



*Happy Holidays from All of Us at the Clarion*



**WALPOLE'S LIVE NATIVITY**  
**Christmas Eve 2023**

## Live Nativity 2024

In celebration of Christmas, we will again be presenting a Live Nativity on Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 pm on the Walpole Common, following the church services in town.

All are welcome to attend this outdoor event portraying the birth of Jesus with community members, live animals and traditional carols. Hot cocoa and social time will follow in the Town Hall, so stop in and visit with your friends and neighbors.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to be angels, shepherds, or wisemen. If you have any interest in helping with this year's Nativity Scene, please contact Kelly [kaptcg1444@gmail.com](mailto:kaptcg1444@gmail.com) or Crystal [crystalphillips088@gmail.com](mailto:crystalphillips088@gmail.com)

- Crystal Phillips

## Annual Good Friends Campaign

The Savings Bank Of Walpole (SBW) and Monadnock Broadcasting Group/KNE-FM have teamed up With Douglas Cuddle Toys for its Good Friends Campaign. The annual fundraising event kicked off November 15, and will continue until all toys are sold out. The campaign benefits Feeding Tiny Tummies.

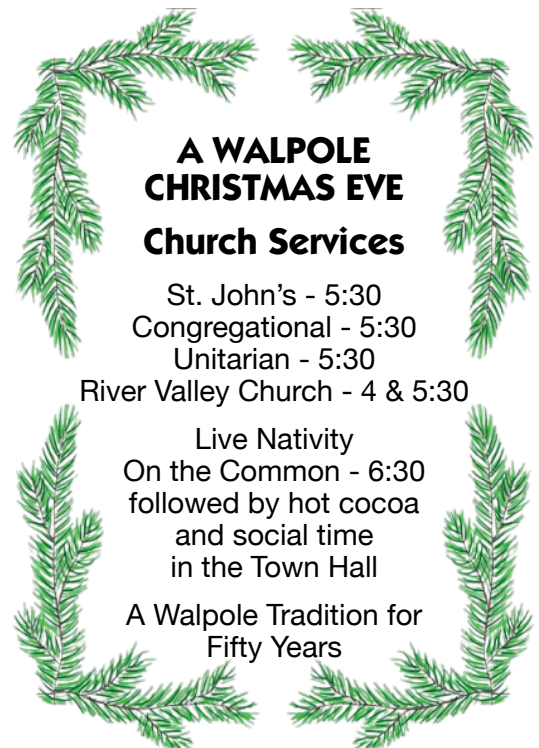
Throughout the holiday season, SBW branches will serve as point-of-sale locations, selling stuffed animals generously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys for \$10 each. Feeding Tiny Tummies, a local nonprofit, receives 100 percent of the proceeds and uses the funds to help fight against childhood hunger in Cheshire & Sullivan

- Continued Page 2

## From Peggy's Desk

"Is that the new police station?" The Town Hall was asked this question numerous times as ground was broken on Route 12 for Dunkin Donuts. A surprising question since a new municipal building could not be built without town approval. When permission is granted for a much need new station, it will appear on the backside of the same property, facing Upper Walpole Road on 2.56 acres of land.

- Continued Page 2



### A WALPOLE CHRISTMAS EVE Church Services

St. John's - 5:30  
Congregational - 5:30  
Unitarian - 5:30

River Valley Church - 4 & 5:30

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

A Walpole Tradition for  
Fifty Years



**EVERETT E. HOUGHTON CO., INC.**  
Electrical, Plumbing, Heating & Utilities

Electrical License - 0241C  
Plumbing License - 4762C

279 Main Street  
Walpole, NH 03608  
**Office - 603-756-3372**  
Fax - 603-756-9998  
After Hours - 603-615-5555

info@eehoughton.com  
www.eehoughton.com



**DAN'S**  
**WATER TREATMENT SERVICE**


Sales & Installation of New Systems;  
Servicing Most Existing Systems

603-756-4398 1-888-679-6059

**Traditions**  
REAL ESTATE

*Want to sell, but afraid to?, Let's talk.*

**Robin Sanctuary, Broker**  
Office: 603-756-3973  
Cell: 603-313-9165  
[www.TraditionsReal-Estate.com](http://www.TraditionsReal-Estate.com)




## Please Support Our Advertisers

Over the last 30 years  
I have purchased  
more than 86,850 books  
Are Yours Next?

**Ray Boas, Bookseller**  
Since 1980

Good Books & Fine Libraries Purchased  
603-756-4545  
rayboas@comcast.net



- Good Friends from Page 1

counties. This year's warm and fuzzy fundraising ambassadors include Colbie Cat, Libby Sloth (below), Farm



Truck and Neo Dragon.

"The Good Friends campaign is an annual event that all of us at SBW look forward to 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.

**Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and their children gather around a Christmas tree in 1848.**



-Peggy from Page 1

The Police committee met November 19 to consider the next steps, particularly how to raise the funds needed to build the new station. As Officer Sanctuary arrived, he announced he was on standby because one of his officers was in the field and he could be called for backup. He further said: "today would have been a good day for people to see why we need a new station. I was having a meeting with two other chiefs; an officer was trying to finish paperwork and another officer had two arrestees, one of whom kept trying to get away." This was going on all in the same room. "And our sally ports were full of impounded vehicles- two motorcycles, 4 wheelers and cars."

That is a graphic illustration of why we need a new station. That single room is the work room, the lunchroom, the room where drugs are handled, the meeting room — too crowded with no privacy for anyone. (The two folks arrested were later transported to jail, if you are curious).

We have an agreed upon design for the new workspace which has private, soundproof interview rooms, safe holding rooms, a separate lunchroom, private offices, storage and a reasonable sized training room which can double as a community room.

Now, we need a grant writer who can help us research federal grants, foundations or sources will fund a new building with a safe environment for our police department. We are searching but perhaps one of you, reading this, knows someone we don't. We have spoken with other departments with new stations to ask how they were funded. So, far, the answer is "we were bonded".

Walpole will be asked to approve a bond for this new station, but the committee is committed to make an effort to raise half of the seven-million-dollar cost with grants or local fund raising. Any ideas?



Wreath making has been cancelled this year because of construction.

Have you heard our news? The Hooper Institute is about to begin a building renovation. The dream is coming true with an accessible building and a lift to each floor. The plan is to have a new community kitchen, ready for new classes, meals together and more. We are updating the plumbing, expanding the bathrooms, modernizing the utilities, the dirt basement, and tightening up the building to at long last evict the critters that make the Institute their home. There will be more to report on as the work begins and continues well

into 2025. There will be Camp next summer, there will be Woodworking, and there will be the school gardens and the school programs. There will be expansion of our staff, board volunteers and a Friends of Hooper revival. Our mission and vision continues and remains strong.

-Helen Dalbeck

**The Way the Christmas and  
New Year Holidays  
fall on the Calendar this Year  
The January 2025 CLARION  
May not be in your mailbox until  
after the New Year  
BUT will be on-line  
December 30**



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

*"Building our communities one family at a time."*

47 Main St. PO Box 100  
Walpole, NH 03608  
603-756-3661  
[www.gallowayservices.com](http://www.gallowayservices.com)

## **The Walpole Village Salon is Celebrating their 30th Anniversary!**

We are beyond thrilled to be celebrating 30 years of success at the Walpole Village Salon!

That's 3 decades of helping our clients look and feel their best! We could not have done it without the support of our incredible loyal clientele and the dedication of our talented creative team. Your support has been the cornerstone of our success.



To celebrate this tremendous milestone, we invite you to come in and enjoy our 30th Anniversary Specials through the month of December!

- Buy 2 get 1 30% off all products
- Free gloss with any hair service (a \$30 value)
- Enter our raffle for the chance to win a luxury gift basket filled with salon favorites!

We would like to thank everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey, and we look forward to the even more fabulous future ahead! Cheers to the next 30 years!

**50 Main Street — Walpole, NH 03608 — (603) 756-3240 — [Michelle@walpolevillagesalon.com](mailto:Michelle@walpolevillagesalon.com)**





10% OF GROSS RECEIPTS OF ALL MAPLE SYRUP PURCHASED BETWEEN  
NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AND CHRISTMAS WILL BE  
DONATED TO THE  
FALL MOUNTAIN EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
ASSOCIATION

GREAT BROOK FARM MAPLE SYRUP CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE  
FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

WALPOLE GROCERY  
47 MAIN ST, WALPOLE NH

JIFFY MART  
549 MAIN ST, WALPOLE NH

GALLOWAY REAL ESTATE  
47 MAIN ST, WALPOLE NH

WALPOLE FARMERS MARKET  
NOVEMBER 23rd - 9AM-2PM  
WALPOLE COMMON

DREWSVILLE GENERAL STORE  
78 WHITCOMB RD, WALPOLE NH

PETE'S STAND  
517 MAIN ST, WALPOLE NH

OR DIRECTLY FROM DAVID WESTOVER

GREAT BROOK FARM SUGAR HOUSE  
437 COUNTY RD  
WALPOLE NH 03608  
(603) 313-8914

DAVID & ANDREW WESTOVER WESTOVR@MYFAIRPOINT.NET



## BF Rocks

The Bellows Falls Downtown is excited to kick-off shop local 2024 with the #bfrocksbox. Your favorite shops have curated a one-of-a-kind, unique gift box, just for you and it's called the BF Rocks box! Look for the BF Rocks stickers at participating and sponsoring Businesses and enjoy the ease of finding the perfect gift at your favorite local businesses in Bellows Falls and the area. Tag [BFDDA on Facebook](#) or [instagram](#) by including a photo of you shopping local and #bfrocksbox to win prizes generously donated by our sponsors! BF Rocks stickers come free in the gift box, and are also available for sale for \$5 at Village Square Book-sellers.



Mark your calendars for the 4th annual Parade of Lights on December 14th at 5 pm. Details on BF Rocks and more on Holiday Events can be found on our website at [www.bellows-fallsvt.org/bfdda-news/](http://www.bellows-fallsvt.org/bfdda-news/)

-Betsy Thurston



You are invited to participate in

## Sending Sunshine

a local movement to connect with others  
by sending greeting cards through the mail.



Send Sunshine and Enjoy a Holiday Tea Party  
at The Gathering Place – 14 Westminster Street – Walpole, NH

Wednesday, December 4 and Monday, December 9  
Come anytime between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm

- **Bring** names and addresses of people to whom you would like to send greetings.
- **Select** cards designed by local artisans or **Create** a card.
- **Write** greetings.
- **Decorate and savor** holiday cookies. • **Sip** tea.
- **Walk** to the Walpole Post Office and **mail** your cards.

Host: Priscilla Reyms — Questions may be directed to [preyrs@yahoo.com](mailto:preyrs@yahoo.com)



# Walpole Worships

First Congregational  
Sunday, 10:00 am  
Bible Study Wednesday, Zoom, 4-5pm  
<https://walpolenhucc.org/>

St Peter's Church - North Walpole  
Mass Schedule: Friday 8:30 am  
Saturday 4:00 pm - Sunday 8:30 am

St. John's Episcopal  
Sunday, 10:00 am  
<http://stjohnswalpole.org>

Walpole Unitarian  
Sunday, 10:00 am  
<https://walpoleuuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian>

River Valley Church  
Sunday, 10:00 am  
38 Elm St., Walpole  
[rivervalleychurch.com](http://rivervalleychurch.com)

For Service Schedules, or more information,  
visit the church websites.

## Unitarian Church

### HOLIDAY FOOD SALE

**December 14 - 9:00 - 11:30 am**  
**In front of the Post Office**

We will have plenty of items for the holidays including holiday baked goods, our popular boxed holiday cookies ready for gift giving, and plenty of savory items such as quiches, casseroles, lasagnas, pot pies, etc.

### **Wozmak Patient Advocacy Services**

Helping you navigate our complex healthcare system  
Professional advice and guidance when you need it most  
Education and support for you and your family  
70 years of combined healthcare experience

Call, text or email:  
Aylene Wozmak, RN & Jack Wozmak, BS, JD, EMT  
[Jwozmak@gmail.com](mailto:Jwozmak@gmail.com) 603-209-1518

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.

### LABYRINTH OF LIGHTS

This December we are pleased to offer our beautiful **Labyrinth of Lights** to the community once again. Constructed of greens and tiny lights, the labyrinth offers both the walker and the observer a time of deep peace during some of the hectic days of December. Prior to the pandemic, this much-loved tradition had been offered for more than 18 years in the second floor ballroom of Hastings Memorial Parish House, 14 Union Street. This year, the labyrinth will be open from 5 - 7 pm on December 22 & 23; December 27, 28 & 29. If you are new to the Labyrinth, one of our hosts will assist you in getting started! Please plan to wear slippers or socks in the ballroom and leave your shoes downstairs. In the case of inclement weather, a recorded message will be available by 3:00 pm on the church phone (603-756-3961).

### CHRISTMAS EVE

#### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our Community Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on December 24th, 5:30 pm at the church on the corner of Main Street and Union Streets. This is a service of Christmas carols and readings - both traditional and contemporary. Come enjoy an uplifting service of joy and love.

## First Congregational

### Advent and Christmas

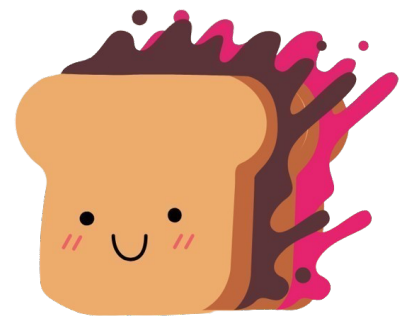
**December 15, 4:00 pm**

The First Congregational Church will host a Free Christmas Concert by the Westmorland Town Band. A freewill offering will be received to benefit the Fall Mountain Food Shelf

**Christmas Eve 5:30 pm**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, including an original Nativity Story.

## Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

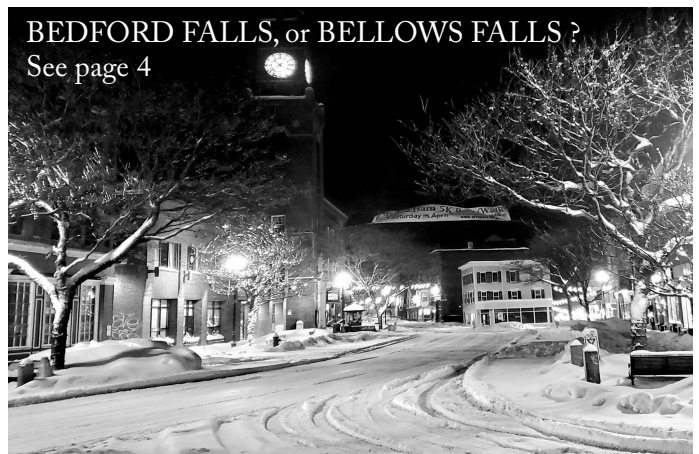


We'd love for you to join Galloway Real Estate in this sweet challenge. We will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly to help our local families. Our goal is to collect 100 jars. All donations will be delivered to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place.

Drop off your contributions at Galloway Real Estate or hand them off to one of our agents by December 12. Together, let's spread a little love (and some PB&J) this holiday season.

-Galloway Real Estate

BEDFORD FALLS, or BELLOWS FALLS ?  
See page 4





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.

## December at the Library

**Make Your Own Holiday Wrapping Paper and Tags:** Thursday, December 5, 4 pm, Main Library  
For Adults and kids aged 10 and up. All supplies provided.

**Community Conversation:** Saturday, December 7, 10 am, North Walpole Branch. Join us for a  
lively discussion about local topics that matter to you.

**Lunch and a Movie:** Thursday, December 12, 1 pm, Main Library. Bring your lunch and enjoy a  
movie on the big screen.

**Brighten Your Winter Days: Knitting Group:** Mondays at 1 pm, Main Library  
A welcoming and energetic group—always welcoming newcomers.

**Mahjong Group:** Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, Main Library. No experience? No problem! This fun group  
will teach you how to play.

**Holiday Schedule:** No Wiggle Time or Story Times: Week of Christmas -Tuesday, December 24,  
closing at 5:00 pm - Wednesday, December 25, closed - Wednesday, January 1, closed.

## BOWMAN DENTAL

No Judgment.  
No Lectures.  
No Hassles.

Smile  
Again



Full Arch Dental Implants

Want to Learn More about What  
it Would Take to Fix Your Smile?  
Call Us!

The solution could be just one  
phone call away.

Get your bite and smile back. We  
make it easy for you to get the care  
you want, so you can eat and smile  
with confidence.

**FREE  
Consult**  
on Veneers  
or Implants

**(603)-756-4719**

No matter how long it's been  
since your last dental visit, or  
whether you have minor issues or  
big smile problems, you can feel  
confident that you will never feel  
shamed, judged, or pressured.  
What you will find is a plan to get  
you smiling again!





Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY**

Since 603-352-7251 1978



**FIRE & WATER  
CLEANUP &  
RESTORATION**

**MOLD REMEDIATION**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**24-HOUR  
EMERGENCY SERVICE**

Independently Owned & Operated

**Edward Jones**

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC



## Merry Christmas

Enjoy the holiday season with friends and family!



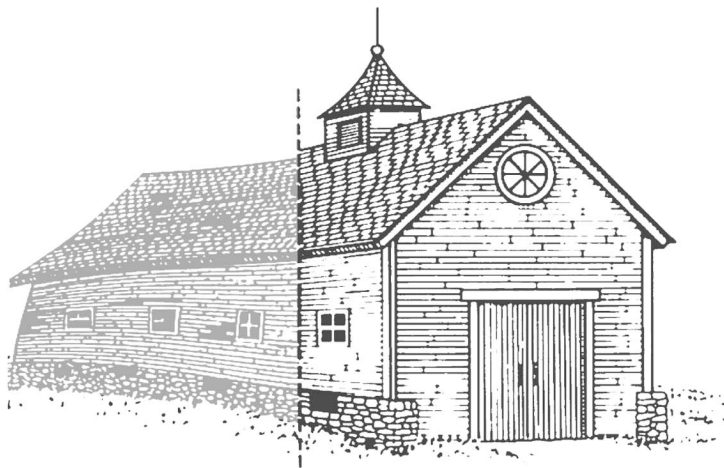
**Jessica Fuller, CFP®**

Financial Advisor

P O Box 96  
57 Main Street  
Walpole, NH 03608  
603-756-2513

MKT-9811E-A AECSPAD 23655865

## Chris Parker House and Barn Restoration



**[www.oldbuildingfix.com](http://www.oldbuildingfix.com)**

- ★ Structural Restoration – Repair and/or Replacement of Damaged Foundations, Sills, Joists, Framing Timbers.
- ★ New Foundations Constructed under Existing Buildings.
- ★ Tasteful Remodeling of and Additions to Period Homes.
- ★ Recycling and Dismantling of Old Barns and Re-assembly.
- ★ Barn Frames, Timbers, and Barn Board for Sale.

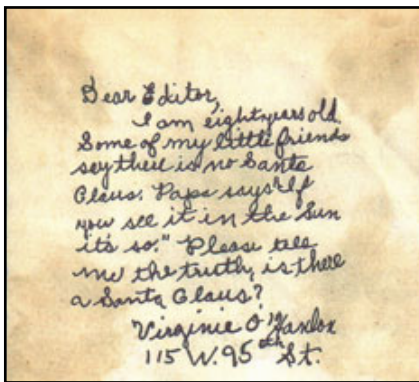
**(802) 257-4610 • (802) 579-5163**

# Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

....when asked a tough question in the summer of 1897, Philip O'Hanlon's answer did not satisfy his eight-year old daughter, so he suggested she write the *New York Sun*, one of New York City's most prominent newspapers, and ask them. "If the *Sun* knows, they will tell you," he told her, "but do not be disappointed if the busy paper does not reply."

Virginia's request was simple, and her original note survives. "Dear Editor, I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in the *Sun* it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O'Han-



lon, 115 West 95th Street."

Reading the paper for months looking for an editorial reply to her letter, she was about to give up, but finally, on September 21, 1897, the *Sun* published their reply, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus"

Known for its anonymous editorials, after the death in 1906 of its publisher Francis Pharcellus Church, it was disclosed that he wrote the 416-word response answering Virginia's question. Possibly initially overlooked at the paper, the reply was written in an afternoon and appeared early in the school year in New York City. The editorial was printed in the paper's third and last column of editorials that day, along with comments on a newly invented chain-less bicycle and "British Ships in American Waters". Soon the editorial was republished elsewhere. The *Sun* did not reprint it until 1905, and then reprinted it every year from 1924, until the paper ceased publication in 1950. Readers requested copies from the *Sun*, and the paper sent out over 200,000 copies by 1936.

In 1921 a book was written adapted from the editorial. NBC wrote a cantata in 1932. In the 1940s radio waves carried the letter and editorial reply at holiday time. Adaptations were made into films, and an animated television special won the 1975 Emmy for outstanding Children's Special. Shared and reprinted and reprinted, now, in December 2024, the *CLARION* is proud to join those republishing, "Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus."

## Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

"VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

"115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, VIRGINIA, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence/capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIRGINIA, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## FLORENTINE FILMS

Making films in Walpole  
for 40 Years.



Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to

watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Young Virginia O'Hanlon



Images above and page 8  
Public Domain from WIKIPEDIA



## Holiday Cookie Party at Sending Sunshine

Celebrate the holiday season on December 4 and 9 with writing and sending greetings while enjoying cookies and tea at The Gathering Place. Come any time between 11 am and 4 pm. Bring as many names and addresses as you want. Select or create cards and write greetings. Frost, decorate, and savor holiday cookies (homemade scones will also be available). Sip tea and enjoy fellowship.

Invite others to participate with you! The Gathering Place is beautifully decorated for the holidays, do not miss seeing it!

- Priscilla Reynolds

**GREATER FALLS  
INSURANCE**

serving VT and NH since 1996



Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles

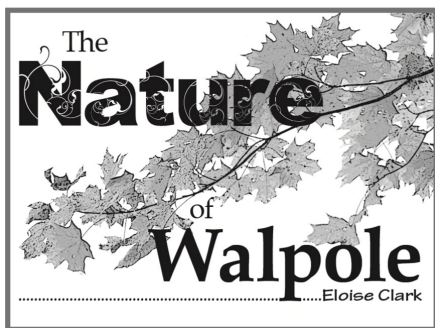
7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158  
802-463-1900 • [www.greaterfallsinsurance.com](http://www.greaterfallsinsurance.com)

**STUBBS**

"We've Got You Covered -  
And Not Just With Paint"

[www.stubbspainting.com](http://www.stubbspainting.com)

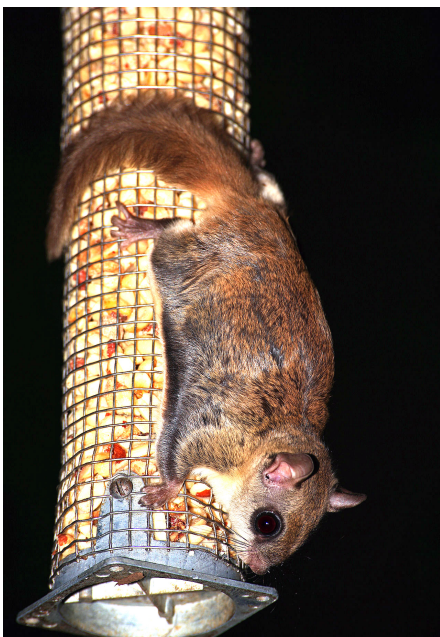
**603.357.9324**



Our homes are our refuges from the world. May yours be snugly and warm during these darkest days of the year. It's no surprise our houses can also be a refugia for wildlife. At least my old house is. It's warmth is attractive to many creatures, offering shelter from the vagaries of the weather, and often protection from predators.

Tucked in the crevices around windows and doors are lady bugs and maybe a squash bug or two. Cocoons of moths are fastened under the eaves while torpid spiders are wedged between crevices of the siding. Under our granite steps a chipmunk lies curled, secure from the cold world outside. There is always the unwelcome incursion of white-footed mice into the basement.

Another denizen of some homes are flying squirrels. While normally cavity dwellers in trees, your attic or outbuilding might suit them as well. We have two species of these tree



squirrels in New Hampshire. The northern (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) and the southern (*G. volans*) flying squirrels are small mammals about the size of a chipmunk. They weigh just a few ounces. Both are very well camouflaged with a mantle of brown fur and white underbellies.

The smaller southern flying squirrel, at 8 to 10 inches long, is more common in Walpole. They prefer our abundant crops of oak acorns and hickory nuts. The larger northern flying squirrel prefers higher elevation coniferous forests and seeds. They are considered much rarer.

Besides nuts and fruit from trees and shrubs, flying squirrels will eat plant buds and flowers. Mushrooms are a favorite, even the underground filaments or mycorrhizae. They are also omnivores, consuming wood-boring beetles, bird eggs, nestlings and carrion.

Flying squirrels forage under cover of darkness. With their huge black eyes, they see well at night. The darkness offers some protection from predators, unless the predator is also suited to night life. Owls, raccoons, bobcats and domestic cats take their toll on the population. They are clumsy on the ground where they are the most vulnerable.

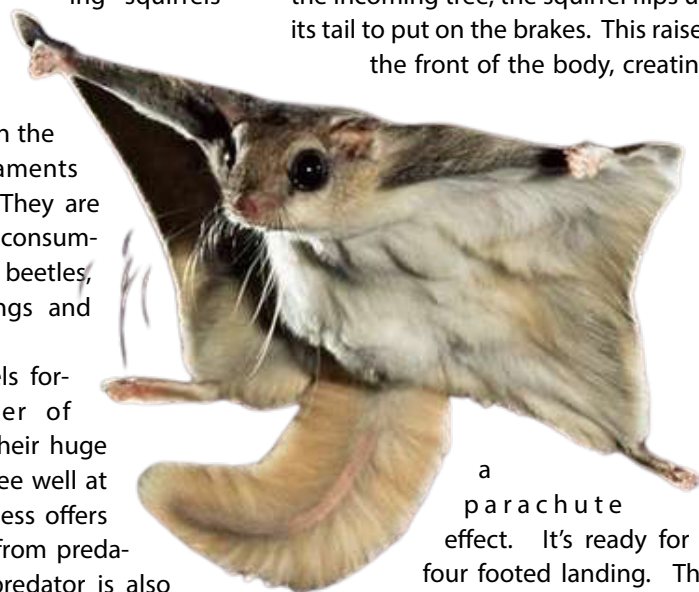
Flying squirrels communicate using ultrasonic frequencies, akin to echolocation. It's thought to be inaudible to predators. They also produce squeaky notes that sound like birdsongs to our ears, including whistles and trills.

Their winter dens are located about 20 feet off the ground in a cavity chiseled by a woodpecker or a rotted hole in a mature tree such as an old sugar maple. In winter, whole family groups will cuddle up in the den to conserve heat. They disburse in the summer and create their own

leafy nests to raise their many offspring.

When it's time to travel from the den for a foraging expedition, flying squirrels soar into action. We have all heard they don't actually fly. Rather, they are able to glide using their patagium. This fur covered flap of skin stretches between front and rear feet, giving the animal a square, kite-like shape in flight.

Flying squirrels maneuver very efficiently using their flat tails like a rudder. They can even make 90 degree turns mid-air. The average glide is 6-10 yards but over 20 yards has been recorded. Before impact with the incoming tree, the squirrel flips up its tail to put on the brakes. This raises the front of the body, creating



a parachute effect. It's ready for a four footed landing. The squirrel immediately runs to the back side of the tree to avoid predators, then scurries upward to launch again.

Although rarely visible to us, know that these beautiful little animals are doing their part to enrich the health of mature forests. They disburse seeds, nuts and even spread mushroom spores in their feces. As both predator and prey, they are another link in the food web of the forest ecosystem, adding to its wildlife diversity.

*Thanks to the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Animal Diversity Website for information used in this article.*



Walpole Players

Present

# A Christmas Story

## The Musical

Book by Joseph Robinette

Music and lyrics by Justin Paul and Ben Pasek  
(Dear Evan Hansen, Lala Land, The Greatest Showman)

Produced by special arrangement with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois



Production proudly  
sponsored by



December 12, 13, 14 at 7PM  
& the 15th at 2PM

The Helen Miller Theater  
Walpole Town Hall, Walpole, NH

Adults, \$15  
Children & Seniors, \$10

All profits go to  
local food shelves.

Advanced ticket sales available at the Mascoma Savings Bank  
(Walpole Branch Only)

For more information go to [walpoleplayers@gmail.com](mailto:walpoleplayers@gmail.com)  
or text Jenny @ 603-313-9319

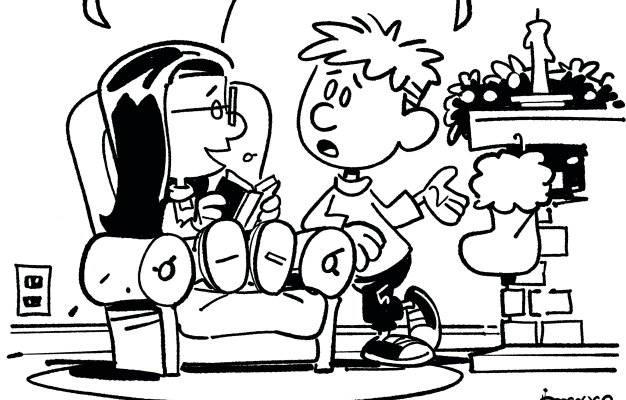


CHESHIRE KIDS

by Erik Doescher

ARE YOU  
HOPING  
FOR A  
WHITE  
CHRISTMAS?

I USED TO WISH  
FOR THOSE, UNTIL I  
GOT OLD ENOUGH  
TO SHOVEL.



DOESCHER





## Walpole Holds Annual Halloween Baking Competition

By Connor Heddon (8th grade)

On October 30th, some of the Walpole Elementary School staff members were preparing to judge some things baked by students for the 3rd annual Halloween baking competition that students in grades 5-8 compete in. The stoke level was an eight out of ten. This year we took a look behind the closed doors of the conference room to get the scoop on the 2024 annual Halloween baking contest.

There were lots of impressive baked goods at the contest including a cheesecake that was orangish, resembling a bloody face, saying "Eat if You Dare." Mrs. Treat reacted to it by exclaiming: "Well that's terrifying." There were eight participants in the competition. Other baked goods consisted of voodoo doll-shaped cookies, a cake that looked like it had spiders crawling on it, and other monstrous-looking delights.

The winner was 7th grader Lily Vickers who also received a prize for her efforts. Lily's dessert was cupcakes that had bloody broken glass on them made of sugar.



**Lily Vickers's winning cupcake.**

**Photo: Craig Vickers**

The judges all liked the food very much. Walpole school students Ila Sivret and Samatha Weeks thought of making the competition two years ago. The students were judged on the taste, the Halloween spirit, and the looks of their creation. The competition was a great way for students to get in the Halloween spirit and have fun.

## Zombie Run

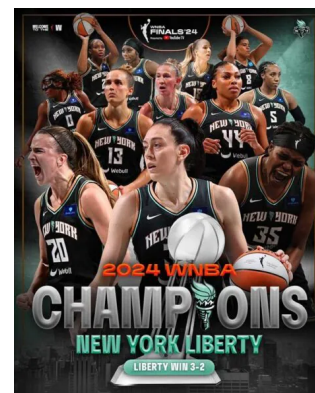
By Lucas Waring (6th grade)

On October 31st, Walpole Elementary School hosted their annual zombie run. Teachers set up a track that students will run. Teachers, acting and dressed as zombies, tried to take the flags that students had to wear as they ran through the course that went from the big school, down behind the pool, past the little school, and back up towards the playground at WES. Students could wear their Halloween costumes on this day so it could be an even more spooky experience. Students wore two flags and had to make it across the course without getting both flags pulled to be victorious. After their first time around the course, they could have additional flags to replace any that may have gotten taken in the first time around.

In this game students were allowed to travel in groups to get to the end of the course. All teachers had different ways of trying to get you flags. For example, a teacher could hide in a bush or another could just full on chase you and you'd never expect it. Groups are recommended in this event so they are able to help you.

The teachers did anything to try and get your flag. Some would chase you down the road to get it. Some teachers worked together like Mr. Gagnon and Mrs. Ronning.

"It was really fun and I loved running across the course," said 6th grader Brook Glover. Students had a spooky but fun time while participating in the zombie run. Students said it was a very fun day.



## WNBA Championship

By Kelsey Beam and Finley Aube (6th grade)

The WNBA Championship series was played from October 10 to October 20th between the New York Liberty against the Minnesota Lynx. It was a close match up. Both teams were very good. The championship game was at the Liberty's home stadium. The crowd started to get hyped as they entered the court. As the game started, Jonquel Jones was on fire and Sabrina Ionescu was not locked in. For the Lynx, Napheesa Collier, who averaged 20.4 points per game, got hot in the championship with 22 points.

It was a close game at half with the score 34-27. The Lynx were up. But, in the end, the Liberty came back and ended up winning, 67-62. Jonquel Jones was on fire, ending the game with 24 points. She led her team and she earned MVP honors at the conclusion of the game. It was an amazing game and series. If you haven't, we hope you watch next year for another WNBA season full of great basketball.



## Young Writers Competition

By Sawyer Dumont (7th grade)

Young Writers is an organization that hosts several competitions every year for students. They offer different competitions for students in middle and high school and another for younger students. The organization is a nonprofit based in New England, so the schools that participate are typically from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.

The competition that Walpole Elementary School students have the opportunity to compete in is typically for 10-18 year olds. There is a different theme for each competition. For example, in the past, there were the competitions of Hunted and Trapped. Students had the freedom to express their stories within that theme how they wanted to interpret it. However, you can't use as many words as you want; you can only use 100 words or less. If you meet the age requirements and the story follows the theme and has 100 words or less, you can send it in. If your story is good enough, it will be published into a book full of other stories made by other students around New England. If you're stuck or not great at coming up with ideas for a story, you do not have to fear. They provide you with story starters to help and graphic organizers to put down your ideas prior to writing out your story. Several Walpole students have gotten published in these books over the last eight years. The most recent competition, which concluded on November 1st, was titled "Fright Night," and students had to write a flash fiction horror story of their choice. Sixteen students sent in their work to Young Writers and are currently awaiting to hear back to see if they were selected for publication.

**PICTURE  
YOUR  
MESSAGE HERE**

## Professional Sports Recap

By Louie Lakin, Liam Sivret,  
and Max Smith (6th grade)

The Boston Celtics started their NBA season on Tuesday, October 22 against the New York Knicks. The Celtics won, 109-132. The Los Angeles Lakers also outscored the Timberwolves 110-103. The Lakers record currently is 6-2 and the Celtics are 11-2. Jayson Tatum already has 416 points this season. On November 11th, Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors beat the Celtics 118-112. Curry had been dealing with an injury earlier in the season.

The Boston Bruins are 8-8-3 this season. They lost their first game and won against the Flyers, 3-0 and the Kraken, 2-0. The Bruins are not doing well so far this year but hopefully they can bounce back and return to how well they played last season.

The New England Patriots are 3-8 after recently falling to the LA Rams. The Pats recently defeated the Chicago Bears, 19 to 3, in a blowout to remember. Recently Kendrick Bourne was benched and this wasn't a great option by the Patriots, however he returned to score a touchdown in their most recent game. Rookie quarterback Drake Maye has made the Patriots a much more engaging team and he has really helped the offense since his debut. He seems to get better and better every week.

On Saturday, October 19th, the New England Revolution went against Inter Miami CF (also known as Lionel Messi's team) and went head to head Inter Miami won, 6-2. Their top 3 players are Giacomo Vrioni, Carles Gil, and Esmir Barjaktarevic.

## WES Hosts Career Day

By Elias Tsitsonis and Artemis Lakin  
(8th grade)

On Friday, October 25, 2024, Walpole Elementary School held its first career day. The event was held for about two hours so everyone could have the opportunity to see all of the volunteers. There were about 30 people with a variety of jobs.

Some of these jobs included local firefighters, plumbing and heating, real estate agents, electrical engineer, marketing, Dog Daze, Savings Bank of Walpole, Keene Sentinel, Juvenile Probation Parole Officer, musician, and many more.

All students were given a worksheet to complete that included four different places to write down information about jobs that interest them. There was also a sheet of paper that had many questions to ask the volunteers. Students were tasked with writing the names of four people and their favorite part of the job.

This was a wonderful experience for the students and we hope this comes back next year.

**Career Day Exhibit  
Photo: Amy Treat**



## Women of Walpole

Women of Walpole met on Wednesday November 20 at the home of Loribeth Robare. Loribeth shared with us some wonderful ideas for holiday gifts from the kitchen.

Don't miss our annual Christmas potluck at 12:00 noon on Wednesday December 18 at the home of Peg Dion. Members are invited to join us and bring a holiday dish to share. We will also be collecting food for the Fall Mountain Foodshelf.

Unfortunately, for several reasons, the Holiday Home Tour has been postponed to 2025 to ensure the best experience possible for participants.

As part of our worthy causes program, WOW will be participating in the Holiday Families tradition at the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention. We will support a survivor with Christmas gifts.


Looking ahead, our first meeting of 2025 on January 15 will be held at the home of Aylene Wozmak, Tara Sad will join us and talk about the River Valley Seniors.

WOW welcomes any woman working or living in Walpole. Look for WOW on Facebook and in The Clarion. Membership dues are \$35 a year.

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

-Susan Johnson

**The Way the Christmas and  
New Year Holidays  
fall on the Calendar this Year  
The January 2025 CLARION  
May not be in your mailbox until  
after the New Year  
BUT will be on-line  
December 30**



## FROM THE CLARION

**A sampling of way we've reported in more than 13 years of publication:**

**One Year Ago (December 2023)** - The Walpole Foundation launched its first website ([www.thewalpolefoundation.org](http://www.thewalpolefoundation.org)). It features its properties; current projects; and, useful information about the Walpole Foundation.

**Three Years Ago (December 2021)** - The 2021 Century Farm Award was presented to Twin Spruce Farm and the McGill family at the NH State Grange banquet. Twin Spruce Farm is a multi-purpose operation, raising replacement heifers and producing hay crops, cordwood and maple syrup.

**Five Years Ago (December 2019)** - Walpole Fire-EMS was presented the EMS Unit of the Year award for 2019. The award has been presented annually since 1998.

**Seven Years Ago (December 2017)** - The Monadnock Conservancy was given a 95.4-acre parcel of land from Walpole resident Jane Skofield that abuts the Hooper Forest. The property offers incredible plant and tree diversity, and provides key habitat for wildlife.

**Nine Years Ago (December 2015)** - The Bellows Falls Police Department thanked the Walpole Police Department for their service. The week of November 8, Walpole police assisted Bellows Falls twice – once with the robbery of the Greater Falls Pharmacy, and the very next day for a burglary in progress in which those involved were apprehended and jailed.

**Eleven Years Ago (December 2013)** - The flower shop in downtown Walpole has blossomed with a new owner, Walpole resident Andrea Daley, with a new look and delightful things inside the store.

## WE PRINT AND MAIL POSTCARDS, APPEALS AND NEWSLETTERS

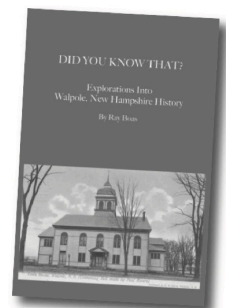
*Right here  
under our roof.*

**802-254-3550**  
**HowardPrintingInc.com**  
Brattleboro, Vermont

**HOWARD PRINTING**  
I n c o r p o r a t e d



**Walpole History Books  
\$20 each  
Holiday Gift Special  
Both for \$30  
Ray Boas  
603 756-4545  
[rayboas@comcast.net](mailto:rayboas@comcast.net)**





# MILESTONES

## Passed

Rogeania (Gina) R. Nason  
August 4, 1948 - October 28, 2024

## Walpole Foundation

As we celebrate this season of giving, we are reminded of the strength and generosity of our community. The Walpole Foundation is thankful for the community's support to build a new school for the Walpole Village School. The new building will have a community room that can be used by residents and groups to hold events and activities. We look forward to keeping you informed of our progress.

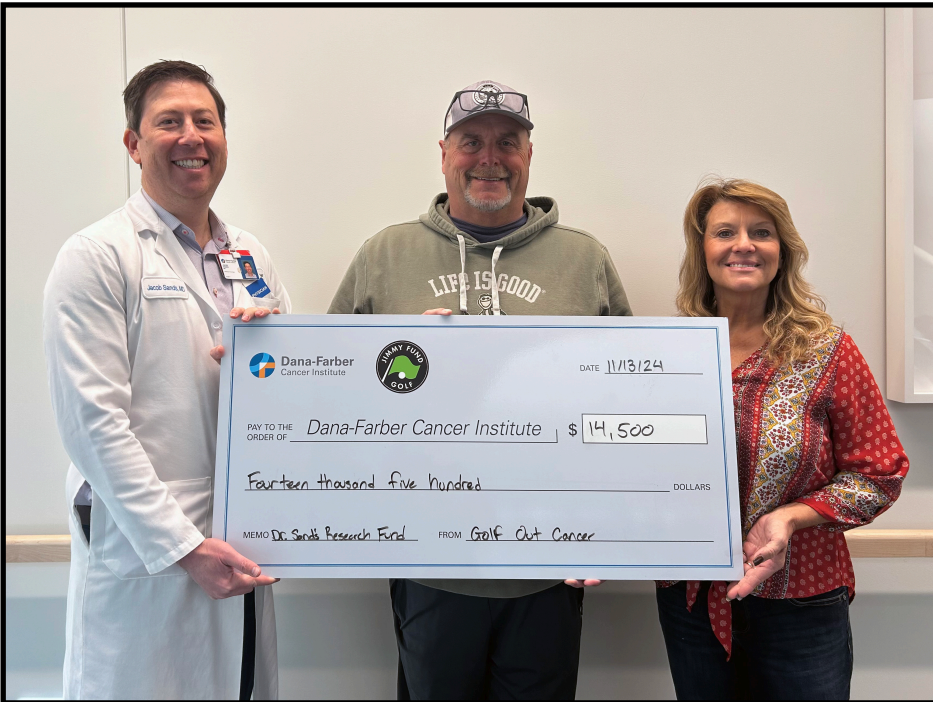
From all of us at The Walpole Foundation, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with hope. Together, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for local families.

-Sara Barrett

## Scouting for Food Drive - Update

Cub Scout Pack 299 and Boy Scout Troop 299 again held their Scouting for Food Drive, this year on November 2 and 9 at: Walpole Post Office, Walpole Recycling Center, Tractor Supply and Shaw's. The total collections this year came to 1025 pieces of people and pet food and \$4040 in monetary donations. The monetary donations we will presented to Fall Mountain Food Shelf Saturday, November 23, while the scouts help make Thanksgiving boxes for those in need

-Deb Pawelczyk



A huge thank you to Walpole and the surrounding communities for their donations to our 2024 Golf Out Cancer Event. Today two of our committee members, Dean and Christine Prentiss, were able to present a check to Dana Farber Cancer Institute for \$14,500! We were also able to donate \$2,000 to DHC-Keene for gas cards for cancer patients. Thank you to all that made this possible.

-Kerry Pickering

## The WALPOLE Clarion

A monthly for the Walpole Community

Ray Boas, Publisher

PO Box 757

Walpole, NH 03608

603 756-4545

Submissions about community events and achievements welcomed.

Submit ads, articles & photographs to:  
rayboas@comcast.net

January Deadline: December 20

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing

Ray Boas: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line at:  
thewalpoleclarion.com

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER

I will guess you may feel the same way - where did this year go? Yes, it is November 20th as I am writing to you for the December issue, but I have also begun planning 2025 as well. My year has flown by. It was not packed with as many travel explorations as in the past, but full every day with projects and marking things off my lists. And, I have had fun. Hope you have the same sense of accomplishment reflecting back on this year.

Sixteen pages for you here, and I have had fun weaving them together to hopefully have everything informative and visually pleasing for you. I have been formatting pages and designing with type now for well over six decades, having gotten my first letterpress at the age of eleven. It is different with computers, of course, and what fun it is learning new "tricks" each month as I am working on the month's layout. I certainly feel blessed to have so much fun while doing something I enjoy while hopefully informing, educating and bringing pleasure to others - namely you.

Much to keep track of this coming year, and report to you - Hooper renovations for the community's benefit; tracking progress of the new police station; conservation and trail work by our dedicated conservation commission members. As we enter the new year, if there is more you wish to see on these pages, let me know. HAPPY HOLIDAYS

—Ray Boas, Publisher

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

One team of local business banking experts.  
**One goal: Helping your business succeed.**



At Savings Bank of Walpole, we know every business is unique. That's why our local team takes the time to understand your goals and provide personalized banking solutions. From commercial loans to low-cost checking accounts, cash management, and fraud protection, we offer everything your business needs—all with the convenience of talking to a local expert.

Let us help your business grow and thrive.  
Call **(603) 352-1822** or visit **walpolebank.com**.



FDIC-Insured   

Top row (L-R): Amy Lehr,  
Jessica Weston, Crystal Lewis.

Bottom row (L-R): Peter Carvell  
Andrew Richardson.

