, and The North Walpole Athletic Club.

With all the activity, \$200 was spent in 1947 on new dishes, and \$500 was expended for new kitchen equipment the following year. Then, at about 11:45 PM on Sunday, January 31, 1949, the family of Fire Warden James Stapleton noticed

a red glare in the air. Russell Hall was ablaze.

Zero degree weather hampered fire-fighters' efforts. The fire truck housed in the building was saved, but lost were the library, precinct offices, jail, sports and social center and the kitchen with the new equipment. Gone also were the minstrel costumes for the show to be held the following Tuesday, as well as all the CYO equipment.

Only about 150 of the 2,500 books in the library could be salvaged. Donations helped replace the books lost, and the Town made a special appropriation of \$1500. The library was housed in the Kilburn School until it was moved back to the new building in 1955.

The Bellows Falls Fire Department responded to help with the blaze, but charged for the pumper it sent. North Walpole appealed. Bellows Falls replied that when purchased, surrounding towns were told that the charge for the pumper would be \$100 for the first hour and \$75 for each additional hour. There is no record of the resolution of this dispute. The current North Walpole Village Building with library and fire department was soon built in the same location.



Top: Russell Memorial Hall on completion; above, the ruins after the fire; right, the North Walpole Village Building.



FLORENTINE FILMS

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Hooper Institute is looking for a talented and creative educator to teach farming, environmental science, botany, forestry and soils in the pre-K through grade four classes of the Walpole Area Schools. The school gardens and grounds with nearby woods are our outdoor science classrooms. This is a part-time school year position that includes leading a two-week summer morning camp, participating in seasonal special events and assisting with marketing and fundraising on behalf of the Hooper Institute. The position is funded by the Hooper Institute and the Hooper Trust in Walpole.

In addition, members are needed for the Hooper Institute Board. This dedicated, enthusiastic group would love to have more members to round out the board. If you are interested, get in touch.

Presentation Night is July 26, 7:00 pm, at the Walpole Town Hall. Participants in our High School Summer Work program and recipients of all Hooper Scholarships will share and present their work experiences here in town and from their learning journeys on university campuses around the country. Refreshments will be provided, and the public is invited.

Inquiries and questions may be made to Helen Dalbeck -hooperinstitute@my-fairpoint.net, or 603-756-4382

- Helen Dalbeck

Walpole Unitarian

Summer Food Sale

The Walpole Unitarian Church will host a summer food sale on Saturday, July 1, from 9:00 to 11:15 AM in front of the Walpole Post Office. Come and enjoy our selection of delicious homemade items (both sweet and savory), including items to take home for the weekend or to freeze and serve later. We look forward to seeing you at the table.

- Wendy Harty

Walpole Grange

Walpole Grange #125 will present its annual community awards night on Tuesday, July 18 at 7 PM on the Common. Everyone is invited to help celebrate this year's award recipients. Community Citizens - Paul Looney and Chuck Shaw; Educator - Heidi Westover; Youth Service - Pinnacleview 4-H; Business - Watkins Tavern. Refreshments will be served following the program. In the event of rain the program will be in the town hall.

- Kathy Yardley

Musician Needed

The First Congregational Church of Walpole is seeking a substitute musician for Sunday Service on July 16 at 10 am to lead the congregation with hymns and some fill-in music on the piano, organ or guitar. Compensation provided. Please reply to the church office at 603-756-4075.

Attention Walpole Residents!

The Town Clerks Office will be closed

AUGUST 7-11

We will be attending Certification Classes in Concord.

This will affect online renewals as well.

Please Plan Accordingly



Keene
STATE COLLEGE

CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2023 Keene State College graduates from North Walpole and Walpole! We are proud of you!

Class of 2023 Graduates

Julia Badders Erin Donovan
William Dey Hannah McCormick

Fun Fact:

U.S. News and World Report ranks Keene State as one of the top ten public colleges in the Northeast.

Spring 2024 Dean's List

Julia Badders, McKenzie Bardis, Erin Donovan, Liam Johnston, Nicole Limoges, Samantha Loch, Destiny Martineau, Hannah McCormick, Jakob Newell, James Ronning, Mary Ronning, Hudson Willett, Nat Wood

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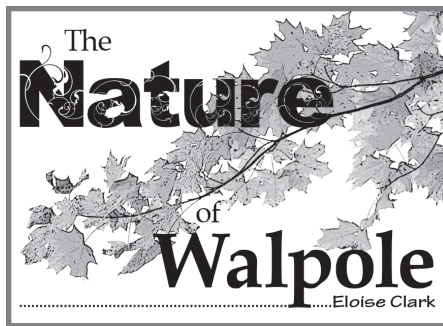


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Whether it's the Connecticut River or an area pond or lake, July is a prime time to be out on the water. It also increases your chances of seeing two members of the weasel family that prefer the aquatic life. Look for otters and the more elusive mink.

The river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) is our largest mustelid. As with all members of the Mustelidae family, they have musky scent glands beneath their tails. These allow the animal to leave scented clues for other otters to decipher.



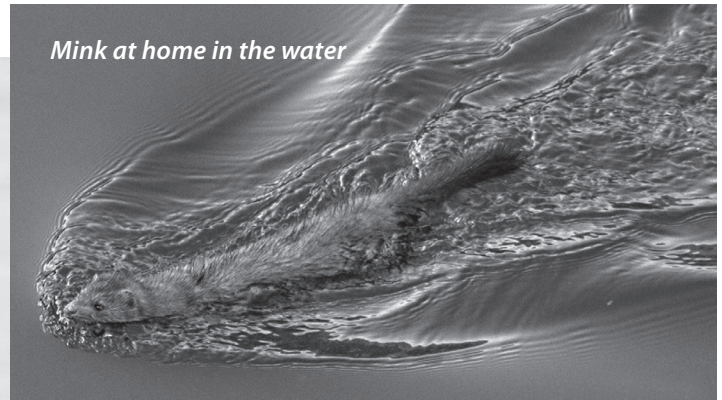
It's always a treat to find an otter slide either in the snow or a muddy bank. Otter will travel between watersheds in their quest for food. They consume fish but also frogs, crayfish, aquatic insects, birds and small mammals. Mink (*Neogale vison*) have a similar diet to otter. They will also use bank cavities or abandoned muskrat homes to den. A tangle of exposed tree roots along the edge of a stream can also offer shelter.



The body of an adult otter can be 26-30" long with a tail adding another 12-17". Adults can weigh about 20 pounds. Sometimes their heads look a bit like a beaver with small ears and a broad forehead. However, otter are bi-colored with a dark brown, almost black coat on their backs and a silvery sheen to the undersides.

If you spot them across a pond, their sinuous swimming style is distinctive. It's much different from a beaver's steady trajectory along the surface of the water. Like beaver, their hind feet are webbed between the toes to aid propulsion. Like beaver, otter also have well-oiled fur that keeps their skin dry in a wet environment.

Unlike other weasels, otters can be very social. On a number of occasions, I've seen them traveling through the waters of the Mill Pond. Often family groups of three or four can be spotted when the young kits are large enough to leave the den. Adults use the cavities created by beaver or muskrat along the banks of a river for their dens. Beaver and muskrat will excavate soil from a bank for their construction projects providing important denning sites for other animals.



Mink have lustrous dark brown fur and are a prized furbearer. Individuals also have white patches on the chin and throat with a black tip on the tail. The adult can grow to a total length of 24-26 inches, including the tail. Mink are lightweights. Large males weigh in at three pounds or less. Like otter, mink are excellent swimmers, able to dive deeply in stream pools. They hunt throughout a watershed, visiting streams, cattail marshes, bogs and bottomland forests in a constant search for a meal. They are much rarer to see than otters, probably because of their size.

Both have the classic mustelid shape of a long, slender body with short legs. Think dachshund! On land, they are bounders. They move inchworm style, hind feet filling in the tracks made by the front feet. In water, they become the agile entertainers we love to watch.

Thanks to NH Fish & Game's website plus *Peterson's Field Guide to Mammals* by Burt and Grossenheider.



Planting Ahead

On the front page of the CLARION website you will see:

ONLY THE TREES ARE DIFFERENT

Let's Get Together to Plant Ahead

In the February 2020, **Clarion**, I reported, "... the Selectboard minutes of January 9, 2020, stated that trees by the Library, on the Common and by the Town Hall need replacing. Mr. Dalessio said he would prefer larger trees. No decisions were made. (I thought, 'Perfect, a 'new project' to work on, because trees do not grow overnight)...In 1853, the Town voted to give permission to individuals, clubs or companies to set out shade and ornamental trees upon the borders of the Common, the sides of streets and vacant public spots of land in Walpole Village. Currently, at both the south and north ends of the Common, substantial trees, planted by civic groups, stand tall." Concluding that article, "...It would be appropriate for a knowledgeable group to step forward to advise and assist [to] see what is needed, and take the neces-

sary steps for tree selection, planting, and fund-raising to lessen tax payers' burden. Donations to the town, specified for such a purpose, are tax deductible. If enough people like the idea, let's get going. ..."

As with many things, it appears COVID's impact set these thoughts aside. Tree deterioration on the Common again was discussed at Selectboard meetings in 2022. That topic was car-

ried forward under "old business" for the early months in 2023 without discussion, and then dropped from the agendas. On June 8, 2023, the subject was discussed at the Selectboard meeting, and those Selectboard minutes noted "Ms. Mayberry stated that the Town would be willing to accept donations for replacing trees, as there is no present money in the budget for trees."

With this positive comment made by Ms. Mayberry, a residents' group could be formed to survey the trees on the Common, and elsewhere around Town, develop a plan for the future, raise funds, and start planting for the enjoyment of future Walpole generations. As plans develop, they will be reported here.

— Ray Boas



(above) 1870s stereo view of the Common with new plantings.
(left) Main Street Looking north circa 1904 postcard.

Christopher Hinds
LICSW, ACSW

acsw

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Getting to Know...

Mr. LeBail (Social Studies Teacher)

What did you do as a kid?

"I was always outside playing with friends, sports, made up games or whatever. (I was) always outside doing stuff. Most of the time staying out of trouble."

What was your dream job when you were a kid?

"Football player for the Chargers or the 49ers or an astronaut."

What is your favorite part about teaching?

"Working with kids every day (and) sharing what I'm passionate about."

Do you have any pets?

"I have 2 cats, Lily, and Little One, a rabbit, Oliver, and 8 fish, no name."

What was your first job?

"I worked at a music store (instruments). I went to school to be a music teacher and played saxophone."

As a kid did you have any detentions?

"(I had a) Handful of detentions."

Where have you lived?

"I was born in Georgia. I've lived in Illinois, California, and New Hampshire."

How long have you been teaching?

"Teaching for 16 years."

What are your Characteristics?

"Loud. Honest. Dependable. Speak my mind. Fun."

— Ila Sivret (Grade 6)

At the end of another school year, the Clarion applauds the efforts of the WES 8th Grade Newspaper Club correspondents: From L to R: Violet Walz, Sophia D'Alessandro, Avery Richardson, Perry Lent (Missing from picture: Keira Doescher and Aidan Suozzi).

PHOTO PROVIDED



Six Flags

Eighth Grade Field Trip

Two weeks ago on June 1st, the eighth grade traveled to Six Flags for their annual end of year field trip. Everyone arrived at school by the normal drop off time, and then we departed at 8:45 to hopefully get to the park by 10:45, before the park opened at 11:00.

Six Flags provides School Program Days to ensure safety and fun. They have special school rates on meals and admission prices, and they also provide workbooks that allow students to have a behind the scenes look at the science of roller coasters.

Because of this special day, students were allowed to roam around the park freely and experience the rides with their friends rather than with their grade as a whole. The grade separated into a few groups of their choice, and after deciding on a mutual meeting spot, we began traveling around the park. Some students went on huge rides like the Sky Screamer, Superman, Batman, and more. Others went on smaller rides like the carousel, teacups, and the Cat Woman's Whip.

After four hours of fun at the park, students had to meet back at the entrance to get back on the bus and arrive home by 5:00. Before leaving, a few students visited the gift shops and bought food and some souvenirs.

We all had a super fun day at Six Flags, and it was an amazing and memorable experience.

— Avery Richardson (Grade 8)
& Violet Walz (Grade 8)

Ramblewild Field Trip

This year the seventh grade is going to Ramble Wild as a way to enjoy the Summer weather and bond as a grade. Through vigorous activities mostly circulating around ziplines and various courses. There were three types of courses at Ramblewild. They consisted of yellow, green, blue, and black. There were two courses for each color. Considering our age we weren't allowed to go on the black course.



Yellow is the easiest course, it was close to the ground and not as challenging. Green is the next step up, using more upper body strength and more obstacles. Using different structures as ziplines like skateboards, trapeze, and logs. One green course even had a free fall area. You hooked onto a gadget and just jumped off, it did catch you and let you fall slowly towards the ground. There was also a floating rockwall that we climbed. It was a challenge but we all preserved.

The last and final color was blue. I personally went on only the first blue, it had a nice zipline that went over the ravine. The view from the trees was stunning. Even though we all fell at some parts or another on the blue course, it was definitely a new experience and a fun exercise. The next seventh grade definitely has a field trip to look forward to.

— Addie Fuller (Grade 7)

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The Lost Colony

In August of 1587, 115 people went missing near the coast of North Carolina. The Roanoke colony was the first attempt of an English colony in the Americas, 2 years later it revealed itself as a failed attempt of settlement.

The settlement idea was to create the first permanent English outpost in the new world. The colony was doing fine in the new world, until supplies started to run low. John White, was the governor of the new settlement of Roanoke. White said that he would sail back to England for more supplies. Unfortunately, as he arrived a war broke out between England and Spain. Queen Elizabeth ordered that all ships would be used for the war. John White was stuck in England for three years, unable to leave. Finally, when he returned he returned to a deserted settlement. There was no trace from the colonists or its inhabitants.

Cheshire Fair

4-H Youth Leadership Team

The Cheshire County 4-H Youth Leadership Team is hosting an event at Cheshire Fair.

For many months, my "teammates" and I, along with our leader, Kim Bylancik, have been working to put together an event at the Cheshire Fair for everyone to enjoy. After lots of decision making we have decided to have two days with time set aside (August 3, and 5) to hold presentations and a question and answer session. Both days we will be set up, some with animals, others with topics not even relating to 4-H, presenting about our topics, and answering the community's questions. So much effort has gone into this project over the last several months, and we are so excited to provide the fair-goers with information, and probably some laughs along the way, as well. Of course we still have some kinks to work out, and lots more prep to be done, but we hope that other 4-Hers in the community would be willing to present on a topic important to them, seeing the effort put into this by our incredible team.

On the Cheshire Fair website, dates and times for all fair events will be posted soon. There will also be posters and signs around the fairgrounds, making the public aware of these events. Our project is for fun, 4-Hers are not required to be a participant, and this is not a competition.

Our team really hopes to see you at the fair on August 3-6, 2023, having fun, and learning.

– Savannah Anderson (Grade 6)



There are many hypotheses about what happened to the colonists. Ever since the mystery occurred, there has been only one clue, and this one clue has led to many ideas. When John White returned to Roanoke, as said before there was nobody there, whatever happened left barely any traces, except for a single word. The word "Croatoan" was carved into a wooden post.

Croatoan was the name of a Native American tribe that lived on an island south of Roanoke. Many people believed that the colonists were killed or abducted by them, however no more evidence leads to that. Another hypothesis said that the colonists tried to sail back to England but got lost at sea. Today, no one truly knows what happened to the colonists, all that is known is that they are the lost colony of Roanoke.

– Keira Doescher (Grade 8)

The G.O.A.T. Comes to MLS

In the past, Major League Soccer (MLS) have had some big name stars such as Steven Gerrard, David Beckham, Thierry Henry, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. However, earlier this month, the MLS announced its biggest signing ever. Lionel Messi, the 7-time World Player of the Year, has officially completed his move to Inter Miami. He rejected offers from Saudi Arabia and his long-time club, FC Barcelona.



The news of Messi coming to the USA brought excitement to many soccer fans in the states. Tickets for all Inter Miami games sold out within 24 hours. Messi signed a 4-year deal worth \$53,000,000 per season and is expected to debut between mid and late July. The capture of Messi brings worldwide attention and increased exposure to America's top division.

The news was announced at the same time as most European soccer leagues wrapped-up. The biggest news was Manchester City winning the Champions League for the first time in club history. With this accomplishment, they won the 'treble' after winning their league and cup in England. Other major European teams winning their Leagues were FC Barcelona, Napoli, FC Bayern Munich, and finally, Paris Saint-Germain.

Even though most soccer in Europe is finished for the season, it doesn't mean all soccer is. This summer, there are two main tournaments to look out for. The first, the Gold Cup, is the championship between North and Central America and the Caribbean nations. This begins in late June and features the US trying to defend their title. Finally, another American team, the US Women's National team, will attempt to win their 3rd straight champ.

– Elias Tsitsonis (Grade 6)



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Nesting

I suspect that my continuing problematic relationship with the local wildlife might be getting tiresome, but it's time for another chapter. Birds again. Some time ago I related our long-term association with nesting sparrows in our old home on Prospect Hill. Much to my surprise, they're back... or their cousins.

More than a month ago I realized that nest building had begun atop a post outside our office door. I had removed a wire screen blocking that area when we repainted, naively thinking feathered passersby wouldn't notice. Wrong. What tipped me off was the neighborhood cat squatting on the porch staring fixedly upward. I never intruded to see when the eggs appeared, but by mid-May a cluster of open mouths and steady chorus of demanding chirping heralded the new arrivals. As the lower photo shows, yet more repainting will be needed to undo the growing guano deposits. Tragically, about two weeks ago, I discovered the remains of either a fallen chick or ambushed parent. I don't think it was the cat. Whatever disaster befell, the nest was empty. It is indeed a jungle out there. Then, surprisingly, the adults returned, though not to hatch a second brood. There was no happy ending to that story.

However, at the other end of the house, we discovered a second nest — atop a wreath on the wall above a potting bench. Robins this time... and with a cluster of bright blue eggs. It seems our avian BNB saga continues... — Jan Kobeski



Purple Finches build the nest



Newly hatched



PHOTOS: JAN KOBESKI

CHESHIRE KIDS

by Erik Doescher



FROM THE CLARION...

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

One Year Ago (July 2022) – Old Home Days 2022 - It has been five years, and it was good to again celebrate life in Walpole, and welcome back former residents, as was the original intention in 1899 when Old Home Days was established.

Three Years Ago (July 2020) – 8 Minutes, 46 Seconds "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" - Martin Luther King Jr. - Walpole's Jack Pratt spoke at the George Floyd Knee-In held on the Common on June 5th. Pratt worked with Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960's as Legal Counsel to the Commission on Religion and Race of the National Council of Churches.

Five Years Ago (July 2018) – The Bridge Memorial Library was recognized as an Historic Resource - The Walpole landmark is now a part of the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places as announced by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources on May 30.

Seven Years Ago (July 2016) – The Walpole Playground Committee is pleased to announce \$72,286.60 has been raised so far from donations made by generous residents and local businesses.

Nine Years Ago (July 2014) – The Fall Mountain Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (FMJROTC) recently returned from France where the cadets took part in memorial celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy.

Eleven Years Ago (July 2012) - The Bellows Are Coming... Home, to Walpole. For the first time in more than a generation, descendants of Walpole's Bellows Family are returning to celebrate another family reunion. According to Sue Bellows of Charlotte, Michigan, coordinator of the family event, approximately 50 family members should be arriving in the area on Wednesday, July 11 for a five-day visit.

From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Night Hunting

It's 4:30 AM, what am I doing up in this tree stand? Well, the game warden would call it illegale hunting, I call it getting an early start on the season. Our meat supply is getting low, so I decided to fill the freezer. Velma is plannin' a family gatherin' in July and we will need plenty of meat.

So here I sit with my breakfast sandwich, hot coffee and a butternut donut. Just as I take a bite of the sandwich, I hear a rustlin' down below..figure it's some squirrels, I ignore it, but it gets louder, so I'm thinkin' it might be a deer, although

I'm thinkin' it's too early.

In my excitement, I drop my donut and then I hear the deep growl and the scratchin' at the tree.

Something appears to be climbin' my tree stand.

Suddenly out of the dark two beady eyes are staring at me from below.

I thump it on the nose, forgettin' that the safety is off and there is this terrific bang.

About the same time comes a horrific stink and I think that either the bear or me has relieved themselves.

I commence to scream, Velma shoves me out of bed, onto the floor, yellin', "Wake up, you're havin' a nightmare and you just crapped yourself!"

Guess if there's goin' be meat for the gatherin' I'll have to go to the corner market.

The WALPOLE Clarion

published monthly for the Walpole community.

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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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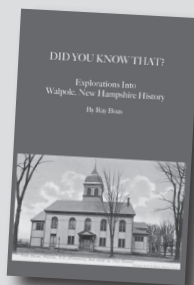
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PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Happy Summer, and 4th of July, as we enter the two hundred and forty-seven year of our independence, and two hundred and seventy-first year since the founding of our picturesque and bucolic Town of Walpole.

Nine years ago, as we prepared to celebrate Old Home Days 2014, I spent many months working with my collection of stereoviews and postcards, and those in the archives of the historical society, and assembled them in the book, *As It Was... and Still Is... Walpole, New Hampshire*. You have probably seen pictorial town histories showing "then and now" images, but, in this book, I showed you the "thens" going back to the 1870s. There was no need to compare to current day images because not much has changed in the past century - thus keeping Walpole the "quintessential New England town." What had changed in the images, however, is the trees, and that led to more of my writings with the theme "The only thing different is the trees".

When Guy Bemis restored my home in 1969, he planted a new tree in front. Sadly by 2017, now standing tall, full and massive, that tree was not doing well, and the prudent thing was to remove it. To fill the void, and thinking of future generations, the Selectboard allowed me and my neighbor to plant three 12-year-old Sugar Maples in the "tree lawn" between the sidewalk and road. They are thriving and filling out. We "planted ahead".

Enjoy your summer, stay safe and well.

— Ray Boas, Publisher

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**2023 Concerts on the Green
Summer Concert Series Schedule**



JULY

- 2 • Keene American Legion Band
- 9 • Nelson Town Band
- 16 • The Temple Band
- 23 • Springfield Community Band
- 30 • East Bay Jazz Ensemble

AUGUST

- 6 • Brattleboro American Legion Band
- 13 • The Residential Band

All shows will be held rain or shine on Sundays from 6:30-8:00 PM