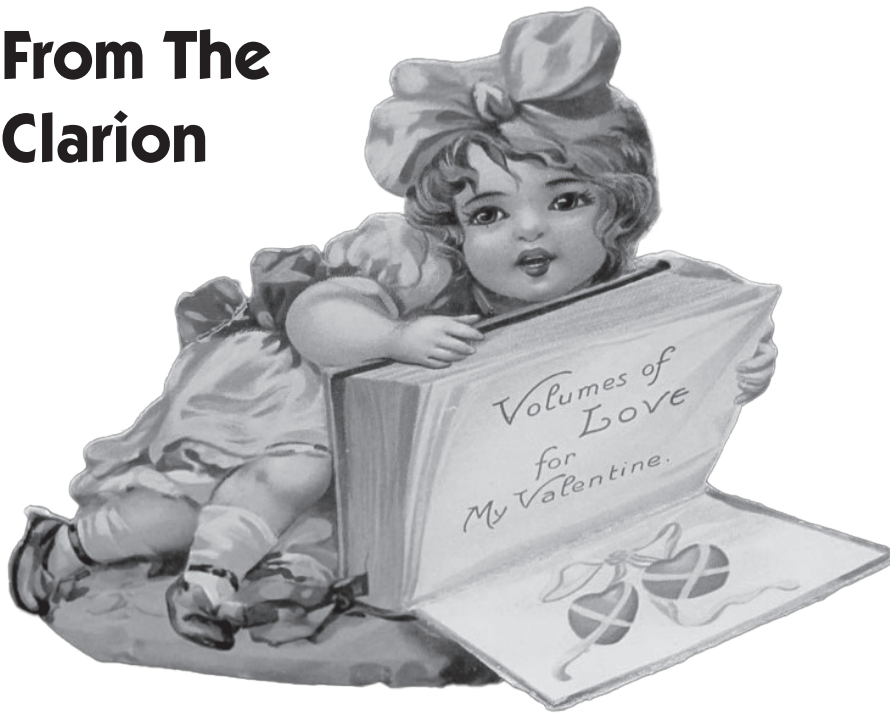




Valentine Wishes From The Clarion



Shortest Meeting in 208 Years

The Walpole "Horse Thieves" held their annual meeting Saturday, January 20, approving all reports and electing new officers in 9 minutes, which set a record for the shortest annual meeting in the current clerk's history with the group, which goes to show that this ancient organization is a mind-boggling model of efficiency.

The new President is Trevor MacLaughlan and Jeff Miller replaced him as vice president. The other officers were unchanged except that outgoing President Chas Street and long-time member Joe Fennessey were added to the Committee.

Any men who are residents of Walpole and would like to join this unbelievably efficient organization should contact LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com or 756-0001. Membership is open to men 18 or older who live in Walpole, pay a \$2 lifetime dues and sign the membership book.

— Lewis LaClair, Clerk

A Love of Books

This year, Fall Mountain High School students collected used children's books from September through December to donate to every elementary kid in the Fall Mountain school district. On February 14, high school students will visit each school to deliver the books. Along with distributing the books, the high schoolers will have the younger students take part in some fun physical activities and games. The elementary students will also be informed about three upcoming contests that they will have the opportunity to participate in.

The first and second contest asks parents to take a picture of their kids reading or doing some physical activity and send it in. Each time a parent sends in a photo of their child reading a book or being active, they will be entered into a raffle where the winners will earn an amazing prize.

The third contest has the students write their own short story about a "Winter Adventure" that must be only two sentences long. There will be one winner from every grade level in the district, and one

Continued on Page 2

**ANNUAL BUDGET
MEETING
Thursday,
February 8 - 5:30pm
Town Hall
Plan to Attend**

From Peggy's Desk

February 8 is an important date for everyone to mark on the calendar. The Selectboard will hold a public hearing at 5:30 pm in Town Hall to discuss the 2024 budget which we have been working on since September. The vote on that budget will take place at Town Hall March 16, at 1:00 pm in Town Hall.

Our operating budget will increase just under 4%. Health Care costs will rise by 15.6 %. The Town pays 85% of those costs as employees pay 15%. Most of our employees will receive a 3% increase in salary for 2024, with a few exceptions for employees who were promoted in the last quarter of 2023 who received larger

Continued on Page 2

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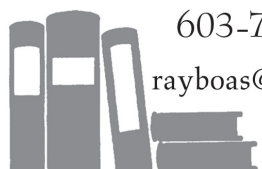


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Continued from Page 1, Peggy

salary adjustments. There are also a few employees who will receive slightly higher increases because they were underpaid. Salary considerations are from my perspective one of the most important jobs we have as a Selectboard.

We have a team of dedicated, long-time people who serve this community with care and consideration.

There are no big-ticket items in this year's budget, i.e. no trucks or police cars. Expect next year to resume the replacement of aging vehicles. Frankly, we are taking a year off because we are still trying to correct the problems from our last purchases. The last truck we ordered is not yet functional. Today's highly tuned electronics are great on paper but have multiple problems.

However, we are asking each of you to consider warrants which will allow us to replace the mildewed, rotting, unseen, west side of Town Hall with a form of concrete siding. (Yes, the front needs work also - next year). Solar panels are proposed for the roof of the new pole barn at the Recycling Center. And we propose to buy 2.6 acres of the land currently owned by Dunkin Donuts on Route 12 for a new Police Station.

All these proposals will be covered through our unassigned fund balance.

We propose, with your affirmation, to use funds from our Highway Block Grant to pave part of Main Street, repair sidewalks and do some line painting which is a safety measure for our roads.

I hope to see each of you February 8 for more details and again on March 16.



Winter FUN DAY at the Hooper Institute is on. This year it is February 10, based at 165 Prospect Hill, 2pm - 5pm. We will offer a cook



stove to roast marshmallows and make s'mores, lots of cardboard, duct tape and recycled items to build your own sled and prizes for all. Join us to play in the snow and celebrate the winter. hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net

- Helen Dalbeck

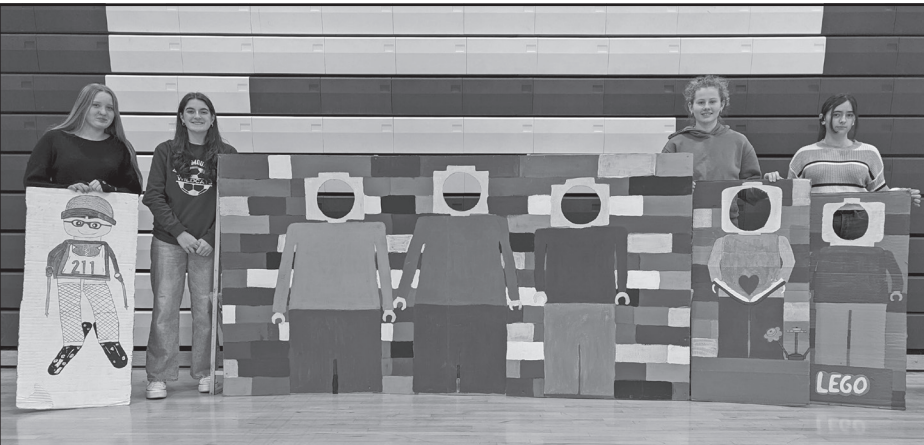


Continued from Page 1, Books

grand prize winner, who will win an author's visit to their class. Each student will go home with a note carrying all the information on these contests.

The book drive, contests, and activities were all set up by Heidi Westover, an amazing teacher at the high school who sets up fun activities and games for the high school students to participate in each month. Her objective of these games and activities is to show the connection between reading, writing, math and physical activity. The hope is that the students will participate in the contests, and they will find an activity that they love.

- Avery Richardson - 9th grade



One of the fun items that the high school students are bringing with them, to get the elementary students excited about reading.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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:** Wednesday afternoons, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm led by Pastor Richard Malmberg on Zoom.

- **Community Potluck Supper:** Saturday, February 10, 5:00 pm – Note new time.

- **Ash Wednesday:**

Wednesday February 14, 7:00 pm - worship service to mark the beginning of Lent. The service will include Communion and the imposition of ashes.

- **The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon:**

Lent is characterized by prayer, reflection, study, and contemplation. For our Lenten study this year, we will read and discuss Bill McKibben's 2022 memoir, *The Flag, the Cross and the Station Wagon*. We will gather in Fellowship Hall to discuss our reading following worship on the first five Sundays of Lent: February 18, 25, March 3, 10, and 17.

• • • • •

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://walpoleuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian>

• • • • •

River Valley Church
"Preview" Service
Sunday, February 25, 10 am
38 Elm St, Walpole
rivervalleychurch.com

For more information, visit the church websites.



WES Cheer Team

Cheer started a couple months ago and was new to WES after not having it for several years. 7 people joined and they were sixth grader Juliana Brooks, Ava and Anna Paul the twins, Ella Dumont, Brook Glover, Avery Carey, and Cassidy Doescher.

Recently, the boys basketball team won 43-40 thanks, in part, to the cheerleaders who cheered them on and used their loud voices and the cheers that their wonderful cheer coach Mrs. Westover taught them. They've been doing stunts with flyers, bases, front spots, and back spots.

The hardest cheer was T-A-K-E take that ball away. They've been working hard on all their cheers and learning new ones too. It has been a wonderful experience and opportunity for students at our school to learn the ways of cheerleading.

– Cassidy Doescher (8th grade)

WES Choir

Choir is an activity in school that occurs on Wednesday and Thursday during Brain Power Hour. It is a time when students head down to the music room and practice songs for the Winter and Spring concerts, or do some fun activities, like playing Christmas Songs with kazoos. Our first step in choir is to warm up with a packet full of songs. The packets help us get our voices ready. After we warm up, we start practicing our concert songs. We practice the songs multiple times, going over sections step by step, or doing a full sing through.

Some people might like Choir, and some might not like it. Just so you can know more about what Choir is like, I will interview some Choir students.

Kassidy, an 8th grader says, "It's a really fun activity, and I recommend it for others."

London, a 6th grader says, "It's a great way for kids to express how they feel. I think Mrs. Dunn makes it a lot of fun"

Liv, a 6th grader says, "It's fun, it's entertaining, and it's something I love to do." Anonymous 8th grader said, "I think it's a great program, and that more people should join it." Mr. Cassarino, the Principal, says, "I think it's a Great program! I think Mrs. Dunn has done an amazing job of providing exposure and experience for the group."

On my personal thoughts and experience in Choir, I would say that it's amazing. It's a great way to make new friends, and I would very much recommend it to singers, people who are interested in music, or anyone, in general. Big shoutout to Mr. C and Mrs. Dunn for starting Choir, making it awesome, and planning these fun field trips for us.

– Kassidy Doescher (8th grade)



Linda Jeffrey, Deacon of the month for December at First Congregational Church, recently presented Chuck Shaw with a prayer shawl from the congregation. PHOTO PROVIDED

First Congregational Church of Walpole, United Church of Christ



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

- **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.
- **Lunch and a Movie** - Get out of the cold, bring your friends and a brown-bag lunch, and watch a film in the library's community room. Thursday, February 8, 1 pm at the Main Library: *The Princess Bride*. Thursday, February 22, 1 pm at the Main Library: *13th*.
- **Zoom program: Celebrating the 30th Book Anniversary of "The Beekeeper's Apprentice"** - Twiith Author Laurie R. King. Tuesday, February 27, 7-8 pm. This program is offered in partnership with the Ashland Public Library. Contact jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org for the Zoom link.
- **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** - The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books before your child starts kindergarten. When you reach 100 books, you will earn a tote bag. Read 1,000 books and you will get a free book. Sign up is fast and easy - just call the library at 603-756-9806 or email jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org



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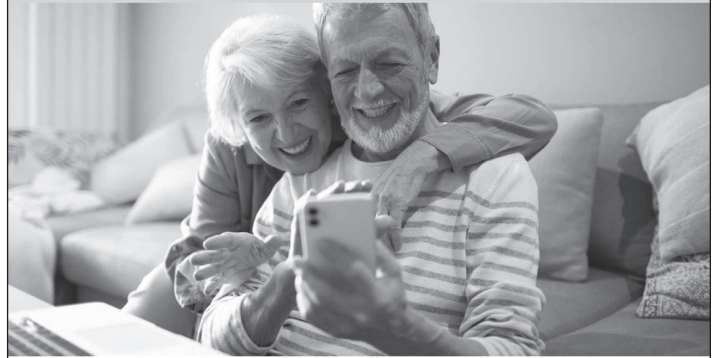


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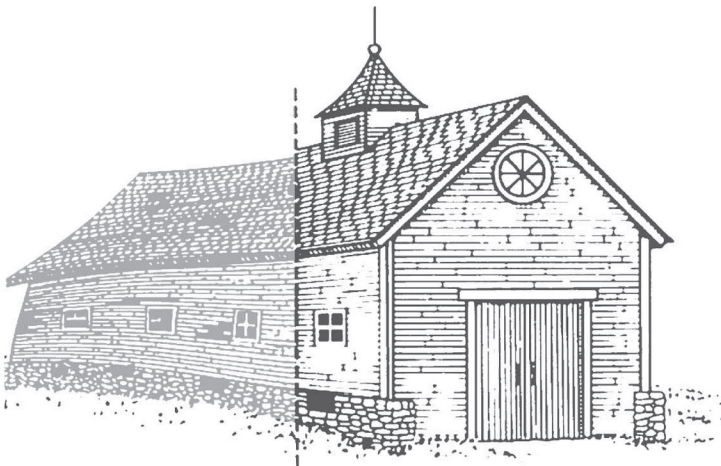
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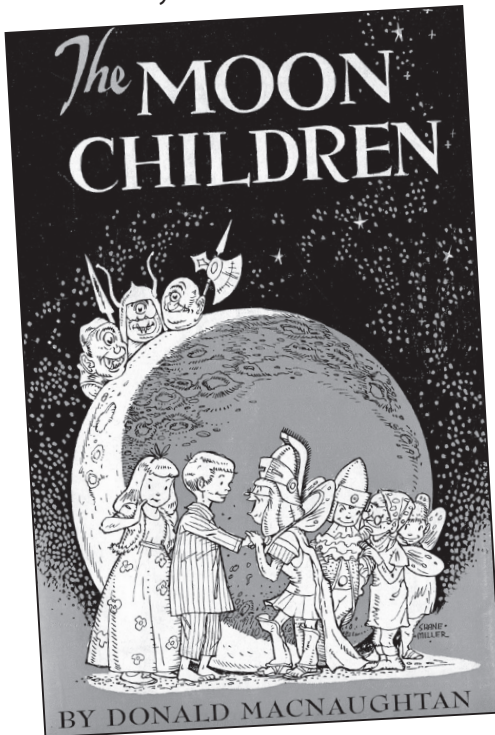
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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...seventy years ago,

THE MOON CHILDREN may have been living on Walpole's Common? At a minimum, the adventures of "moon kids", Phil and Jane, were told from one of Walpole's famous literary homes.



Built about 1811 by David Stone, the impressive home on the Common, with the two-story front porch, was purchased in 1830 by Dr. Jessenia Kittredge who practiced medicine in Walpole for 40 years. Between 1855 and 1857, Louisa May Alcott performed with her sisters, as members of the Walpole Amateur Dramatic Company, on the third floor of Kittredge's home. At that time the attic

was totally open and could seat hundreds. Sold to Warren H. Smith of Rutland in 1868, a Mrs. Wright operated a summer boarding house here for many years as Walpole was becoming a summer destination and resort.

Changing ownership again in 1882 to Abel P. Richardson and Curtis R. Crowell, the boarding house continued. At some point in time, Mrs. Wright's boarding house became known as The Elmwood Inn. In 1930, Donald Macnaughtan, retiring from a successful business life, purchased the property to settle into the "ease of country life". He converted his 'new' home into the Old Colony Inn, and found himself busier than ever. Soon his family grew to include Donald Jr. (born 1939) and Mary (born 1945) - the "moon children"?

Author James A. Michener, writing in HAWAII, published in 1959, depicts 1820 Walpole as "...one of the most gracious villages ever to have developed in America..." Michener, as he wrote, would live in many settings of his novels to bring first-hand atmosphere to his writings. He stayed in the Old Colony Inn to create the right feel for this novel. His protagonist in HAWAII, Abner Hale, came to Walpole, staying in the inn on the west side of the Common. Abner was anxious to meet the Pastor's daughter living across the Common, hoping

for her hand in marriage.

Donald Macnaughtan wrote THE MOON CHILDREN and published it with a "vanity publisher" in 1954. He wrote to entertain children, and "the interest it aroused in his young son and daughter proves that the book accomplished its purpose." At that time Donald Jr. would have been 15 and Mary 9. No doubt, Macnaughtan shared his work with Michener during his stay.

Returning from outdoor nature explorations, Phil and Jane found an open spot in their yard to experiment focusing moonbeams onto carbon paper with a magnifying glass. A long stairway leading down into the ground opened up. Descending, amazingly they ended up on the moon. There they found moon people did not walk, they flew, and moon children played fascinating games in the sky. They found queer pets, cranky old men - Go-Furs - and ultimately rescued prisoners held by the Go-Furs.



The Old Colony Inn - c1940 postcard

Fifteen years ago, I purchased a collection of books from a local estate. The focus of the collection was children's books and included a copy of THE MOON CHILDREN. Reading the dustjacket, and learning of the Walpole connection, I knew this was a keeper for me, and an addition to my Walpole history collection. Self-published with a vanity press, there were probably a limited number of copies printed, with a limited circulation. As an active out-of-print bookseller, I have been watching for another copy to appear anywhere, but to no avail. If you, or your family, have resided here for decades, perhaps hidden away you might have a copy. Happy looking.

FLORENTINE FILMS

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Frauds and Scams Targeting Older Adults

On Saturday, March 9, at 1:00 pm, River Valley Seniors at Home is sponsoring an informational program with Ms. Kimberly Blackwood of the NH Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who will describe what tactics are most commonly used by scammers, how to prevent falling prey to these criminals, and what to do if you have been a victim of a scam or fraud. This event will be held at the Walpole Library in the John & Carol Hubbard Community Room, and is free and open to the public.

According to data from the FBI, there were 88,262 complaints for fraud from people 60-plus in 2022, resulting in \$3.1 billion in losses. The scammers and fraudsters of today are so sophisticated it is difficult for people of any age to detect the fraud attempt, and it is especially difficult for senior citizens to not fall prey to these crimes. This was a drastic 82.35 percent increase in losses compared to 2021.



This is the third in a series of informational sessions for seniors and their family members presented by River Valley Seniors at Home, a nonprofit membership organization whose goal it is to help keep seniors in their homes longer through transportation, socialization and community-building.

For more information, call Tara Sad at 603-756-4861.

– Tara Sad

See page 3 for our two Walpole Elementary School articles this month.

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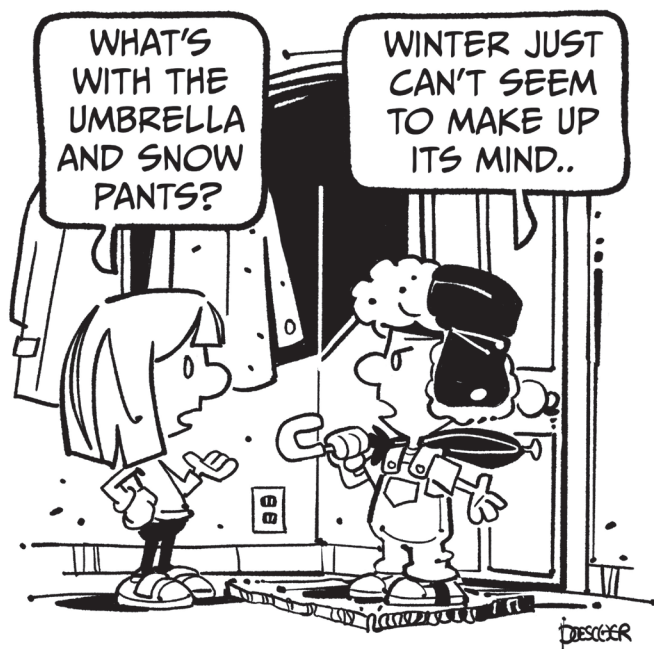
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Predators and prey, the hunters and hunted, animals are equipped for these dual roles. Each animal has acute senses, their own specialized "equipment" and behavioral strategies that have proven successful through time. No animal is defenseless against the onslaught of predators. Even herbivores or plant-eaters are difficult for predators to catch.

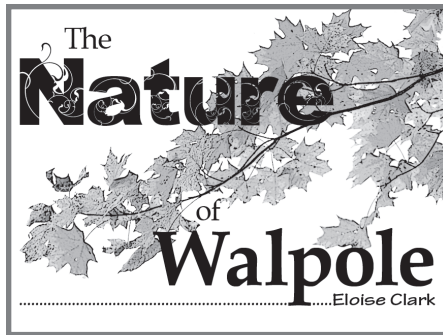
Consider the white-tailed deer as one example. With long, broad ears, a deer can detect my approach long before I am aware of it. Its upright ears can pivot forward, to the side and behind. I usually only see the deer's white tail as it bounds briskly away. The white tail serves as a visual warning to other deer to flee. Deer will also huff and snort when they sense danger.



New Hampshire State Animal: White-tailed Deer

Deer have the speed and the agility to bound over brush or fallen trees, obstacles that may impede the progress of a predator. If cornered, their sharp hooves can lash out. When not in motion, their gray-brown fur is perfect camouflage. Their large size as adults favors them. More vulnerable fawns are born scentless and lie still in deep grass to evade capture.

Smaller mammals such as rabbits and mice also have large ears to detect sounds. In addition, their eyes are set on the sides of their skulls, not facing forward as ours do. This means they can detect movement both forward and behind them without making a move. Their gray-brown coats act as camouflage as they hide in numerous places. For rabbits tangles of brush will do. Smaller sized mice have a suite of places to



hide: inside trees, underground holes, woodpiles, stonewalls, under snow, in my home. And of course, they are stealthy, quiet as a mouse!

These acute senses are a critical component of the arsenal available to prey animals. They also have "equipment" to defend themselves, perhaps enough to thwart an attack. Besides teeth, claws, beaks, talons, hooves, horns and antlers, consider the stinging insects or prickly porcupine. Others are shielded with a thick hide, a tough shell or slippery scales.

The skunk mounts a chemical defense with its noxious spray, as does the stink bug and the garter snake. Other creatures taste bad or may even be poisonous if swallowed, such as the toad. The monarch butterfly and the red eft

newt advertise their poisonous qualities by being bright orange in color. This is known as warning coloration.



Mimicry is an age-old trick to avoid detection. The adult viceroy butterfly mimics the colors of the monarch, although it contains no poison. Many caterpillars species look like tree twigs or even bird droppings. Most adult moths in our area are indistinguishable from tree bark. Spittle bugs create a foamy glob to secrete themselves on their host plants.

Prey species often find safety in numbers, schools of fish for example. Many species of birds flock together. While an individual may be picked off by a predator, many eyes and ears alert the group to the danger at hand, allowing the majority to flee or hide. It's difficult to slip through the woods without a blue jay calling its warning cry or a crow scolding from its perch. Beavers are famous for slapping their broad tails on the surface of the water when danger appears. All are using warning sounds.

Let's not forget the opossum. It will bare its sharp teeth and hiss if frightened. But, if all else fails, it will keel over in a deathlike faint, limp and lifeless. By "playing 'possum" it hopes the predator will move on to livelier prey.

And then there is fecundity! Mice are ready to reproduce after six weeks of age. A packet of moth eggs will hatch into hundreds of caterpillars. A few may survive to become adults while most become protein rich food for baby birds in the spring. The food web connects us all.



Pickleball Court Expansion Coming to Whitcomb Recreational Park

On Wednesday, January 10, the Walpole Recreation Committee approved a short-term plan to repurpose one of the tennis courts at Frank W. Whitcomb Recreational Park to create four pickleball courts. In addition, a plan to replace the entire surface of both courts is among the Recreation Committee's longer-term plans. No significant improvements to the courts have been made since they were installed in the 1980s, and the surface features multiple "dead spots" and cracks, which interrupts play for both pickleball and tennis.

A group of enthusiastic pickleball players attended the meeting to ask questions and support the plans, and several volunteered to paint the new pickleball court lines to conserve town financial resources.

The vote by the Recreation Committee was 2-1, and came after more than a year of discussion and debate about the possibility of additional courts. In 2023, players



Sam Jacobs and Toni McDougal playing pickleball last summer.

PHOTO PROVIDED

were directed to prove that the outdoor court is used regularly, resulting in a sign-up sheet and careful record keeping that demonstrated the sport's popularity in town. From May to October 2023, 145 individual players from Walpole and nearby towns used the courts at Whitcomb Park.

Pickleball was developed in 1965 and is described as a combination of tennis, ping pong, and badminton. It is accessible for all ages and is a quick game to learn and play. The existence of four pickleball courts, plus the existing court next to the basketball court, will provide the infrastructure to accommodate the growing interest in the game, and potentially host tournaments.

Go to www.playtimescheduler.com to locate current indoor play and future summer outdoor play in the Monadnock region.

– Marilyn Shriver



Sorry for the inconvenience of having to close Walpole Recycling on Saturday, January 12 due to a power outage at our facility. We are very lucky to have the dedicated team at Houghton Electric in Walpole. They got the wire, parts, and quality electricians that we needed to get us back up and running before the next business day. Houghton electric has installed our propane heaters, wired and installed lights in the reuse center, installed our water heater, and completed countless other projects for us at very reasonable rates. Houghton Electric is a top notch operation, and we are able to

accomplish many of our goals within the Recycling Center because of the help and guidance of this local company. Houghton Electric informed us recently that they can connect a potential solar project on the new storage building to the main building via a simple overhead line if the town of Walpole were so inclined to opt for green energy solar panels at the Recycling Center.

It would be pretty incredible to create source-separated, quality recyclable bales for our partners in recycling with the energy from the sun. Our approach to recycling in Walpole has evolved into one in which we are able to reuse materials and support the surrounding community with dedicated help from volunteers. Walpole Recycling produces premium recyclable products, and keeps waste to a minimum with the pay-by-bag program. The public's pre-sort recycling; donations to the Reuse Center; diligence in keeping trash to a minimum; willingness to help, support, and maintain a positive demeanor on-site encapsulates the "magic" that is Walpole rRecycling.

Quick airing of the grievances from Walpole Recycling: Stop bringing in countless plastic water bottles and start reusing one water bottle in 2024. Also, bring reusable shopping bags wherever you do your shopping.



Plastics Ready for Shipment

PHOTO PROVIDED

Walpole residents are not just recyclers, but also proponents of a healthier environment. Keep helping the cause!! Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

– Ben Hoy



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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 **February 7**. 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.

— Lara Larson

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FROM THE CLARION...

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

One Year Ago (February 2023) - With generous help from supporters and members, WOOL has recently upgraded its Studio-to-Transmitter link, a significant achievement that has vastly improved the quality and stability of Black Sheep Radio's broadcast at 91.5 FM.

Three Years Ago (February 2021) - Old Home Days again has sadly been postponed for another year. Originally scheduled for June 2020, the event was rolled to 2021 due to concerns with COVID. It was decided to postpone for another year to 2022.

Five Years Ago (February 2019) - At the Walpole Town Hall, December 27, papers were passed around and signed, a check slid across the table, and the Gateway to Walpole, with 1,000 feet of Connecticut River shoreline at the intersection of South Street and Route 12 just south of the Veterinary Clinic, became the property of all residents of Walpole under the stewardship of the Walpole Conservation Commission (WCC).

Seven Years Ago (February 2017) - New Resource for Seniors - River Valley Seniors At Home is the name a group of local residents are using as they organize a local Village program for residents who want to age in place at home rather than move to a Continuing Care Community, Assisted Living or other facility away from friends and familiar places and faces.

Nine Years Ago (February 2015) - Snow, followed by rain, followed by plunging temperatures turned much of the Town Common into a frozen pond in late January.

Eleven Years Ago (February 2013) - Conservancy Acquires Easement Over Great Brook Farm - Owned and operated by the Graves family for 251 years, Great Brook Farm is a cherished local landmark in Walpole. It's where locals pick up raw milk, maple syrup and ice cream from the Milkhouse. Now it's also a place that is in part protected forever thanks to a conservation easement purchase by the Monadnock Conservancy.

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MILESTONES

Passed

Gerry Chandler

June 20, 1940 - December 6, 2023

Ernest Nichols

November 20, 1944 - December 8, 2023

Great Brook Farm Sugar House

For the fourth consecutive year the Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association has been honored with sizable checks from Great Brook Farm Sugar House in Walpole. We wish to publicly thank Andy and David Westover for sharing with us 10% of gross receipts of all maple syrup purchased between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year's donation from sales amounted to a record \$562.00. Also thank you to all those who made the purchases.

If any other individual or small businesses would like to partner with FMEEA to fundraise and broaden the horizons of our district students, please contact us. Email: fmeeassoc@gmail.com. Phone: 603-826-4831.

– Patricia J. Royce

Women of Walpole

The Women of Walpole started 2024 with a gathering on Wednesday, January 17. Jessica Fuller of Edward Jones Investments and Melinda Mosier from the NH Charitable Foundation presented an interesting program on aligning our charitable giving with our personal interests and goals. In February, our meeting is on Wednesday the February 21 at the home Sheila Lennon. More details on the address and program will appear in your 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 (carolynleball@gmail.com or 714-717-4184).

– Susan Johnson

Investment Group of Walpole - IGROW

New members are invited to join our investors group that has been active since December 1997. The purpose of the group is to invest the assets of the partnership solely in public traded equities for the education and benefit of the partners. Monthly meetings are held at the Walpole Library on the third Thursday of the month at 1 pm for approximately one hour. Requirements include members have an interest in learning and sharing knowledge about investing. Monthly minimum investment is \$30.

Please join us for one meeting to see if it is a good fit for all involved. Email carolmalnati@yahoo.com with questions and available times to attend a meeting.

– Carol Malnati

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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

March deadline: February 21

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

The Walpole Clarion on-line:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

My apologies - this month I have only twelve pages for you. In past years I have had content often for 20 and even 24 pages, but since the onset of COVID, and its impact on activities, there has been less to share about what is to soon happen, and to wrap-up and report on what has happened. This month I was short just under four pages of content.

You may have recently noticed less advertisements on the **Clarion** pages. Advertisers, who I hope you thank and support, provide the revenue to produce the **Clarion**. Their messages also add to each issue's content. Less ads, less content, less pages. My business plan has always been to provide the community I love with a service at a breakeven point. Often, I publish at a loss, which I am happy to do, but I do need to find some ways to minimize costs. Some costs are out of my control. As I write this, on January 21, the postal rates have again today been increased.

It has been an interesting winter, and you may also feel that so far here in Walpole we have been fortunate to have escaped the bad weather affecting other areas of the country. As the winter rolls forward, we are entering time-honored and historic Town Meeting time, which again begins with Walpole's Annual Budget Meeting. Take a look at what Peggy wrote, starting on page one of this edition, and plan to attend this important meeting on February 8 - I will see you there. Stay safe and well.

– Ray Boas, Publisher

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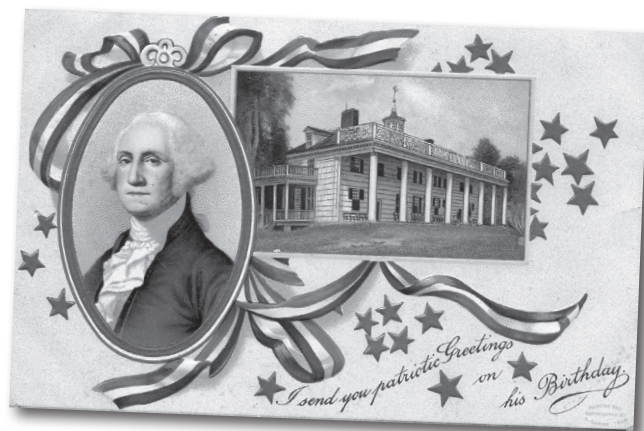
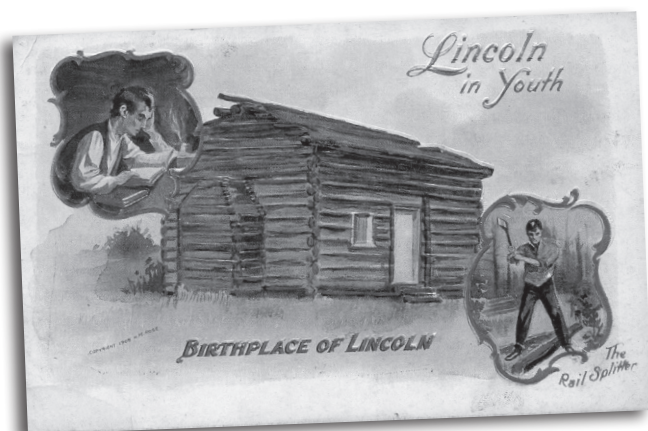
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President's Day - February 19