



## Wishing a Happy New Year

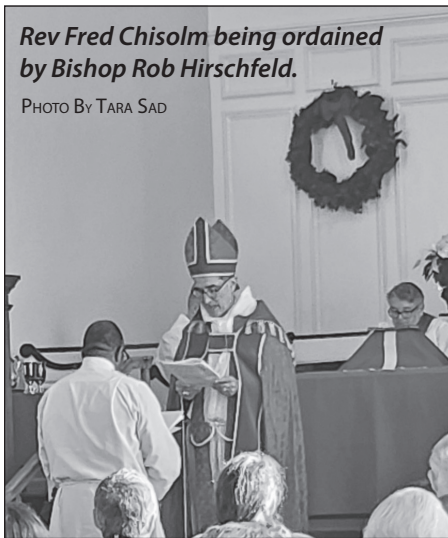
### An Ordination is Celebrated

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, two hundred people gathered in the United Congregational Church (UCC) to celebrate the ordination of Frederick Lamont Chisolm to the full priesthood.

Rev. Fred has served since June 2023 as the diaconate priest at St. John's Episcopal Church, and in December was eligible to be consecrated by the Bishop of New Hampshire, The Right Rev. Rob Hirschfeld, to the full priesthood.

**Rev Fred Chisolm being ordained by Bishop Rob Hirschfeld.**

PHOTO BY TARA SAD



The ceremony was held at the UCC to accommodate the large gathering. It was a very special event in the life of a priest and the greater church. It was commemorated by a large number of clergy from throughout NH who processed in their red vestments, and by a mixed choir of 20 people from St. John's, the UCC, as well as churches in Claremont, Hanover, and Littleton. In addition to people from the local St. John's, UCC, and Unitarian

churches, attendees came from churches in Claremont, Hanover, Charlestown, and Littleton. Family and friends came from near and far to bear witness, as well as the 28 people observing over Zoom.

The ceremony was followed by a festive luncheon in the Fellowship Hall of the UCC. The community of St. John's is extremely grateful to the folks at the UCC (clergy, staff, parishioners) for their very generous hospitality and assistance. Photos of and a recording of the full ceremony will be available (if it not already there!) on our website ([www.stjohnswalpole.org](http://www.stjohnswalpole.org)). All are welcome to attend our Sunday service at 10:00 am.

- Marilyn Wilking



### NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION JANUARY 23, 2024

Polls open 7 am to 7 pm  
at  
Walpole and North Walpole  
Polling Locations

Sample Ballots  
(Democrat and Republican)  
may be found on  
the *Clarion* website

### From Peggy's Desk

Happy New Year to everyone! At year end, we often read recaps of the year, so I want to review Walpole's 2023. We will all remember 2023 as the year of rain, and as the year that wiped out fruit crops with a freeze in May. It is pouring outside while I write. And a power flicker tells me to hurry up or I will be shut down.

Walpole's membership in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire became a reality with lower electrical rates starting in June. (Yes, Liberty has acknowledged I still live at 11 Old North Main)

Work on Middle Street, delayed for multiple reasons, was completed and repaved. The Brownfield project, started in 2019, has resulted in a new park-

Continued on Page 2

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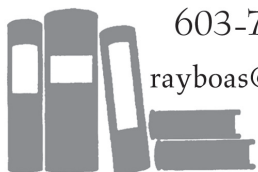
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Continued from Page 1, Peggy

ing lot with four EV stations contributed by the Walpole Foundation; as well as large, paved patio which served nearby residents well as they smoked a turkey on that patio for Thanksgiving. A fence along the east side of the new parking lot will be installed soon. The Gazebo on the common got a new roof.

Every year on Halloween, the Walpole school children parade from the school to the Common where the Town Hall Staff, Sarah and Jodi, join businesses' staff to distribute stickers and candy to each student. What a polite group of children we have – each goblin or princess or witch or superman said thank you. A credit to parents and teachers alike.

Walpole has been enriched by new-

## Planning Board Sagas

The monthly Planning Board meeting December 12 experienced continued discussion of two projects; the new Dunkin, now approaching three years of discussion; and Alyson's Orchard coming up on a year of incomplete applications and information as required, and requested by the Board. About 25 residents were in attendance, along with Dunkin's presentation team; and Adam Naeck, new owner of Alyson's Orchard. The meeting continued discussion and concerns of the Board previously made concerning traffic flow around Dunkin's proposed site on Route 12 and Upper Walpole Road, as well as flow on the site itself.

For the Dunkin site, a new traffic report is still due from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). It could still be three months before it is completed. Board Chairman Jeff Miller is quoted in the evening's minutes, "He didn't think it was a good place to have another driveway cut on Route 12. He was convinced it was a place where there was a serious traffic accident waiting to happen. In good conscious he was

comers who have joined us this year; some are in retirement mode, and some have young children whose voices blend as we look to the future.

As 2023 closes, be aware that January and February will bring several public meetings to discuss the 2024 budget to be presented for approval at Town Meeting in March. The Police Committee has hired Michael Petrovick, Architects to design a new police station. The Power Committee proposes a solar array on the new building at the Recycling Center and the Hooper Institute Board looks forward to renovating the Institute for year-round use.

We close one year with a sigh while we open the new year with high expectations.

against the project, he said." Select Board Representative Steve Dalessio reiterated the need for NHDOT's safety report, and the need for final water, sewer and fire department approvals. "A vote was taken on approval of the site plan with the condition that the traffic pattern be approved by NHDOT. The vote was five yes votes and two no votes. Mr. Marcom, Mr. Perron, Mr. Harrington, Mr. MacLachlan and Ms. Andros voted yes. Mr. Miller and Mr. Dalessio voted no."

Next on the evening's agenda, Adam Naeck, owner of Alyson's Orchard, proposed an addition to the farm store and seven clamping sites. Several sites were constructed earlier this year without site plan review and building permits. Asked to present plans, Mr. Naeck has not appeared before the board on several occasions as requested. A proper site plan should include lighting, parking and landscaping proposals. Asked if he could have all of these ready for the January board, Mr. Naeck said he was focusing on the orchard, and will postpone to a later date.

– Ray Boas

## 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

January 3. 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.



## Six Understudies, Deflating Beds, and an Amber Alert — Oh MY!

Struggling against nearly insurmountable odds, the Walpole Players last weekend kept the tradition of quality theater alive and managed to pull off another hilarious show while also raising much needed funds for our local food banks. Due to illness and injuries a week before the performance, the surviving cast members worked with multiple stand-ins to fill the expanding vacuum, including 3 Tiny Tims, 3 Phyllises, 2 Scrooges, and 2 Claudias (the lead of the show!).

The relief generated by successfully inveigling a teenager to play the lead role hours before the curtain was short-lived. The unscripted mayhem didn't stop there. Although the show was written as and intended to be a comedy of errors showing how things can go awry during a dress rehearsal,

including such gags as missing props, chairs caught in chains, and noisy scene changes, the cast of "Scrooged Up!" was caught off guard with a few surprise moments.

As Scrooge was lying in his four-poster bed with an inflatable mattress, the audience and cast watched his feet rise up higher and higher as his head slowly disappeared out of view. Suddenly, two people from backstage ran on to pull him out of the deflated, sunken mess! Later, multiple cell-phones backstage and throughout the audience went off all at once, causing confusion and chaos which prompted the cast to ad lib over the alarms until the statewide Amber Alert notification ended. In the future our MC will change "Silence Your Cell Phones" to "Cell Phones in Airplane Mode!"

Despite all the obstacles, the cast and audiences of the two sold-out shows had a hilariously wonderful evening of dinner, caroling, and neighborly camaraderie. Of all the evening's surprises, the best was learning that this year's Holiday Event raised over \$3000 to divide between Our Place Drop-In Center and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Many thanks to Kinter and Rich Lennon who generously donated \$1000 in memory of Kinter's mother, Marla McKenzie, who passed away in November.

May your holiday memories this season be lacking in mayhem, but full of much love and laughter!

— Jenny Plante and Barbara Kasper  
The Walpole Players

### *The Cratchit Family*

PHOTO PROVIDED



## Women of Walpole

The Women of Walpole were busy during the Christmas season in Walpole. WOW hung wreathes on the doors of Town Hall and the Library. The group also contributed Christmas gifts to the Giving Tree project. A huge thank you also goes to everyone for donating the wonderful Christmas gifts for the residents of the Maplewood Nursing Home. Our cars were overflowing with packages to deliver.

Many thanks go to Tricia Houstoun for hosting our December holiday lunch. The setting was festive, and everyone's contribution made for a gourmet lunch.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be held on January 17 at 2:00 pm at the office of Traditions Real Estate at 73 Main Street

in Walpole. Jessica Fuller of Edward Jones will be presenting a program on charitable giving strategies. Members should look to their emails for further details on this interesting program.

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

## Town Elections

Filing period  
January 24 - February 2, 2024

Positions on Ballot  
Number of Positions  
Term of Office



Selectman - 1 - Three years

Moderator - 1 - Two years

Town Clerk - 1 - Three years

Supervisor of Checklist - 1  
Six years

Trustee of Trust Funds - 1  
Three years

Planning Board - 2 - Three years

Zoning Board - 2 - Three years

Zoning Board - 1 - One year

Cemetery Trustee - 1  
Three years

Library Trustees - 3 - Three years

### File at Town Clerk's Office

Monday 7-12 & 1-6 PM

Tuesday 9-12 & 1-7:30 PM

Wednesday 9-12 & 1-5 PM

Thursday 8-12 & 1-4:30 PM

Friday Feb 2 - 3-5 PM



# 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.

- **Bible Study** resumes January 10, on Zoom every Wednesday afternoon, 4-5:00 pm led by Pastor Richard Malmberg.

- **Monthly** community potluck suppers will resume January 13. All are welcome. 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/>

.....

Walpole Unitarian

Sunday, 10 AM

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

.....

For more information, visit the church websites.

# WALPOLE SOCIETY

FOR BRINGING TO JUSTICE

## HORSE THIEVES AND PILFERERS

ORGANIZED IN 1816. INCORPORATED 1835.

### 2024 Annual Meeting

The "Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Clothes Lines and Hen Roosts" - or "Horse Thieves" - will hold their 2024 annual meeting 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. The major activity at this year's annual meeting will be the election of officers. Typically, the Horse Thieves officers and committee serve for two consecutive one-year terms. There is occasional turnover in the middle of that two-year cycle, but most turnover happens at the annual meeting after our biennial banquet, which is the case this year. If you are a member of the Horse Thieves and would like to serve, please contact Steve Dalessio at the Town

Hall or David Westover. These two gentlemen are the nominating committee for our 2024 annual meeting, and they'd love to hear from you.

In addition to electing new officers and committee the annual meeting will receive reports from the 2023 officers. We will also hand out 2023 posters to members who did not receive them earlier. We encourage all members to attend and to be on time for the meeting ... one annual meeting lasted only 9 minutes! Our biennial banquet was this past September, so there's no banquet in 2024, which usually means a shorter annual meeting.

For our new residents in town, the "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!

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

### Keep Up on Walpole Happenings

Visit The Walpolean

<https://thewalpolean.org/>

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## First Congregational Church of Walpole, United Church of Christ



Has an opening for a musician to provide piano and organ accompaniment for Sunday services and occasional choir leadership. \$150 per Sunday.

Please send an email of interest to [walpolechurch@yahoo.com](mailto:walpolechurch@yahoo.com)

## Walpole Church Plant

invites you to join us at 38 Elm St.



### Meet & Greet

Join us on **Sunday, January 7th at 5pm** for a chance to meet our team, others who are new, hear more about the new church, and ask any questions you may have. Use the QR code to register!



### Sunday Preview Service

Join us on **Sunday, January 28th at 10am** for our first Sunday morning service! Get an idea of what the Walpole Church Plant will be like.

email us at: [walpolechurchplant@gmail.com](mailto:walpolechurchplant@gmail.com)



## Walpole 1890

Cindy Westover discovered an ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS OF WALPOLE, NH, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1890, among her mother's, Peggy Graves, papers. A fascinating look back at a time when no one worried about privacy rights.

The Selectmen reported the valuation of real estate of \$1,033,806, cows numbered 842 and there were 8,477 sheep among other livestock. Taxes included a county tax of \$2,698.72 and the support of schools \$3,500. Taxes on dogs amounted to \$211 dollars.

Town Paupers were listed by the names of individual supporters and the money spent for the paupers which totaled \$680.25. A list of County paupers was also included with a cost of \$473.86.

Breaking roads, building, and repairing bridges and putting up railings, stone culverts and general repairs on roads and highways were listed by laborers and their wages or expenses and took up five pages of the Town Report. Police were identified by name and wages. Several men earned \$4.00 for special duty around July 3 and 4. Sheep killed by dogs result-

ed in a fine to the dog's owner - Charles E. Watkins was fined \$28.

North Walpole was a Village Precinct with a Fire Precinct and schools, all accounted for separately in the report.

Miscellaneous included an insurance policy for the town house of \$60.00 and costs for keeping tramps paid out to individuals. Henry Chandler was paid \$8 for putting up tramps and Alvin Colburn earned a dollar for setting up the stove in the lockup. Perry and Porter received \$20.96 for food for tramps.

The Town Library listed every book and magazine purchased during the year as well as every donor. The Board of Health reported an epidemic of measles in a light form and a good share of La Grippe (influenza).

Births, marriages, and deaths were reported in detail including the birthplace of the deceased and the birthplace of the newly married and infants. Ireland was the country listed most frequently with Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York.

The Annual Town Report still contains a good deal of information but in summary form. The Good 'Ole Days were just as complicated as today, as we repair roads

annually. The Board of health is a Health Officer, the Library buys hundreds of books and now has computers for information, the Village Precinct has a Board of Commissioners; we have a Welfare Officer; dogs still create fines for their owners; the sheep have disappeared and so have many of the cows.

Maybe one of our Annual Reports will amuse another generation in a hundred years.

- Peggy Pschirrer



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For more information, visit the library website -  
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or call 603-756-9806.

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

- **New Program** - starting January - 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month. Lunch and a Movie, at 1 pm. Get out of the cold, bring your friends and a brown-bag lunch, and watch a film in the library's community room.
- **Lunch and a Movie** - Thursday, January 11: *The Station Agent*. Peter Dinklage starts in this sweet comedy about a man whose life takes an unexpected turn when his boss dies and wills him a railroad depot in New Jersey, leading him to relocate to a small town.
- **Lunch and a Movie** - Thursday, January 25: *American Symphony*. Musician Jon Batiste sets out to compose a symphony. Then his life partner, author Suleika Jaouad, learns that her cancer is back. This documentary is a portrait of two artists at a crossroads and a meditation on art, love, and the creative process.
- **Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia** - Thursday, February 1, 2 PM,. Main Library - Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's; the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia; stages and risk factors; current research and treatments available for some symptoms; and Alzheimer's Association resources. Presented by Melissa Grenier, LCSW, from the New Hampshire chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

## 'Twas a MONTH After Christmas

'Twas a month after Christmas, and all through the house,  
Things just weren't the same, even the mouse moved out.

Singed stockings still hung by the chimney with care,  
Must take them down, visitors will wonder and stare.

The children were playing, toys scattered all around,  
Watch where you step, whoa! . . . fell on the ground.

Mom with the mail, holiday bills are enormous,  
Sat down to pay them, checkbook will be deformed.

Appliances are worn out, the refrig is clickin',  
The car won't start, even that needs fixin'.

Put off retirement, make trips to the food-shelf,  
Apply for fuel assistance, and even SNAP will help.

The Christmas leftovers have severely spoiled,  
Someone needs to vacuum, the rug is soiled.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
Neighbor's snow-blower hit something, the auger's in tatters.

When what do my wandering eyes should appear,  
A late package, thanks to DeJoy I fear.

With a little old postman so lively and quick,  
He threw it on the porch, like a Michael Jordon trick.

More rapid than eagles, the kids they came,  
Fought over the package, shredded it became.

Then the postman called them to the car,  
"Better help your dad, or he won't get far."

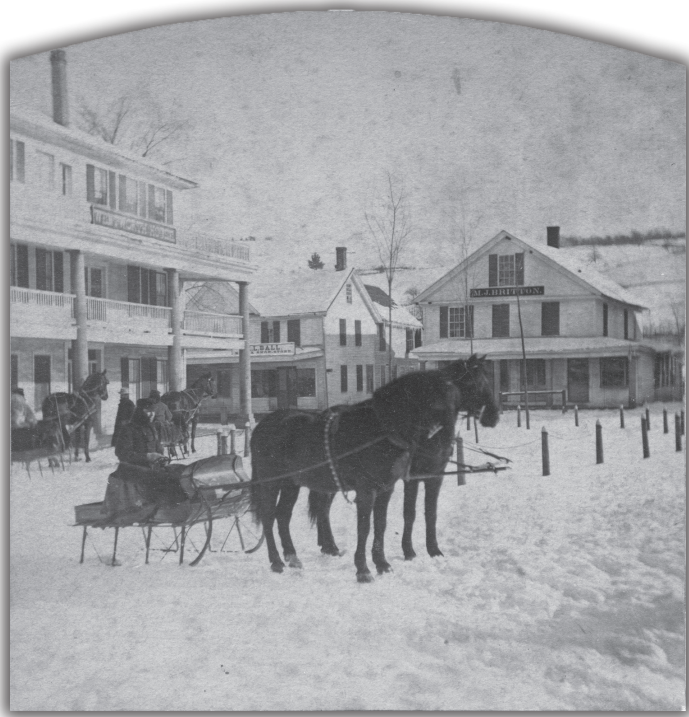
"Sorry about your ride, sir, I can't help you with that,  
But maybe I could, if you just had a flat."

The postman shouted as he drove out of sight,  
"Should've asked Santa for a new battery,  
if money is tight."

- Charles B. Wright,  
January 24, 2023







*Wintery c1870 Stereoview of the Square. Wentworth Hotel (on left - now Jakes), and to the rear, Maj. J. Britton's store (now Village Blooms and Artisan's shop). Note Jingle bells on horses.*

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## Cheers to a New Year!

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

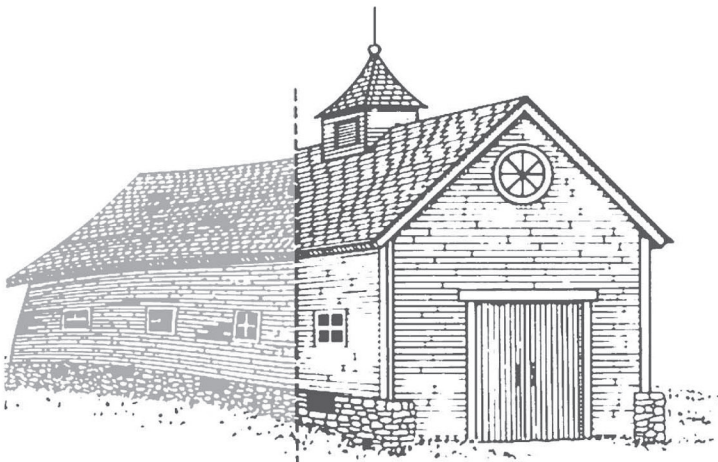


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# Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

## ...in winter,

one hundred and fifty years ago, you would have come to town for shopping in a one-horse open sleigh or a work sled? A hundred years ago and more, mud-filled dirt roads made travel difficult by horse-drawn vehicle, and later by automobile. In wintertime, snow was the obstacle for wheeled vehicles to struggle with. In the 19th century, most families had sleighs and sleds on runners to glide over the snow as their horse struggled through.

Sleds and sleighs allowed early Americans a way to travel more easily over snow-covered roads. Snow could not be removed, except by shovel. Snow rollers helped in compacting snow for easier travel by sleighs and sleds. To cross covered bridges, snow had to be shoved over the covered roadbed for the runners to glide on. With runners on sleds, winter was the ideal time for moving



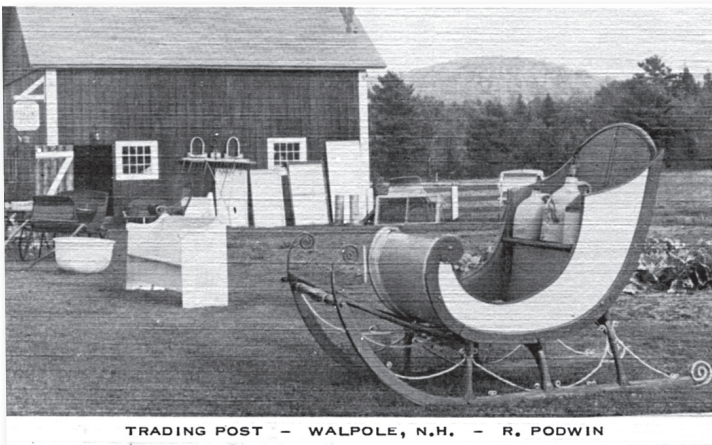
1870s Stereo View of teams outside Aldrich's Store (now Walpole Grocery).

heavy objects around the countryside, such as stones, bridges and buildings. Sleighs also provided for winter leisure enjoyment.

Sleighs have been around for centuries in many styles and sizes and were introduced around 1800 in the U.S. Becoming one of the most popular American sleighs, "Portland Cutters" had a single seat, designed for one or two passengers, with a curved dash (to reflect snow away from passengers) attached to the upward sweep of

the runners. Why "Portland"? The design is attributed to Peter Kimball, a carriage builder in Portland, Maine. Larger "bob sleighs" or "heavy" sleighs could accommodate additional passengers and cargo. In Altamont, New York, in 1895, the Altamont Carriage Works offered a line of Portland Cutters, Pleasure and Heavy Bob Sleighs. In the 1902 Sears Catalog, Portland Cutters were offered for \$16.95, \$19.90, and \$22.50. A luxurious Bob Sleigh was priced at \$46.90.

Our ancestors enjoyed their single seat "Portland Cutter" sleighs on pleasant winter moonlit rides. Travelers wrapped themselves in blankets, furs with warm bricks on the floor to help warm their bodies. Since a young couple could not go off alone to socialize and court, parties of several revelers would head off with many sleighs on group rides. At least one older married couple joined to chaperone.



Ralph T. Podwin's Trading Post on Valley Road in the 1950s with two sleighs for sale.

## FLORENTINE FILMS

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A Portland Cutter

JINGLE BELLS - the tune associated with these magical rides in the crisp air, with the constant jingle of bells. Jingle Bells was written in 1850 by James Lord

Continued on Page 9



Pierpont (uncle of financier J. P. Morgan) at Simpson Tavern in Medford, Massachusetts. Savannah, Georgia makes its claim to being the place where the song originated, however, as Pierpont was living there when



**Teams hitched on Main Street. Stones remain 150 years later.**

the tune was published in September 1857, under the title "The One Horse Open Sleigh". Some believed the tune was supposed to be a drinking song. It was decades before it became closely associated with Christmas. The romantic sound of Jingle Bells - the sound actually is meant as a warning to others out for a ride that your sleigh was approaching. Other meanings from the lyrics: "Dashing through the snow..." - moving quickly; "Bells on bobtail ring..." - horses' tails were trimmed so they would not tangle with the reins. And lesser known verses include: "And, Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side..." a young man has found a pretty lady to join him on a ride.

Jingle Bells - just the sound of those two words are hard to get out of your mind, and evoke images of peaceful winter sleigh rides.



Thank you one and all for your contributions of time and money to the Hooper Institute and Friends of Hooper Institute in 2023. Now in a new year, we are planning once again to offer a Dahlia

Day sale in May, Hooper Day Camps and Adventure Camp June into July, Woodworking in July, and throughout the summer our Flower CSA. February 10 is the date we are saving for our WINTER FUN DAY here on Prospect Hill. This year will offer a campfire to cook s'mores, lots of cardboard; duct tape and recycled items to build your own sled, and prizes for all. SAVE the date, February 10, 2024, 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

We will host another Fall Festival in September, and I promise you there will be other fun community programs in the offing. Do you wish to join the Walpole Community Garden? Are you hoping to apply for the High School Summer Work Program? Are you majoring in one of our focus areas in college and wish to learn about the Hooper Scholarship Program? If yes to any of these questions, email [hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net)

You, neighbors and friends, help to support all of our wonderful programs and scholarships, serving the youth of Walpole and our entire community, by participating in our fundraising and attending our programs. You are all the reason we can continue with this important mission. Other ways to help us in 2024 are to join our Board and become a member of Friends of Hooper Institute. The Hooper Institute is woven into the lives of Walpole residents. Join us to lift up the work we do in agriculture, environmental science, botany, forestry and soils. Teaching children to garden, to conserve, to notice the world around them, to work on local farms is at the heart of what we do every day, year-round. Join us.

— Helen Dalbeck



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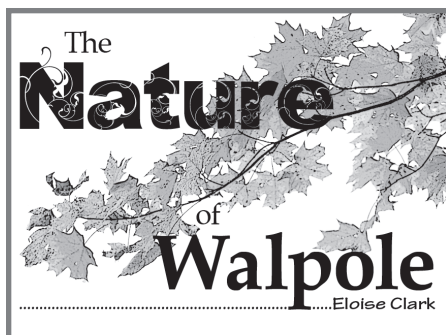
**C**laws and jaws, teeth and talons, bills that kill, everyone has to eat, right? Did you know Walpole is full of predators? Yes, these hunters lurk in field and forest, river and pond, perhaps even your home? Predators may be wholly carnivorous or more likely an omnivore, like us. They come equipped for the job and employ behaviors that lead to their success. Let's discuss some predators found here.

Binocular vision is a trait we share with many predators. Eyes peering forward from the skull enables us to have depth perception. Excellent eyesight allows eagles and hawks to spy prey and make an accurate aerial approach to capture it. Each has a different hunting style. Red-tailed hawks soar over open spaces. Sharp-shinned hawks chase prey acrobatically through the forest. Peregrine falcons are known for their speed. Owls have silent flight. All raptors are equipped with sharp talons for grasping prey and a curved beak to help them dine.

The fisher has both speed and great agility as it chases a squirrel up a tree. It captures its prey with claws, teeth and strong jaws. Sharp, curved claws secure its grip on trunk and limbs. Black bears and skunks use their claws to paw the earth as they dig for grubs and hornet nests in the soil. Canids will excavate chipmunk burrows with vigorous digging.

The least shrew also had strong jaws and teeth, with a twist. It has a venomous saliva that immobilizes its much larger prey, the white-footed mouse. Frogs are famous for using their tongues to lasso airborne prey. Their movements are quick and deft, swallowing the insect in milliseconds. We've all experienced the discomfort when a mosquito pierces our skin with its straw-like proboscis to obtain its blood meal.

Bobcats, foxes and coyotes have teeth and jaws but employ stealthy behaviors to capture their prey. They are



well camouflaged in their brown and gray coats. They patrol the countryside using their excellent senses of smell and hearing to help them detect prey. The capture requires alert patience. Perhaps you've watched your house cat wait quietly near the birdfeeder? Bobcats do the same. Red fox are famous for locating voles beneath the snow using excellent hearing, poised to pounce.

The garter snake in your stone wall uses its tongue to taste scents in the air, leading it to a meal. The moles under your lawn use whiskers and a sensitive nose to feel their way through their tunnels. When the whiskers encounter a worm or insect, the mole has found its prey. Bats have the unique ability to use echo-location, a frequency of sound not audible to us, to find their nocturnal insect snacks.

Some animals construct traps to snare prey. Ant lions create small, funnel shaped pits in dry ground. The larva lives at the base of these waiting for an ant to tumble into the trap. I t

grabs its meal with pincer like mandibles and immobilizes it with venom. Spiders create interesting and complex arrays of webs: orb, sheet and funnel styles, then wait. They also use venom to sedate their prey and silk to restrain it. Wolf spiders eschew webs and scurry on eight legs in pursuit. Jumping spiders are known for their athletic leaps to ambush prey.

Many animals hunt in groups, orca whales and wolves being two examples. Since prehistory, people have also been successful group hunters. Predators, too are part of the food web by also being prey. Even mighty apex



*Shorthead garter snake*

predators succumb to injuries, illness or starvation. They become food for scavengers and decomposers.

From the tiny shrew to the lumbering black bear, predators play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature. They prevent the overpopulation of prey animals, thus maintaining enough food and cover for those remaining. Attitudes towards predators are slowly shifting toward understanding their positive role in the ecosystem.





## Historical Society Concert

Renowned Musicians of the Old Post Road will perform in Walpole on Sunday, January 21, 2024. Presented by the Walpole Historical Society and showcasing its Bellows-Alcott 1790s pianoforte, the performance will begin at 3:00 pm in the Walpole Unitarian Church. The concert will feature three musicians, all award-winning performers on historic instruments: Sylvia Berry -- the pianoforte, Daniel Ryan -- the cello, and Suzanne Stumpf -- the flute.



Music for the program was selected to highlight the special qualities of the pianoforte in the collection of the Walpole Historical Society and to feature music of the 1790s, when the pianoforte was made.

The pianoforte has a history unique to Walpole: it was first owned by Walpole's founding Bellows family, then loaned to the family of Louisa May Alcott in the 1850s when they briefly lived in Walpole, then given to the Walpole Historical Society by a Bellows descendant. The story of the lending of a piano was later immortalized by Louisa May Alcott in her famous book *Little Women*.

Tickets for the concert are available now. Members of the Walpole Historical Society may purchase tickets for \$25



each. Non-members may purchase tickets for \$40 each. If tickets are still available at the time of the concert, they may be purchased at the door for \$40 each. Please see below for membership forms for the Walpole Historical Society. For full information concerning the concert and the Walpole Historical Society, visit [www.walpolehistory.com](http://www.walpolehistory.com).

– Christie Winmill



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### WALPOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2024 SUBSCRIPTION

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\_\_\_\_\_ (number of tickets) x \$25 = ..... \$

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Please mail this form and your check to: Walpole Historical Society, P.O. Box 292, Walpole, NH 03608  
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## Walpole Student Novelists Celebrate NaNoWriMo

Students at Walpole Elementary School have been participating in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) for the last nine years. During this month, students in grades 6-8 focus on writing their own fictional narrative story. These stories can be written in any genre that the student chooses. Throughout the unit, students work in a writer's workshop model, which includes a lesson at the start of class then time to apply those skills to their novels. There is also time to self-edit, receive peer feedback, and conference one-on-one with the teacher towards the end of the month. Stories have ranged from horror to science fiction to fantasy to historical fiction to realistic dramas with each student writing in their own unique style within

Eighth grade leaders were Willa Wise with 11,348 words and Kassidy Doescher just behind her with 11,314 words. Addie Fuller, Judah Collins, Emma Gascoyne, and Tristan Stahler all wrote over five thousand words apiece for their novels during NaNoWriMo. Other impressive performances included Lyza Andrade, Casey Elliott, Rowan Aube, Sophia Westover, and Franky Wolf.

Seventh grade leader and overall school NaNoWriMo Champion was Stella Grillone who wrote nearly 13,000 words. Classmate Artemis Lakin wrote just under 10,000 words. Elias Tsitsonis and Connor Heddon both wrote thousands of words to ensure they were their class's competition winners. Other terrific finishers included Mason Paul, Christian Hernandez, Juliana Bowman, and Joe Griffin.

Sixth grade leaders including a tight race between London Swain and Emmaline Suozzi. Emmaline finished with 8,374 words while London trailed close behind with 7,199 words. Other student word count top finishers included Kyle Moffit, who wrote 4,786 words, and Dylan O'Brien who wrapped up his story with 3,065 words. Seamus Cahill, Brendan Randall, Ethan Houghton, and Juliana Brooks all finished strong in National Novel Writing Month as well. Several students indicated that they were not finished with their novels following the conclusion of the unit. They will continue to work on their novels both in their personal time and during other writing opportunities throughout the school day.

– Jake Gagnon



## Time to Make that New Year's Resolution

A New Year's resolution is a goal that people would like to accomplish in their life and they hope to do it. Let's say someone wants to learn how to cook someday in a specific month, that's their New Year's resolution. Sometimes people meet their goal and sometimes they don't.

My New Year's resolutions are trying to canter and jump and try to get better at horseback riding and get better at drawing.

Here are some New Year's resolutions from some of the students at WES:

"Focus on mental health," said 8th grader Abby Carcio

"Do more Duolingo and learn Korean," added classmate Addie Fuller. Classmate Rose Way-Salak agreed that learning a new language was a great resolution, although Rose is practicing Japanese.

"Cut back on Dunkin's trips," classmate Franky Wolf added, while drinking a cup from Dunkin. "To get less picky," said 6th grader Luna Kirkham

The most common New Year's resolutions nationwide are to lose weight, spend time with family, eat healthier, exercise more, get more sleep, and to get organized.

– Kassidy Doescher (8th grade)

## Cabrera and Wainwright Announce Retirement from Major League Baseball

Miguel Cabrera was born in Venezuela in 1983 and Adam Wainwright was born in Georgia 1981. Each of them had an amazing career. Wainwright had 200 wins and a great ERA (Earned Run Average) 3.33 and Cabrera had 511 career home runs and the most recent triple crown winner (League leader in home runs, RBI and Batting average). Wainwright has won two gold gloves and a Cabrera and has also won a MVP (Most valuable player) he won a world series in his rookie season with the Florida Marlins. Wainwright has had 3 all star appearances, and a silver slugger in 2017. Wainwright spent his entire career with the Cardinals and Miguel Cabrera spent his time with the Marlins and later the Tigers.

The reason we give these legends and future first ballot hall of Famers is because 2023 was these players' final seasons. They were both great people on and off the field. Both of these players were the

best at their position, both Cabrera and Wainwright were legends from the mid 2000's to 2010's and were all time greats at their positions. They both could hit the ball well as Wainwright was one of the best hitting pitchers behind Madison Bumgarner and Shohei Ohtani. For these reasons the players should be honored.

– Mason Paul and Levi Putnam (7th grade)

## Ski Biking: Sport of the Future

There is a new sport emerging. It is called ski biking. It has actually been around for awhile but has been getting a bit of a revolution. New companies have gotten formed with durable and purpose built bikes. The ski bike was known as the skibob back in 1850 in the alps of Europe. The bikes were made of wood and were a practical way of transportation. Some traces of ski bike manufacturing happened into the 1900's in America but nothing much. In the 1940's an Australian manufacturer made a ski bike and they were commercialized in the 1950's. The sport continued to grow into the 70's in the European alps. Now the mountain bike community is adding their own touches like raised handlebars and full suspension. New ski bikes also have newer skis on them that resemble downhill skis. You can even make your own ski bike from a bike frame and then add skis to the bottom. It's not too hard to do and I made one a while ago.



– Connor Heddon (7th grade)

## Celebrating Mr. October

Reginald Martiniez Jackson "Mr. October" was born May 18, 1946. Even though he is an MLB HOF, his early intentions were to play football. He had an injury in football so bad they thought he would never walk again. He experienced racism as a young adult in Alabama. he could not eat, drink or stay in the same hotel as his white teammates. The Chicago Tribune described his swing as the "Most famous left-handed swing in the business." Once he hit a home run almost 650ft in the 1971 all star game at old tiger stadium. He was also an outstanding postseason hitter hence the name Mr. October. In 5 world series he had 10 home runs including 3 home runs on three pitches in the 1977 world series against the Dodgers.

– Kassidy Doescher (8th grade)





Where do our recyclables at Walpole Recycling Center end up? Somewhere out in the South Pacific in a sperm whale's belly? No. I will explain the recycling process during, and after, your recycling visit to Walpole Recycling.

Your cardboard takes a ride up the conveyor belt into the hopper of our super loud Blue Horizontal Max-Pak baler. When the bale is complete, we pound holes along the teeth of the ram to run our baling wire through. We tie the bales with the Binford 5000 accent wire tie "doo-hicky apparatus" (industry term). We open the baler door, and "poop out" (industry term), the bale onto a pallet jack by pushing the ram forward. We then wheel the bale onto the scale and record the weight (around 1,300 lbs) and material identification (cardboard=OCC (industry term)).

Our records are both on a paper worksheet near the cash register and on the bales themselves. We then wheel the cardboard bale over to the overhead

door and set the bale on two supporting planks to keep it 4" off the deck. We fire up the bobcat and carry the bale to the new storage area (which totally rocks -thank you Walpole!!) to set it in line with the other cardboard bales. So, 35 bales (45,000 lbs) is a full truckload - unless the driver tells you he won't hit any DOT checkpoints (haha).

I call the logistics coordinator, Samantha, over at Northeast Resource Recovery Association, and schedule a trucking pickup for APC paper in Claremont. Dennis, the APC truck driver, opens the barn doors to his empty trailer, backs up to our dock, and pulls the air brakes.

More often than not, we discuss the most recent embarrassing performance of the New England Patriots before loading the truck. Walpole Recycling then loads the truck, four bales per row, until the truck reaches 35 bales (45,000 lbs). Walpole Recycling provides a detailed



*Bales of cardboard in the new recycling building awaiting pickup.*

trucking manifest for APC driver Dennis. I give Dennis a "high five" (industry term) and tell him to drive safe.

Our bales are driven to Claremont, unloaded with a forklift, and recycled into... drumroll....more drumroll...PAPER BAGS!

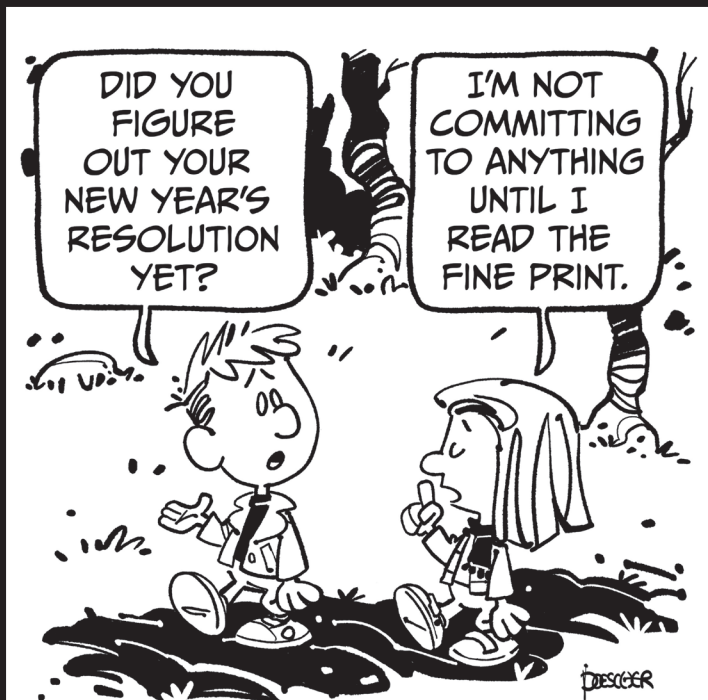
And we are currently receiving checks to the Town of Walpole for \$1,000.00 per truckload from NRRRA - Whoop whoop!

Keep recycling Walpole

- Ben Hoy/ Municipal Architect (Vandelay Industries)-Walpole Recycling

## CHESHIRE KIDS

by Erik Doescher



## Fall Mountain School Board Budget Committee Elections

Filing period  
January 24 - February 2, 2024

Positions on Ballot

**School Board:**  
Representative - At Large  
(any town)

Representative - Walpole  
Moderator

**Budget Committee:**  
Representative - At Large  
(any town)

Representative - Walpole

Interested parties must  
declare their candidacy  
during the Filing Period.

File in person with Misty Bushee  
at SAU60 Central Office  
in Langdon.

## Giving Tree Wrap-Up

Thanks to much generosity from many people, the 2023 Walpole Community Giving Tree provided a brighter holiday season for almost 30 local families and almost 100 local children.

When parents arrived to pick up their gifts, their gratitude was overwhelming; with thank yous, hugs, and even tears. Thank you to the Congregational Church of Walpole, St. John's Church, St. Peter's Church, The Hungry Diner, Spencer's Place, the Walpole Library, Mascoma Bank, and The Savings Bank of Walpole, on Westminster Street, for displaying tags and collecting gifts. The "Toys for Tots" program, based at The Savings Bank of Walpole in the Shaw's Plaza, provided many extra toys so parents could choose 2-3 more gifts for each of their children besides those they requested.

We thank everyone who sent in donations, as we personally purchased over \$700 worth of gifts for tags that were not taken, as well as for two new families who arrived late to the project but needed support. A special thanks also to the "Women of Walpole" who chose many tags and purchased many gifts.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who selected tags and purchased gifts. This project is a perfect example of small town holiday spirit.

– Jeanne Cloues and Marcia Weil  
Giving Tree Project Coordinators

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Thank you,  
RAY BOAS, *Publisher*



## FROM THE CLARION...

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

**One Year Ago (January 2022)** - The MOOver Bus - Working with the Walpole Foundation, the MOOver Bus (the cute little buses that are painted to look like cows) extended the current route that used to end at Shaw's Marketplace into the Village of Walpole.

**Three Years Ago (January 2021)** – Sandy Smith retired after thirty-eight years of service as Town Clerk / Tax Collector. Sandy began as a volunteer in the Town Clerk's office before she became an elected official.

**Five Years Ago (January 2019)** – Walpole has every reason to be proud of one of our own – Rep. Lucy Weber – who has just been named Speaker Pro Tem(pore) of the NH House of Representatives. Most significantly, Lucy is the very first Democratic Speaker Pro Tem in the state.

**Seven Years Ago (January 2017)** – Tara Sad retired from the NH House of Representatives. Tara has taken a new position as Agricultural Policy Advisor with the Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference. She will be dealing with issues relating to agriculture in the region, which includes the 11 northeastern states from Maryland to Maine, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Canadian Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

**Nine Years Ago (January 2015)** – Nine Years Ago (January 2015) – The Walpole Town Library announced the launch of its Email News Alerts service to keep subscribers up-to-date on all that's happening at the library from events, kids programs, book clubs, holiday hours, weather closures and more.

**Eleven Years Ago (January 2013)** – Eleven Years Ago (January 2013) - Almost 500 people were in the audiences 12-15 December to enjoy The Walpole Player's fifth annual production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. ... this year's audiences contributed almost \$3,700 to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place Drop In Center.

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# MILESTONES

## Passed

Jerry W. McGreer  
June 28, 1937 - November 10, 2023

Mary-lou Britton  
January 21, 1942 - November 30, 2023

Wilson L. Gallion  
December 21, 1940 - December 4, 2023

Kenneth Gunnerson  
December 18, 1932 - December 9, 2023

## Born

Charlotte Paige Leech  
November 12, 2023  
8 pounds

To Tara Galloway and Charlie Leech  
of Walpole  
Grandparents Steve and Tina Galloway  
of Walpole  
Larry and Jane Leech of Keene  
Great Grandparents William and  
Eleanor French of North Walpole



## Golfers Donate

Hooper Golf Course this year hosted two highly successful charity golf events. On Sunday, October 8, Hooper hosted the 2nd Annual Golf out Cancer event, this year to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The tees were filled with players from near and far who came to help raise funds to be donated for cancer research. The Golf out Cancer crew then hosted a delicious meal on Dean Prentiss's property next to the 7th green, complete with music provided by 3rd Rail, and a silent auction to add to the donations to Dana Farber.

On Sunday, November 19, Hooper hosted its 3rd annual Par 3 Fall Mountain Food Shelf Fundraiser. The course was filled with golfers playing each hole as a par 3. The weather was perfect and this tournament is the traditional end of the golfing season. It was an amazing season at Hooper, despite the constant rain, and the course has never looked better. Along with hundreds of pounds of donated food and non-perishables, Hooper members and guests raised over \$3,600 for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.



Dean Prentiss presents a check from Golf out Cancer to Dr. Sands of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute for \$11,363.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## 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

February deadline: January 21

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing  
Howard Printing, Inc.-Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line:  
thewalpoleclarion.com

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER

2024 - HAPPY NEW YEAR - How did that happen? My resolution for the New Year - look at my list of "to-dos" from 2023 and try again. The Shunpiking trips I had planned but did not accomplish, except from an armchair. Organizing my Walpole history archives, documenting what I have collected and learned so it will be a valued addition someday to the historical society. And then my toys and collections - need to weed things down, but they bring me pleasure and memories. The weeding probably will not happen, thus I keep reminding my boys to not toss, but take years to sort.

Did you know it was in 1957 that I first wanted to publish a newspaper? Now, 67 years later, I am in my thirteenth year of bringing you the **Clarion**. A "labor of love" and something I desire to do and provide to the wonderful community that has been so good to me. But, if you follow all aspects of the news, you will note that it is predicted that one-third of US newspapers that existed in 2005 will be gone by 2024.

A local news source, in print, is invaluable. Not everyone "lives solely on-line." That local source is needed to make people aware of what is going on, bring focus to what is happening, and entertain. Just think what would be at the end of South Street if the **Clarion** did not inform you what was happening. My pledge, and New Year Resolution to you, is to endeavor to keep the **Clarion** coming your way.

- Ray Boas, Publisher

- Josh Beer

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Musicians of the Old Post Road in a Concert  
featuring Walpole's

**Bellows-Alcott 1790s Pianoforte**

Sunday, January 21, 2024, 3pm

Walpole Unitarian Church

