



Town Meeting Time

Annual Budget Meeting

The Annual Walpole Budget Hearing was held on February 13 for presentation of the upcoming budget to interested residents prior to voting at Town Meeting. In addition to elected officials and town staff, there were five interested residents in attendance. Unfortunately, this meeting to learn about Walpole's fiscal operations is not usually well attended. The proposed 2025 will be the first Article to be voted upon at Town Meeting on Saturday, March 15.

A possible reason for the low turnout is recognition in advance of the hard work done by the Select Board and departmental staff in keeping Town expenditures in-line. The proposed 2025 operating budget of

\$4,737,098 reflects an increase of only 0.53 % (that is just over one half of one percent) as compared to the 2024 budget. In addition, reports given out showed actual expenditures in 2024 were less than budgeted. As mentioned by one resident in the audience, "...In light of recent inflation figures, it is as though this is really a decrease in the budget." Select Board chair, Cheryl Mayberry explained, "As far as the budget is concerned there are no real changes from last year."

Also to be voted upon on Saturday, March 15 are a number of Warrant Articles requiring funding. These include vehicle purchases, and money

- Continued Page 2

Police Study Committee Update

(Editor's Note: This article explains the deletion of a Warrant Article for a funding bond)

Over the past several months, the Police Study Committee has hosted multiple Community Listening Sessions regarding the proposed new police station. The overwhelming consensus from the community is clear: a new police station is needed. However, many residents expressed concerns that the proposed project is too large and expensive.

- Continued Page 2

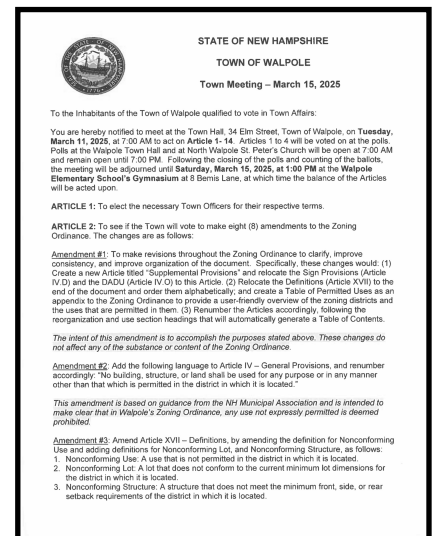


**Town Warrant Articles
may be found on the
CLARION Website
Link on Right Sidebar
Look for the page below.**

Town Meeting

Voting at the polls
Tuesday, March 11, 2025,
7am to 7pm
Walpole Town Hall
and St. Peter's Church

Town Meeting reconvenes
Saturday, March 15, 1:00 pm
Walpole Elementary
School Gym
at which time
Warrant Articles 5-14
will be voted upon.





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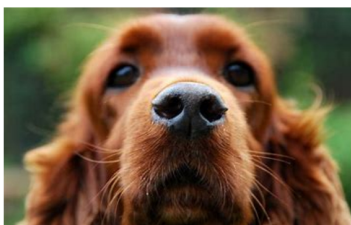
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- Budget from Page 1

to be set aside in Capital Reserve Funds for future purchases such as vehicles for the highway and police departments. These articles are routine, and something voted upon and passed each year. Plan to attend Town Meeting Saturday, March 15 at 1:00 pm, this year to be held at the Walpole Elementary School Gymnasium.

-Ray Boas

Where's my License?



License me by April 30th
 and be eligible for a
PRIZE DRAWING

For more information contact:
 Walpole Town Clerk

- Police from Page 1

An article was originally set to appear on the 2025 warrant, requesting voter support for a \$7.5 million project. This proposal included \$4.0 million to be raised through fundraising and \$3.5 million from a future bond. Upon review, the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) raised legal questions about the article.

Taking into account both community feedback and the concerns raised by the DRA, the Selectboard voted to remove the article from the warrant. However, this decision does not prevent the committee from continuing its fundraising efforts. It also allows time to reassess the conceptual plan and make any necessary adjustments.

We appreciate your continued support as we work toward a solution that meets the needs of our community.

-Steve Dalessio Selectman

Warrant Article 2 Explained

(Editor's Note: Article 2 is on the Ballot Tuesday, March 11, to amend eight sections of Walpole's Zoning Ordinance. This one Warrant Article covers three pages of text. The CLARION asked for an article so you may be prepared in advance to understand what is presented. The reasons for these changes, as on the ballot, are provided in this article. Those three pages will be on one page on the ballot in small type. For easier reading the complete Warrant Articles are linked from the CLARION website side bar.)

<https://thewalpoleclarion.com/>

Early in 2024 the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board met several times with the Southwest Regional Planning Commission to review and audit our current Zoning Ordinance. We looked at strategies for improving the organization and structure of the zoning ordinance so that it is better understood by Town Officials who are responsible for administering it, and can be more intuitively navigated by the general public.

Both Boards unanimously recommended putting the following amendments to a town vote.

Amendment 1: The intent of this amendment is to make revisions throughout the ordinance to clarify, improve consistency, and improve organization to the document. These changes do not affect any of the substance or content of the Zoning Ordinance.

Amendment 2: This amendment is based on the guidance from the NH Municipal Association and is intended to make clear that in Walpole's Zoning Ordinance, any use not expressly permitted is deemed prohibited.

- Continued Page 4

Candidate Statements

*When there is competition for an a position on the ballot, the Clarion invites those individuals to submit comments requesting your vote. The order on the ballot is determined by **RSA 656:5-a - Order of Candidate Names on Ballots**. – “Whenever there are 2 or more candidates for the same office whose names will appear together within the same column or list on a ballot, the position of such names shall be determined according to this section.”*

Jana Sellarole

I'm Jana Sellarole, and I'm running for a seat on the Walpole Town Library Board of Trustees. My interest in joining the Board of Trustees is related to my 9 years of serving on the board of the Friends of the Library, the final two years as co-chair. The thousands of dollars that the Friends generate each year, primarily at the annual fall book sale, allows the library to purchase new books, subscriptions and other important items that are not included in the town budget.

My family moved to Walpole in 1996. When our 3 children attended Walpole School, I was active with the Parent Teacher Group. I have been involved with many committees at the First Congregational Church, and have served for many years on the leadership group for the annual CROP Hunger Walk. I am currently a retired elementary school teacher.

Our wonderful town library is an important resource for all residents. I am seeking a more active role in continuing and building on the library's success. I would appreciate your vote. Thank you!

Jean Kobeski

I'm Jean Kobeski and I'm a candidate for a position on the Walpole Library Board of Trustees. As a retired educator whose interests focused on children's literature, I've been involved in the library for many years. I was one of a group of parents who conducted children's programs - story time, crafts, summer reading program, and special events- when my children were young. I was a member of the Friends of the Library, who sponsored A Taste of Walpole. I co-chaired the fundraising ef-

fort for the recent library renovation and am currently seeking my fourth term on the Board, for which I am Recording Secretary. I am proud of my long association with the library and its staff and will contribute to preserving and enhancing its role as an integral part of the Walpole Community.

Gail LaHaise

I have been a Library Trustee for the past 9 years. In my first term we tackled the renovation and enlargement of the library. Jean Kobeski and I served as co-chairs of the fundraising committee. I learned that raising money wasn't always easy but definitely rewarding. A high light of the renovation was the installation of the moveable stacks. This gave us far more space. Rails were added for another set, if and when, they are needed.

Last fall, I brought an idea to the board about initiating a scholarship for a Walpole graduating senior. With Bill Ranauro leading the committee, we will offer a \$1,000.00 scholarship which will be named after Shirley Capron, a long time former member of our board.

Work continues on the building's exterior with regard to lighting and stonework.

I would appreciate your consideration for another term on the Walpole Town Library Board.

-Gail LaHaise

Tim Lester

My name is Tim Lester, and I am running for re-election to another term on the Walpole Library Board of Trustees.

Candidates for Town Office Candidates Filed for Town of Walpole Election March 11, 2025

Selectman

Three-Year Term
(Vote for One)
Cheryl Mayberry

Trustee of Trust Funds

Three-Year Term
Rock N. Houstoun

Zoning Board

Three-Year Term
(Vote for Two)
Shane O'Keefe
William J. Sommer

Planning Board

Three-Year Term
(Vote for Two)
Jeff Harrington
Dennis Marcom

Cemetery Trustee

Three-Year Term
(Vote for One)
Kenneth P. McGill

Library Trustees

Three-Year Terms
(Vote for Three)
Jana Sellarole
Jean Kobeski
Gail LaHaise
Tim Lester

I have served on the Board since 2020. Prior to that, I volunteered my services to the library for a year following my retirement. The library has always been a special place to me, and in Walpole, we are indeed fortunate to have such a hard working and dedicated staff. I hope to continue serving the community as a library trustee. I would appreciate your vote on March 11.

Amendment 3: The purpose of this amendment is to provide more clarity to the distinction between the three types of nonconformities.

Amendment 4: The purpose of this amendment is to: (1) provide the ability to expand nonconforming lot without approval from the Zoning Board; and (2) make clear that lawfully existing nonconforming lots are allowed by state law to be developed, subject to the stated limitations.

Amendment 5: The purpose of this amendment is to spell out the responsibilities of the Board and criteria, pursuant to state law, for decision making in the zoning ordinance for the convenience of potential applicants.

Amendment 6: The purpose of this amendment is to assign the regulation of earth excavations to the Planning Board as specified by state law.

Amendment 7: The purpose of the amendment is to streamline the sign approval process by placing it with the Planning Board which has the authority to review and approve site plans for non-residential development.

Amendment 8: The purpose of this amendment to bring the zoning ordinance into compliance with standard procedure and clarify conflicting language in the Zoning Ordinance by designating the Select Board as administrators and enforcers of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board believes these amendments improve and strengthen our Zoning Ordinance and we would appreciate your support.

-Jeff Miller Chair: Planning Board
-Tom Murray: Chair Zoning Board

Walpole Fire District Annual Meeting

Thursday March 20, 7 pm
Walpole Fire Station
278 Main Street

Warrant Article 4 Explained

Thirty-one Walpole residents successfully petitioned to insert an article into the warrant for Town vote on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. When approved by Walpole voters the article will amend Walpole's Zoning Ordinance by adding this:

"to protect the welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Walpole with respect to traffic, pollution, health, and safety, and to preserve the unique and distinctive appeal of the Town's character and commercial development, drive-up window service shall not be allowed."

What will be the effect of this amendment? Simply stated, after March 11 new drive-up window service will be allowed for shops, restaurants, and other retail buildings in the commercial districts of Walpole (think Route 12 and the Village) only after obtaining a variance from the Zoning Board. Not affected at all will be existing drive-up window service offered by, for example, Diamond Pizza and the new Dunkin Donuts on Route 12 and Mascoma Bank in the Village. Existing service is "grandfathered."

Is this kind of rule common? Yes. Because of the problems posed by drive-up window service, many towns in New Hampshire, such as Barrington, Berlin, Center Harbor, Conway, Derry, Fitzwilliam, Goffstown, Londonderry, Mont Vernon, Newmarket, Newton, Rochester, and Weare, and throughout the United States have zoning rules restricting or prohibiting them.

If the rule is not approved, Walpole probably will remain welcoming to food outlets, such as KFC and Taco Bell, whose business models require drive-up service windows to attract customers in vehicles from Walpole and all over the region.

What's the benefit of the rule if approved? Less traffic and pollution, and protection of the unique and distinctive appeal of the Town's character

and commercial development. Drive-up window service is often associated with idling, polluting cars and trucks, traffic, litter, and congested roads and turnings, as well as the eyesore buildings and unsightly blacktopped lots necessary for handling the traffic of drive-ups.

www.PreserveWalpole.org

Tom Winmill

From Peggy's Desk

March - what does it mean to you? March Madness? The Ides of March? For me, as a child it meant a family birthday party because my father, my mother and I were all born in March, as were my paternal grandmother, two Aunts, one Uncle and four cousins! When I moved to New Hampshire, it became the month of Town elections and Town Meetings. This year Walpole Town Meeting is March 15 - the Ides of March. If you are superstitious, you may take that as a bad omen. The Ides of March, in case you have forgotten, is the day Julius Ceasar was stabbed to death by Brutus.

March 11 is voting by ballot day in Town Hall and in North Walpole at St. Peter's Church. It is important we turn out that day, even though there is only one contested office - that of the Library Board of Directors. My concern about that day is the ballot itself. We, as citizens, are asked to approve a set of new zoning ordinances which few of us have read. In Town Hall there is a posting, seven pages long, which lists the zoning ordinances as well as Fall Mountain School District warrants and candidates. We have been informed by the State of New Hampshire we may not print a ballot seven pages long, so the print has been reduced to microscopic proportions. To aid us in reading, we will be given a booklet to read which has the ordinances.

When I asked if there had been a public meeting that I missed to introduce us to all these zoning changes, I

- Continued Page 14

Walpole Worships

First Congregational
Sunday, 10:00 am

Bible Study - Wed. 4-5 pm on Zoom

<https://walpolenhucc.org/>

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 4 at 5:30 pm, First Congregational and Saint Johns Episcopal Church will co host a pancake supper in the Fellowship Hall of First Congregational. All are welcome. Free will offering for the meal.

Ash Wednesday March 5 at 7:00 pm
Special worship service to mark the beginning of Lent.

Community Potluck Supper: Saturday, March 8 5:30 pm. Bring a main dish, dessert or side dish, beverages provided. Everyone is invited.

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

**For Service Schedules
visit the church websites.**

All Saints Cookbook

As a fundraiser for All Saints Parish....our community cookbook can be yours for a donation of \$20.00 each. Recipes from soup to squirrel....call Kathy @ 603-543-7868 and I will get one or more to you....THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT
-Kathy Golec

5 minutes and 29 seconds

That's the average total time of customers waiting in vehicles for drive-up window service at national brand food outlets, according to the 24th Annual Drive-Thru Study of Intouch Insight, Inc. Idling, polluting, in a line with other vehicles waiting to receive their soon discarded food bags. How does this protect the welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Walpole with respect to traffic, pollution, health, and safety?

Because of the problems caused by drive-up window service, many towns in New Hampshire, such as Barrington, Berlin, Center Harbor, Conway, Derry, Fitzwilliam, Goffstown, Londonderry, Mont Vernon, Newmarket, Newton, Rochester, and Weare, have zoning rules restricting or prohibiting new drive-up window service.

Vote "YES" on Article 4 to amend Walpole's zoning ordinance limiting new drive-up window service in the Village and Route 12.

and keep Walpole beautiful!

Paid for by www.PreserveWalpole.org

VOTING PRIMER

First Time Registration - bring proof of citizenship (passport or birth certificate) as well as photo ID and proof of residency

Absentee Application - may be found on Town Website - Town Clerk - Elections - scroll down page for link - or:

<https://www.walpolenh.us/town-clerk/tax-collector/page/elections>

Voting at Polls - ID to Vote - Driver's License - NH Non-Driver ID
US Armed Forces ID - US Passport or Passcard

Annual Town Meeting Reformation of Walpole School District



The time is now! Passage of Warrant Article 5 gives Walpole the opportunity to take control of its Pre-K to grade 8 elementary schools under the direct oversight of a Walpole School Board. Walpole students deserve all that we can do for them and our taxpayers deserve improved fiscal management with all of our funding for the exclusive benefit of Walpole students. We ask that you please attend this year's Annual Town Meeting to learn more about Article 5 and vote to proceed to the next steps in the process. The meeting will be held in the Walpole Elementary School gymnasium on March 15 at 1:00 PM. This is the time for your voice to be heard.

Paid for by Walpole Parents for Educational Excellence
Thomas H. Ronning, Chair



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.

March at the Library

Needle Felting Class: Saturday, March 22, 10 am – 12 Noon,
Main Library. Julie Cyr will teach us how to needle felt a pretty
and functional wool bowl. This program is for ages 10 and up.
Registration is required and begins March 1. Call or stop by the
library to register.

Lunch and a Movie:

Thursday, March 13, 1 pm, Main Library: 9 to 5

Thursday, March 27, 1 pm, Main Library: *Julie and Julia*

Bring your lunch and enjoy a movie on the big screen at the
library.

For more information on any of our programs or services, please call
us at 603-756-9806 or check our website: walpoletownlibrary.org.

North Walpole

Village District Budget Hearing

Tuesday March 11

Village District Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 8

Subject to Change
for time and location check
<https://www.northwalpolevillage.org/>

CROCK POT BUFFET

Saturday March 8 5-7 pm

Sponsored by

United Church of Bellows Falls
8 School Street - Bellows Falls

A variety of hot dishes, salad bar,
rolls, desert & beverage

Adults \$14 - 6-12 \$6 - Under 6 free

Dinner benefits

Bellows Falls Area Senior Center

Snow date March 22

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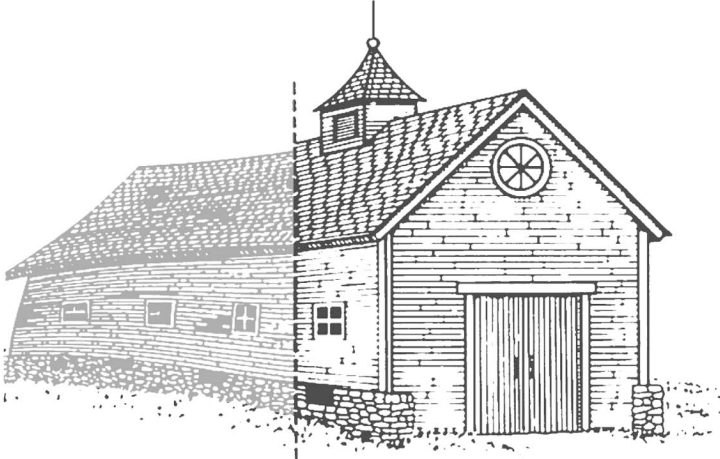
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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...that 250 years ago, March 14, 1775, then Captain Benjamin Bellows (second son of Walpole's Founder Benjamin Bellows) led Walpole's militia across the Connecticut River to aid our neighbors in Westminster? The incident there, which became known as The Westminster Massacre, precipitated and led to action by British General Gage to march his troops, not five weeks later, from Boston to Lexington and Concord to confiscate the Colonists' munitions there.

In Westminster, at the north end of the King's Highway (US Route 5), before the dip down to the flats, sat



Westminster Court House

the County Court House. Court was scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 1775. Vermont lands at the time had overlapping claims by both New York and New Hampshire Grants causing tensions between the Tories (loyalists to the British Crown) and Whigs (those Colonists who opposed the King).

There were warnings that court should not be held.

With those conflicting land grants, the Vermont colonists, not wanting to pay taxes to Tory New York landlords, feared the sheriff would force the judge to foreclose on their properties to pay their debts. The judge assured the farmers he would only hear criminal cases. But not trusting the New York judge, almost 100 armed settlers took possession of the courthouse the night of the 13th.

Learning this, the sheriff led a posse to the courthouse and ordered the farmers to leave within fifteen minutes. The farmers jeered, ignoring the order. The posse retreated to Norton's Tavern to assess the situation. Hearing what had happened, the judge rushed to the courthouse to tell the farmers the sheriff was wrong to threaten them, and they could stay in place. About four hours later, and fueled by gallons of rum, the armed posse returned to the courthouse. The sheriff attempted to enter. The farmers pushed him back, and the sheriff yelled to his men "Fire!" Twenty-one-year-old William French was killed, and Daniel Houghton died nine days later from his wounds.

By noon on the 14th, more than four hundred militia had assembled in Westminster, including Captain Benjamin Bellows' Walpole militia. The Rev. Henry W. Bellows, in his 1854



Monuments to French and Houghton in cemetery west of Route 5 at top of hill.

speech consecrating the Bellows monument, reported that the mob was threatening lynch law against the sheriff and his men, but his ancestor Benjamin Bellows, "...persuaded the maddened people, who might otherwise have gone to the extremity of a general butchery of the loyalists to seize the principle men, and carry them, under his escort, to Northampton, where the only strong jail could be found, out of disputed territory."

Receiving news in Lexington and Concord of the battle, Captain Bellows, along with his brother and 35 volunteers, left for Concord on April 21. He had hoped to meet others in Keene, but they had left. Bellows and his men headed to Concord for what ended up being about an 11-day expedition.

Colonel Bellows' regiment was not ordered to join General Stark, otherwise Walpole's men would have taken part in the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777. Receiving orders in September 1777, Colonel Bellows marched his regiment to reinforce the Continental Army at Saratoga, where they remained in the field for 27 days.

See page 15 for the anniversary event commemorating what is considered by many the "First Bloodshed of the American Revolution."

FLORENTINE FILMS

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Walpole Players Radio Follies 2025

Have you been wondering what those folks in Garish Summit have been up to? How about Fibber Magee? And what does Lucy know about Ethel's birthday? You can find out the answers to these and other pressing questions at the Walpole Players annual presentation of old-time radio shows, otherwise known as the "Cure for Cabin Fever Radio Follies". It's a cabaret style night, so bring an indoor picnic to enjoy while you catch up with neighbors and friends that have been in semi-hibernation this winter. Director Judy Epstein and cast have assembled a nice variety of skits and are eager to share the laughs. You will recognize familiar faces and see some new ones, too. Cast members enjoy this production because they read from radio scripts and don't have to memorize anything. That doesn't mean there will be no gaffes, because it's live and anything can happen!

Held in the Helen Miller Theater in the Walpole Town Hall, the show starts

at 7:00 pm on March 15, 2025. Doors open at 6:30 allowing time to picnic and visit. Tickets are available at Mascoma Bank on Main Street in Walpole. Tables comfortably seat six people, so get your friends together and reserve a table today. Please check our Facebook page for updates.

- Meg Kupiec

Great Decisions

We will meet again in the Walpole Town Library Monday, April 14 6:00 pm for "U.S. Foreign Policy at a Global Crossroads"

In Memoriam:

It was Ron MacLachlan's inspired idea to join "Great Decisions" – a Foreign Policy Association public forum about which most of us knew next to nothing. It was Ron MacLachlan's vast experience in foreign service, his wise counsel, his belief in civil discourse and the importance of understanding, and his dedication to giving back to this community that guided us and continues to inspire us. Thank you, Ron, we will truly miss you.

-Sue Kibbe

Horse Thieves Biennial Banquet September 18

The Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Hen Roosts and Clothes Lines ("Walpole Horse Thieves") will hold their biennial banquet Thursday, September 18, 2025 at the Alyson's Orchard banquet facility. Once again, the banquet will feature our immensely popular home-cooked meal. Many people in Walpole look forward to this event and we are delighted to announce the date so you can mark your calendars. Other details are being worked out and will be shared when available.

The banquet is open to members of the Walpole Horse Thieves and their guests. Men interested in joining the Walpole Horse Thieves should contact Lewis LaClair, Clerk (756-0001, or LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com).

-Lewis LaClair, Clerk



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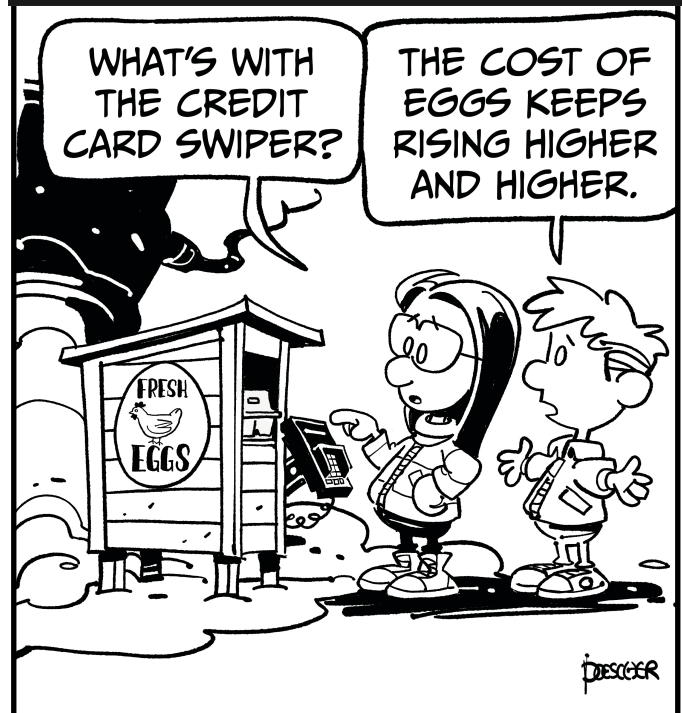
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Wednesday March 12 and Thursday, March 13
Come anytime between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm

at **The Gathering Place**
14 Westminster Street - Walpole, NH

Bring names and addresses of people to whom you would like to send greetings

Come anytime for:

Artwork and correspondence:

Select or design cards.

Walk to the Walpole Post Office and **mail** your cards.



Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Selectboard: February 13 - Total Loss of Highway Dump Truck: Ms. Mayberry reported that the value of the truck was \$21,023. The Town's deductible of \$1,000 will be applied to this amount. (It was reported in the January 30 minutes that the truck began to smoke returning from being repaired, and burst into flames.)

Selectboard: February 4 - Mr. Dalessio reported that the Highway Department is struggling with equipment this year. Of the six 6-wheel dump trucks, two are operational, three are waiting for service, and one just burned up on the way back from being serviced. All four of the 1-ton trucks are operational although some need repairs. Two of the trucks are 2011 models and the rest more recent.



2025 Hooper Institute Summer Work Program for Teens - Do you enjoy working outside on farms growing vegetable produce or raising dairy cows? Are you interested in being with and teaching kids at one of our Hooper camps? Does an opportunity to work in vegetable and flower gardens, plus prep for and learn about a cut flower CSA, get you excited? Then our Summer Work Program might be for you. There are some requirements. You must be a resident of Walpole and turning 14 by June 15, 2025. You must have a working personal email. You will need transportation to and from the work sites and timesheets need to be submitted by Monday noon, every week. We award up to 120 hours of work, beginning soon after school ends in June

and until school begins again late August. The pay is \$9.00/hour, and the work schedule is negotiated with each mentor. It is a real commitment to show up, work hard under intense summer weather conditions, and to do good work. Did I mention you will also have fun? You will. Our 2025 Mentors (so far): Hooper Institute Day Camps, Woodworking Camp, and Hooper Flower CSA. (Other work sites in Walpole to be announced)

2025 FLOWER CSA - Subscriptions are now open. Each subscriber gets six bouquets of beautiful flowers and herbs over six weeks (one each week) grown, foraged and arranged by the Hooper Institute and helpers. The cost is \$120. Pick up is Friday afternoons, 165 Prospect Hill Rd, Walpole NH. I plan to offer half subscriptions later in the summer. What do you think? The summer season is likely to begin July 11 and end late August, based on available blooms!

2025 HOOPER CAMPS - All camps will be happening this summer as our building renovations will be complete! Registration forms will be available April 1.

Morning Camp Week One for kids entering grades 1 and 2: June 30-July 3

Morning Camp Week Two for kids entering grades 3 and 4: July 7-10

Adventure Camp for kids entering grades 5-8: July 7-10

Woodworking Camp for kids entering grades 5-8: Date to be announced!

For high school applications, to join the CSA or for camp inquiries and questions, email Helen hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net or call (603) 566-2805 — Inquiries to Helen Dalbeck hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net or (603) 566-2805

**G&R
EQUIPMENT**

AVAILABLE TO RENT:

*With or without Operator



JOHN DEERE 75D

- Digging & Shaping Bucket
- Blade
- Thumb
- 4-Way Coupler

KOBELCO ED 150

- Two Digging Buckets
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JOHN DEERE 50

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- Blade
- Thumb
- 4-Way Coupler



JOHN DEERE 120

- Digging & Shaping Bucket
- Blade
- Thumb
- 4-Way Coupler

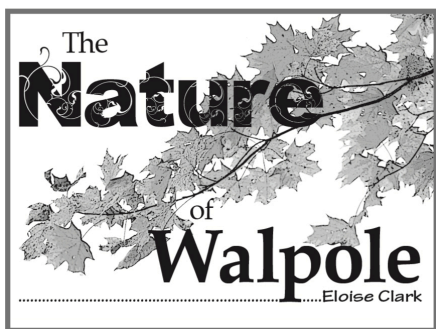


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*Either Renter or Operator **MUST** be Experienced

G&R EQUIPMENT – Walpole, NH 603-904-4544



Does the word “shorebird” evoke images of walking on a summer beach, watching tiny sandpipers skitter back and forth as the waves break and recede? It’s an image far removed from Walpole in March. However, we have several shorebirds who return to the Connecticut Valley during the breeding season. There are two who arrive this month. They herald the release of winter and the beginning of spring migration.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) are indeed vociferous. We often hear it’s noisy *kildeah* cry before we spot the bird. It will also repeat a *deer-deer-deer* chant when disturbed. They are our largest plover, standing over ten inches tall. This striking bird



has two black chest bands framed by a white neck collar above and a snow white belly below. The rusty orange colored tail protrudes from the brown back feathers. Adults sport ruby red eyes.

Killdeer like treeless areas, such as large fields, pastures and lawns.

They will try to nest in all these locales, plus gravel rooftops and parking lot edges. Gravel bars along the shorelines and islands of the broad Connecticut River are ideal places for them to lay their speckled eggs, as they easily blend in with the stones and pebbles.

When the young hatch, they are fully feathered miniatures of the adults. About the size of a marshmallow, they use their “toothpick” legs to skitter as fast as they can to keep up with Mom. Their cuteness factor is off the charts. Mother killdeer perform a convincing “broken wing” act to lure away predators when they come too close to the nest or young. The young quickly learn how to forage for insects, spiders, snails, worms and seeds.

While killdeer are in the plover family, the American woodcock (*Scotopax minor*) is considered a sandpiper. It has a long bill about a third the length of its eleven-inch body. It has short legs and a round, chubby body. The mottled brown back contrasts with the rusty orange belly. Quite well camouflaged, woodcock hide in shrubby areas by day. They appear in damp fields in the evening to probe with that long bill primarily for earthworms. They will even stamp their feet to rouse the worms to the surface.

A sure sign of early spring is the male’s elaborate courtship flight. When on the ground they emit a very nasal *peent!* pause, *peent!* It continues for half a minute, then stops when the bird spirals a hundred yards high into the air. They seesaw back and forth on their descent. Listen for the liquid, bell-like twittering sound that is made by the wings. Their aerial displays will continue into April.

As spring progresses, two more shorebirds will arrive to call our valley home. The common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) is another probing sandpiper with a very long bill. It’s almost as tall as the woodcock, with a body that’s slender and striped. It likes swampier areas than the woodcock where it finds insect larva in the damp



ground. For courtship, they also trace circles high into the air and make what’s described as a “winnowing” call.

Spotted sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) ply the shores of the Connecticut River and other waterbodies. In breeding plumage, it’s the only sandpiper with small round spots on the chest. You might notice this small, seven-inch long bird as it scurries rapidly along the shoreline. It’s in search of crustaceans embedded in the sand. Every few steps it stops to bob its back end. When disturbed the spotted sandpiper flies with very stiff wingbeats. You can hear it call *peet-weet* or just *pweet-pweet-pweet*. It’s easy to see and identify if you’re out on the water.

There is much to look forward to in the coming weeks as spring unfolds. For now, keep an ear and eye out for the killdeer and woodcock. Enjoy their rites of spring.



Left - Killdeer
Above - Spotted Sandpiper
with tracks just above








Northeast Resource Recovery Association

"Partnering to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions"

WALPOLE, NH

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SUCH ACTIVE RECYCLERS!

Recycling isn't just good for your wallet, it's great for the environment, saving energy and resources. From October 2023 through September 2024, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) helped your community move the recyclable materials listed below to market to be processed into raw materials, ready to be remanufactured into new products! NRRA – **your recycling nonprofit** – partners with communities like yours to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions.

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL	2024 RECYCLED AMOUNTS	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT!
PLASTICS	26,544 LBS.	Here is just one benefit of recycling materials, rather than manufacturing new products from virgin resources.  You saved 1,395 gallons of gasoline!
GLASS	82,640 LBS.	 You saved about 495 trash bags from ending up in a landfill!
SCRAP METAL	12,200 LBS.	 You saved 18,178 pounds of iron ore!
PAPER &/OR CARDBOARD	268,460 LBS.	 You saved 2,282 trees!
TIRES	9,755 LBS.	 You saved 232 gallons of oil!

Last month's Trash Talk article was so nice, I need to tell the tale twice! WMUR news came through with a Walpole Recycling interview of our very own, featuring "Diamond Don" Tretler, Shaena Hakey, myself, and volunteers Chris Burchstead and Pam Sponholz. If you can get yourself on the world wide web, type "WMUR Diamond Ring Walpole Recycling" and check out the video.

The Walpole Highway Department has done great work plowing us out and keeping sand on the ground and available to the public. There is more snow this year than we have seen in many years. Be careful driving around blind spots and walls of snow, and watch your step!

We are beginning to adjust our recycling process to incorporate the baling of plastic film. We are thinking about dedicating time to bale plastic film on Fridays going forward. Thank you to Hubbard for all of your clean plastic film! We have enough LDPE plastic film in Walpole to keep Plastic

Recycled recycling our plastic for years to come.

Over time, Walpole Recycling has accrued hazardous waste that is mistakenly dropped off at our facility. This can include antifreeze, chemicals, and many other hazardous materials. Town of Walpole residents can drop off up to 10 gallons of hazardous waste per visit to household hazardous waste days at the Keene Recycling Center. We would like to direct

all of our accrued hazardous waste to Keene Recycling Center this spring with the help of the public. Please ask an attendant to find out more about hazardous waste, and how you can help. Please keep your precious jewels out of the trash, and bring your "trash treasures" to the Reuse Center. Keep recycling Walpole!

-Ben Hoy

"Diamond Don" Tretler, Ben Hoy, Shaena Hakey, and volunteers Chris Burchstead and Pam Sponholz airing on WMUR.



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Old Home Days 2025

As we look forward to warmer weather, it's exciting to remember that Walpole's Old Home Days celebrations are scheduled this summer for June 25-29. The Old Home Day Committee is already hard at work planning a week of fun and festivities that will feature a parade, fireworks, a pet show, street dance, performances by the Walpole Players and the always popular booths and activities on the Common.

Walpole based community groups and local non-profits serving the Walpole community are invited to reserve space on the Common for the festivities on Saturday June 28. Local, non-profit community groups may reserve space for displays, exhibits, games, concessions and fundraising activities by contacting David Edkins at dmedkins@comcast.net or (603) 756-4249. This year the Committee is especially hopeful that a wider variety of food options can be offered on the Common.

The Committee anticipates a week of safe, community spirited fun for our Old Home Day celebration. However, as we all know, circumstances can change rapidly with weather and unforeseen events. The Committee reserves the right to change and/or adjust plans and protocols subject to then-current conditions.

Additional information will soon be available on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/walpoleoldhomedays>, such as schedule of events, advertising/sponsorship, Parade Participation and more.

- Dave Edkins

- Peggy from Page 4

was told it was the Planning Board meeting held in December. All Planning Board meetings are public. My definition of a public meeting is a town-wide alert to ask us to come to a public meeting for a particular purpose – such as the Public Meeting for the Police Station. Or the Public Meeting for the Budget. How else will anyone know the implications of a total overhaul of local zoning ordinances?

Town Meeting is on Saturday, March 15 at 1:00 pm in the Middle School gymnasium. (Yes, the Grange will have hotdogs). Last year we were blessed with about 183 voters in attendance at Town Hall. Can we top that this year? In addition to the Town Budget there are numerous warrant articles to be discussed and voted on. Article 7 was to be an article asking voters to approve our going forward with plans for a new police station. It has been pulled, in part because the DRA did not approve the wording. The Select-board will explain their reasoning in deferring the warrant. The work on the police station continues and it appears we are about to hire a grant writer for the project.

Someone said to me the other day you are becoming an old curmudgeon. Well, I will grant you I am old; but, if I am a curmudgeon, it is because I care. Walpole's future is in the hands of every voter.....think carefully about what that will look like.

The Walpolean

Keeping the community up to date
on community topics

visit — <https://thewalpolean.org/>

Enter email address to follow and receive
notifications of new posts by email.

MAPLE WEEKEND

MARCH 15TH - 16TH 12PM - 4PM

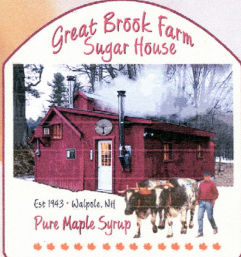


In conjunction with the
New Hampshire Maple
Producers Association

Enter our daily raffle
for a maple syrup
giveaway.

Try our maple syrup
on ice cream and/or
waffles (NO CHARGE!)

Tour our sugar house.



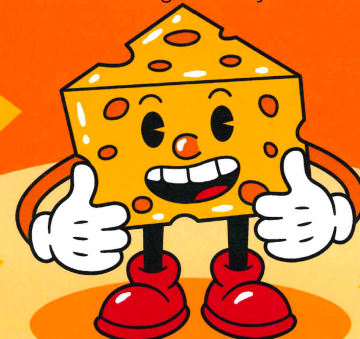
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Mac & Cheese March

Galloway Real Estate will be collecting boxes of mac and cheese during the month of March. These boxes will be divided and donated to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and Our Place.

Let's get Cheesy!



#MacAndCheeseMarch

**Hooper Institute
Seeks
Executive Director / Educator**

**Salaried Full-Time
Year Round Position
Summer 2025**

Applicants for the Executive Director position must be an educator with a background in agriculture, forestry, soils, botany, and environmental sciences. Responsibilities will include: fundraising; summer camps; outdoor activities; and teaching in elementary and middle school part of the time.

Submit letter of interest and a resume as well as references by March 21 to:

Hooper Institute
Attn: Search Committee
Town of Walpole
PO Box 729
Walpole, NH 03608

**PICTURE
YOUR
MESSAGE HERE**

O! Horrid Scene! - Ira Allen

Westminster Massacre

- Considered the First Bloodshed of the American Revolution by Many -

250th Anniversary Commemoration

→ **March 13-15, 2025** ←

On the King's Highway

Westminster, Vermont

- ⇒ **March 13**, Thursday between **3:00 and 4:00**, Gathering at the house site of Azariah Wright, (4585 US Route 5, corner of Sand Hill Road) and walk to the Cemetery. The Whigs gathered at Wright's about 4:00, took a stick of firewood from his woodpile and then walked $\frac{3}{4}$ miles up to the Court-house and occupied it. Unarmed William French was killed by gunfire that evening. We will reenact that fateful walk.
- ⇒ **March 14**, Friday, **4:00**. Gathering at the Court-house site as marked by the DAR monument on Shattuck Road, celebrating the non-violent retaking of the courthouse. New York and British control were ousted from current Eastern Vermont, five weeks before Paul Revere's ride. Our Westminster Massacre museum exhibit the will open at **3:00**.
- ⇒ **March 15**, Saturday, **7:00 pm** at dusk. Candlelight vigil at young William French's grave site on the anniversary of his well-attended burial. The museum will open at **6:00pm** with refreshments and our Massacre exhibit. Parking is behind the Post Office, roughly across the road from the Town Hall museum.

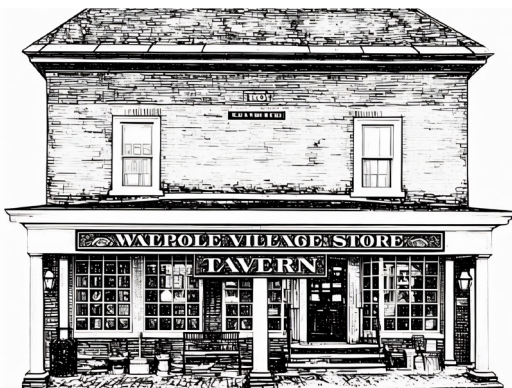


Westminster Historical Society (Vermont)
more info:

www.WestminsterVtHistory.org

Check our Facebook page for updates - Westminster Vt Historical Society

WALPOLE VILLAGE STORE — TAVERN



There is an opportunity for a new restaurant in Walpole on Westminster Street. The Walpole Foundation seeks a new lease holder for the former Spencer's.

The restaurant seats 48 people with an outside deck for 12 more. It has a fully equipped kitchen, and is ready for another lunch and dinner option for Walpole.

It is an excellent opportunity for a creative food lover and hard worker to join the Walpole Foundation by leasing this space. Call our office at 603-756-3595 or email the thewalpolefoundation@gmail.com



Walpole Girls Basketball Wins Championship, Capping Off Perfect Season

By Ila Sivret (8th grade)

On Friday, February 14th, victory, not love, was in the air. The Walpole Elementary School Girls Basketball team finished off an undefeated season by defeating Chesterfield for the championship. Chesterfield had won the championship the three previous years in a row. Walpole won the game by double digits.

Sandy Smiditz had returned to coach Walpole this season. It was her second stint at the helm.

All season, the team was led by its 8th graders, including Artemis Lakin, Stella Grillone, Sam Weeks, Adella Ashworht, Ila Sivret, Esme Wood, Rylee Clark, Savannah Anderson, and Scarlett Methven. The captains for the team were Sam Weeks, Artemis Lakin, and Stella Grillone. "I think we had a really successful season," said Grillone. The girls won most of their games in dominant fashion, defeating opponents by double digit scores. Walpole had struggled against Chesterfield earlier in the season while still pulling off a win. They would not face such troubles in the championship game.

WES's School Therapy Dogs

By Lucas Waring and
Brook Glover (6th grade)

Walpole Elementary School is lucky to have two wonderful therapy dogs. They work with Mrs. Treat nearly every day. The first dog is the oldest dog, Eloise. She is one of the nicest dogs you'll ever meet. She is a black lab, so she's super playful and she loves it when you scratch her. She loves both kids and adults. Fun fact: her ears go up and down when she walks.

The second dog is Beatrice. She is also a black lab. She has the cutest puppy eyes and loves scratches on her belly. She rolls over and shows her belly to tell you she wants scratches. Whenever you have food she comes up to you and begs. But she's so cute doing it you almost have to give it to her. Fun fact: during a dancing class called NHDI she walks in and wants to dance (and she loves cheese sticks). What do therapy dogs do? They help you feel better in times that are hard for you. They are always there for you no matter what is going on in your life. They offer love and comfort to every member of the Walpole school community.

MLB Preview

By Levi Putnam and
Mason Paul (8th grade)

Major League Baseball is back this February as spring training begins once again. After an amazing 2024 season, rookie breakout stars such as Paul Skenes and Luis Gil will look to continue their success. For others, 2024 was a disappointing season, such as Nolan Arenados. He had 16 HRs and a .272 batting average which is not gonna cut it with that \$35,000,000 salary. There were also historic seasons by both Aaron Judge and Shohei Ohtani.

This off season, Jaun Soto was signed to a big deal by the Mets who are looking to contend after an NLCS appearance where they came just short of ending the Dodgers World Series run. The New York Yankees also made a splash signing Max Fried to a



7 year deal, worth 218 million dollars. The true offseason heroes were the Las Vegas A's. They have begun construction on their new stadium as long as they spend more money. They started by signing Luis Severinio and Jeffery Springs. These pitchers are 2 of the league's finest. The Red Sox always made a splash with their signings, including the recent acquisition of Alex Bregman.

We predict the LA Dodgers to win 117 games but lose to the Mets in the first round.



WES Celebrates Heart Health Day

By Jake Gagnon

On Friday, February 14th, Valentine's Day, Walpole students in grades 5-8 celebrated Heart Health Day by participating in several physical activities, practicing heart healthy skills, and learning about the importance of heart health.

Students signed up for and participated in two sessions during their advisory block at the end of the day. Their choice of activities included CPR training with Mark Houghton, Jim Suozzi, and others, Kickboxing with Ms. Plummer, Muay Thai with the head trainer from Elements MMA Gym in Keene, Dance with Mrs. Parrott and Mrs. McGuirk, Coloring with Mrs. Fleet, Yoga with Mrs. Mulhearn, and making heart healthy trail mix with Mrs. Laferriere and Mrs. Treat.

The Friday before, a representative from the American Heart Association came to give a talk about heart health and the month's Kids Heart Challenge. Throughout the entire month, students in all three Walpole Schools have raised money for the American Heart Association. The school that raises the most money will be rewarded with Mr. Cassarino, in costume, spending the day on top of their building.

Try a New Winter Sport: Jack Jumping

By Connor Heddon (8th grade)

Want a winter sport like no other that is easy to get into? If you do you should check out jack jumping! It is simply a ski with a seat on top which can be easily made with some sturdy wood and whatever mostly intact ski you can find. The seat needs to be low enough that you can touch your feet to the ground and wide enough to hold the sides so you don't fly off. With a couple of six inch screws and countersinking on the ski you will be able to zoom uncontrollably through the blissful powder of any hill that has plenty of steepness so you can get up to speed. Jack jumping is a great sport but be wary of using cross country skis because they are prone to snap in half.

An Interview with Physical Educator Mrs. Baird-Torney

by Elias Tsitsonis (8th grade), Seamus Cahill (7th grade), and Will Lent (7th grade)

For our article, we interviewed Mrs. Baird-Torney, or Mrs. B-T, our P.E. teacher in Walpole. We interviewed

her because she gives so much to our school and we wanted to hear her side of the story.

Q: Why do you like working at Walpole School?

A: "I love working at Walpole because we have a great community here of learners and students. I applied for the job at the Fall Mountain District because I live here and then as I've been here I really have loved getting to know everyone and teaching from kindergarten all the way up to eighth grade. That's why I love Walpole. (It's) because I get to be with you guys for ten years."

Q: What's your favorite thing about being at Walpole?

A: "I love being a physical education teacher because it's something that most people enjoy and if they don't enjoy it, I can get them to."

Q: What's your favorite sport to teach?

A: "My favorite sport to teach is Volleyball. Besides soccer, of course."

Just Ask

By Lillian Vickers and Addie Hearne (7th grade)

When you ask a question your brain sends a rush of energy (or insight) as the brain fires up, moving ahead and discovering the solutions to a problem. Humans are supposed to be curious, It helps you ponder questions, learn and explore different things. We went around asking people questions to see how different they would answer.

If you could be any age for the rest of your life, which would you choose?

"I would be 23, because it is a good age," said 7th graders Liv Loch.

Which celebrity would you choose to be your best friend?"

"Ralph Mocchio. He is 63 years old and is famous for his acting," said 7th grader Emmaline Suozzi.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?



Photo Jake Gagnon

-concluded on page 19

Walpole Business Note

DOG DAZE

The "hot dog truck" in the Shaws Plaza parking lot will be opening for the season Tuesday April 1. Serving lunch Tuesdays 11 am to 3 pm Breakfast and Lunch Wednesdays - Saturdays 6 am to 3 pm.

-Nicole Glover

Women of Walpole

Women of Walpole met on Wednesday February 19th at the home of Carol Malnati. Members enjoyed an afternoon of socializing and playing board games.

Our next meeting will be held on March 19 at 2:00 pm at the home of Tricia Houstoun with a program about Jouvay Chocolate. Members should check their emails for more information about this and future meetings.

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 (603-313-4018) or Carolyn LeBail (714-717-4184).

-Susan Johnson

Celebrate Spring

Send some Sunshine! Create a card with artist Mindy Fisher. Write a greeting and enclose a packet of seeds. Materials for card making, seeds, and postage provided. Enjoy fellowship and tea at The Gathering Place. Come anytime between 11 am and 4 pm on Wednesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 13. Bring as many names and addresses as you want. Invite others to participate with you!

-Priscilla Reynolds



FROM THE CLARION

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

One Year Ago (March 2024) - Our 150th Issue - First appearing October 2011, The Walpole Clarion is the longest continuously published newspaper in Walpole's history.

Three Years Ago (March 2022) - School Budget to Drive Property Taxes Up - An excruciating four hour Fall Mountain Regional School District Budget Deliberative Session was held February 10. On your property tax bill for 2021, the school tax rate was \$13.76 per \$1,000 of property assessment. That rate will escalate to \$16.26 for the 2022/2023 school year, an increase of \$2.50 per \$1,000 evaluation. Thus, a home with an assessment of \$300,000 can expect at least an additional \$750 in property taxes.

Five Years Ago (March 2020) - Walpole Girl Lobbies Senator for Diabetes Funding - Sydney Palmiotto, 14 year-old diabetes advocate, visited Senator Maggie Hassan in her Washington D.C. office February 5. Senator Hassan thanked Sydney for her advocacy on behalf of this important issue, stating '... I will continue supporting critical programs like the Special Diabetes Program that help keep Granite Staters safe and healthy.'

Seven Years Ago (March 2018) - Did You Know That...Walpole's first Town Meeting was held the third Wednesday in March 1752?

Nine Years Ago (March 2016) - The Hooper Trustees signed documents with the Monadnock Conservancy placing a permanent conservation easement on the Hooper Golf Course property at the top of Prospect Hill. A check for \$450,500 was presented to the Hooper Educational Trust to "seal the deal" and protect the golf course and surrounding woodlands.

Eleven Years Ago (March 2014) - On February 7, the Graves Family's Great Brook Farm received the Farm of Distinction Award at the New Hampshire Farm & Forest Expo. The family farmed the same land for more than 250 years.

Thirteen Years Ago (March 2012) - The First Congregational Church of Walpole (UCC) is celebrating its 250th Anniversary. In 1761 Jonathan Leavitt was ordained and installed. The church was organized in democratic Congregation town meeting style.

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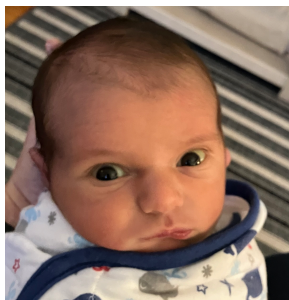
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MILESTONES



Born

Anthony Harrison Posillico
December 5, 2024, Newport, RI
Parents: LCDR Anthony Posillico &
LCDR Christina Kasper Posillico
Grandparents: Rob & Barbara Kasper, Walpole
Anthony & Laura Posillico, Baldwin, NY

Born

Tucker William Tyson
January, 21, 2025
Parents: Joseph and Candace Tyson
Essex Junction, VT
Grandparents: Bill and Kris Tyson, Walpole
Ken Hanson, Freeport, ME
Heather Crain, Key Largo, FL



Passed

Robert C. Anderson, Jr.
November 24, 1944 - February 13, 2025



Concluded

Seventh grader London Swain said: "Your best looks different every day." What are your interests?

"Dancing is one of my favorite things to do. It makes me happy," said 7th grader Sawyer Dumont.

If you found out you were dying tomorrow what would you do and why?

Eighth grader Ila Sivret said: "I would spend as much time with my family and friends. Then I would bake with my grandmother."

What motivates you?

"Basketball," said 6th grader Finley Aube.

If you could hang out with any cartoon character who or what would it be and why?

Mr. Gagnon said: "Squidward because I think we have similar interests."

Asking questions helps you get to know people better. Just asking one question could open your mind to so many others. Life would be boring if you didn't know about others. Get out there in this big world full of questions and just ask.



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

April Deadline: March 22

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing

Ray Boas: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line at:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

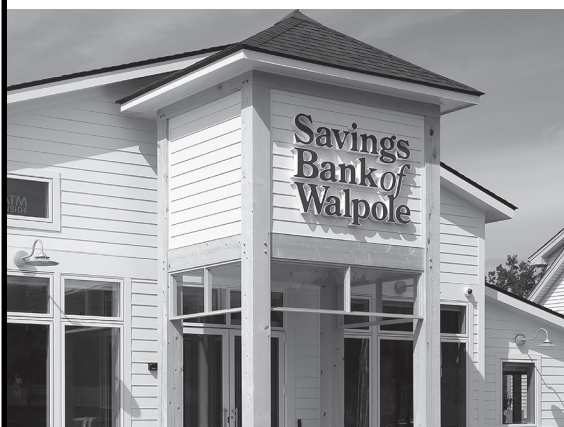
Town Meeting time. The Zoning, Planning, and Select Boards have spent much time on this year's Warrant Articles for the ballot Tuesday, March 11, and the Saturday, March 15 meeting. In this issue I have tried to provide background of the items of most interest: the police station bond has been pulled for now, and Articles 2 and 4 with zoning ordinance changes are explained. To aid in your advance preparation the entire ballot is on the CLARION website to review at your leisure in advance. The link is on the home page of the CLARION website. We are fortunate to live in a democracy, in a small and caring community where everyone respects differing opinions, and have the right and privilege to vote. Mark your ballots on Tuesday, and voice your opinions and concerns on Saturday..

In my out-of-print book business I have always considered myself a "passive seller." I have great books, and the next conservator and owner will find them and make a purchase. I feel the same way with the CLARION. I have never, ever solicited an advertisement - not my style. But when you have a good product, in this case the advertisers find the CLARION. On this month's pages you will see some new ads that came in "over the transom" (go on-line to see them in color). That tells me you, my readers, respond and support the CLARION advertisers. Impressed with "Farm on the River" I plan on signing up for a share.

—Ray Boas, Publisher

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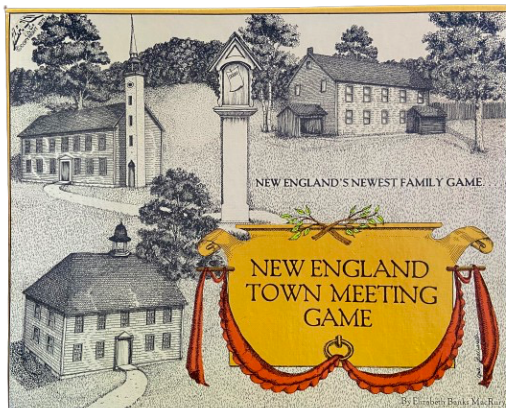
Savings Bank of Walpole opened in 1875 as a community bank. 150 years later, we're still your local bank—and we're incredibly grateful for the trust and support of our customers and community. *Thank you.*

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Town Meeting

Voting at the polls

Tuesday, March 11, 2025,
7am to 7pm

Walpole Town Hall
and St. Peter's Church

Town Meeting reconvenes
Saturday, March 15, 1:00 pm
Walpole Elementary School Gym
Warrant Articles 5-14

