

## Horse Thieves A Walpole Tradition – 207 Years

Thursday, September 21 was a beautiful fall day –with no rain(!), and ~150 members and guests of the Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Hen Roosts and Clotheslines (the “Horse Thieves”) gathered at the Alyson’s Orchard banquet facility for our biennial banquet. The banquet was special for many reasons, including a record attendance of Riders (see the picture above): Nine of our 12 Riders attended the banquet, and a two others sent their regrets that they weren’t able to attend and best wishes for the group. For those who are not familiar, our “Riders” are those who joined the Horse Thieves the earliest. The 12 most senior members become the “Riders” who protect the horses, hen roosts and clotheslines of the members, chasing down miscreants. Our Senior Rider presently is Sheldon Sawyer, who joined in 1959.

Our Riders are listed prominently on our poster and have been honored at every banquet for many years. Clerk Lewis LaClair read the names of all 12 Riders in order of seniority and the crowd gave them a rousing round of applause.

Again this year the banquet food was excellent. It was almost entirely cooked by the Horse Thieves under the direction of Chief Cook Tom Murray. Tom took over the kitchen this year from Bob Kimball who led out in the kitchen for 8 years. The food was served by the Pinnacleview 4-H Club. As in the past, the 4-H Club did a fabulous job! The Club leaders kept the young people organized and are largely responsible for the banquet going so smoothly and



*The Riders (L to R) are: Jerry Galloway, John Burrows, Lewis McMahon, Sheldon Sawyer, Jim Johnson, Bob Rhodes, Dave Ramsey, Ed Reardon and Doug Smith.*



PHOTOS: LEWIS LACLAIR

*Lynda Smith pinning the “Rider Badge” on Doug Smith.*

we thank them. The Horse Thieves gave a large donations to the 4-H club as a token of our sincere thanks.

After dinner Ray Boas, local historian and publisher of the Walpole Clarion treated us to an enjoyable talk and slide show about “Turnpikes and Taverns.” As many people know, the tavern where the

### From Peggy’s Desk

First, thank you to all of you who shared your stories of being scammed or your sympathy with me. My money was restored so I only lost sleep!

As for Liberty, I am getting closer to Liberty acknowledging that I live at 11 Old North Main Street. They agree my meter is not at 11 Main Street. One step at a time. A person is being sent to verify the meter is on my property. But I won’t hold my breath.

On Monday this week the Great Discussions Group, led by Sue Kibbe and Ron MacLachlan, filled the Library Conference Room with citizens eager to discuss Climate Change and Climate Migration. The Guest speakers were Tom

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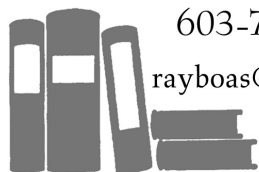
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## Alyson's Orchard

### A No Show

At the September 12 meeting of the Planning Board, a Public Hearing was scheduled for Adam Naeck, owner of Alyson's Orchard, to present his site plan for up to seven glamping sites and a future two-story 56' x 40' addition to the farm store. Property abutters had been notified, were in the audience, but Naeck was a "no show".

Planning Board Chairman Jeff Miller invited Mr. Naeck to the June 13 Planning Board meeting because it was apparent changes were being made at Alyson's Orchard without the proper Town regulations and processes being adhered to. Mr. Miller wanted to "make sure that all the I's are dotted and all the T's crossed when it comes to a site plan" and offered to assist Mr. Naeck in following regulations for compliance. Naeck received an application for a site plan for presentation to the Board in July to request a public hearing in August. Naeck did not attend the July 11 meeting as scheduled on the agenda. The select board then sent a letter to Naeck on July 18, stating in part, "... you did not attend this meeting... The next planning board meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2023. The failure to follow through with the Site Plan Review and building permit process could result in a Cease-and-Desist order and a \$500 fine for building without a building permit in place before initiating construction."

Naeck appeared before the board on August 8 with his site plan application. His request for a public hearing was approved for the September meeting. At the last moment prior to the September 18 Planning Board meeting, Naeck sent an email saying he would not attend. Abutters to the orchard property were upset, having made the effort to attend. The select board has issued a Cease-and-Desist order to Adam Naeck, owner of Alyson's Orchard, to stop all current and future construction until he complies with Town regulations and procedures for approval.

— Ray Boas

## Ham Dinner

A Ham Dinner will be held November 4 at 5:30 PM at St Peter's Church Hall in North Walpole sponsored by the Altar & Rosary Society. The cost is \$14.00 per person, children 12 and under free. Dinner will include ham, mashed potatoes, squash, coleslaw, and dessert. Take-out is also available, with pick up by 5:15 PM. For tickets call Janice, 603-445-5652 or Kathy, 603-543-7868

— Kathy Golec

## Golf Out Cancer

It is time for the 2nd Annual Golf Out Cancer event which will be held on Sunday, October 8 at Hooper Golf Course. We will be raising money for Dana Farber Cancer Institute-Lung Cancer Research.

The day consists of an 18-hole golf scramble with 18 teams of four players. Tee time is at 10:00 AM, with registration beginning at 9:00 AM. There will be a party, silent auction and drawings which will begin at 3:00 PM. The party will take place at Dean and Christine Prentiss's house located on the 7th hole at Hooper and will include live music and food. BYOB and BYO chair; and, if you are interested in making a donation, you can make a check out to Golf Out Cancer or Venmo@golfoutcancer. The check should be mailed PO Box 40026, Drewsville NH 03604, c/o Brian Pickering

— Kerry Pickering

## Grange Harvest Dinner

The 14th Annual Harvest Dinner, presented by Walpole Grange #125, will be Saturday, October 14 at the First Congregational Church. Delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings made by the Grange's excellent cooks. Take-out only, with pickup from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$15 per person, available at Galloway Real Estate or by calling 603-756-3677. Proceeds benefit the Grange Scholarship Fund.

— Kathy Yardley

## Thanksgiving Farmers Market

The Great River Co-op will be hosting this year's Thanksgiving Farmers' Market on the Common in Walpole. Join us from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 18th.

Come on out to peruse the seasonal goodies available from your favorite local farms and producers while catching up with good friends and getting ready for your Thanksgiving feast! This is

a great time to buy local ingredients, plus a chance to do some unique Christmas shopping.

For information about becoming a vendor, email the Co-op board at [info@greatriverfoodcoop.com](mailto:info@greatriverfoodcoop.com) or go to our Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/15YljctGv>. The cost for a space is \$20 - please reserve a spot by Nov. 11.

— Steve Fortier



## Dunkin Donuts

### Public Hearing

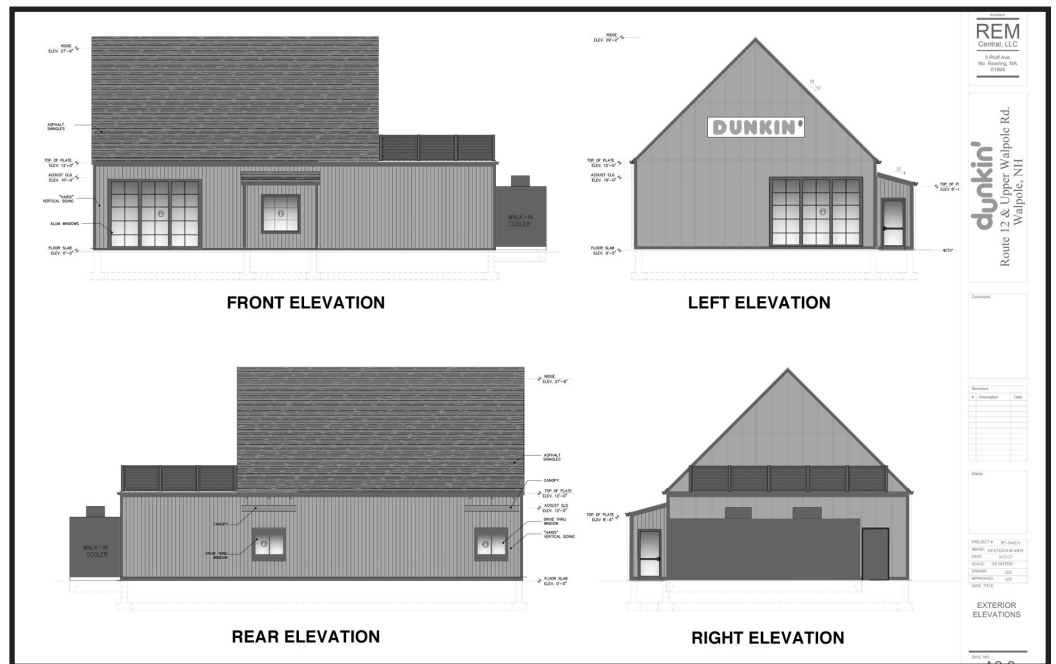
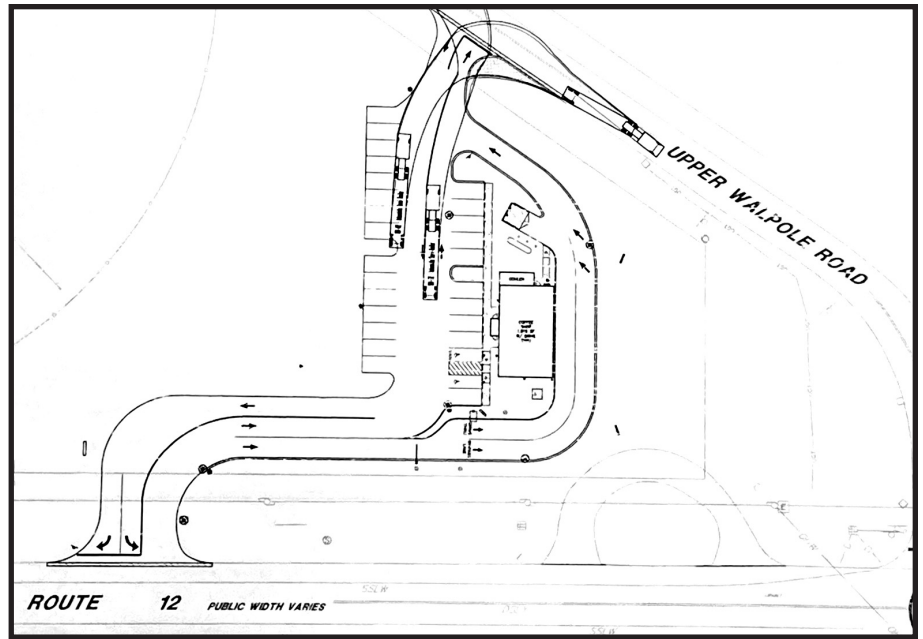
At the September 12 Planning Board meeting, Dunkin requested a public hearing for construction of a new facility on the over nine-acre parcel of land they recently purchased at the intersection of Route 12 and Upper Walpole Road that extends to Shaw's Plaza. The Public Hearing to review their plans has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Shown here are two of the preliminary conceptual plans provided on September 12 for what will occupy 1 to 1 1/2 acres of this parcel. The plans presented at the Public Hearing October 10 will, in all likelihood, be modified based upon preliminary comments made by the Planning Board. The Planning Board expressed concerns over traffic flow in and out of the facility and on the site itself, and commented on the architectural renderings and the sparseness of landscaping.

These two drawings are provided for your review and help in attending the meeting with substantive questions and suggestions. As with past Dunkin submissions, it appears the orientation of the elevation views to the site plan itself are incorrect. The site plan shows the drive-thru windows facing south. However, based upon the position of the cooler on the elevation drawings, the drive-thru windows would be on the north side of the building. Matching the elevations, as initially presented, to the site plan orientation will necessitate a change to the parking layout and traffic flow on the site.

Mark your calendar to attend the Public Hearing, Tuesday, October 10, 7PM in the Town Hall.

– Ray Boas



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## Birding on the Farm

### Workshop October 6

Join us this fall for an exciting opportunity to discover birds on farms throughout our region! Learn about habitat dynamics for birds, wildlife conservation on the farm, and species identification from experienced bird guides!

This workshop series is open to birders and nature enthusiasts of all skill levels. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and weather appropriate dress and boots. Pace will be slow over moderate terrain.

We will be catching fall migration and exploring several areas at Stonewall Farm managed for vegetables, livestock and forage production. These are adjacent to mixed wood systems, wetlands, and edge habitat, making for a diverse and exciting morning out!

October 6th @ 8:00AM | Stonewall Farm, 242 Chesterfield Rd, Keene. Free Registration on Eventbrite.com - search *Birding on the Farm Workshop Series* in New Hampshire

– Cheshire County Conservation District

# Walpole Worships

First Congregational  
Sunday, 10 AM  
<https://walpolenhucc.org/>  
Sunday worship is held every week at  
10 AM in the sanctuary, in-person.

- **Communion Sunday** is every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome at the table. We use Covid-safe, sealed communion elements. Worshippers on Zoom take part using their own bread and cup.
- **Bible Study** resumes Wednesday, September 6. We meet every Wednesday, on Zoom, 4-5 PM, led by Pastor Richard Malmberg. All are welcome. Just use the Zoom link on our website.

St Peter's Church  
North Walpole  
Mass Schedule:  
Friday 8:30 AM,  
Saturday 4 PM,  
Sunday 8:30 AM

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 websites.

## St. John's Episcopal

### Celebrating an Old Building and a New Rector

On Sunday, September 17, the folks at St. John's celebrated the 120th signing of our building charter and construction of our little stone church. With us to celebrate was our new rector, Reverend Fred Chisolm.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Reverend Chisolm

Ministry is a second career for Rev. Fred. He has worked as an electrical engineer for 40 years, mostly in manufacturing plant management. After receiving his engineering degree from Yale University, he worked in Southern California, then in Chicago where he obtained an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. He and his wife Alison moved to New Hampshire almost 15 years ago. He has served as a Deacon, and then as an Elder, in the Presbyterian Church USA. While working at HyperTherm near Hanover, he completed training for the ministry through the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire School for Ministry. This program is designed to allow people to study for the priesthood while working and without relocating. Rev. Fred has always wanted to preach. His hobbies, besides Tai Chi, big band jazz and swing dancing, include listening to 5-10 sermons/week across a range of Christian denominations. We have much to celebrate.

— Marilyn Wilking

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## First Congregational, UCC and St. John's Episcopal Churches

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# Blessing of the Animals



## Sunday, October 15, 2023

(Rain Date October 22<sup>nd</sup>)

On the Town Common in front of the gazebo

**3:00PM – 4:00PM**

All Species Welcome

An offering will be received, and all donations will be matched 100%, to support the work of

**Heifer Project International**



## CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Walpole's annual CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Saturday, October 21 this year. Planned and organized by participating Walpole churches, this walk has taken place in Walpole for more than 20 years.

The purpose of the walk is to raise funds to help alleviate hunger, both locally and globally, as well as to assist with sustainable farming and clean water practices in the U.S. and throughout the world. Funds are also used to help with disaster relief and refugee assistance. Please join, along with friends, family, or co-workers to support the effort with your steps and donations.

Registration starts on The Common in front of the First Congregational Church at 9:00 AM, and the walk begins at 9:30 AM. A map of the approximately 3.4 mile route around Walpole will be available at registration. To sign up for the walk, to donate, or to learn more about the CROP Hunger Walk, please go Walpole's CROP website: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/walpolenh>

Unable to participate in the walk, but would like to donate? Please consider

donating as an individual or to an associated group using the secure link. Contributions are distributed through Church World Services, a 501(c)(3) organization, with a Charity Navigator rating of 90 out of 100. Our local recipient, the FALL MOUNTAIN FOOD SHELF, receives 25% of all the donations our Walpole walkers raise, which has been substantial over the years. Questions? Contact Jana Sellarole at 603-313-4976

– Wendy Harty

**Christopher Hinds**  
LICSW, ACSW

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## Women of Walpole

The Women of Walpole will meet on Oct 18 at 6:30 pm in the Hubbard Community Room at the Walpole Town Library. Jane Malmberg will speak about the collection focusing on what else besides books does the library offer.

Plans for November include a cooking demonstration and in December we will have our traditional holiday luncheon.

WOW welcomes any woman working or living in Walpole to attend this and any future meeting. Look for WOW on Facebook and in The Clarion. Annual dues remain at \$35 and will be collected at this and future meetings.

For further information and to join our email list, please contact Susan Johnson ([pete\\_suejohnson@verizon.net](mailto:pete_suejohnson@verizon.net) or 603-313-4018) or Carolyn LeBail ([carolynle-bail@gmail.com](mailto:carolynle-bail@gmail.com) or 714-717-4184).

– Susan Johnson

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### It May Be More Than Just A Snore.

Snoring suggests a high likelihood of obstructive sleep apnea

#### What Is Obstructive Sleep Apnea?

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#### Surprising Signs and risks of Obstructive Sleep Apnea:

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- Erectile Dysfunction
- Loud Snoring
- Frequent Night Time Peeing (nocturia)
- Attention/Focus Issues (ADD/ADHD)
- High Blood Pressure
- Depression/Anxiety
- Clenching/Grinding (opens the airway)
- Daytime Fatigue/Exhaustion
- Chipping, Worn, Fractured Teeth
- Dry Mouth
- AM Headaches
- Sore Throat
- Irritability

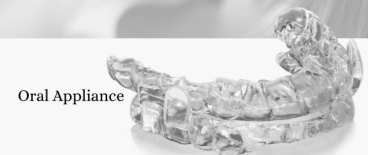


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## Banned Book Week

October 1-7 is Banned Books Week and the Walpole Town Library is proud to join in celebration of this year's theme — "Let Freedom Read". If you stop in the library in early October, you will see several displays related to materials that have been banned or challenged in our country over the years. This topic may sound familiar, as there has been a rise in the number of challenges to materials in both public and school libraries across America recently. With that in mind, I wanted to share some context with our community on why libraries recognize Banned Books Week every fall.

From the American Library Association: "Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. For more than 40 years, the annual event has brought together the entire book community — librarians, teachers, booksellers, publishers, writers, journalists, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. The books featured during Banned Books Week have all been targeted for removal or restriction in libraries and schools. By focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books, Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship."

The ALA continues, "When we ban books, we're closing off readers to people, places, and perspectives. But when we stand up for stories, we unleash the power that lies inside every book. We liberate the array of voices that need to be heard and the scenes that need to be seen. Let freedom read!"

If you would like further information on Banned Books Week, check out their webpage: <https://bannedbooksweek.org/let-freedom-read-during-banned-books-week-2023/>. If you would like to learn about the Walpole Town Library's policies on selection of library materials, you can find them on our website: <https://walpoletownlibrary.org/about/walpole-library-policies/>.

Stop in and browse the display and celebrate our collective freedom to read.

— Jane Malmberg



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.

- **October 1 - 7 Banned Books Week**
- **The Big Read Book Discussion with Alice Fogel**  
Wednesday, October 4, 7 PM. Main Library  
(Attendance can be in person or via Zoom. To receive a Zoom link, please send an email to [jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org))
- **The Big Read, "Bears of North America" with Helen Dalbeck**  
Thursday, October 12, 7 PM, Main Library
- **Special Children's Program:**  
**The Big Read, "The Bears Necessities" with Helen Dalbeck**  
Saturday, October 14, 10 AM  
For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 603-756-9806 or check our website: [walpoletownlibrary.org](https://walpoletownlibrary.org).

## Library Book Sale

### Friends of the Walpole

Our big annual book sale is coming up this month on October 28 and 29 at the Walpole Middle School gym.

This year we are having "early bird" hours on Saturday morning from 8 to 10 AM. The entry fee for this is \$40. The regular sale on Saturday will then run from 10 AM to 3 PM with no entry fee. The hours on Sunday are from 9 AM to 1 PM when books will be sold for \$5 per box.

We have a very impressive selection of high-quality books this year. Thank you so much to all who donated books to the sale, and the many volunteers who sorted those books this summer.

Please note that you can donate books (in excellent condition) year-round at the Reuse Center.

If your organization would like to rent a table (\$25) at the book sale for fundraising or informational purposes, please call 603-439-7778 by October 15 to find out more. See you at the Book Sale!

— Jana Sellarole



## Great Decisions

"Great Decisions" will meet on Monday, October 23, at 6:00 PM in the Walpole Town Library. Our topic for discussion is *Famine and Food Insecurity – A Global and Local Challenge*.

Suggested reading is the Foreign Policy Association's article, *Famine: a renewed threat in the 21st century* by Daniel Maxwell, available at the library or via email by contacting Jane Malmberg, Library Director: [jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org). Also available at the library is the Master Class on DVD, with which we will begin our meeting. (For those joining via Zoom, please note that we are unable to show the "Master Class" on Zoom, so we suggest you join the meeting at 6:20 PM)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (fao.org) of the United Nations has assessed the state of food security and nutrition in the world and revised its previously optimistic predictions. One in three people in the world did not have access to adequate food in 2020, that's 30% of the world population. "The world is at a critical juncture" is the most recent U.N. report on food security and can be found at this link: <https://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/2021/en/>

We will also examine food security locally with reports from our regional food banks, schools, community kitchens and nutritional assistance programs.

All are welcome to this public forum either in person in the Hubbard Meeting Room at the Walpole Town Library or via Zoom. For the Zoom link, contact Jane Malmberg in advance of the meeting and please join via Zoom at 6:20 PM: [jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org).

— Sue Kibbe



Continued from Page 1, Peggy

Sintros and Mark Houghton. We have progressed from Global Warming to Climate Change to Extreme Weather.

Mark Houghton presented a historic and present timeline of extreme weather events in Walpole from 1953 to 2023. Most of us remember the disaster of 2005, the Alstead Flood in which 40 houses were destroyed, the bridge in Alstead was swept away and several people died. Water swept down High Street in Walpole and tore up the newly paved Main Street among other damage. We also remember Irene, largely a Vermont event but the CT River rose, and we lost the Mill Pond Pump Station. On July 29, 2021, Walpole had over two million dollars of damage from washed out roads, driveways, and culverts. Acworth roads were more severely affected than Walpole's. And this year, intense rains have again swept away roads in Acworth. In Walpole, the River Road pump house was overtopped as the CT River rose, at a time the Watkins Hill Pump House needed repairs. We were advised to conserve water, lest we have none.

The assembled group asked what we can do as individuals and as a Town. Tom Sintros led a productive discussion on what we can do as individuals and what we can do as a Town. We can make individual choices in how we heat our houses, choose green power for our electricity, what kind of car we drive, how often we fly. As a Town we can choose to establish Town ordinances which establish buffer zones in our prime wetlands, build community solar fields, identify a third well for water. If we have the will, we can be better prepared for future disasters as the climate changes. For those readers who attended the meeting I have indeed left many things for another time.

Walpole is a busy place: there is much to discuss, but I have run out of space. More to come next month.

Peggy Pschirrer



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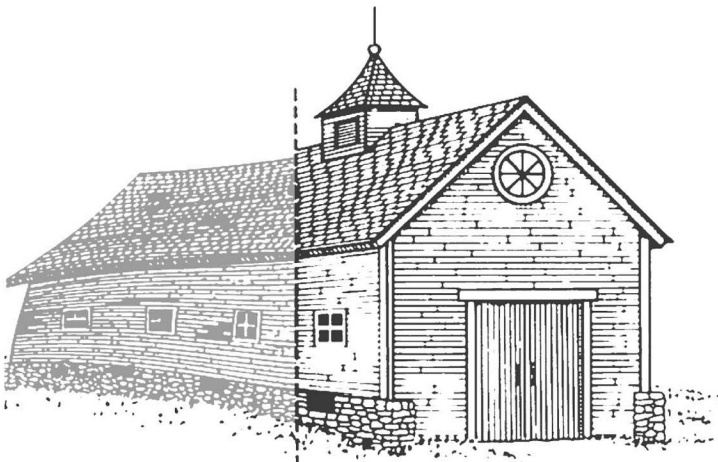


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# Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

## ...Local Agricultural Fairs

(not to be confused with Old Home Days) were held in Walpole, the last, from what I can find, occurred one hundred years ago this month?

In 1816, the Cheshire County Agricultural Society was organized with Walpole farmers taking an active part. Thomas Bellows and Thomas C. Drew were on the executive committee in 1817. A notice appeared in the September 14, 1827 edition of the *Farmers' Museum* that "The Cheshire Agricultural Society will hold its annual meeting at Drewsville, on Wednesday the third day of October next, and on the same day will be the Annual Exhibition of Stock and Domestic Manufacturers...". The Society convened at 9:00, the procession formed at 12:00, and all articles presented "for premiums" had to be entered prior to 10 o'clock. Founded in 1849, the NH Agricultural Society held its first fair in Concord in 1850 with a number of Walpole residents "receiving premiums".

In 1875, the first exhibition of the Nine Towns Agricultural Association took place at the Cheshire Park in Walpole on Tuesday and Wednesday October 5 and 6. Later developed as the Cheshire Trotting Park, the park was located on River Road in the large field on the Fanny Mason property. A fine selection of horses, cattle and sheep were exhibited, and two tents covering an area of 52 by 82 feet "were completely filled with fruits, products of the dairy, specimens of needlework, drawings, paintings, and manufactured articles of all kinds..." Draft horses and oxen were put

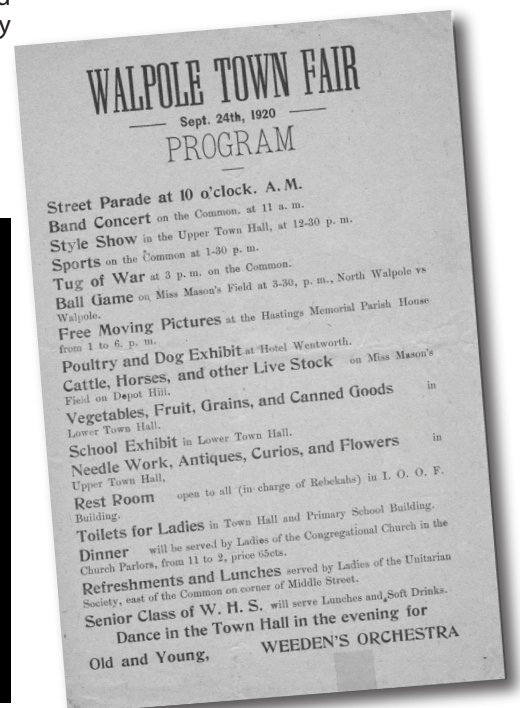
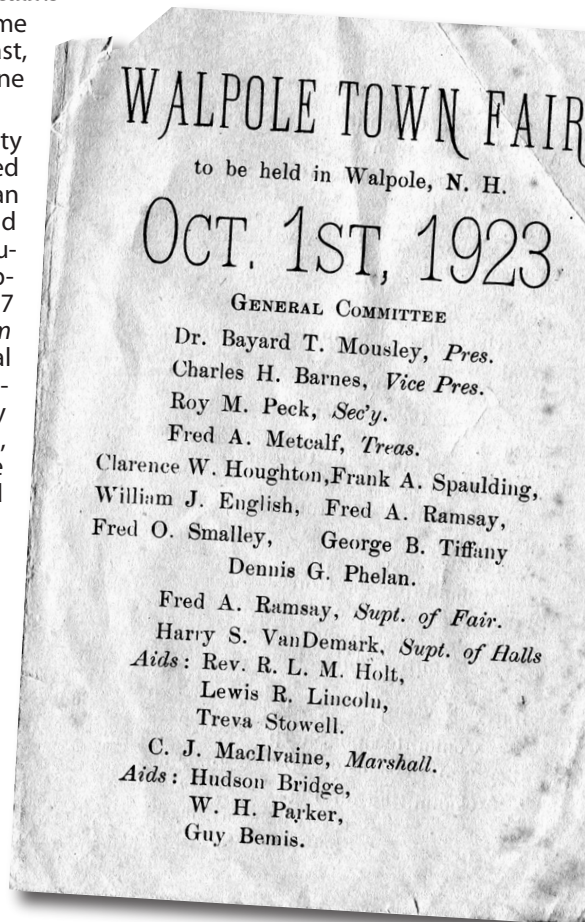
through their paces, and trotting took place in the afternoon. The park's buildings burned down on August 21, 1906. Walpole, known for its agriculture, hosted the State Agricultural Board two-day meeting in November 1878. Shortly afterwards the Walpole Farmers' Club was founded.

The Walpole Town Fair, a purely agricultural fair, was reported on in the

Keene Sentinel, September 30, 1880. There was no horse racing, no entry fees, no premiums; everything exhibited was homegrown or homemade. "The display of vegetables was a good variety and the exhibition of fruit was extraordinary." At the end of the day, the article concluded, "Washington Square is now deserted - no pens, no cattle, no swine, no sheep, no horses; but a savory fragrance lingers that is not altogether pleasant."

It was forty years before another Walpole Town Fair was held September 24, 1920. A parade began at 9:00 am with a crowd estimated at several thousand arriving in wagons and automobiles to watch. Following the parade, there was a dog show at the Wentworth Hotel with about 50 entries. At the town hall there were the usual displays upstairs and down, with farm, crafts, garden, antique, commercial, and style shows. Sports were held on the Common with a ball game in the afternoon.

Reading the list of Committees in the small program for the Walpole Town Fair held October 1, 1923, it appears just about everyone in town was involved in some way. There were committees for: finance; advertising; decoration; street parade; grounds; horses; cattle; sheep; pigs; poultry; dogs; tobacco; vegetables; apples and fruit; corn and grain; flowers and plants; butter and cheese; sports; automobiles; machinery; drawing contest; horses and oxen; maple sugar; canned goods; needle and fancy work; school exhibit; baby show; entertainment and concessions. Sounds like it was a full and exhausting day, and possibly why a Town Fair may not have been held since.



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## Advanced Directives

### Information Session

On Friday, October 20, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, Lucy McVitty Weber, our NH State Representative and former Vermont Elder Law attorney, will be presenting an information session on *Advanced Directives— Why You Need Them and How to Get Them*. The talk will be free and open to the public at the Walpole Library Community Room.

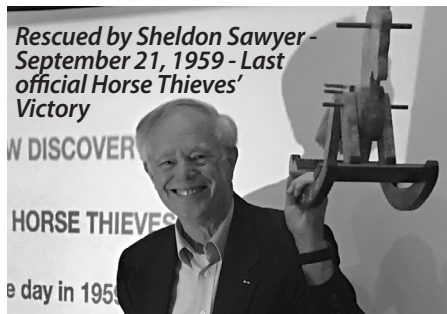
## RIVER VALLEY SENIORS AT HOME

Advanced Directives – Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care and Living Wills - give peace of mind to you and your family. By planning ahead, you can get the medical care you want, avoid unnecessary suffering and relieve caregivers of decision-making burdens during moments of crisis or grief. You also help reduce confusion or disagreement about the choices you would want people to make on your behalf.

This talk is not just for seniors but for anyone who wants to be sure their wishes are known in times of emergency or end of life. Lucy will be handing out packets to everyone who attends, which include information and actual forms that can be filled out.

This is the second in a series of informational sessions for seniors or their families by River Valley Seniors at Home, a non-profit membership organization whose goal it is to help keep seniors in their homes longer. For more information, call Tara Sad at 603-756-4861

– Tara Sad



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Continued from Page 1, Horse Thieves

Walpole Horse Thieves founders met to organize in 1816 subsequently burned down. But there were many other taverns in Walpole and the surrounding towns, and there were two "turnpikes" (toll roads) running through Walpole at various times, "Cheshire Turnpike" which is still a street in Walpole and Drewsville, and the New Hampshire Third Turnpike which originally ran up Prospect Hill Road, out Watkins Hill Road and down County Road to Surry. Ray ended his talk with a shocking revelation of a "horse" that was recovered by Senior Rider Sheldon Sawyer in 1959 (see photo at left); but there are rumors that this may be "fake news!!"

The evening included the 2023 Horse Thieves posters, which were handed out during the banquet. The poster lists all members in the order that they joined the society, the officers, "Committee" and Riders. This year's poster lists 265 members. If you were not present at the banquet, you may pick up a copy of the poster by contacting Chas Street or Lewis LaClair (756-0001 or [LLaclair@advancedrisk.com](mailto:LLaclair@advancedrisk.com)).

There is an enormous amount of work and planning involved in a successful banquet, and the Horse Thieves thank the officers, Committee, and many members for their hard work. President Chas Street, Vice President Trevor MacLachlan and Chief Cook Tom Murray worked tirelessly to make this a success.

The next Horse Thieves event is our annual meeting on Saturday evening, January 20, 2024. We'll provide details on the location and time in a future Clarion article. We look forward to seeing you then.

– Lewis LaClair

## The Walpole Grange #125 14th Annual Harvest Dinner



**Saturday, October 14**  
4:30 to 6:00 PM

Take-out only, \$15 per person  
(Proceeds benefit the  
Grange Scholarship Fund)  
Tickets available at  
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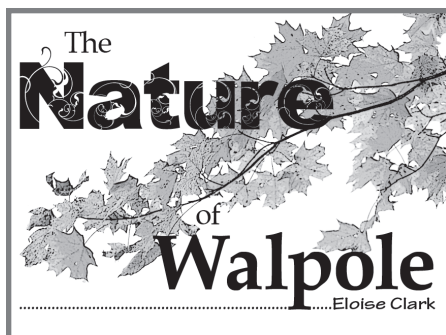


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**W**itch Hazel and Hazelnut are two similarly named deciduous bushes. As October is the month of Halloween and one of my favorite cartoon characters from long ago was Witch Hazel, this seems as good a reason as any to feature these native shrubs.

A tree will sprout a single stem that grows aggressively upward, pushing toward the light of the canopy, dozens of feet above. By contrast, shrubs put their energy into growing many shorter stems, occupying space closer to the ground. During the growing season, the multiple stems, covered with leaves, can effectively capture the filtered light reaching the forest understory.



to 6-inch- long leaves are oval with wavy edges instead of sharp teeth. The easiest time to spot it is October and November when the plant is in flower. Each bloom



**Hazelnuts**

Both the American hazelnut (*C. americana*) and beaked hazelnut (*C. cornuta*) have male flowers, dangly catkins that contain pollen. Spring breezes carry the pollen to the tiny female flowers at the tips of branches, where the seeds develop. The filbert, a delicious half-inch nut is formed inside a papery sheath. In the case of the American hazelnut, the edge of the husk is ruffled. The beaked hazelnut lives up to its name by enclosing a pair of nuts in a pointed paper-like sheath at the tip of a branch, very cute!

Fall is the easiest time to identify hazelnuts as the rest of the year this shrub often blends in with other cover. Native Americans used its pliable sprouts for baskets, fish traps and baby carriers. American hazelnuts seem to do best along the edges of the forest or open sunny sites. I've found the beaked hazelnut in shadier spots. My first encounter with it was in Devil's Hopyard, a wild and beautiful mossy gorge in the northern White Mountains, an appropriate locale to mention for the conclusion of this Halloween tale.



For those not in the know, Witch Hazel was a Disney creation, introduced in the 1952 cartoon, *Trick or Treat*. She is portrayed as a benevolent witch, matching wits with the stingy, ever irascible, Donald Duck. Shortly after, Hazel was acquired by Looney Tunes, and the character became a staple of re-runs in the early days of television.



**Witch Hazel Leaves**

The understory is a critical layer of a healthy forest. This stratum of plants provides cover and food for wildlife: hiding spots from predators and for predators. The leafy cover provides many places for birds to nest. The understory is also a critical layer during times of heavy rainfall. The many leaves and branches soften the impact of raindrops and slows the rapid run-off of water. This prevents soil erosion and flooding downslope. The slower flow also allows water to infiltrate the soil and replenish the groundwater.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) grows near forest edges throughout eastern North America. Although it will tolerate different soil types, it easily grows to its maximum size of 25 feet in moist, rich soils. It has many dark brown woody stems that form a dense thicket, making it very difficult to navigate. Perhaps you've heard of witch hazel liniment? This astringent and antiseptic is derived from oil found in the leaves, twigs and bark. It is a time consuming and difficult process to procure the oil. Modern chemistry supplies most of the extract found on pharmacy shelves today.

There are several ways to identify Witch Hazel. During the growing season, the 3

has scraggly yellow petals, very narrow, very bright. When fertilized, a four-part seed chamber forms. The following year, the seed pod splits with a forceful pop. The half-inch seeds are hurled many feet, allowing a new plant to be established away from the shade of the parent plant. This has been such a successful strategy for the *Hamamelis* genera that many different species are found across Eurasia.

We have two types of Hazelnuts (*Corylus* genus) in our area. These members of the birch family produce their delicious namesake, also called filberts. If one can find the nuts before the squirrels, deer, jays, grouse and turkeys do, one has found a real treat.

**Witch Hazel Bloom**





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## CHESHIRE KIDS

by Erik Doescher





We have two upcoming bear programs with the Walpole Library October 12 and October 14, taught by Helen Dalbeck representing the Hooper Institute in honor of the National Endowments for the Arts BIG READ. This year's book is *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak.

**North American Bears:** October 12, 7:00 PM for adults at the Walpole Library

Everyone loves bears, or do they? In North America, we have three iconic bear species: the Black Bear, the Grizzly, and the Polar Bear. In this program we will explore what is the same and what is different between these three, with a special focus on our very own New Hampshire Black Bears. You will learn life cycles, habitat, and some surprising features of their anatomy that help them with survival. Everyone will be invited to play, interact, and discover the sheer size of these animals, how they move, what they eat and how they raise their young. Can we live side by side with bears? Which of the three are considered to be marine mammals? Can they see us or smell us first? Find the answers to these questions and more in what promises to be a fun evening, a natural history lesson to remember.

**The Bear Necessities:** October 14, 10:00 AM for kids at the Walpole Library

Black bears are our neighbors. We occasionally see one crossing the road, running through our yard, or helping themselves to the dropped apples from our apple trees. What are the other ways we know bears are close by? Is there evidence such as scat and maybe a track or two in the mud by the pond?

In this program children will learn how big a black bear is, discover what they eat and how much, and investigate how they find their food. There will be an activity, a game with discovery time, and a bear craft to take home. I can bearly hold my excitement! See you there.

Announcement! We are onboard-ing our new EDUCATOR for the Hooper Institute as I write. Please join me in welcoming Marissa Madej. She is very much looking forward to teaching, gardening, walking the trails and adventuring with our Walpole students. Welcome Marissa!

– Helen Dalbeck

## Halloween

### ...and Those Carved Pumpkins

Have you ever wondered about carved pumpkins at Halloween, or even the origin of Halloween itself? I did, and here are some simple answers.

Halloween began as a celebration in ancient Britain and Ireland marking the end of summer and the beginning of the new year on November 1. A Gaelic festival called Samhain, held November 1, marked the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter. Winter was termed the "darker half" of the year. Celebrations began on the evening of October 31, since the Celtic day began and ended at sunset.

In the 8th Century, the Roman Catholic Church moved All Saint's Day, which celebrates the church's saints, to November 1. Thus, the evening before (October 31) became All Hallows' Eve - Halloween. Samhain traditions, such as wearing disguises to hide yourself from the souls wandering around your home, remained. Also, for thousands of years in many northern European Celtic cultures, round fruits or vegetables were carved with faces in a custom of head veneration, or to scare bad spirits away.

But, you ask, how did pumpkins become associated with Halloween? As with any folklore, there are a number of versions of the 18th Century Irish Folktale of Stingy Jack, from which the name Jack-o'-Lantern evolved. Jack had a fondness for mischief and booze. It is said he tricked the devil twice. As a result, when Jack died, he was barred from heaven, and also from hell. Taking pity on him, the devil gave him an amber of coal to light his turnip lantern as he wandered both places for eternity. During that period, metal lanterns were quite expensive, so people would hollow out root vegetables and carve designs and faces in them for a light to shine through, showing one's way in the darkness. In Ireland, people began carving demonic faces in their turnip lanterns to frighten away Jack's wandering soul.

When large numbers of Irish immigrated to the United States in the 19th Century, they brought the Halloween tradition of using vegetable lanterns to scare the spirits away. Arriving here, they discovered a new vegetable, the pumpkin, which originated in North America about 9,000 years ago and is harvested in the fall. Larger, colorful, and easier to carve, they began using it to scare the evil spirits away. As more Americans began to celebrate Halloween, the Jack-o'-Lantern emerged as its most iconic image.

– Ray Boas



Pumpkin "Blow Molds,"  
collection of Ray Boas



## Reader Commentary

A Thank You to all the family and friends who attended Patty's funeral service on Aug 14th!

It was wonderful to have such a huge turnout to show that much support for us. I can't thank you enough for the past eight years.

I would like to send special thanks to: Pam and Jim, Eric and Kim, Carter and Moe, Our angel Abby, Mom and Dad, Nana and Richard, The Frost Family, The Smith Family, The Lawlor Family, The Chase Family, Meghan and the girls, Scott and Cheryl, Becky, Jennifer F, Jennifer B, Ken, Julie, Renee and Chris, John, Ian, Bill, HCS and all their wonderful support staff, Spencer's, Shanda and Steve, Pastor Craig, All other's who sent

food, flowers, gifts, cards and donations, The Doctors and Nurses throughout Cheshire Medical, Dartmouth Hitchcock and the Mayo Clinic, and Fenton and Hennessey's Funeral Home.

Warmly, Steve Smith

Dear Walpoleans, I'm writing to remind you that October is a tough month for migrating birds, and that our porch and yard lights are very distracting and befuddling to them (and to insects as well). Delays caused by the way lights disorient birds can weaken them in this Herculean task they're in throughout the fall. Please turn off your outdoor lights when not in immediate need of them. Thank you.

– Alice Fogel





## Special events every Saturday through October 14 at the Walpole Heritage Museum

**Needlepoint** – September 30 at 12:30 PM – Join Tricia Houstoun and Maggi Suttles to stitch your own canvas, featuring the Walpole Historical Society emblem. We welcome beginning and experienced stitchers. Reservations required. Please email ([newsletter@walpolehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:newsletter@walpolehistoricalsociety.com)) or call (603-756-3449) for information and to reserve. The cost of the kit, including all stitching supplies, is \$50.

**All You Need to Know about the Nineteenth Century as Seen through a Teapot** – October 7 at 12:30 PM – Christopher Sink discusses how everyday objects reveal the complexities of that century as readily as any textbook.

**Walking Tour of Walpole** – October 14 at 10:15 am – meet at the museum's sign at 32 Main Street to take an architectural tour of town with Walpole author Bill Ranauro

Come visit the museum at 32 Main Street for a special presentation, a closer look at our surprisingly varied collections, and an opportunity for an engaging discussion every Saturday we are open. The Walpole Historical Society is open on Saturdays through October 14, from noon until 4 pm, as well as by appointment. Visit us at [walpolehistory.com](http://walpolehistory.com).

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# From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

## Great Pumpkin

Me and Elwud sitting around a blazing fire in the fire pit, sippin' some grade A shine on a chilly October evenin' like we quite often do.

When Elwud asks me if'n I read the Peanuts cartoon. "Yes, I do!" I replied. "I'specially like the one where Charlie Brown goes and sits in the pumpkin patch watching for the Great Pumpkin," says Elwud. Then after a few more sips adds, "Do ya suppose there really is a Great Pumpkin?" After a few long sips, I reply, "There's only one way to find out."

"I know where there is a pumpkin patch we could go and sit," says Elwud.

After a few more sip each, we manage to get up and head for the truck.

"Think we should grab a couple of tarps as ground is apt ta be damp," says Elwud. So we do and head up the road. Elwud knows where he's goin' and soon pulls into a turn off and says we is here. We walk back 'bout half a mile, down a bank and out into the middle of a huge pumpkin patch, spread one tarp and use the other to cover us up. 'Bout an hour later and half a jug of shine, we saw a bunch of blue and red flashin' lights up on the highway, but no Great Pumpkin. "Must be a bad accident," says Elwud. But suddenly big spotlights are shinin' down into the field. "Everyone must be looking for the Great Pumpkin," I says. "Let's cover with this tarp and lay low."

In a few minutes someone kicks my side of the tarp and says, "Okay you pumpkin thieves, the jig is up. Come out from under there with your hands up!" Which we did and said, "We aint stealing any pumpkins, we just waitin' to see the Great Pumpkin!"

To which the kicker yells, "Hey Joe, they aren't pumpkin thieves, it a couple of drunks waiting to see the Great Pumpkin." You could hear the laughter for miles.

"Wel, I we got you for trespassing at least," says the kicker.

They let us call Velma to come get us. It was a silent ride home, well almost.

'Bout half way there Elwud says, "I betcha that darn Great Pumpkin showed up after we left."

Velma slammed on the brakes and looked at Elwud and said, "Another word out of either of you and you can walk the rest of the way home."

She also added that I was not allowed to visit again for at least two weeks, like this was all my fault.

So ended the Great Pumpkin hunt. Now we know how Charlie Brown felt.



## FROM THE CLARION...

**A sampling of what we've reported in more than 12 years of publication:**

**One Year Ago (October 2022)** - About twenty-five people were in attendance on September 20 (2022), at the Infrastructure Improvement Project's Informational Meeting at the Town Hall. Topics covered in the almost hour-long meeting were: Roads, Dams & Bridges; Walpole Community Power; and, New Police Facilities for Walpole.

**Three Years Ago (October 2020)** - COVID - As Fall Begins...200,000 and Counting - Voters received instructions outside Town Hall regarding the unfamiliar precautions they would encounter inside - including the use of folders to hold individual ballots before feeding them into the tallying machine.

**Five Years Ago (October 2018)** - On October 27, the Walpole Village School was transformed once again for the seventh annual Spooktacula event. Spooktacula has become a tradition of Halloween fun that kids count down the days to Halloween. It's the perfect event, mixing spooktacular delight with the backdrop of our beautiful village.

**Seven Years Ago (October 2016)** - Five years ago this month the CLARION first appeared in Walpole mailboxes. We're happy to point out that we're still here.

**Nine Years Ago (October 2014)** - Many in town remember when Chuck Bingaman began the Walpolean (Walpole's Online News Source ) several years ago, and nearly 200 friends and neighbors continue to enjoy the benefits of subscription to online Walpole news. Lil DeCoste took over administration of the site when the Bingamans moved west.

**Eleven Years Ago (October 2012)** - An Open Letter from the Walpole Police Department - Dear Community, This is the first of a monthly letter designed for the Walpole Police Department to stay in touch with the citizens in this great community. Our department has an open-door policy to the public regarding communication with the Chief of Police. The community is encouraged to contact me with any questions or concerns. ... Respectfully, Chief Michael J. Paquette II (now retired).

1991-2021

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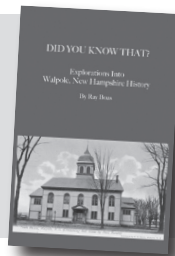
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# MILESTONES



## Born

James Randall McDougale

August 23, 2023

7lbs 14oz

To Jacob & Samantha McDougale  
of Walpole

Grandparents:

Toni McDougale & Kim Lewis  
of Walpole

Jerome McDougale of Walpole  
Jim Phillips of Clermont, Florida  
Rhonda Phillips of  
Port St. Lucie, Florida



## Born

Owen Finn McNamara

September 19, 2023

8 lbs. 4 oz.

To Emily & Jason McNamara  
of Claremont NH

Grandparents:

Vincent & Carol Malnati  
of Walpole

Patrick & Mary McNamara  
of Plainfield NH



## Passed

Peter Johnson

May 19, 1955 - September 17, 2023

## The WALPOLE Clarion

published monthly for the Walpole community.

Ray Boas, Publisher

PO Box 757

Walpole, NH 03608

603-756-4545

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

Submit ads, articles & photographs to:

rayboas@comcast.net

November deadline: October 22

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing

Jan Kobeski: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line:

thewalpoleclarion.com

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER

It feels like fall - in some places it  
looks like fall with leaves changing  
or already on the ground. Surely that  
is all related to our heavy rains and  
weather changes.

Looking towards Halloween, I  
have my collections out, and new  
collections in progress. I discovered  
plastic "Blow Molds" and having fun  
finding some. Holding back tempta-  
tion. There are some real fanatics on  
several Facebook Groups of "Blow  
Molds" collectors. Fun to see what  
they find, but there is a limit. I enjoy  
learning, collecting items, and shar-  
ing. I should go back to stamps - they  
take less room.

Compared to previous years, we  
have only sixteen pages again this  
month. Activities may not be im-  
pacted directly by COVID now as in  
years past, but there are fewer and  
fewer town events. Hopefully this  
will change. I am aware of some  
groups trying to reinstitute some  
past events, and the River Valley  
Seniors at Home (RVSAH) organiza-  
tion is developing an informational  
series that will help not only seniors,  
but folks of all ages. Do follow their  
announcements and try to attend  
their sessions.

Finally, take note on page eleven  
of the SOUTHERN VERMONT  
FLANNEL FESTIVAL across the river  
on October 14 and 15, sponsored by  
the Great Falls Regional Chamber of  
Commerce. Although there is a river  
between us, we are one wonderful  
community.

- Ray Boas, Publisher

## Advanced Directives:

What They Are, Why You Need Them  
and How to Get Them

Walpole Town Library Community Room

Friday, October 20, 4:30 - 6:00 PM



Lucy McVitty Weber, our NH State Representative and  
former Vermont Elder Law attorney, will be presenting  
an information session on 'Advanced Directives'.

This presentation is not just for seniors but for anyone  
who wants to be sure their wishes are known  
in times of emergency or end of life.

Lucy will be handing out information packets,  
which include actual forms that can be filled out.

If you need a ride, call 603-756-4861 so you can join us!

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*Old Fashion Town Picnic on the Common, hosted by Walpole area churches Sunday, September 24, was held inside Fellowship Hall at the Walpole Congregational Church due to inclement weather.*

PHOTO: JAN KOBESKI