

Happy Holidays from All of Us at the Clarion

Live Nativity 2023

Following a long time Walpole tradition, the Christmas Eve Live Nativity is set to take place on the Walpole Common on Sunday, December 24th at 6:30 pm, following the church services in town.

All are welcome to share in this lovely tradition of the portrayal of the birth of Jesus in an outdoor setting with community members, farm animals and traditional carols.

Hot cocoa and social time will follow in the Town Hall. Come in to warm up and visit with neighbors and friends of our wonderful community!

We are looking for volunteers young and old, who would like to be wisemen, shepherds, or angels.

If you would like to participate in this year's Live Nativity or help in any way, please contact Kelly Patch kaptcg1444@gmail.com, or Crystal Phillips crystalphillips088@gmail.com.

- Crystal Phillips



Welcoming the Christ Child on the Common 2019 PHOTO: RAY BOAS

Annual Good Friends Campaign

The Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) and the Monadnock Broadcasting Group/KNE-FM are once again teaming up with Douglas Cuddle Toys to raise money to benefit a local nonprofit - Feeding Tiny Tummies. The campaign began November 17.

Throughout the holiday season, SBW branches will serve as point-of-sale locations, selling stuffed animals generously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys for \$10 each. Feeding Tiny Tummies receives 100 percent of the sale proceeds and uses the funds to help the community and those in need. This year's warm and fuzzy fundraising ambassadors include

Continued on Page 2

From Peggy's Desk

November is a month of holidays beginning with All Saints Day, Veterans' Day, and Thanksgiving to name a few. It is also a month of diminishing sunlight as we switch to Standard Time. Some years, November reaches fever pitch with a National Election. This year we have had wide swings in temperatures, rain, and snow showers.

Walpole was alive with activity this third weekend of November. Two Christmas Fairs - Mistletoe Mart at the First Congregational Church and the Holiday Fair at St. John's Episcopal Church and a Farmer's Market on the Town Common, sponsored by the Walpole Coop. The sun was shining, the crowds were happy, the atmosphere

Continued on Page 2

A WALPOLE CHRISTMAS EVE

Church Services

St. John's - 5:00
Congregational - 5:30
Unitarian - 5:00
Elm City Church - 5:00

Live Nativity
On the Common - 6:30
followed by hot cocoa and
social time in the Town Hall

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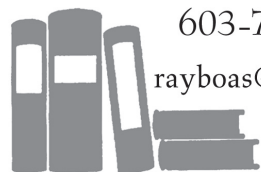
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Continued from Page 1, Peggy

friendly, and welcoming.

Thanksgiving Day the annual Fall Mountain Turkey Trot will bring another happy crowd to the Town Common. A great way for exercise before the turkey and trimmings! The weekend then brings us the The 20th Annual Walpole Artisans Tour. How can we say nothing ever happens in Walpole?

The Walpole Elementary School sponsored a Gratitude Luncheon this past week. The students and staff, led by Principal Justin Cassarino, invited the Selectboard, the Library staff, Central Office staff and the Recycling and Highway staff to share their Thanksgiving lunch. We were entertained with live music by trumpeters and shared a delicious lunch. A real treat to be with our future leaders, full of enthusiasm and energy!

The Electric Charging Stations in the new parking lot which was a Brownfield are now functioning. There are four chargers - two on a pole on the north side of the lot. The fee is \$1.50 an hour, payable with a credit card. The company is Blink Charging. Richard Kreissle, Director of Finance for the Town of Walpole, will oversee the usage of the stations which were purchased and installed by the Walpole Foundation.

I hope by the time you read this we have our tax rate from the state.

We are waiting for Fall Mtn. to finish their paperwork. This is the time of year when the municipal cash flow is lowest and the Selectboard ulcer potential is highest. When your tax bill does arrive sometime in December, please, pay your tax bill as soon as possible.

We all look forward from a day of thanks to a healthy, more peaceful, safe closing to 2023 and a joyful opening of 2024.

- Peggy Pschirrer



Continued from Page 1, Good Friends

Joli the Husky, Brach the Brachiosaurus, Riona the Rainbow Unicorn and Silky the White Tiger Cub.

"The Good Friends campaign is an annual event that all of us at SBW look forward to each year because it highlights the good work we can do for our community when we come together," says Danielle Ruffo, VP of Community Engagement for Savings Bank of Walpole. "Raising money for a local non-profit like Feeding Tiny Tummies is important because the proceeds enable them to provide food and a number of related resources that help children and families in our community. Of course, the campaign wouldn't be possible without the generous donation of stuffed animals and all the effort of everyone at Douglas Cuddle Toys, as well as the partnership of KNE-FM and the Monadnock Broadcasting Group."

Stop by the Walpole branches, purchase your Douglas Cuddle Toy and help Feeding Tiny Tummies.



Piano Favorites at Alyson's Orchard

Sunday December 10, 3PM

Mendelssohn
Schubert
Beethoven
Schumann

Book online:
ashuelotconcerts.org



Drying Out the Rail Trail

Just weeks ago, walkers and cyclists had to slog through muck and huge puddles to traverse portions of the Cheshire Rail Trail in Walpole. A Town-sponsored project completed in early November has dramatically improved trail conditions at the five locations that had previously been the wettest. Water now flows within restored drainage ditches and through newly cleared culverts rather than over the rail trail surface. Crushed stone fill raised and firmed up the trail surface north of the veterinary hospital and near the rock cut south of River Road. As many users, including fifteen hikers on the 11/19 guided hike, have discovered, a trip on the rail trail is now much drier and more fun.

The rail trail drainage project was funded by a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant awarded to the Town of Walpole, and matching funds provided by the Conservation Commission from the Fanny Mason Fund. Lew Shelley of SnowHawk LLC, the project's contractor,

did a great job digging ditches and applying fill. Nine volunteers--Joey Andros, Jim Baucom, Pam Baucom, Becky Brown, Caryn Corcoran, Stan Hutchings, Maureen Jenkins, Don Sellarole, and Sharyn Tullar--and the two of us spent over 80 hours clearing culverts and raking the trail.

Trains on the Cheshire Branch of the B & M Railroad once carried passengers and freight through western Walpole. In 1972, the Cheshire Branch was abandoned. In 1995, the NH Department of Transportation purchased the railroad right-of-way and converted it into a multi-use trail administered by the NH Bureau of Trails (BOT).

For maintenance and improvements, the BOT relies primarily on local organi-



Trail After

zations. For many years, the local snowmobile club, the Hooper Hill Hoppers, has maintained the rail trail in Walpole for winter use. Since 2021, the Walpole Trail Committee and Conservation Commission have made efforts to improve the rail trail for year-round use. These efforts have included the summer brush hogging program and the recent RTP drainage project.

Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians are welcome on the Cheshire Rail Trail, as are Class 1 and 2 ebikes. Under NH BOT rules, all other motorized vehicles are prohibited, except snowmobiles in winter. Winter users can also include cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

For 7+ scenic miles in Walpole, the Cheshire Rail Trail offers trail users views of forests, farmlands, historic railroad features, and the Connecticut River. For the ambitious, the Cheshire Rail Trail continues southward through Keene to Fitzwilliam.

Please use and enjoy the Cheshire Rail Trail in Walpole throughout the year.

– Wendy and Will Grossman



Trail Before

Women of Walpole

The Women of Walpole will meet again for our holiday lunch on December 13 at 12:00 noon at the home of Tricia Houstoun. Members are invited to contribute to our potluck lunch with an entrée, salad, dessert or other special holiday treat. As part of our giving back mission, everyone is invited to bring an item from the holiday wish list for the residents at the Maplewood Nursing Home.

Looking ahead, we will meet in January at the home of Jean Kobeski for an interesting program on charitable giving. Save the date and join us on January 17 at 2:00 pm. More details

in the January Clarion and member emails.

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 or 603-313-4018) or Carolyn LeBail (carolynleibail@gmail.com or 714-717-4184).

– Susan Johnson



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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 currently use Covid-safe, sealed communion elements. Worshippers on Zoom take part using their own bread and cup.

- **Bible Study** every Wednesday, on Zoom, 4-5pm, led by Pastor Richard Malmberg. Zoom link on our website.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols - 5:30 PM

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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/>
Christmas Eve - 5:00 PM

.....

Walpole Unitarian
Sunday, 10 AM
Christmas Eve - 5:00 PM
<https://walpoleuuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian>

.....

Walpole Church Plant
Christmas Eve - 5:00 PM

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For more information, visit the church websites.

Walpole Church Plant

You're invited to join the Walpole Church Plant, a brand new faith community, for a very special Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm gathering at 38 Elm Street. Join us for Classic Carols, Candle Lighting, a Hope-Filled Message, and more. Childcare available up to age five. elmcitychurch.com/church-planting

– Justin Barney, Associate Pastor

WALPOLE SOCIETY

FOR BRINGING TO JUSTICE

HORSE THIEVES AND PILFERERS

ORGANIZED IN 1816. INCORPORATED 1835.

2024 Annual Meeting

Chas Street, president of the Walpole "Horse Thieves", has announced that the 2024 annual meeting will be held Saturday, January 20 at 7:00 pm in the Walpole Town Hall. The Walpole Horse Thieves will be starting our 209th year, and 2024 will be our 189th annual meeting.

For our new residents in town, the "Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Clothes Lines and Hen Roosts" – or "Horse Thieves" – was organized in 1816. At that time, "Horse Thieves" societies sprang up

in many places. They were needed because horses were valuable and therefore a target of thieves, because sheriff departments were less robust (or nonexistent) and because most horse thieves promptly fled town. Against all odds, the Walpole organization has survived these many years and is now probably the second oldest surviving Horse Thieves society in the country ... and probably the world!

At our annual meeting, the Horse Thieves will receive reports from the 2023 officers and elect new officers for 2024. We encourage all members to attend and to be on time for the meeting ... one annual meeting lasted only nine minutes! Our biennial banquet was this past September, so there's no banquet in 2024, which usually means a shorter annual meeting.

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

– Lewis LaClair, Clerk

Walpole Unitarian Church Holiday Food Sale

We look forward to seeing you on December 9 between 9 and 11:15 AM in front of the Walpole Post office when we host our holiday food sale. We will have our popular boxed holiday cookies ready for gift giving. There will also be holiday breads and desserts, along with savory items such as quiches, cas-

seroles, lasagnas, etc. These items will be ready to take home and serve, or kept in the freezer until later. All of our offerings are homemade and there are always unexpected surprises that arrive at our table the day of the sale! Come early to get the best choices.

– Wendy Harty

The Walpole Foundation

The Walpole Foundation has had a busy year once again, including launching its first website (www.thewalpolefoundation.org). It features the properties and current projects. It also includes useful information about the Walpole Foundation.

The electric vehicle charging stations that are in the new town parking lot are now operational through Blink Charging. This is a great addition to the town.

Planning has begun for the Walpole Village School property. The Walpole Village School is working hard designing the best floor plan that fits their needs.

We look forward to what next year holds, and wish everyone a happy holiday season.

– Bert Wiemers

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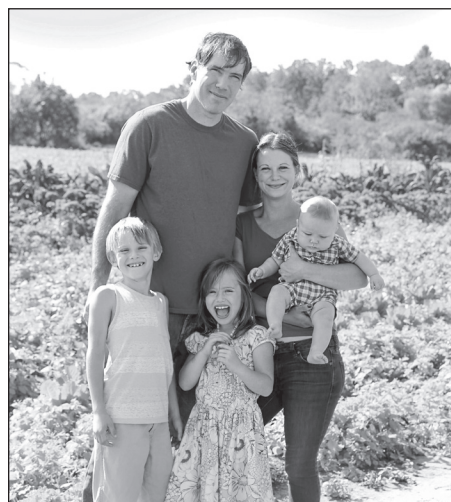
Pete's Stand Farmland Conserved

The Monadnock Conservancy has finalized the purchase of a conservation easement covering 7.3 acres of farmland in Walpole, NH. This land is actively farmed by the owners of Pete's Stand, a local farmstand that has been in business in Walpole for three generations.



With the purchase of this conservation easement – a legal agreement that forever restricts the use of this land to farming and undeveloped open space – the Conservancy is working to protect the region's access to locally grown food. Near the banks of the Connecticut River, all of the 7.3 acres are ideal for growing vegetables and are among the most fertile soil types in the entire country. Although the Route 12 corridor in Walpole contains many acres of productive farmland, commercial development has taken away much of this land. The Monadnock Conservancy is proud that this property can remain farmland for generations to come.

John and Teresa Janiszyn own and operate Pete's Stand, which was started by John's grandfather. They grow a variety of vegetables on the property and others nearby using sustainable farming techniques. This parcel will be the first and currently only farm field that the Janiszyns own outright, a big step for ensuring the viability of their historic and beloved local business. By purchasing this conservation easement, the Conservancy helped John and Teresa buy the land.



John and Teresa Janiszyn and children.

"Local farms provide so much to this region, and I am always pleased when we can keep farmland in the hands of farmers. As a Walpole resident myself, I am especially happy that our organization is helping Pete's Stand continue to thrive, especially in light of the extreme weather and flooding that impacted so many farms this summer."

– Ryan Owens,
Executive Director, The Monadnock Conservancy



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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.

- **Tech Talk** - Monday, December 11 at 2 pm. Main Library. Join Jon MacClaren and other Walpole neighbors at the Main Library on December 11 at 2 pm, for a "Tech Talk". We will work together to answer questions you have to better use your smartphone, tablet, or laptop. No experience needed.
- **Celebrate the Solstice** - Thursday, December 14 at 4 pm. Main Library. Come make a seasonal orange pomander to fill your home with fragrance. All supplies provided. Older children/teens welcome.
- **Light Up the Dark** - A seasonal celebration of the approaching solstice. Join us at the Main Library on Saturday morning December 2 from 10-11AM as we make lanterns and learn about how cultures around the world celebrate light during the darkest days of the year. Then return to the library at 4PM as the sun starts to set, joining friends and neighbors as we light our lanterns, walk, and sing to celebrate the season and light up the dark. Light refreshments to follow. No registration required.
- **Code Club** - Signups start December 4. For kids in grades 2-5. The Winter Session of Code Club will run from the week of January 2 through the week of May 24. Sessions will be: Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm, North Walpole Branch; Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15 pm, Main Library; Fridays, 3:15-4:15 pm, Main Library. All sessions are for both beginner and advanced. Space is limited so be sure to secure your place quickly. Call the library at 603.756.9806 or email Julie at jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org to sign up.

Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Zoning Board - November 15 - Application for a Variance: Walpole Foundation, 75 Westminster St. - the Walpole Foundation had purchased the Walpole Village School and property. The first stage will be to build a new school. The second phase is to build housing for the elderly. ... Ms. Peggy Pschirrer said communities for senior housing and preschools have been happening all over the country because the combination of these two age groups have been shown to get along very well with one another. A public hearing will be held in December.

Planning Board - November 14 - DUNKIN - "Since Dunkin has no new information from NHDOT, it was decided to wait to return to a public hearing next month."

Application for Site Plan: Alyson's Orchard: "Adam Naeck will be in with an application for an addition to the farm store and six glamping sites." A public hearing will be held in December.

HCS Offers Walk-in Hours at Keene Office

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) welcomes residents of Walpole to "Walk-in Wednesday." Come to Walk-in Wednesday for a confidential, free of charge discussion of services that are available for your family. From Healthy Starts to Hospice care, HCS has services for all ages.

Walk-in Wednesdays will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the HCS Keene office, located at 312 Marlboro Street. The next Walk-in Wednesday is scheduled for December 6. Those who are not able to stop by are encouraged to call 603-352-2253 for information any time.

As the local home care agency, HCS visiting nurses, physical and occupational therapists and home health aides provide the care that people need to recover in the comfort and safety of their own home. In addition, the organization provides hospice care to those at the end of life and bereavement support to family members. HCS is a not-for-profit organization, and is Medicare certified and licensed by the state of New Hampshire.

SCROOGED UP!

It's that time of year again. Community theatres are performing beloved yuletide productions and scheduling Christmas carol singalongs. Not to be left out, the Walpole Players will be offering their own stage production on Friday and Saturday nights, December 15 and 16. Doors open at 6:30 pm with curtain at 7:00 pm. You'll be able to climb into bed (or visit your favorite watering hole) by 8:30.

This year's holiday fundraiser is "Scrooged Up!" - a hilarious send-up of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in which a very small community theatre wants to put on the classic play but has way too few actors to fill all the roles. The overly optimistic director triple- and quadruple-casts the parts, with the cast filling in as costumers, techies, and stagehands. It all culminates in a calamitous dress rehearsal filled with mayhem and havoc.

The talented cast, directed by Jenny Plante, includes such hometown comedic favorites as Jeff Miller, Becky Pearson, Tom Durnford, Caitlyn Coleman, Mike Delaney, Deb Robarge, Chuck Lessard, Carolyn Norback, Melissa Whittaker, Judy Epstein, and Rebecca Robison.

As before, the fundraiser is a bring-your-own-dinner theatre. Table settings, ambience, and entertainment are all supplied, and you bring your own snacks, food, and beverages. Tables seat 6 and tickets are \$15 per person or \$90 for the table. Reservations are confirmed with payment only - no holds. Tickets may be purchased at Mascoma Bank, or a check may be mailed to The Walpole Players, PO Box 951. All proceeds go to The Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop-In Center. If you already have other plans, donations are always welcome!

Come join us for a great evening of fun and laughter!

- Barbara Kasper

Business Note

To our wonderful customers at Spencers Place, Beau and I have sold the restaurant to a wonderful couple, Demar and Alexis Pettyjohn. We wanted to take this time to thank you all for your support over the past 5 1/2 years. The Pettyjohns want to keep everything the same, including our wonderful staff.

Thank you for making Spencers such a great success and a fun place to hang out. Now that we are empty nesters, we want to have time to travel and explore the next chapter of our lives.

Please welcome the Pettyjohns and show them what a great community we have.

- The Donovans' post on Facebook



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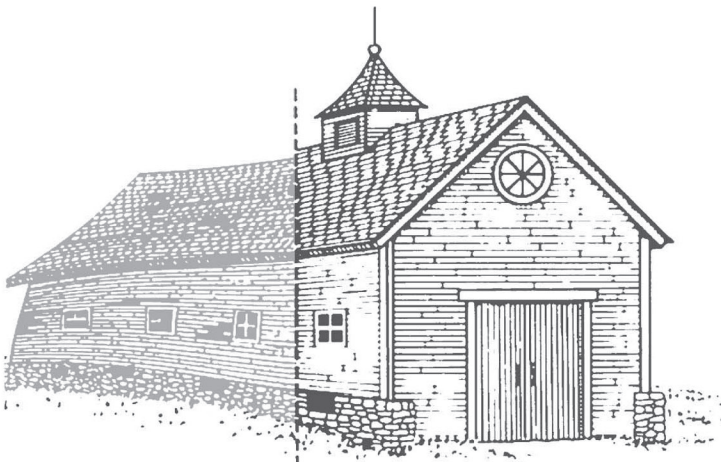
Wishing you and yours peace, joy and hope this holiday.

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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...WPIX-TV in New York City

premiered a six-minute full-color loop of a Yule Log burning in a fireplace on December 24, 1966? This brought a crackling fire into apartments in the city otherwise deprived of real blazing fireplaces. The origin and tradition of



WPIX Broadcast December 24, 1966

burning a Yule Log goes back centuries, varies, can be confusing, and has changed over time.

In old English the word "yule" describes a festival that occurred in December and January. Traditions with Yule Logs also have roots in Scandinavian pagan rituals. In those areas "yule" derived from "rol", a wheel indicating the changing of seasons. Northern Europeans, like the Vikings before them, celebrated the Festival of Yule in honor of the winter solstice - that changing point in seasons. Families would head off into the woods in search of a hardy oak tree. Returning with a large log, they would burn it to show respect to various gods in celebration of life and prosperity. The

largest end of the log would be placed into the fireplace. The remaining tree trunk extended out into the room and fed into the fireplace as needed. The log would be lit from the remains of the previous year's log and burned through the Twelve Days of Christmas. With modern heating systems, this custom waned, along with it the superstitions and beliefs that differed from region to region.

Developing from the real log tradition, the Bûche de Noël (Christmas or Yule Log), became a popular Christmas dessert in France and other countries. It consists of chocolate roll, with fillings, and is designed to look like a tree trunk. It's believed that the dessert was

created in response to French families who didn't have a fireplace for a real Yule Log in their homes but wanted to share in the holiday tradition.



1872 Drawing Illustrating the Christmas Eve ceremony of bringing home the Yule Log.



Yule Log made by eighth grader, Ray Boas, in 1959

Besides the tasty Yule Log deserts, the mention of Yule Log will remind many of decorated birch logs holding candles. When an eighth grader, in 1959, I rode my bike one afternoon, to visit my nearest friend, almost a mile away. He was sawing birch logs. "What are you doing?" I asked. "Making Yule Logs to sell, but I'm not sure how," Roger replied. Well, this young entrepreneur (me) had the solution, we would make samples and go door to door taking orders. I made a trailer for my bicycle, mounting old buggy wheels on a wooden crate, we packed samples, and off we rode days later. Knocking on doors, I asked, "Do you want to buy a Yule Log, Lady?" We charged 50 cents for a decorated log with one hole for a candle, \$1 for two holes, and it may have been \$2 for three holes since it was a larger log, even though the trees were free. Believe we included the candles at that price, but memory does fade after six decades. I do not recall how many we sold, but pictured here is the one I kept for myself, now 64 years later.

Would you like to imagine and bring burning Yule Log warmth into your home? Years ago, I purchased a VHS burning fire tape for Cathy, but now YouTube has many options. The original 1966 production, with music, may be found on YouTube, as well as many other great productions such as "Burning Fireplace 4k and Crackling Fire Sounds." On Netflix is Fireplace for Your Home, and the originator has a fan website - theyulelog.com — ENJOY - Merry Christmas.

FLORENTINE FILMS

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This year, for one day only, I will teach "Wreath Making and Natural Creations", Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Hooper Institute. I'll have materials to make 10 classic evergreen wreaths which require pre- registration with payment (\$30). All fir boughs, winterberry, and grapevine ring wreath materials are provided. Natural Creations (\$5) is

a make and take seasonal offering for kids of all ages. Drop in for these crafts anytime. They will include a pinecone bird with cedar wings; a crazy, colorful gnome with a felt tunic, plus a traditional woodland gnome in a forest garden. Join us for this special day.

As winter approaches, I am moved to ask that each of you consider an end of year gift in support of our camps, school programs, special events, garden programs, flower CSA, high school work program, scholarships for university and college students and more. This year we granted \$14,000 in scholarships. Community volunteers and donations are at the very heart of our mission along with the legacy of George Levi Hooper. Together, this income ensures our future. Thank you for your consideration.

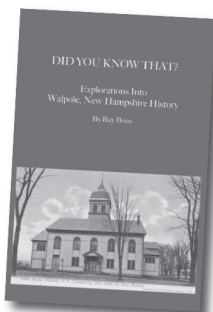
Lastly, here are a few heartwarming messages of encouragement that I received recently: "The Community Garden is our very favorite thing about Walpole" 1st year garden member, October 2023 — "Some of the Hooper lessons that I loved this year were the Mill Pond trip, the listening tour for crows and ravens; the turtle, bobcat and lynx lessons; the raptors and the bear unit and so much more. My Hooper teacher is kind, respectful and just awesome" 5th grader, June 2023 — "Thank you all for being a force of good, awareness and hope." Donor, November 2023

Thank you, dear friends and neighbors, for supporting the Hooper Institute.

– Helen Dalbeck



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walpoleoutdoors.org

Walpole now has a separate website devoted to all things outdoors -walpole-outdoors.org - You will see descriptions of the Walpole Conservation Commission and Trail Committee roles, maps, trail information, current projects, and events we would like you to join.

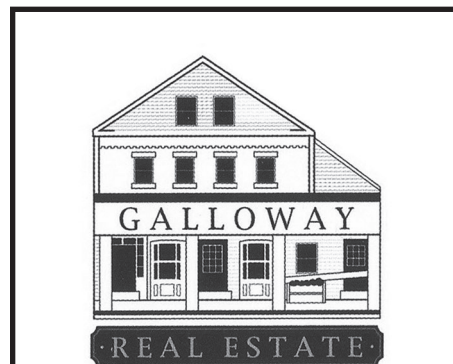
The site is in its infancy. We hope for your participation in its development; in particular, seasonal photos of activities you've enjoyed. Please identify the content of your photos, and let us know if you would prefer not to have a photo credit with the caption.

We do welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please email blissides@yahoo.com to send your photos and ideas.

– France Menk



Walpole Gateway



Your friends at a
Galloway Real Estate
wish you a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

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"The constellation Lepus is visible through the winter months as it transits the southern night sky beneath the feet of the unmistakable Orion, the Hunter. Lepus is being eternally pursued by Orion's hunting dog, Canis Major. *Lepus americana* is similarly pursued by earthly hunters intent on capturing it, the snowshoe hare.

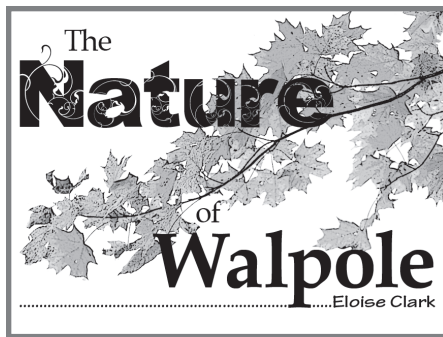
The snowshoe hare is in the *Lagomorpha* order that includes the Eastern and New England Cottontail rabbits. They are unusual among gnawing animals with two pairs of upper incisors, as well as one pair on the lower jaw. This dentition allows them to slice a branch or a briar at a telltale 45 degree cut. Deer by contrast, have no upper teeth. When deer browse branches, the twigs look shredded. They lack the neat snip of the hares and rabbits.

There are differences between hares and rabbits. Hares are the larger Lagomorphs, a couple inches longer than rabbits and a third again as heavy. Hares are more specialized as running and leaping animals. The hare has longer gestational periods, thus their young are born with fur and their eyes open. This is unlike the more helpless rabbits, who are born naked with eyes closed. Both are famous for their fecundity. They average three or more litters of young during the breeding season, each litter can have a half dozen babies.

When an animal is a highly sought after prey animal, lots and lots of babies are an advantage. Lagomorph young are especially vulnerable to snakes, foxes, owls, hawks, weasels, bobcats, dogs



Snowshoe Hares



and cats. Cold, rainy weather when the babies are young can also take a toll. Only one in three young survive to adulthood.

Both hares and rabbits are not helpless against this onslaught. Their gray-brown pelage is superb camouflage, especially during the day when they stay hidden in brushy areas such as briar patches, dense fields or the tops of fallen trees. They also favor the brush piles we create. If frightened, strong hind legs quickly propel the animal. As they flee, they run in a zig-zag pattern to foil the attacker.

Anyone who has cared for domestic rabbits also knows what sharp claws they have. They can really scratch and sometimes bite!

During the growing season, Lagomorphs will eat legumes such as clover, fresh grass, herbs, berry canes and fallen fruit. They love the delicacies of my garden! When this succulent vegetation disappears with the growing season, both hares and rabbits switch to a woody diet of twigs, buds and bark from thin-skinned trees such as aspen. They will also munch on the low-hanging greenery of spruce and hemlock.

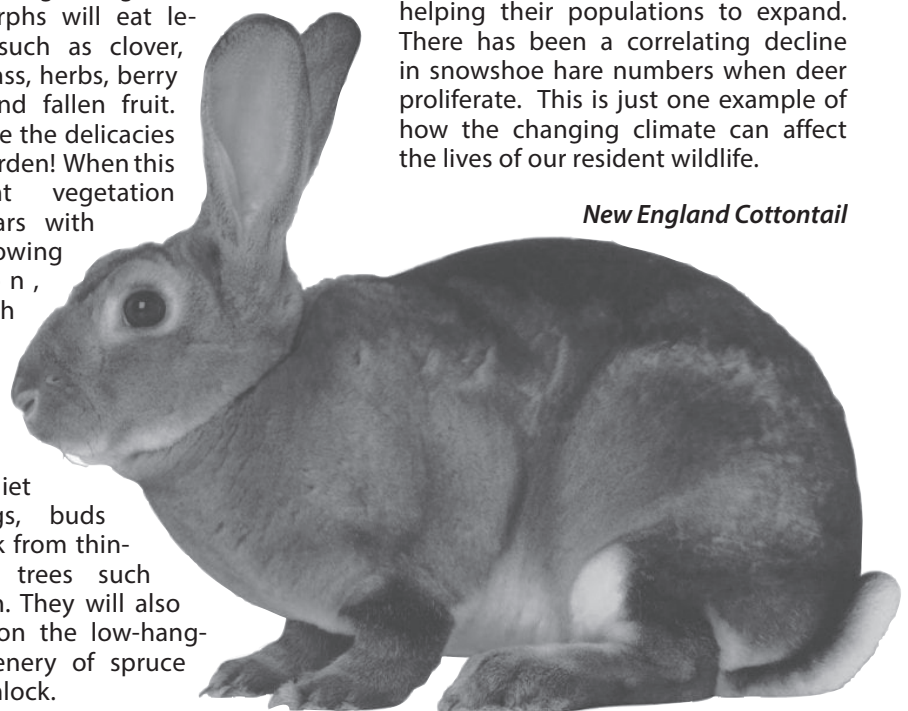
Snowshoe hare are also called the varying hare because they molt into a white pelage in late fall. White fur against white snow should keep them camouflaged from predators in winter. This thick dense fur adds an inch or more of fur to their large hind feet, creating a kind of snowshoe that allows the animal to float across deep snow where other animals struggle. By contrast, another herbivore, the white-tailed deer, with its long slender legs and small hooves, sinks in soft, deep snow.

New England seems to be heading into an era of browner winters with little snow. Little or no snow reduces the camouflage cover for the snowshoe hare, making it more vulnerable to predation. Another problem for the hares



Snowshoe Hare

is competition with the white-tailed deer. Deer scour the forest floor for buds and twigs, leaving neither food nor cover for the hares. With little snow on the ground deer can move freely, helping their populations to expand. There has been a correlating decline in snowshoe hare numbers when deer proliferate. This is just one example of how the changing climate can affect the lives of our resident wildlife.



New England Cottontail

In response to emails requesting ice cream for the holiday season,...

the Parlor will open on Fridays to allow customers to pick up their favorite flavors.

The scoop cabinets are shut down for the winter but pints, half-gallons, and tubs will be available for \$6, \$17, and \$82, respectively.



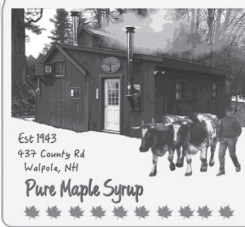
Come in anytime between 10:00AM and 6:00PM to fill your freezer...

or email ahead to orders@walpolecreamery.com to place an order for pick-up.

Checks, cash, or Venmo are all acceptable as the POS system is also shut down for the winter.

Season's Greetings!

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CHESHIRE KIDS

by Erik Doescher

MY WEATHER APP SAYS THERE IS A 22 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW OVERNIGHT!

AND A 78 PERCENT CHANCE OF ME BEING EVEN MORE GRUMPY ON THE SCHOOL BUS TOMORROW MORNING..



DOESCHER



Halloween Bake-off at Walpole Elementary School

On Halloween there was a Halloween baking competition at school. It was put together by 7th grader Ila Sivret. The competition began last year. The concept is simple: Students from the school bake something and it is tested and judged by teachers.

The categories of the things you can bake are scary, seasonal, plain, and Halloween-themed. There is a range of allergies the bakers must avoid such as gluten free items, peaches, peanuts, and oats.

There were four categories within the scoring categories: cupcakes, pie, cake (an impressive brain cake was a star of the competition), and cookies. "Our students' desserts are being judged on presentation, taste, and texture," said organizer Ila. "They were" very good," said Mrs. Sherrod.

"Ila made me sign up," confessed Mrs. Fleet. Mr. LeBail had trouble understanding the complicated judging rules but the other staff got him to figure it out. One of Ila's plans for the timing of the competition was to fill the teachers with the sweets to slow them down for the zombie run. Mrs. Ronning said that one cake was like a wedding cake!

The winners of the bake off included 7th grader Juliana Bowman (cookies), classmates Amelia Richardson and Rylee Clark (cakes), 8th grader Natalee Carcio (cupcakes), and 7th grader Bridget Collins (pies).

– Connor Heddon (7th grade)

Walpole Fall Festival

The Walpole Parent Teacher Group sponsored a Fall Festival this year as a way to raise funds and bring the community together for a fun time. At the festival this year there were a lot of fun activities to do. My personal favorite one was the dunk tank, which included Mr. Cassarino and Mr. LeBail in the tank. After that I had some delicious food from the food truck parked outside. In the gym there were some fun carnival games including the strength test, fishing ducks and relay races! Also there were some beach balls that you could play with. Another activity you could do is get your face painted by Mrs. Fleet. In the cafeteria you could buy some sugared donuts. I had one and it was really good. Overall I had a really fun time at the Fall Festival. I hope they do it again next year.

– Seamus Cahill (6th grade)



Zombies Mrs. Parrott and Mrs. Fleet going after students' flags. Photo Provided

The ZOMBIE RUN

Something that everyone at Walpole Elementary School, from grades 5-8, enjoys is the zombie run. It's an activity for the students that we've been doing for the last several years on the early release day of Halloween. They have a lot of fun in the zombie run. We run around the school grounds, avoiding the teachers as we go. The teachers pretend to be zombies and they try to take the flags or strings that students wear, like in flag football. Strings or flags are required to participate in the run. If you lose both of your strings, you're out.

Mrs. B-T helped set up the event for all of us. "My favorite part of it was getting my flags taken by Mr. Gagnon," said Seamus Cahill, a 6th grader. "Zombie" Mr. Gagnon was down at the town pool, asking for a handshake. The handshake was for a "Truce". Kayden Dodds (Also a 6th grader), fell for this trick. He lost one of his strings. It was a fun event to enjoy and celebrate the half day of Halloween.

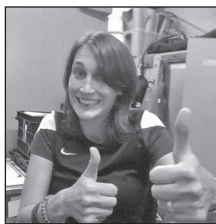
– Kayden Dodds and Sawyer Dumont (6th grade)

Introducing: Mrs. B-T The P.E. Teacher

Our First Meeting

The first time we saw Mrs. Baird-Torney, the Physical Education teacher at Walpole, was on a day in 2nd Grade. We were introduced to her from the old P.E teacher, Mrs. McDougall. We were all excited for a new P.E teacher. Through the first year, we did lots of fun activities, including dodgeball, Sharks and Minnows, and much more. We've all had so much fun together, but this was only the beginning of the fun.

In 3rd and 4th grade, we got to games that were more complex. Those games included Advanced Dodgeball, Battleship, and even MORE. We got to do para-



chutes more often, and the parachutes were HUGE. We were doing Basketball, Football, and Soccer. Eventually, the 4th grade year was over, and 5th grade was next.

Mrs. BT is a great teacher. I can't wait to see what activities and events we will do in the future. We've had a great time doing P.E. Thanks to Mrs. BT for letting us do these amazing and fun activities.

– Kayden Dodds and Sawyer Dumont (6th grade)

WES 8th Graders Make Annual Trip to Gaines Farm for Scary Corn Maze

On October 27th the 8th grade went to Gaines Farm in Vermont to celebrate Halloween. The people who also came to the field trip were Mr. Gagnon, Mr. Cassarino, Ms. Nicolaus, and Mrs. DeSorcie. The 8th graders left around 5:30 in the evening and the field trip lasted from 7:00 to 9:00.

They were given tokens so they could go in the maze but if they lost theirs they wouldn't be able to do the corn maze. Once they got in, the actors were ready to scare the 8th graders. The scariest part of the corn maze were probably the actors with chainsaws and the clowns. There was also a wolf man, Michael Myers, Chucky, and a plague doctor with blood on his mask.

Some of the actors popped out of the corn and there were screams of terror. The 8th grade went into fog but some fog looked like water. There were flashing lights that were hurting the eyes of the 8th graders. The corn maze was fun but scary at the same time, and now here are some quotes from the 8th graders who went to the scary corn maze at Gaines farm:

"I killed my throat by singing multiple Korn songs on the field trip," said Lyza Andrade. "I ran into the corn but I wasn't scared. My friend dragged me and made me trip into the corn. I got a big bruise after that."

"I ran into a wall," added Emma Gascoyne.

"I was shaking in my boots," said Rowan Aube.

"It was a combination of funniness and scariness," said Taylor Latham. "The fear I felt, especially when the chainsaw nearly struck my shoe!"

— Kassidy Doescher (8th grade)

Interview with Coach of the Year George Tsitsonis

By Artemis Lakin and Elias Tsitsonis

We recently sat down with Fall Mountain Girls Varsity soccer coach, George Tsitsonis and asked for a season recap of his team. The Wildcats finished 10-6-2, narrowly going down to eventual champions, St. Thomas, 3-2 in the quarter-finals. Tsitsonis won the NHIAA Division III Coach of the Year award and four of his players earned All-State recognition.

Do you enjoy coaching? -- Yes, I enjoy coaching immensely. It is one of the most fulfilling things I've ever done. It's exciting being able to work with kids and then see their progress as time goes on and they start to learn a lot about themselves and have confidence in other areas of their lives.

How has your team improved this season? -- The team has improved in a number of ways, namely their speed of play. Their individual skills are stronger and our teamwork on offense and defense has become so much better. These girls have also grown in their courage. They don't fear any teams as they now believe they can compete against anyone. For me, that's a huge step as they try to reach their potential.

How impressed are you with your team's progress this season? -- I'm very impressed with the strides the girls have made this year. I'm not surprised though. I've seen the amount of effort they have put forth and they have earned everything they have received; such as securing Fall Mountain Girls soccer's first playoff win in 6 seasons.

How does it feel winning Coach of the Year? -- It feels nice to be recognized by your fellow coaches and I'm very appreciative, but in reality, this award fully belongs to the team. It's a reflection of the progress they've made.

Do you plan on coaching again next season? -- I hope to stay on as coach and continue working with these amazing kids. We have a unique gift this season where we lost no players because we had no seniors. We were one of only three teams of 78 in the entire state to have no seniors.

Do you expect to progress further next year? Will you win it all? -- I believe that our girls are ready to work harder than ever. If they keep pushing themselves then I'm confident that next season can be our best yet. Winning the State title would be amazing, however only one team out of 21 gets to be champion. We don't know if that will be us, but we plan on working harder than anyone to try and make it happen.

Best of luck to you and your team for the 2024 season.

Walpole Celebrates Gratitude with Annual Feast

On Thursday, November 17th, Walpole Elementary School celebrated with both the community and one another with a feast in the school's Hubbard Gymnasium. The feast included traditional Thanksgiving foods that were served by the staff of Walpole Elementary Schools before they joined the community members and students.

Walpole specifically invited the Central Office staff, town selectmen, the Walpole Highway Department, the Walpole Recycling Department, and Walpole Library staff. The school's goal is to invite different members of the Walpole community each year as a way to say thanks for all that they do.



"Our students are nearing the age to understand how the community helps our town operate and provide opportunities for our students that otherwise wouldn't be possible," said Walpole Principal Mr. Cassarino. "The town of Walpole is very supportive of our schools and what better way to say thank you than by coming together for a great meal and learning more about each other."

Staff members understand the importance of building community within the school and connecting it to the larger Walpole family.

The students I spoke to thought it was great. "I was very thankful that the school put it together," said 6th grader Seamus Cahill.

"Teachers did a good job putting it together this year," said Colby Beckwith.

"It tasted good," added London Swain.

"The feast was pretty good, the cranberry sauce, and mashed potatoes were very good. My favorite thing was lemonade," said Gaby Carbone.

I personally thought that the feast was great and we are thankful for the teachers, lunch staff, and Mr. Cassarino who put this together.

— Corbin Beam (6th grade) and Jake Gagnon

Winter Concerts

Walpole Elementary
School Gymnasium
6 PM

December 12 - Walpole Primary School
December 13 - North Walpole School
December 14 - Walpole Elementary School

Crop Walk Wrap-Up

Crop Walk, an annual community effort held in Walpole for well over 20 years, happened again October 21, and was a big success. Despite some very wet weather on Walk day, 22 people walked the 3 mile route around the village and raised about \$12,200. One quarter of that money (over \$3,000) goes to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. The remainder is used to transform communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster.

A thank you to everyone who walked, raised money by asking friends and family to support this important cause, and to all those who donated so generously to CROP Walk. Our Walpole CROP Walk is small compared to some others around the country, but we are mighty. This success would not be possible without the generous financial support from many individuals and businesses in the Walpole community.

– The Walpole CROP Walk Organizing Committee
Marilyn Wilking, Wendy Harty, Kat Graves,
Ellie Shaw, Eryn and Jana Sellarole

Library Sale Wrap-Up

The Friends of the Library would like to extend its thanks to the Walpole community for its generous support at the October book sale. About \$6300 was raised, plus another \$1800 at our ongoing book sale at the Walpole Reuse Center, where you can still find an extensive variety of quality books. All proceeds from our book sales are used to support our library.

Months of planning and preparation go into the book sale. Many people join in this effort, but we would like to especially thank the following: Tedd and Christine Benson for the use of their “chicken coop” building, many dedicated book sorters, Kate Northcott and the Fall Mountain Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams for their strong backs and arms that helped the set up day go so smoothly, Tim Graves for the use of his flatbed truck, Paul Happ, Ben Hoy and the staff at the Reuse Center, Pinnacleview Equipment’s Steven Cory, and our gracious hosts at Walpole School, especially Principal Justin Cassarino, and Brian, the custodian.

– Jana Sellarole



FROM THE CLARION...

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

One Year Ago (December 2022) - A Legacy of Philanthropy - At the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northern New England Chapter's recent National Philanthropy Day celebration, John A. Hubbard and The Hubbard Family were bestowed the honor of the National Philanthropy Day, 2022 Outstanding Philanthropists award.

Three Years Ago (December 2020) - Today, in this time of COVID, I would like to give a big holiday thank you to everyone who serves voluntarily on our incredible EMS Responders force. On top of the countless hours of training and practicing, when we make that distress call, EMT is at our side in minutes, day or night. – Eric Merklein

Five Years Ago (December 2018) - Well Underway - The response to the Walker Road Conservation project at the Gateway to Walpole has been extremely positive. Donations towards the land's conservation, in such a short period of time, are impressive. As of this writing, just after Thanksgiving Day, over \$223,000 towards the goal of \$280,000 have been received.

Seven Years Ago (December 2016) - Herb Hurlburt, Walpole resident, master electrician and pillar of the Walpole Fire Department, passed on November 8 at home and after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). On November 12 more than 300 family, friends and first responders gathered at the Walpole Fire Station to honor Herb and his memory.

Nine Years Ago (December 2014) - End of an Era: Murray's Closes - The Walpole family restaurant, with the shamrock on its wooden sign, will serve its last lunch at the end of December. Originally dubbed The Gathering Place when it first opened its doors in 1980, Murray's became Murray's two years later and has been a Walpole fixture ever since.

Eleven Years Ago (December 2012) - Did you know that the first known printed Christmas cards date from 1843 in England, and the early 1850s in the United States?



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MILESTONES

Passed

Maurice "Mo" Andre
July 1948 - November 13, 2023

Concert of Piano Favorites at Alyson's Orchard

On Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 pm, at Alyson's Orchard, British Concert Pianist Nicholas Burns will perform a program of solo piano favorites by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Beethoven and Chopin on a beautiful 1964 Concert Steinway that was completely re-built in 2019. Burns has recorded four critically-acclaimed albums for Nimbus and Lyrita, and has performed throughout the UK, Europe, Canada, USA and China.

"This is our sixth event at Alyson's Orchard," says Ashuelot Concerts Program and Artistic Director Louisa Stonehill. "It is the perfect venue for chamber music: A beautiful hilltop setting, friendly staff, comfortable seating and a warm acoustic. This concert will be very special, with some of the most moving pieces ever written for the piano featuring on the program." "The Great Composers often saved their most profound thoughts for chamber music," says Nicholas Burns. "Each of the four pieces on this program are so thoughtful, expressive and evocative. It will be a real treat to share them with the audience in Walpole."



Ashuelot Concerts is a small nonprofit that aims to make a big impact in this community through live classical music experiences. Alongside a series of 17 concerts featuring internationally renowned performers, Ashuelot Concerts visits many of the area's public schools to perform and talk to over 5000 children each year. Tickets are \$30 and available to book in advance on Ashuelot Concerts' website - ashuelotconcerts.org - Young adults aged 18-30 can attend for just \$10, and children are welcome to attend for free.

Bellows Falls Shop Local



The Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA) announces Shop Local 2023. Support our local businesses by spending your dollars "Downtown" and receive stamps for purchases. Collect a full card of stamps, which equals \$100, and submit the card for a chance to win one of over 50 prizes generously donated by our Bellows Falls, Grafton, Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Westminster businesses. Last year, there was over \$475,000 spent locally from November to December.

Why shop local? For every \$1 you spend, 67 cents stays here, in our towns. Remember, our business owners are the folks that keep our community vibrant and open for business. They are the ones who donate to your children's sports teams, fundraisers and volunteer their time. Think about who you want to support before you do your holiday shopping this year.

Special for Shop Local season: Walk the Rock through December 31, and collect 15 signatures from the 26 businesses on the Walk the Rock passport to win a \$10 gift certificate of your choice from the participating businesses. #walktherock to collect stickers on the trails! Collect all 5 and submit a photo to bfdda1@gmail.com for your free stainless-steel water bottle.

Please join us in December for Fun Friday Nights with events throughout the holiday season, and mark your calendars for Saturday, December 9 for the Bellows Falls Parade of Lights 2023. Visit Bellows Falls Downtown FB for the latest news, and for a list of all participating businesses, or visit www.bellowsfallsvt.org.

- Betsy Thurston

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published monthly for the Walpole community.

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rayboas@comcast.net
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Tara Sad: Copy-Editing
Howard Printing, Inc. - Layout & Design

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PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Another year coming to a close? Give me a break, 2023 just started. You know I enjoy writing and sharing, but you may not know I keep extensive written notes of what I wish to accomplish. I have not even come close this year to accomplishing what I had planned in both travels, writings, and organizing my life and collections. In careful contemplation, it is the changes in our lives, exacerbated by COVID, that have impacted us all. Travel, and activity planning, has become harder, at least for me, an initial member of the "Baby Boom" generation.

CHANGE. I am not good with change, are you? I like to talk to a live B&B owner, ticket seller, or shopkeeper. I guess not talking to someone works for younger "iPhone app savvy" people, but not being able to make a booking with a "real person" just goes against my sense of security. Well, I will just have to "accept and adjust" to these changes - a key phrase guiding me since May 13, 2008.

Twelve years now bringing the **Clarion** to you, but also with changes. Not as many activities to share, again change following COVID, with not as much going on. Content has recently kept us to sixteen pages. But it remains a pleasure to report "Town News". Friends and I constantly pinch ourselves to remember we are alive and living in one of the most wonderful communities and areas. Hopefully things will remain so, without much more change. HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

- Ray Boas, Publisher

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