

Town Meeting Wrap-Up

Town Meeting 2025

Town Meeting 2025 is now “history” as often said. On Tuesday, March 11, voters cast their ballots at the poles, and Saturday, March 15, 157 registered voters signed in to cast ballots on Warrant Articles 5-14 at the Walpole Elementary School Gymnasium.

There was only one position on the ballot for which there were more candidates than seats. Those elected can be seen in the box on page 3. Article 2, which detailed eight “house-keeping” amendments to Walpole’s Zoning Ordinance was passed as was Article 3 written to exclude “formula businesses” in the Downtown Walpole Village commercial district. Possibly mis-understood, Article 4 was written to prohibit future retail establishments (“not exceeding 40,000 feet”) from having drive-up windows. This proposed amendment in Article 4 was defeated.

Continued on Saturday, Town Meeting did not start until 1:23 pm due to the time it took to check-in attendees. Always first on the Saturday agenda is the Town Budget. With an increase of only 0.53% from last year there were no questions on the budget as presented and it passed unanimously with a voice vote. Next,

- Continued Page 2



Walpole Withdrawal Update

At this year’s town meeting, Walpole voters overwhelmingly approved a statutory study to determine if exiting the Fall Mountain Regional School District will be in the best interest of our students and our taxpayers. In the forefront would be town control of our curriculum, programs and staffing structure. Of near equal importance is to assure that all funding raised in Walpole is for the exclusive use of Walpole students and that any year-end surplus be returned to Walpole taxpayers. Passage of this article also triggered the same study by Langdon residents, who voted 59-2 in favor, but was contingent on the Walpole article passing.

The next step will be the formation of an official committee. The town-approved Walpole committee that formed last year was only advisory to the Walpole Select Board. That seven-member committee voted unanimously to proceed to the next step. Now, a ten-member committee

- Continued Page 2

From Peggy’s Desk

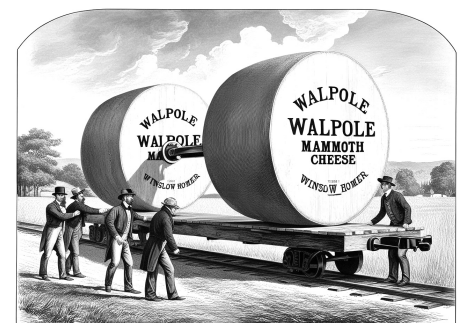
For some time now I have been wanting to write about aging. Not only because I am aging but so are about a third of Walpole residents.

After thinking of multiple options on how to approach the topic, I have decided to concentrate on one organization of which I am a founding member and their approach to aging for now and the future: River Valley Seniors at Home.

When Terry Holcombe and I had the first public meeting to gauge interest among Walpole Senior Citizens in our forming what became River Valley Seniors at Home, we listened to a lot of sceptics and nay sayers who said we don’t need this. We aren’t that old, and we have plenty of family to take care of us. However, there was a contingent of folks who said “my family doesn’t live nearby – they are many

- Continued Page 10

Walpole’s Mammoth Cheese see pages 8-9




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-Town Meeting from Page 1

Article 6, "...to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and suitability of the withdrawal of Walpole from the cooperative school district..." drew a number of speakers presenting background and recommendations. It was felt the "district no longer is serving the interests of Walpole's students," and the funding formulas and resulting decisions are not equitable. Some discussion evolved around where Walpole's students would attend school, but as explained that would come at a later time - what is being voted upon is if a study should be officially undertaken. Last year a fact-finding committee recommended this next formal step be voted upon. With a "secret" paper ballot (as allowed by NH Revised Statute 40-4 when requested by petition at the meeting) there were 134 votes in support of the study to begin, and 21 opposed. Now a long and established process will begin, the end result to be voted upon possibly at Town Meeting in 2026.

The balance of the Warrant Articles are routine and standard on the ballot from year to year. Funds are voted upon to be added to Capital Reserve Funds to incrementally save to fund future expenses including Capital Reserve Funds for: new Police Building; Municipal Buildings; Highways; and, the Police Department. Capital purchases were also approved for a 6-wheel truck for the highway department, and a new vehicle for the police department. The police department has seven vehicles at its disposal and one is programmed for

purchase each year to replace the oldest vehicle.

One of the longer meetings (but with a late start, and much discussion on "school withdrawal", this year's Town Meeting concluded at 2:59 pm by this writer's watch.

-Ray Boas

-Withdrawal from Page 1

will be formed to carry out the official study. The committee will consist of one selectman and one school board member from each of the co-op's five-member towns.

The focus is local control, at least for our Pre-K through Grade 8 program. The expectation is that Walpole and Langdon students will still attend the Fall Mountain Regional High School on a tuition basis. The local committee reached the conclusion that the cooperative model is no longer serving Walpole's interests. Since the 1999-2000 school year, the district has lost nearly 40% of its students. As such, consolidation is a must to maintain our educational program in a cost-effective manner. Freed from the district, Langdon may choose to send some, if not all, of their students to Walpole, which will lower Langdon's costs and provide Walpole with funding to consolidate its program centrally and more efficiently. Our neighbors in Westmoreland, Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale all function using this approach; all doing so at a much lower cost than the current cooperative structure. Our students deserve all that Walpole can give them and our taxpayers deserve fiscal responsibility.

-Tom Ronning



Walpole Fire District Meeting, March 20
 with Dave Westover (standing center) moderating.



Sworn in March 15th.
Gail LaHaise; Jean Kobeski; Dennis Marcom;
William Sommer; Shane O'Keefe; Rock Houstoun; and, Cheryl Mayberry.

RVSAH Civic and Business Directory

The fabulous volunteers at River Valley Seniors at Home (RVSAH) are hard at work putting together the new edition of our popular **Civic & Business Directory**, and we need your help!

If your business in Walpole, No. Walpole or Drewsville currently has a listing in the 2022 Directory, please take a look and see if the information is correct or needs to be updated. Also, if you are a new business in one of these towns, let us know so we can add you to the directory. There is no charge to be included. Please send your confirmation, changes or new listing information via email to Tara by May 1st (see email address below).

The Civic & Business Directory is just that – a compilation of helpful information for many businesses, civic agencies and services.

Thanks to a generous donation from The Savings Bank of Walpole, the directory is free to anyone who wants one.

We plan to unveil the new edition of the Civic & Business Directory at the RVSAH table on the Common on Saturday, June 28, during this summer's Old Home Days, so stop by and get your free copy of the Directory – and be sure to say 'hi' to our great vol-

unteers. After Old Home Days, the directory will be available at the Town Hall and the Library.

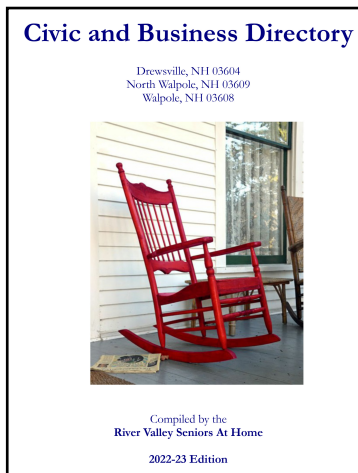
River Valley Seniors at Home is a non-profit organization that is a one-stop clearing house for transportation, information and services, funded by annual membership dues plus donations and grants. We help match members' needs with reliable providers, or where possible by caring volunteers. And we keep members informed of educational, recreational and social events to help them stay active and avoid the social isolation that many seniors experience. RVSAH is a 'Friendly Voice on the Other End of the Telephone' for our members.

Thank you for your help in making the Civic & Business Directory a handy resource for our town.

- Tara Sad, Executive Director
River Valley Seniors at Home

607-756-4861

Tara.eric@gmail.com



Candidates Elected for Town Office March 11, 2025

Selectman

Three-Year Term
Cheryl Mayberry

Trustee of Trust Funds

Three-Year Term
Rock N. Houstoun

Zoning Board

Three-Year Term
Shane O'Keefe
William J. Sommer

Planning Board

Three-Year Term
Jeff Harrington
Dennis Marcom

Cemetery Trustee

Three-Year Term
Kenneth P. McGill

Library Trustees

Three-Year Terms
Jana Sellarole
Jean Kobeski
Gail LaHaise



Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by

Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299

April 19, 2025

Walpole Historical Society Lawn

Starts promptly at 10AM

'till all eggs are gathered.

All ages thru Grade 5,

Toddlers to age 4 are separate
from ages 5 and up.

There are prizes in the eggs.



Pinnacleview 4-H
invites you to
4-H Presents

Are you wondering what 4-H is about? Do you know a young person who is smart, creative, and might be looking to become a member of a strong youth development community? Join Cheshire County 4-H at the Walpole Elementary School on Saturday April 5th from 1 – 4 pm.

4-H Presents is the NH 4-H Communications Event. Members from across Cheshire County will be participating in the event. 4-H is not just about cows at the County Fair, and this event allows our members to showcase a wide variety of skills and activities that they are passionate about. This event will allow anyone interested in the NH 4-H program to see what the possibilities are and meet active members and leaders who can answer their questions and maybe connect them to a 4-H Club.

There will be youth participating in the following events: Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Illustrated Talks, Action Exhibits, Posters and Photography.

For more information about 4-H Programming in Cheshire County you can contact the UNH Cooperative Extension Office for Cheshire County, in Keene. 603-352-4550

We hope to see you at 4-H
Presents.

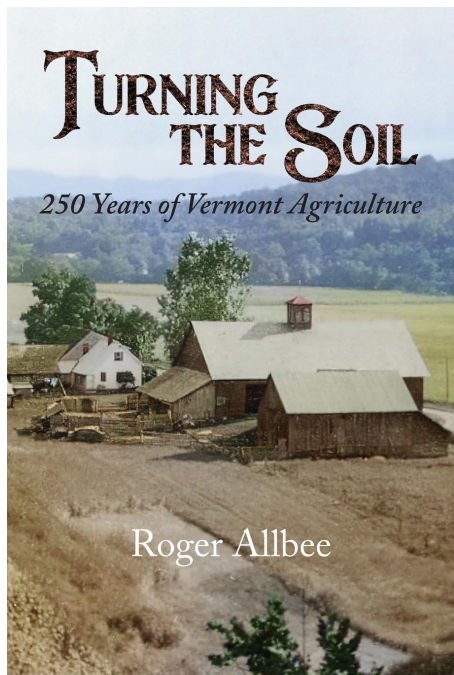
-Emma Ann Lee



History of Vermont Farming

Roger Allbee will speak about his new book, *Turning the Soil: 250 Years of Vermont Agriculture* at the Westminster Institute's Butterfield Library in Westminster, Vermont, at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 8.

Allbee's book is a distinguished historical book on changes in rural communities, farmers' activities, agricultural production, and farm policies over a period of more than 250 years. It comprehensively analyzes agriculture from the perspectives of grass-



roots, state, national, and global levels. It's not only a history book on Vermont's agriculture but also a panoramic birds-eye view of the long history of cultivation and marketing farm products by Vermont farmers and how many reinvented themselves to survive. Learn the important part Westminister farmers played in this history.

Albee has a deep connection to Vermont's agricultural heritage. Growing up in Brookline on a hilltop dairy farm, he witnessed firsthand the resilience and dedication of his ancestors who have farmed the land since



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1794. he has a comprehensive background in agricultural policies, international trade, and natural resource management. Allbee served on the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture for the late Rep. Jim Jeffords (I-VT). He worked on the senior staff for the former Farm Credit Banks and Bank of Cooperatives. He served as the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. He has also been the CEO of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. The Westminster Institute is located at 3534 US Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158.

- Susan Harlow

Remember !
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Walpole Worships

First Congregational
Sunday, 10:00 am

Bible Study - Wed. 4-5 pm on Zoom
<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

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

April at UCC

Cantata, A Cast of Witnesses: April 11, 7:00, Walpole Congregational Church will host a performance of an original cantata, *Cast Of Witnesses*. The cantata recounts the events of Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem, his subsequent trial and unjust execution, and his Easter resurrection. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.com for \$10 and at the door. Children will be admitted for free.

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae: April 17, 6:30 m. in Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunrise Service: 5:50 am at Hooper Golf Course, followed by breakfast at the church in Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunday Service: 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

You are invited to participate in



Sending Sunshine



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

Celebrate Spring with Local Artists!

Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25

Artisan Gloria Dufield will provide a special craft on Thursday.

Artist Mindy Fisher will be creating cards both days.

Come anytime between 11 am and 4 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.

Host: Priscilla Reyns — Questions may be directed to preyns@yahoo.com



Hooper Institute Summer Work Program for teens, applications are due by April 12. You have to be 14 years of age before June 15 and a Walpole resident to be eligible. To apply email hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net. Finished applications can be mailed to PO Box 135 or use the drop-box at 165 Prospect Hill Road.

The worksites include Malnati Dairy

Farm, Hooper Day and Adventure Camp, Wood Camp and Garden Assistant positions with the Flower CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

Flower CSA is offering three or six week subscriptions, \$20 per flower bouquet. All proceeds support our educational programs and the school gardens. This will be our 4th year! There are a few subscriptions available for the 6 week **Flower CSA** this summer. Email soon.

Camps. Morning Camps June 30 – July 10, Adventure Camp July 7 – July 10 and our new Wood Camp July 21- July 24. Chloe Pittman will be back as Camp Director for the Morning Camps. Watch for Hooper Camp information which is determined by the last day of school. hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net or (603) 566-2805 for more information.

Tea April 22, 1 pm for members and those interested in becoming members of the Walpole Community Garden.

Dahlia Day, May 20, 10 am – 1 pm. This plant sale is organized by the Friends of Hooper Institute, at the Hooper High Tunnel with many varieties and beautiful color to choose from. Join us!

-Helen Dalbeck hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net 603.756.4382
603.566.2805



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.

April at the Library

Author Talk. April 3, 5 pm, Main Library. Join local author Duncan Watson as he explores the often-overlooked world of recycling with anecdotes from his book, *Everyone's Trash*.

Poetry Reading. April 23, 7 pm, Main Library. Celebrate National Poetry Month with poets April Ossman and Lesle Lewis, who will read from their new works.

Lunch and a Movie:

Thursday, April 10, 1 pm, Main Library: *My Favorite Year*

Thursday, April 24, 1 pm, Main Library: *Hoosiers*

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

Read A Marathon: for kids in kindergarten through grade five. Starting April 1. Come into the library, choose your free book, pick up a reading log and start reading. Work at your own pace and before you know it, you will have read a marathon. Main Library and North Walpole Branch.

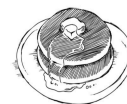
The Walpole Town Library is seeking feedback from the community we serve, to help inform our services, programs, and long-range planning. The link to take the library's brief survey. may be found on the library's home page. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts.

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Walpole Village School will be hosting our Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast April 13 from 7:30 am - 10:30 am at the Walpole Town Hall. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, local maple syrup, juice and coffee. The cost is by donation.

We will have Easter baskets up for silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. This is a great opportunity to gather as a community while supporting the Walpole Village School. WVS has been providing early education services to the children of Walpole and surrounding communities since 1974. We to hope to see past, present and future students there.

-Laura Palmer



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Happy Easter

Wishing you sunshine and good times.



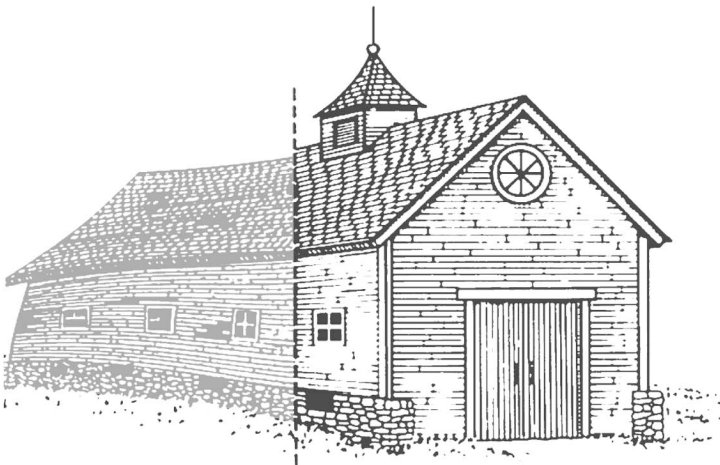
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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...following Franklin Pierce's election as President in 1852, Walpole held a special Town Meeting, while celebrating its 100th Anniversary, to decide how to honor its native son? Aware that 50 years earlier residents of Cheshire, Massachusetts, presented a Mammoth Cheese to President Thomas Jefferson, the townspeople voted to top that gift.

In July 1801, John Leland of Cheshire (the only Berkshire County resident to support Jefferson), developed a plan to honor the President. He asked all Jefferson supporters to contribute as much milk and curd as they could. He did not want Federalist milk, only that of members of the then Democratic-Republican Party - Jefferson's party.

In his multi-volume biography of Jefferson, Dumas Malone stated the cheese was made from the milk and curd of 900 cows and taken to a mill where a large hoop was placed on a cider press, resulting in a massive cheese press. The townspeople added their ingredients and, after a time, the cheese was ready. Once completed, Leland dedicated the cheese to Jefferson, calling the cheese "the greatest cheese ever put to press in the New World or Old."

The final product supposedly weighed 1,235 pounds, was 4 feet in diameter and 15 inches thick. Most likely the finished cheese was carried

by sleigh to the Hudson River then loaded on a barge. In New York City the mammoth cheese was loaded onto the sloop *Astrea* and taken to Baltimore and then loaded onto a horse-drawn wagon for the final leg to Washington. The Mammoth Cheese caused quite a spectacle on its three-week, 500-mile journey to be presented to Jefferson on January 1, 1802.

At the special Town Meeting in Walpole, the Graves family took the lead and proposed Cheshire's feat be topped. "After all, as a dairy community we have more than the paltry 900 cows Leland commandeered," the then family patriarch proclaimed. Milking began.

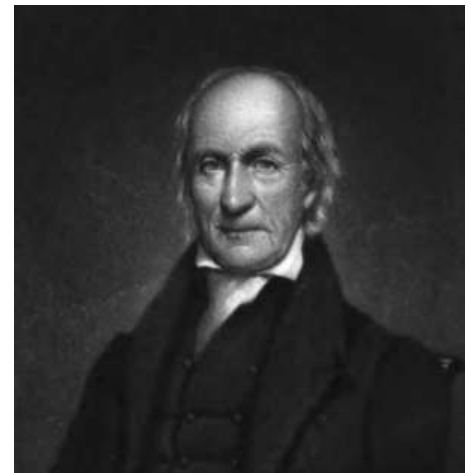
With the railroad having arrived in Walpole in 1849 it provided the means to transport a gift surpassing that of Cheshire. It was voted a larger two-wheeled cheese be shipped to the nation's capital in time for President Pierce's inauguration and be rolled down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House for presentation and devouring. Milk began flowing to one of the mills on what is now Mill Road (of course) between Wentworth Road and what is now Old Keene Road. Two large



Monument to the Mammoth Cheese

Dedicated by The Sons of the American Revolution in 1940, this monument is located in Cheshire, Massachusetts, about a half-mile east of Highway 8 on Church Street.

-Ray Boas photo



Baptist preacher John Leland (1754-1841) was known for his opposition to slavery, and his advocacy to Presidents Jefferson and Madison to maintain strict separation between government and religion. On New Year's Day 1802, Jefferson welcomed Leland and his gift at the White House. Two days later, Leland delivered the Sunday sermon in the House of Representatives, with the President in attendance.

FLORENTINE FILMS

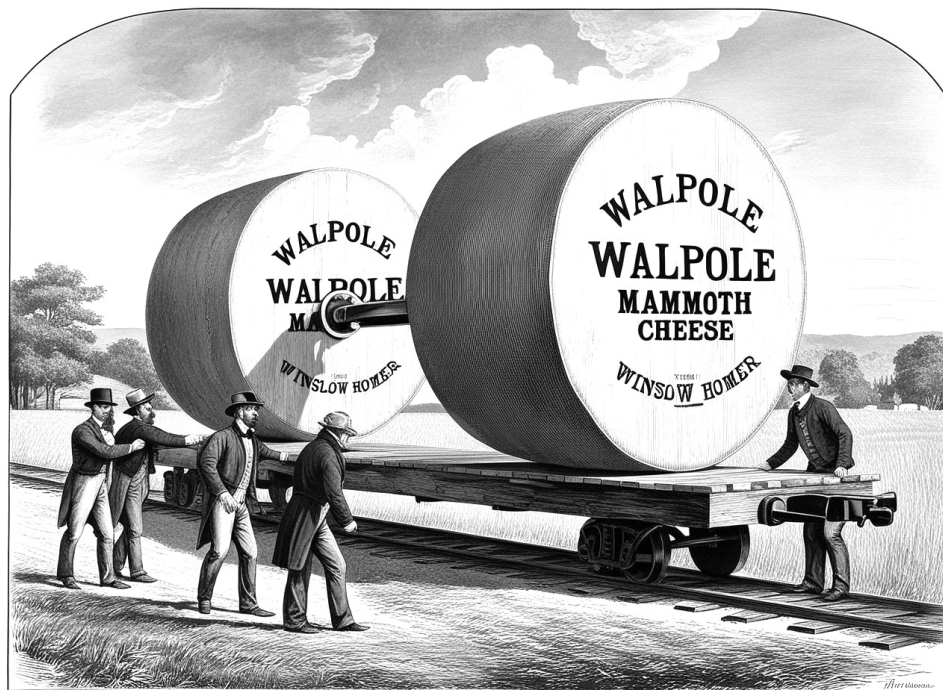
Making films in Walpole
for 40 Years.

round molds were fabricated, and two large presses were constructed to remove excess whey, consolidate cheese curds, and drain the excess liquids. One vague account indicates large cider presses were disassembled and remade to create a wheel of cheese six feet in diameter — a lofty goal, but necessary to not only have a cheese gift larger than the Cheshire folks, but of two cheese wheels joined by an axle for rolling.

Once completed and assembled a southbound train stopped in the area that is now the Walpole Gateway. The two wheels of cheese were pulled up onto a flat railroad car, secured and covered. A contingent of prominent Walpoleans (whose names have sadly been lost to history) alighted a coach for the journey - the exact train route has also been lost over time.

Franklin Pierce's inauguration was reported on page 3 of the March 4, 1853, edition of Washington, DC's *DAILY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER*. Over a column was taken up with all the details of the inauguration. Unfortunately, in reading and re-reading this account, there is no mention of Walpole's massive Mammoth Cheese.

The Washington paper did not document this feat, but there is hope yet. Having shared this story with several fellow residents it was agreed that again Walpole must top Cheshire, Massachusetts. This time with a larger monument of the Walpole Cheese Press, and its two-wheel creation. The monument will be erected on Route 12 where the cheese was loaded aboard the train at the Gateway just off the old rail bed for all to see and marvel at.



Walpole's Mammoth Cheese by Winslow Homer

In researching this article, the CLARION discovered this previously unpublished lithograph by Winslow Homer. Born in Boston in 1836, Homer's mother was a gifted artist and his first teacher. Growing up in then-rural Cambridge, when he graduated from high school his father apprenticed him to a Boston commercial lithographer where he spent two years producing commercial etchings and sheet music. In 1857 he began his freelance career opening his first studio in Boston. Besides his nautical paintings, he is known for his Civil War etchings done for *Harper's Weekly*.

Found in a small collection of young Homer's early papers with this illustration, a note indicates he heard of Walpole's Mammoth Cheese and its upcoming trip to be gifted to President Pierce. Not able to travel to Walpole, he created his concept of the two wheeled "mammoth" cheese, and from his notes submitted it to the *Keene Sentinel's* predecessor for publication. The paper obviously felt Homer's "mammoth" depiction enormously overstated and did not publish it.

-Ray Boas



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NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Collection Sites:

Walpole Police Department 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
4 Russell Street, North Walpole, NH

Walpole Recycle Center 10:00 am – 2:00 om
207 Whitcomb Road, Walpole, NH

2024 - 128 pounds collected
2023 - 60.5 pounds collected
2022 - 79.4 pounds collected

- Peggy from Page 1

miles away" or "I live alone, and I may need help in the future or do need help now!"

Beacon Hill residents organized the first organization to allow people to stay in their homes with volunteers who could drive seniors for doctors' appointments, go for groceries, arrange for repairmen etc. It grew to a nationwide organization. There was already a group in the eastern side of New Hampshire supported by Catholic Charities. So, we persisted and founded River Valley Seniors at Home, a non-profit membership organization with scholarships available. RVSH has sponsored informative meetings on Senior issues such as Home Health Care, Avoiding and Reporting Fraud and Scams -all held at the library free of charge. RVSAH also publishes a Civic & Business Directory available locally; a new edition will be out this summer. In addition, Jean Kobeski prepares of a monthly list of concerts, plays, fairs, general events open to all. That is distributed not only to RVSAH members but to residents of the Walpole Foundation and through the churches.

The next big project for RVSAH is to design a system for collecting vital information from all seniors about next of kin or neighbors who should be contacted if EMS or Firemen are called to a house for assistance. Your doctor collects some of this information, but first responders need to know who to call if you are found on the floor, have a medical crisis, or need help for any reason. Yes, some of you wear alert systems who will respond, but not everyone does. Walpole once had a system which asked you to put your contacts on the kitchen fridge, but how long ago was that system put in place?

Mark Houghton who heads the local Fire Department and EMS crew told me RVSAH collecting this vital information would be invaluable for his teams. So, if RVSAH contacts you for your vital information, know that it

will be private, closely managed by the EMS/Fire Department and an extra protection for you.

Oh, and about that aging: every day can be a challenge or a pleasure -- you decide.

Course on Aging and Mindfulness

The Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center in Keene will be offering a Spring workshop on Awakening Into the Grace of Aging -- A Mindfulness Exploration. This is a five - week course starting Wednesday April 16 through May 14th, 9:30-11:30am, at the Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center, 103 Roxbury St., Keene, Rm. 301.



The morning sessions will offer ways to bring mindfulness practice to facing physical changes, loss, as well as altered roles in family and society. In our two hours together, the group will share a quiet meditation, and leave lots of time for discussion, questions, and reflection. Reading materials will be provided to look over in the weeks between meetings. The five weeks are intended as the beginning of a journey and a chance to draw on the wisdom and lessons that people in this phase of life have learned over a lifetime.

Suggested donation: \$100.00. Sliding scale available. In its 23rd year the center has operated solely on donations, never turning someone away.

Workshops will be led by aylene Wozmak, retired Hospice Nurse with 30 years of experience and Chairperson of the Board, as well as a facilitator at the Center; and Ginnie Gavrinn, retired massage therapist, member of the Board and a facilitator at the Center. For information or to register, call aylene, 603-355-7255, or Ginnie, 603-876-9318.

-aylene Wozmak

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Thanks

Another great election has passed and I want to thank the folks at the Grange for the dedication they have shown meeting our needs in terms of food and drink all day and at every election! And of course, we could not undertake the complex activities related to elections without the generous volunteers that work as ballot clerks and greeters and counters and checklist supervisors. Thank you all for the great effort to keep our election efforts strong and efficient.

-Jack Wozmak - Town Moderator

North Walpole

Village District Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 8

For time and location check
<https://www.northwalpolevillage.org/>

SAVE

10:00 A.M.



09.20.2025

THE DATE

FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL
JOSH DRAKE MEMORIAL 5K

WWW.JOSHUADRAKE.ORG

Spring is in the Air at Distant Hill Gardens and Nature Trail

One clear indication of spring at Distant Hill is the blooming of our vernal witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*), the first shrub to blossom each year. Often referred to as Ozark witch hazel, it is native to the Ozark Plateau in southern Missouri, northwestern Arkansas, and northeastern Oklahoma. While it is not native to New England, it is remarkably cold-tolerant and consistently blooms here in southwestern New Hampshire, reliably flowering in late February or early March!

Nothing compares to the sight of beautiful yellow flowers blooming amidst the white snow and green conifers in the garden. Once the vernal witch hazel starts to bloom, spring can't be far away!

Another clear sign of spring is the beginning of our numerous events and workshops at Distant Hill Gardens and Nature Trail. Several events are already on our 2025 schedule, and additional events will be added throughout the season.

-We have two **Family Work Days and Pizza Parties** on Saturdays, April 19 and 26. We'll be cleaning up and maintaining the trails and play area. Everyone is welcome, from toddlers to adults and every age in between!

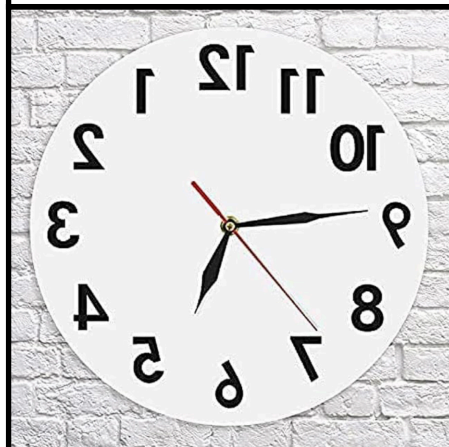
-On Easter morning, Sunday, April 20, join us for a leisurely **Spring Wildflower Walk** in search of early-season wildflowers.

-On Sunday, May 4, we'll be having morning and afternoon **Vernal Pool Explorations** on Distant Hill Nature Trail. We'll explore these special wetland habitats, which are filled with egg masses of wood frogs and salamanders and, with luck, some fairy shrimp!

-Michael Nerrie

Per Executive Order 2792
**SET YOUR CLOCKS
BACKWARDS**
on April 2, 2025

Office of the Federal Register -OFR



Thank you Alicia

The Walpole Conservation Commission (WCC) pays tribute to Alicia Flammia, our outgoing chair, for the intelligence, energy, and dedication she gave to our town.

Alicia's background, and profession, is in natural resource management. The WCC provided her with an understanding of how municipal and conservation priorities can be coordinated and implemented for the benefit of both human and natural communities.

A few of her many contributions are listed here, and are still ongoing: worked on subcommittee for hiring our new town forester; coordinated with community stakeholders and the selectboard to accept the donation and management of the Gateway property; developed a systematic framework for easement monitoring and oversight of an intern to test, inform, and suggest implementation; supported trail committee members in efforts to map trails and make these available online; and, steered support of our conservation master plan and clarified responsibility for meeting state requirements and obligations.

Help our Trails (HOT) Day

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Walpole Trail Committee is inviting the public to help us prepare our town's trails for the upcoming hiking season. This year's Help Our Trails (HOT) Day will take place on May 3, 2025, from 9 am to 12 pm. Volunteers will meet at the Walpole Town Hall, divide into small teams, and go out to work on trail maintenance projects at designated locations around Walpole.

HOT Day trail work will include clearing fallen branches, trimming vegetation, maintaining drainage, picking up litter, and making selected repairs and improvements on trails at Mill Pond Sanctuary, Fanny Mason Forest, the Cheshire Rail Trail, and elsewhere in Walpole.

Please dress for trail work and bring your own water, work gloves, and hand tools (clippers, loppers, hand saws, etc.) if you have them. Do not bring chain saws or power tools. Litter bags will be provided. No dogs, please.

To sign up or for information, email walpoletrailhelpers@gmail.com. Advance sign-up is strongly recommended.

This is a great chance for Walpole trail users to help our trails while having fun together. Please join us for the 3rd Annual HOT Day, Saturday, May 3rd, from 9 am to noon. Rain date is Sunday, May 4th.

-Wendy Grossman
Walpole Trail Committee

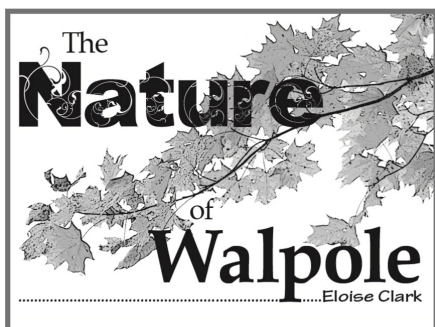
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"Our WCC is a real benefit to the town, and its purpose and functions are integral to the town's charm and its agricultural past and present., Alicia recently stated.

We have been able to protect and provide access to much land here in Walpole because of her contributions.

Thank you, Alicia.

-France Menk
WCC member for the WCC



Spring is a favorite time for the sport of freshwater fishing to ramp up. Whether from boat or shore, anglers are eager to try their luck catching all manner of cold and warm water fishes. In nearby spots in the Connecticut River lurk some extraordinarily large species who provide excitement for those who try.

Quieter areas along the shore, away from the flow of the mainstream of the river, are known as “setbacks”. There are some extensive areas above both the Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams. The slow-moving water helps underwater vegetation become established. Pond lilies, in particular, provide cover for microscopic life, invertebrates and small fish. These food webs are the foundation for trophy sized fish to flourish.

An article by Matt Sampson in the May/June 2024 issue of the *NH Wildlife Journal* describes three large species of fish that can be caught in the Connecticut. These include walleye, Northern pike and channel cat-

fish. Only pike are considered native. According to fisheries biologists, the other two species have been introduced, but not by them.

Walleye (*Sander vitreus*) is a member of the perch family. While abundant throughout the United States, the lower Connecticut River is one of the few places to find them in the state. A record sized fish caught here was almost three feet long and weighed 12 pounds, 8 ounces.

This long and narrow fish has green and gold coloring with dark

where they hunt their favorite prey, perch. They will also eat frogs, small mammals and even baby ducklings. Pike are ambush predators, remaining still near the bottom until they are ready to strike. Fins near the rear end of their long bodies propel them with a burst of power as they launch toward their prey.

Northern pike (*Esox lucius*) are larger than their near relation the chain pickerel (*Esox niger*). Sometimes the two are difficult to tell apart. Both have slender bodies with a snout

Walleye



stripes on the back. It is counter shaded with a white belly. The angler must avoid its sharp canine teeth and prickly dorsal fin. The cloudy covering of the eyes is another trademark. This allows them to hunt at night or in turbid waters as they seek invertebrates such as crayfish and smaller fish.

Walleye prefer cooler, deeper water with a solid bottom of gravel or bedrock. In contrast, Northern pike like the quieter waters of the setbacks,

full of sharp teeth. Pike are a darker shade of green with yellowish vertical spots while pickerel have a dark, chain-like pattern that stands out on their greenish-yellow flanks. The current state record for a Northern pike is 44.5 inches caught in Dalton, NH. It weighed 26 pounds.

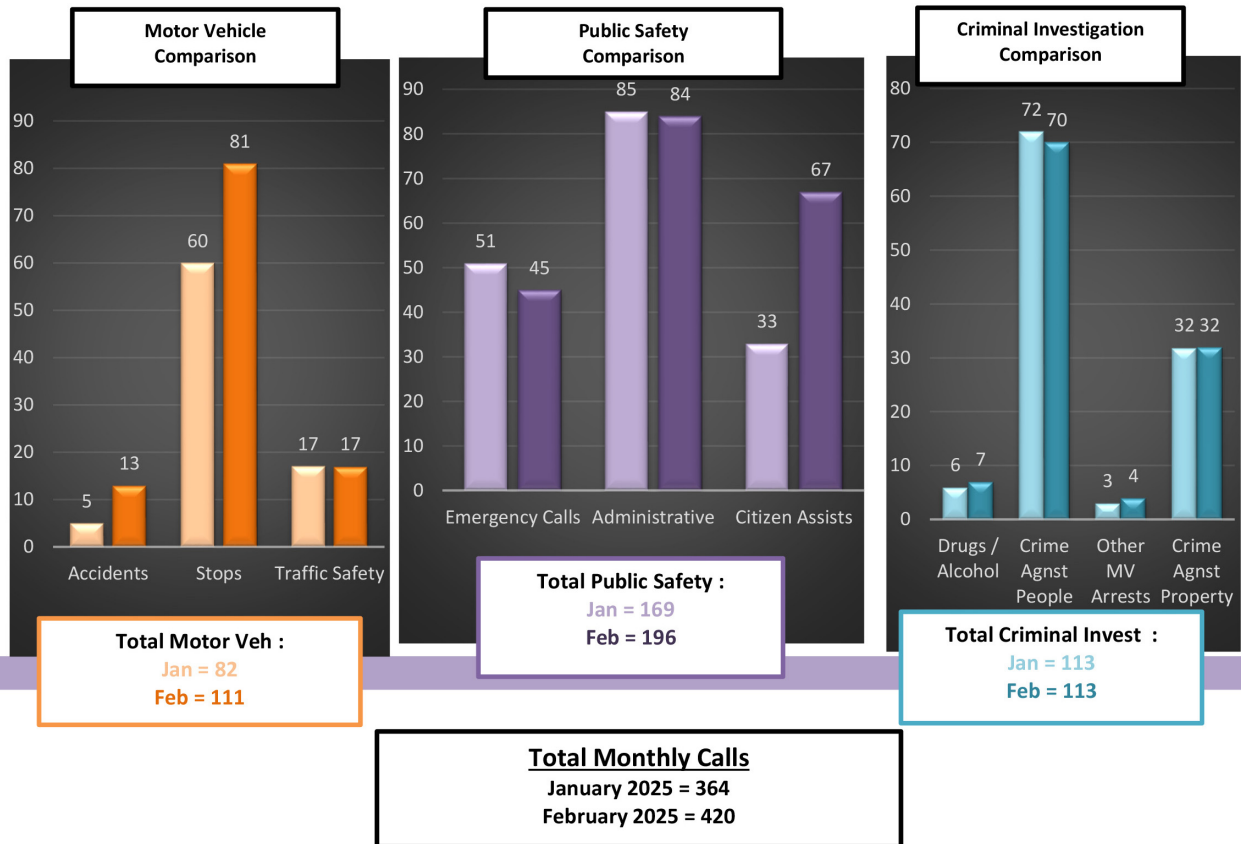
A fully grown channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) is significantly larger than our native “hornpout”. They have similar coloring to other whiskered catfish. All have a dark gray back, greenish gray sides and a white belly. The catfish can be distinguished by the fork in the tail versus the rounded tail of the horned pout. Two years ago, an angler pulled a 31.5 inch specimen from the river in Charlestown. It weighed 15.4 pounds. The river setbacks are hotspots to find channel cats.

Even if fishing is not your sport, isn’t it cool to know these behemoth creatures lurk beneath the waters of the nearby Connecticut River? With so many eager predators, it’s a miracle that fry, fingerling or juvenile fish grow to these champion sizes.



Northern Pike

Police Stats February 1, 2025 - February 28, 2025



G&R EQUIPMENT

AVAILABLE TO RENT:

*With or without Operator



JOHN DEERE 75D

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



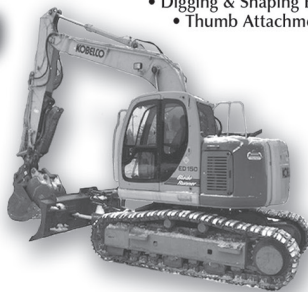
JOHN DEERE 160LC

- Digging & Shaping Bucket
- Thumb Attachment



JOHN DEERE 120

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



KOBELCO ED 150

- Two Digging Buckets
- 6-Way Blade

Lull- Ingersol 843

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- Rubber trails • excavator



JOHN DEERE 50

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

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

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

I LOVE SPRING,
BUT THE SEASONAL
PIES LEAVE MUCH
TO BE DESIRED..



Town of Walpole Seeks Community Input for Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

The Town of Walpole is in the process of updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan, a vital tool used to identify local risks—such as flooding, severe storms, and winter weather—and to outline strategies that reduce their impact on our community. As part of this effort, we are seeking input from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders through a brief Hazard Mitigation Survey.

Your feedback will help the town better understand which hazards concern you most, how prepared you feel, and what steps you believe should be taken to improve community resilience. Whether you've lived here your whole life or just moved to town, your perspective is valuable. The survey will be open until April 20th.

The survey is quick, anonymous, and open to all. You can take it online by scanning the QR code below, going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WalpoleHazards> or visiting the Town's website (Select Board page for link). Thank you for helping us plan for a safer future!



-Jeff Miller
-Sarah Bollinger

Not Wishing to be Left Out
of the Walpole Market...

THE CHOCOLATE WHOPPER

is coming soon to the
King's New Route 12 Location
Follow the Zoning Board Minutes
for location details for
the King and the new Domino Pizza.



chocolate
WHOPPER

IT'S HERE... MAYBE.



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Have you heard ???

These local businesses have generously donated to our
Dog License Drawing!

Walpole Veterinary Hospital
Walpole Blue Seal Feeds
Walpole Tractor Supply
Horse and Buggy Feeds, Keene
Featherstone Kennel, Walpole
The Pawstastic Nanny, Walpole

Dogs should be licensed in Walpole by April 30th

The prize drawing will be May 1st

For more info contact the Walpole Town Clerk
603-756-3514 or townclerk@walpolenh.us

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.



The Fall Mountain Boys Nordic Team won the State Championship in Division II on a rain soaked day in Great Glen, NH, on Wednesday March 5. There were two races for the day, a 4k classic race with a first place finish by David North-

cott, a third place finish by Matt Northcott, a sixth place finish by Braydon Patch and a thirty third finish by Lucas Tetu, giving them 367 team points.

The second was a skate style race with an amazing finish with a first place by David Northcott, second by Matt Northcott, tenth by Braydon Patch and thirty first by Lucas Tetu, giving them 364 team points.

Also racing were Jaxon Blanc and Tristan Stahler. Cerys and Emma Gascoyne had amazing races as well for the girls Nordic team. Well done Fall Mountain Nordic Ski Teams!

-Kelly Patch

Celebrate at Two Locations

Sending Sunshine will be at The Flat Iron Cooperative in Bellows Falls and at The Gathering Place in Walpole during April. Participate in sending greeting cards the following days and places:

The Flat Iron Cooperative at 51 Square in Bellows Falls

Thursday, April 17, 11 am - 3 pm
Friday, April 18, 11 am - 4 pm

The Gathering Place at 14 Westminster Street, Walpole

Thursday, April 24
Friday, April 25, 11 am - 4 pm
-Priscilla Reynolds

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small gatherings, & everything
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2025 EVENTS at DISTANT HILL



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at Distant Hill in 2025,
with more being added
throughout the season.

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Distant Hill Event Collection,
or visit our website at
www.distanthill.org to learn more



SCAN ME



Remember the INVASION?
Five Years Ago this Month.



What's Happening in Walpole Schools



Inaugural Fall Mountain District Basketball Teams

By: Artemis Lakin and
Elias Tsitsonis (8th grade)

The winter season is over but this year, for the first time ever, Fall Mountain has put together a district team which consists of middle school students from Walpole, Vilas and Charlestown. The boys team consists of eleven 7th and 8th grade boys and is coached by Justin Cassarino and Jed St.Pierre. The girls team has fourteen 6th, 7th and 8th graders and is coached by Sandy Smidutz.

Both of these teams have participated in the TSV Claremont tournament. The boys team went out early, with two losses, but they started to get things together in the second game. The girls won one game but lost the other two games to tough opponents. Their next tournament, Karp's Klassic, has recently started and things for the boys are already better than the first tournament. They lost their first game, but won their second by quite a bit. The girls are struggling a bit this tournament, losing their first game. Best wishes to both teams the rest of this tournament.

Four Nations Hockey Face-Off

By Max Smith (6th grade)

Instead of traditional all star games, which can be boring and uncompetitive, the National Hockey League decided to try something new this year by hosting the Four Nations Face-Off. The best players in the league had the opportunity to represent their country and play against one another. This led to fierce competition and entertaining hockey. The four nations that competed this year were Canada, Sweden, Finland, and the United States. They competed in a

kind of round robin tournament format.

In the first game of the Four Nations Face-Off, Canada beat Sweden 4-3 in overtime. In the next game, the United States beat Finland, 6-1. Finland then beat Sweden, 4-3, in overtime. The United States beat Canada, 3-1. Canada beat Finland, 5-3. Then, in a game that didn't impact their finals appearance, the US lost to Sweden, 2-1. In the championship game, the United States played Canada and Canada won in a thrilling overtime game, 4-3. Connor McDavid scored the game winning goal. The best players in the all star tournament were Connor McDavid and J.T Miller.

The Importance of School

By Lucas Waring (6th grade)

School is very important for many different reasons.

One reason school is so important is because it gets you ready for things in the future and gives you knowledge of things from the past and present. Knowing these things will help you better understand the world we live in and how we got here. Most importantly, it can help us form

a plan about where we want to go, both personally and as a society.

The second reason is that you are able to make more friends. One of the best parts about school is being able to socialize more. It teaches you how to work with people, if they aren't in your "friend group" and helps you develop the friendships you do have and make.

The third reason is you are able to learn a lot about things you might not have known about or things that you want to learn more about. It exposes you to a lot of things in several different content areas that may lead to a spark that you want to pursue.

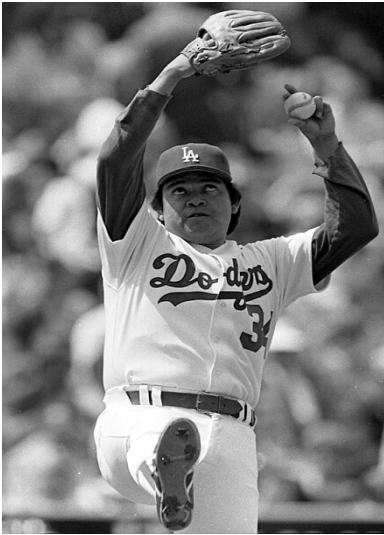
The fourth and final reason is it can help you pick your career. That spark can help you find what you are passionate about and what you want to spend your working life doing.

Site Base

by Justin Cassarino

Join us for our Site-based meeting April 2nd at 6:00 pm. at the Walpole Elementary School cafeteria. This is an opportunity for you to come and learn more about the Walpole Schools and hear what is happening around the district. We hope that you can join us!





Fernando Valenzuela

The Case for Screwballs

By Seamus Cahill (7th grade)

There is only one active pitcher in Major League Baseball that throws the screwball, but why is this? The screwball was the new hot thing back in the 80's and 90's and with breaking balls like sliders dominating the league. Why have pitches like the screwball and knuckleball been left for dead? In this article we will take a look into the reason this pitch should be welcomed back by pitchers at all levels.

We should bring the screwball back for many reasons. One reason is that if you learn to throw it right, it has a lot of movement. This movement makes the pitch almost unhittable. For example, Fernando Valenzuela threw the screwball for 17 years and had a career ERA (Earned Run Average) of 3.54.

The reason that the screwball went extinct, or nearly so, is because, if not thrown right, can be a "meatball." That means that it could be the easiest pitch to hit if not executed well. Also, if you continually screw up the motion in your throw and not pitch it correctly, your arm will get wrecked, and you will be at risk for many injuries.

It is truly sad to see such a great pitch go away as it has but its existence has led to other experimental pitches that are used today such as the slurve and the knuckle curve.

The Crash of Caffeine Consumption

By Sawyer Dumont (7th grade)

Caffeine is found in popular drinks such as coffee and energy drinks. It boosts your muscle energy, and can increase focus. However, there are many downsides to caffeine, and drinks that have caffeine. Some argue that caffeine is good for you, but others argue that it isn't and that it shouldn't be sold to people under the age of 16. Which side should you be on?

Caffeine plays a daily part in most adult's lives. It is found in coffee, a popular drink that most adults have in the morning. When adults go without coffee after having even for one morning, headaches could occur, fatigue, difficulty focusing, and you might feel tired. These are all symptoms of caffeine withdrawal. That's why you should slowly reduce your caffeine amount little by little if you're trying to quit. Energy drinks are proven to increase physical endurance, but the negatives outweigh the positives.

Energy drinks are a stimulant. Stimulant instantly increases your heart rate. An elevated heart rate can cause fainting, stroke, low blood pressure, heart failure, and cardiac arrest. Nobody wants to experience these events, especially kids. That is exactly why kids shouldn't be drinking caffeine.

Dreams

By Addeline Hearne and Lillian Vickers (7th grade)

Dreams are thoughts, images, fantasies, that occur in one's mind while asleep. Understanding dreams on a deeper level is good to know. There are different things you can dream about and different ways to have a dream. Being more aware about your dreams, allows you to be more aware about yourself.

For example some people have lucid dreams when they are fully aware of their dreaming and can con-

trol the events and environment in it. Recurring nightmares or dreams are said to happen because they try to push a person into facing a problem. False awakening dreams can be one of the scariest dreams to have, questioning reality. When you so strongly believe that you woke up from a dream but don't realize you're still asleep, because of the familiar surroundings.

Falling dreams show lack of control in your life, anxiety and the fear of failure.

To better understand yourself, a great thing to do is create a dream journal, (if you remember your dreams). You write down the dreams as soon as you wake up while still knowing the details, like the people and creatures in it, the setting or environment, and the purpose and plot. You later make connections and learn why you have certain ones. This will improve your self understanding, and



Introducing "Artful Afternoons!" Each Wednesday from March 26 to June 11, students Grades 2-5 are invited to meet at River Valley Church (38 Elm St, Walpole) from 3:30-5:00pm for a fun art project and a snack. The events are FREE, however, registration and parental consent is required in order to participate. Scan the QR code to get your student(s) registered today! Bus #2 (Fall Mt.) will drop students off after school and a parent or legal guardian will need to pick up by 5pm. Feel free to email hello@rivervalleychurch.com or call 603-756-3212 with any questions.

-Justin Barney

Women of Walpole

Women of Walpole met on Wednesday March 19th at the home of Tricia Houstoun for a presentation by Jouway Chocolates, . Members enjoyed an afternoon of socializing and learning about making chocolate.

Our next meeting will be held on April 16th at the home of Margie Palmer. We will welcome Helen Dalbeck from the Hooper Institute to talk about your spring garden. Please note this will be an evening meeting starting at 6:30 pm Members should check their emails for more information about this and future meetings. Future plans for WOW include Olde Home Days and a Holiday House Tour in December.

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



Sending Sunshine Welcomes Local Artists

On Thursday, April 24, come to Sending Sunshine and meet Gloria Dufield, crafter/artisan. Gloria will provide guided steps to create two-dimensional origami (hearts, birds, and bookmarks) that can embellish one-of-a-kind cards to send to family, friends, and more!

On Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25, artist Mindy Fisher returns to Sending Sunshine. Join her in creating cards.

Come anytime between 11 am and 4 pm to The Gathering Place at 14 Westminster Street in Walpole.

-Priscilla Reynolds



FROM THE CLARION

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

One Year Ago (April 2024) - One Year Ago (April 2024) - Did You Know That ... there's been a secret agricultural project hidden in the Hooper Forest and underway for the past 60 years by three generations of young Hooper Institute academics?

Three Years Ago (April 2022) - Main Street Memories. As we look forward to warmer weather, it's exciting to remember that Walpole's (now twice postponed) Old Home Days celebrations are now scheduled ... (Old Home Days celebrations are scheduled this summer, June 25-29, 2025).

Five Years Ago (April 2020) - "The New Reality" — COVID19 is changing all our lives.

Seven Years Ago (April 2018) - 6th Annual Walpole Event — On Saturday, April 28, the stalwart people of Walpole once again joined together to tidy up the highways and byways of our beautiful town for our Sixth Annual Walpole Clean Up Day.

Nine Years Ago (April 2016) - The citizens of Walpole take their civic responsibilities seriously. Twenty- two new voters registered on Tuesday, March 8, adding to the 2623 registered voters on the checklist,

Eleven Years Ago (April 2014) - There was a special preview screening benefiting the Walpole Historical Society and the Hooper Preservation Fund of select scenes from The Roosevelts: an Intimate History, a film by Ken Burns.

Thirteen Years Ago (April 2012) - On Tuesday, March 13, in amazingly unseasonable warm weather, almost one third of Walpole's 2,276 registered voters turned out to cast their votes for town officials and school board issues at Walpole's Town Meeting.

The
**Walpole
Clarion**
ON-LINE

Would you like to read or share your **Clarion** on-line? Would you like to receive **Clarion** reminders of closing dates or events? Then, head to <https://thewalpoleclarion.com> and scroll down on the right to "Follow this Blog" and sign up..

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Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Planning Board - March 11 — Mr. Noonan submitted an application for a subdivision and a site plan for Domino's Pizza restaurant at 505 Main Street & Red Barn Lane. It was pointed out these three condo lots were registered without the town's knowledge and it violates the town's subdivision regulations. So until this matter is straightened out, the Planning Board cannot move forward. Mr. Miller said currently the lot is not one lot, but two lots. Therefore, there is no way this application as it is written can be subdivided unless it is one lot of record. One avenue for that to happen is if Mr. Noonan would apply for a voluntary merger and when that is approved and registered he could proceed with his plan. Mr. Noonan agreed with that pathway.

Conservation Commission - March 3 Annual Goals: Old Home Days: it was agreed that the Commission wants to have a booth on the Common on Saturday. We will have a map of the conservation land in Town, and perhaps experts on the local wildlife. The Trail Committee will also have a table next to Conservation with maps of trails. Next, The tree planting will continue this year. The Tree Committee will develop a plan for the Common and some of the streets in the village. Lastly stated: There is interest in determining if some Class VI roads should be designated as Class A trails so they can be improved and maintained. A Class A trail is a temporary status, and abutting landowners may continue to use vehicles on the trail. The Selectboard can designate Class A trails and can also change them back to Class VI roads.

Selectboard - February 27 — Mr. Cassarino asked to talk with the Selectboard about the process for consolidation. ... Walpole is currently at the minimum required staff. The school district has asked him to look

at buildings, etc. to cut expenses. One option is consolidating the schools into one campus, but that means changes to the buildings will be required. For some time now the Selectboard has received no information from the school. Mr. Cassarino will ensure Site Based Team minutes and newsletters are sent to the Selectboard. A discussion followed on how to improve communications and how to get community buy-in which is critical for anything to succeed. It was decided that Mr. Cassarino will attend Selectboard meetings regularly.

Great Decisions

"America at a Global Crossroads" moderated by Adrian Basora, former United States Ambassador to Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, will be on Monday, April 14, 6:00 pm at the Town Library. It promises to be a timely and illuminating analysis of what we now might describe as "American Foreign Policy in the Crosshairs."

We are grateful to have Adrian Basora – trustee of the Foreign Policy Research Institute and member of the Council on Foreign Relations – to guide us through this uncharted territory. During his 33 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, Adrian served in former Soviet Bloc countries and worked on programs supporting their transition to democracy.

The Foreign Policy Association's article by G. John Ikenberry, "America at a Global Crossroads," is available at the library. Writing in November 2024, Ikenberry describes three strategic choices for American foreign policy. The America First agenda of Trump's administration has already broken with liberal internationalism, challenging rules-based, multilateral cooperation and traditional alliances. What are the dangers and advantages this nationalism poses for our future security?

For a copy of the relevant article, or the Zoom link, contact Jane Malberg at the library.

—Sue Kibbe

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

May Deadline: April 23

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing

Ray Boas: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line at:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Yes April - one quarter of the new year already past. Town Meeting over, and Old Home Days coming the end of June. As available, CLARIONS will have details, schedules and sign-up information.

I am looking forward to summer. Am I alone in planning to relive my adventures I had over six decades ago? Since 2011, I have been chronicling and sharing my explorations on shunpikingwithray.com. I write to remember, but I also enjoy sharing.

My shunpiking began in 1963 with explorations in my 1929 Model A Ford Roadster. From Wilton, Connecticut, in the southwest corner of the state, I traveled as far as Maine to check out a Model T Ford for my Dad and enjoyed many trips on my favorite US Route 7 in Connecticut up into Vermont then heading into New Hampshire. I camped at Hapgood Pond in Vermont after buying a can of beans at the old Lisai's in Chester. Mount Washington, the Kancamagus Highway — I toured them, but sadly I do not remember finding Walpole while coming down Route 12. All this in a 34-year-old car 62 years ago.

I have owned nine Model A Fords, and I most recently adopted a 1930 Roadster. "She runs great," I was assured, but she did not. I bought her anyway. Long story short, Dr. Dewey, my excellent car mechanic, started at one end and getting to the other end I have a "mechanically new" 95-year-old car. Let the adventures begin.

—Ray Boas, Publisher

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Help Us Grow the SBW 150 Good Deeds List.

As your local bank, we celebrate the nonprofits and events that make a difference. In honor of our 150th anniversary, we're building a list of 150 Good Deeds—and we need your suggestion(s)!

If you have an idea that builds on our existing efforts, share it with us. Scan the QR code or visit walpolebank.com/good-deeds.

Questions? Call (603) 352-1822.



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Town Meeting - Saturday March 15.