

A Busy “Month of May”

From Peggy’s Desk

May Day — As a child I created cone shaped baskets from colored paper, filled them with pansies or daisies, candy or cookies and hung them on front doorknobs of older neighbors and friends. May poles graced school grounds or groups crowned a May Queen to celebrate the beginning of spring. In Walpole 4-H groups or Scouts often remember May Day!

May Day traditions, though, seemed to slip away after WW II when it became a day to celebrate International Labor or, then, Communists might with parades of weapons. There is a long history of what May Day meant or means to the labor movement. The US and Canada celebrate Labor in September with Labor Day, however, not May 1.

Whatever our traditions of welcoming May are, we all seem to emerge from cold, windy days to the warmth of the sun and longer daylight. Town activities never slow down, no matter the season.

The Police Building Committee (yes, I arbitrarily changed it from the Police Study Committee) is meeting to review a new, smaller building design with a lower cost. We now own the property on which it will be built, once we have secured the funding. One wag asked me if there

- Continued Page 3

Covered Bridges Near Walpole WHS Presentation

The members of the Walpole Historical Society will gather for their 2025 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 6 in the Walpole Town Hall. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a potluck supper followed by a short business meeting and the election of board members. At 7:00 pm there will be an illustrated presentation, “Covered Bridges near Walpole, Past & Present,” by award-winning local author Kim Varney Chandler.

New Hampshire is home to over 61 covered bridges, 46 of which are over a century old. Kim Chandler will present an overview of these bridges and share information on covered

- Continued Page 2

2025 District Dash 5K Fun Run & Walk

The 2025 District Dash 5K Fun Run & Walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, at 10:00 am. This is a fundraiser for the Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association and will once again take place on the beautiful campus and cross-country trails of Fall Mountain Regional High School. The course consists of two loops on the cross-country trails and part of the high school access road, and is suitable for all levels.

Before the main event, there will be a kid’s fun run around the track for

- Continued Page 4

Memorial Day Parade

Monday May 26

Begins 11:30 am
at the Unitarian Church
Meet-up begins at 11

Ceremony follows on Common

Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 299
and Cub Scout Pack 299

Volunteers welcomed in scouting.-

For more information:

Steve Delassio

sdelassi@ix.netcom.com or

Deb Pawelczyk

mdjpawel@comcast.net



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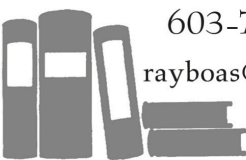
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-Covered Bridges from Page 1

bridges in the Walpole area that have been lost to time. This program includes an overview of historic preservation efforts to save these historic landmarks and resources to start your own journey of discovering New Hampshire's covered bridges.



Hooper Scholarship

Calling all Walpole Citizens! The Hooper Scholarship was established as a trust in the will of George L. Hooper to foster and promote the teaching and learning of agriculture, forestry, botany, conservation, environmental sciences, and the development and improvement of soils. This scholarship is available to all Walpole NH citizens, regardless of age, who wish to pursue study in these and other closely related fields.

Since its inception in 1998, many Walpole students and adult residents have received funding. By May 15 of each calendar year, applicants for college or graduate coursework scholarships should submit a letter of

The Annual Meeting is for members of the Walpole Historical Society. All are welcome to join and can do so the evening of the Annual Meeting. There is no need to be a resident of Walpole or to have a long history of ancestors in New Hampshire. Please consider attending our Annual Meeting and joining in all our activities – beginning with the discovery of the history and pleasures of our nearby covered bridges!

- Christie Winmill

application outlining accomplishments to date and the proposed program of study for the upcoming year, recent academic transcripts, and household financial information. Applications for workshops or seminars such as beekeeping, seed saving, cheese making, sustainable agricultural practices, food security, and alternative energies should submit a letter of application outlining the proposed workshop/seminar, its applicability to support study in appropriate fields, and fee information. Applications are accepted throughout the year. All application materials should be submitted to: Chair, The George L. Hooper Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 729, Walpole Town Hall, Walpole NH. 03608.

- Carol Malnati



2025 EVENTS at DISTANT HILL



Join us for one or more of our many free events at Distant Hill in 2025, with more being added throughout the season.

Scan this QR Code for the Distant Hill Event Collection, or visit our website at www.distanthill.org to learn more





Left - Walpole Town Library's youngest patrons enjoy a lively Wiggles Time Session with Children's Librarian, Julie Rios.

- Peggy from Page 1

was to be a tunnel from the new building to the Dunkin Donuts! Something of a myth that police are sustained by donuts. We have submitted a grant application for congressional funding from Senator Shaheen's office. A long shot for sure since March 14, the Congressional budget wiped out all 2025 funds.

The Power Committee met recently to review all the activity of CPCNH, including the Interim appointment of Henry Herndon as Acting Executive Director. Paul Looney and I will have attended CPCNH's Annual meeting on April 24. Because Liberty is no longer granting new hookups for solar arrays, the Power Committee is changing its meetings from monthly to quarterly. We will be monitoring the efforts of utility companies to undermine CPCNH whose mission is to deliver cheaper, cleaner electricity.

The renovation of the Hooper Institute is on schedule to be completed by the end of May! The building will be open and programmed for activities year-round! Stay tuned for a Grand Opening

Walpole Village School Capital Campaign Kickoff and Open House - May 17

Plans to build a new energy-efficient facility for the Walpole Village School at 75 Westminster Street are moving forward! The new building will feature a multi-purpose Community Room available for broader public use when school is not in session.

The Foundation and Village School are seeking the community's help to raise \$500,000 for the project through a capital campaign. Thanks to early contributions from community members and supporters, the campaign has already reached \$242,275 - nearly 50% of the goal!

To celebrate this milestone and invite the community's participation, The Walpole Foundation and Village School will host a **Capital Campaign**

Kickoff and Open House on Saturday, May 17, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the current Village School building. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the existing facility and learn about the plans for the new building.

To learn more about the project or to contribute, visit www.the-walpolefoundation.org/wvs/ or scan the QR code below to donate now. To give by check, please make it payable to The Walpole Foundation and mail it to the Foundation at PO Box 167, Walpole, NH 03608. The Foundation also accepts donations from Donor Advised Funds, stock gifts, and multi-year pledges.

- Sara Barrett

Keene State College Honors Mary Ronning

Keene State College announced Mary Ronning, a Walpole native, has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Outstanding Senior Student Award.

Outstanding Senior Student Awards are nominated by KSC faculty and professional staff across campus. Mary Ronning was selected for this honor based on her unselfish service to the college and her commitment to enhancing the quality of student life. Her outstanding leadership skills and major contributions have positively impacted her peers and the broader community.



- District Dash from Page 1
the 11-and-under crowd, at 9:15 am, with prizes and medals for participants. Kids are also welcome to accompany their parent or guardian during the 5K race.

Register for the race at www.fmeea.com. Register early as prices increase after May 1.

Adults: \$24 — **Students:** \$17

Teams of 4 or more: \$22/person

Children 11 and under: FREE!

The first 50 paid registrations receive a free District Dash T-Shirt!

We would love to see participants from each school in the district, maybe even some friendly competition between teams! Think 'Team Math vs. Team English', 'middle school administrators vs. elementary school administrators', even 'teachers vs. students'! How about a friendly competition between local businesses?

One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event goes directly back to the Fall Mountain Regional School District in the form of grants to fund field trips, classroom activities, and presentations that are not covered in the regular operating budget.

- Kim Lewis

Sending Sunshine in May!

Participate in sending greeting cards the following days and places:

The Gathering Place at

14 Westminster Street, Walpole-

Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16

11 am - 4 pm both days

The Flat Iron Cooperative at

51 Square in Bellows Falls

Wednesday, May 21 and

Thursday, May 22

11 am - 3 pm both days

-Priscilla Reynolds

Deadline for Directory Changes

If you want to be listed in the new edition of the RVSAH Civic & Business Directory, or if you have changes to your existing listing, email your information **by May 15th** to Tara Sad at tara.eric@gmail.com.

Monadnock Food Co-op Fund Recipient

The Monadnock Food Co-op & Cheshire County Conservation District announced three first-time grant recipients for the 2025 Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund.

Included was Walpole's Lee's Bees, a honey, beeswax and bee pollen producer. With their grant they will upgrade their beekeeping equipment to save time and increase efficiency to produce a higher quality product. Beekeeping equipment will include a honey creamer, pollen dryer, and honey warmer. These improvements will improve efficiency, while reducing labor inputs. Additionally, these improvements will allow for expansion of hives in future seasons as well as expansion of selling to wholesale markets. Learn more about Lee's Bees on their Facebook Page.

Women of Walpole

Women of Walpole met on Wednesday April 16 at the home of Margie Palmer for a presentation by Helen Dalbeck from the Hooper Institute. Helen brought us up to date on the activities at the Institute and then talked about how to prepare the soil in our gardens for the best Spring and Summer growing season.

Our next meeting will be held on May 21 at the home of Christie Winmill for a presentation on Reservoir Woods.

WOW is busy preparing for our Holiday Home tour. Six beautifully decorated homes in Walpole will be available to tour on December 6th. Look for more information on advance tickets soon.

WOW welcomes any woman working or living in Walpole. Look for WOW on Facebook and in The Clarion.. For further information and to join our email list, please contact Susan Johnson (603-313-4018) or Carolyn LeBail (714-717-4184).

-Susan Johnson



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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.**

Pinnacleview 4-H April Events

Members of the Pinnacleview 4-H Club: Lennox LaRochelle, Connor and Alyssa Frederic Reagan Westover Sawyer Roina Paisley Bigelow participated in Cheshire County 4-H Presents on April 5th at the Walpole



**LEFT -Sawyer Roina, with his visual display -
Wood Species and what they are used for.**



**Lennox LaRochelle
demonstrating Floral Arranging.**

You are invited to participate in



Sending Sunshine

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



Surprise Art Project!

Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16
Artist Mindy Fisher will provide a project 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 Reynolds — Questions may be directed to preyns@yahoo.com

Elementary School. This is a communication contest for youth across Cheshire County, they participated in contests including public speaking, photography, posters, table top and action exhibits. Some of their topics included: NH State Police, Different Types of Wood, Family Farms, Floral Arranging, and even comparing the nutrition in a McDonald's Happy Meal to a school lunch. Other members submitted photographs and art work. Our Club Members Savannah Anderson and Lennox LaRochelle won their contests and they will be competing

at the NH Farm and Forest Show at the Deerfield NH Fairgrounds in May. Our members also competed at the NH Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest on April 6th at the Merrimack Valley High School in Pennacook, NH. They competed as three teams: Juniors: Khloe Gauthier, Magnolia Snelling, and Sawyer Roina, Intermediates: Savannah Anderson, and Seniors: Emma Ann Lee, Allana Lee, Ashlynn Smith, and Lennox LaRochelle. Ashlynn Smith has qualified to be considered for the NH State Team that will compete at the Big E

-Emma Ann Lee - Age: 14 - 8th Grade

Pinnacle View 4-H Club Reporter



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.

May at the Library

Learn to make the Magic Burrito pillowcase with Diane Nichols. Saturday, May 10 9:30-11:30 am, Main Library. All supplies provided free of charge. No previous sewing experience required. Space limited - contact library to register.

Author Talk. Tuesday, May 20 at 7 pm, Main Library. Betsy Small will present her new book *Before Before: A Story of Discovery and Loss in Sierra Leone*. The book offers a unique portrait of everyday lives, with a particular emphasis on women and girls, before the brutal conflict of 1991 tore the country apart.

Lunch and a Movie:

Thursday, May 8, 1 pm, Main Library: *Roman Holiday*

Thursday, May 22, 1 pm, Main Library: *Crazy Rich Asians* (postponed from an earlier date)

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

Read A Marathon: for kids in kindergarten through grade five. Ongoing. Come into the library, choose your free book, pick up a reading log and start reading.

Walpole Walking Group

Come walk on the trails and in the woods of Walpole with the Walpole Walking Group! We are an informal group of residents of Walpole and nearby towns who walk together every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 8:00 am. Our walks cover two to four miles, and we are generally back in town by 10:00 am, sometimes 10:30.

While there are about two dozen possible walks, we do have our favorites, including the trail to High Blue (the highest point in Walpole), the trail around the Mill Pond, and several sections of the rail trail. We welcome new walkers at any time, but May is a great month to join us as we see spring wildflowers on many of our walks! You needn't be at every walk, just come when you can. Email Debbie Hutchings at dhutchings2@my-fairpoint.net for our meeting location or with any questions.

- Debbie Hutchings

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This Memorial Day

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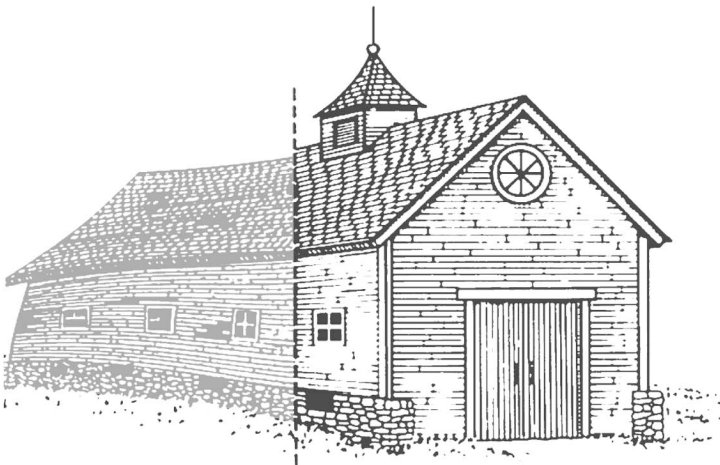


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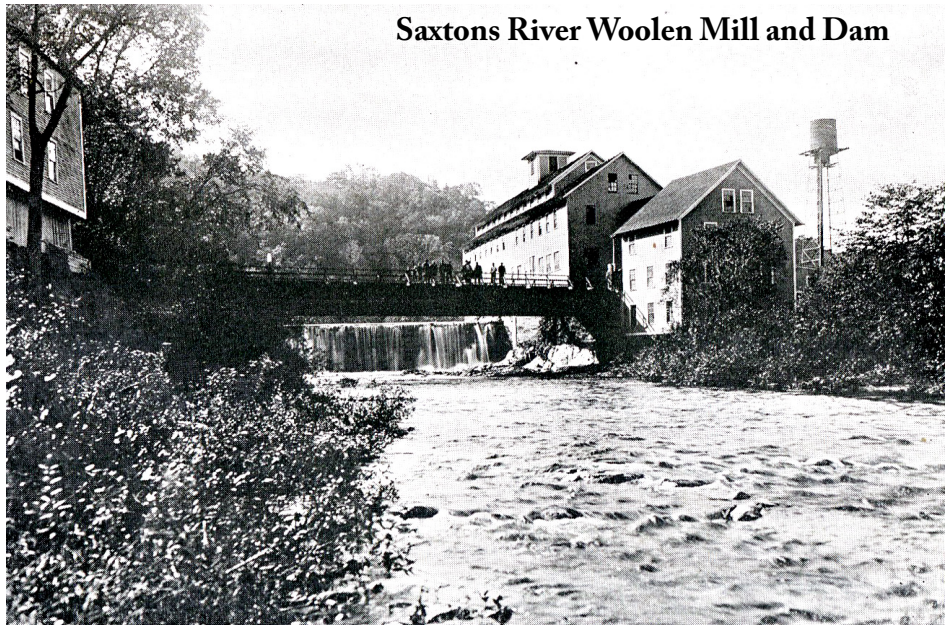
Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...in 1908 you could travel by trolley west five miles from Bellows Falls to Saxtons River and return for 25 cents? Leaving Bellows Falls, The Bellows Falls and Saxtons River Street Railway headed through Gageville and North Westminster following Saxtons River to the village of Saxtons River. This electric trolley operated from 1900-1924. As typically done by electric trolley companies to utilize the electricity it generated, and generate more income, the rail company built Barber Park midway between these two Rockingham-incorporated villages. The park was popular for summertime outings, sports, picnics, baseball games and amusement rides.

Almost 23 miles long, the Saxtons River begins east of Glebe Mountain in Windham, Vermont, and empties into the Connecticut River in Westminster, just south of the Rockingham town line. The name of the river, and thence the town, remains unclear. One thought is the name came from a surveyor who may or may not have drowned in the river while surveying in 1736. Sexton was used in a written record by a scouting party from Fort Dummer in 1724, and that could have become Saxton.

The first settlers in the area arrived about 1783. Growth was slow with only two houses in the village proper by 1795. In 1908 there were about 1,000 residents in the village



Saxtons River Woolen Mill and Dam

(today the population is less than 500). The river provided growth potential as it passed through the village with three waterpower locations named as "upper", "middle", and, "lower" falls. The first woolen mill was built in 1815 on the lower falls. Other mills and industries followed. Lyman Simpson Hayes, in his *History of the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, 1753-1907*, shared, "Theophilus Hoit, now living in Saxtons River at the age of ninety-two, made his home there in 1835 and has been familiar with the changes occurring there since that year. He says: 'In '35 on the upper falls there was a one set cassimere woolen-mill, ... an iron foundry, cabinet shop, blacksmith shop and a

wheelwright shop. On the middle falls was another wheelwright or carriage shop and a sandpaper manufactory on the south side of the river, while on the north side were a saw-mill, grist-mill, soap stone mill, wool pullery and tan-yard.'" With the continued cutting of timber along the river, the soil erosion significantly impacted the flow of water in the river decreasing its power, and by the 1920s many of the village's industries had failed.

Other village buildings included a tavern, hotel, general store, post office, meeting house and a public school building. Founded in 1876, the Vermont Academy is situated on a plateau overlooking the village. A private, co-educational college preparatory school, VA currently has an enrolment of about 200 students in grades 9 through 12. The campus (as well as the village) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Driving down Main Street in Saxtons River is like a journey back in time, but sadly in the last twenty years most of the commercial businesses in town have shuttered, and buildings remain unused. Main Street comes alive with a grand 4th of July parade each year. Put it on your calendar.

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Spring cleaning is bringing back the public from hibernation at Walpole Recycling! We are currently experiencing the busiest Tuesday since last year, which we as a staff all enjoy (for the most part). Walpole Recycling is a busy person's paradise, as there is always a more organized and efficient means of conducting the recycling program and general flow of business. We have the tools, infrastructure, volunteers, and recycling base to have another great summer of recycling in Walpole.

Thank you to all who participated in spring roadside cleanups throughout Walpole, as we continue to celebrate Earth Day all year long. Walpole Recycling's adopted highway has been combed clean over the years, making each year's clean up a little easier. We are getting familiar with the brands of oat sodas (beers) being tossed along the S turns on Whitcomb Rd., and are anxiously awaiting the forensic lab results to pinpoint and publicly admonish the littering perpetrators. Also, watch your speed on Whitcomb Rd. you swilly swillhounds! Seriously, very dangerous place to speed, and the passing lane in front of Walpole Recycling accentuates that fact.

Cold River Materials has donated yet another load of material to Walpole Recycling, which is always welcomed after the winter months. Thank you to Walpole Highway for helping us move the material into the right place on a large scale. Having a reliable winter sanding and plowing from the Highway Department is a luxury that we have enjoyed at Walpole Recycling. I had only one opportunity to snap on the xc skis and take a few laps around Walpole Recycling this winter...(thanks highway department).

Thank you to Larry Switzer for all his finely crafted whirly gigs! Larry makes sure the Town of Walpole Recycling Center has a healthy array of cartoon characters racing the wind upon your arrival. Larry is the "numero uno whirly gig guy" in our region. Thanks again Larry. Keep recycling Walpole.



-Ben Hoy/ Walpole Recycling

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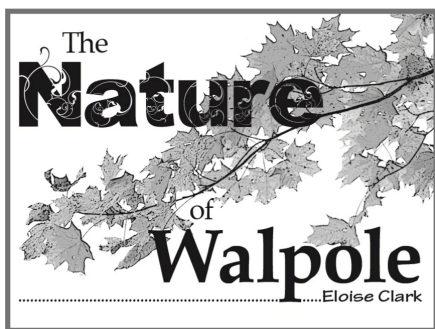
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CHESHIRE KIDS by Erik Doescher

ONLY CRAB GRASS AND DANDELION SEEDS?

THIS IS MY FIRST GARDEN, SO I WANTED TO START OFF WITH THE EASY STUFF.

Doescher



Songsters are returning to our forests, fields and wetlands this month. Twitters, tweets, whistles and hums punctuate the air. From the noisy staccato of the house wren to the pulsing whirl of hummingbird wings, listen for the many sounds of the avian chorus. Members of the thrush family produce some of the most complex and rich melodies.

The robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is our most ubiquitous member of the thrush family. It has a distinctive monologue. It repeats *cheery-o, cheery me*, with a strong voice and clear cadence. Robins can be very familiar with people, nesting in bushes and trees in our yards. Sometimes they will use the eaves of a building or perhaps a decorative wreath on your porch?

If you spend any time in open country, you may spot bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). These azure blue beauties hold quiet conversations with one another. They seem to murmur their messages. They prefer fields, orchards and large lawn habitats to hunt for insects for their young. Yet, they are the only thrush that nests in tree cavities. They are very amenable



to using homemade nesting boxes set out in treeless areas.

In recent years, we are seeing more flocks of robins and bluebirds residing with us through the winter. They subsist mainly on dried berries from bushes such as sumac and winterberry holly.

Crabapples are another favorite. Birds are agents of plant dispersal, scattering seeds far and wide along with a bit of fertilizer. Unfortunately, their diet also includes fruits of invasive plant species, Oriental bittersweet being one example.

Three other species of thrushes return to us in May to nest and raise young. Both the wood thrush (*Hylocichia mustelina*) and veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) return from Central America, while the hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) overwinters just to our south. It's occasionally seen here during the winter.

The three are well camouflaged for life in the forest understory. This layer of shrubs and small plants offers them critical cover. They all have variations of rusty brown and olive colored feathers on their backs. The wood thrush has a reddish brown head. The hermit thrush has a reddish brown tail and the veery is reddish brown from head to tail. All have white fronts spattered with black speckles of varying amounts.

While the markings may be difficult to discern in the dim light of the forest understory, their ethereal voices offer us clear clues as to their identities. At twilight, listen for the wood thrush. The male sings, *"eee-o-lay..."* and often ends with *"o-delly-o"*. The sound seems to drift from more than one direction. It's difficult to pinpoint the bird. That's an advantage when you are a bird that feeds and nests near the ground where predators stalk.

LEFT - Bluebird



Wood Thrush

The veery's distinctive flutelike sound spirals downward. Listen for a breathy *"vee-ur, vee-ur, vee, vee."* The hermit thrush lives up to its name and abides away from people. Its song has the ethereal qualities of the wood thrush. One slow clear note is followed by a harmonious jumble of soft whistles.

As you walk in the woods, one of these thrushes may rise up from the forest floor, disturbed by your approach. You've probably interrupted it while it was busy overturning leaves in search of a meal. The woodland thrushes dine on insects, spiders, earthworms, snails, fruit and berries. Their nests are located nearby, either on the forest floor, in bushes or the lower branches of trees.

Savor the sweet sounds of the thrushes drifting on the spring air. It's our most ephemeral season and passes too soon.



Winterberry Holly

UCC May Events

Community Pot Luck Supper
Saturday, May 10, 5:30 pm

Rummage Sale: Saturday May 31,
9:00 am to 1:00 pm Bag sale Noon

It's Almost Time...



**The Walpole Creamery ice cream parlor
will be opening (just weekends at first),
beginning Saturday, May 17.**



Saturday: Noon - 7PM; Sunday: 1 - 7PM

Full summer hours will resume Memorial Day weekend.



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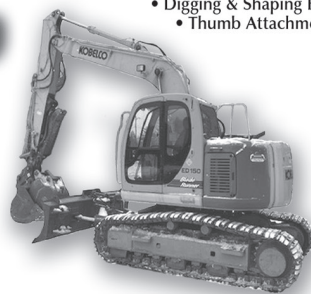


JOHN DEERE 120

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

JOHN DEERE 50

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



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- Thumb
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Banana Ball - Newest Craze for Baseball Fans

By Seamus Cahill (7th grade)

Have you ever wanted to see a baseball game but thought a real one was too long and boring? Well there is one alternate type of baseball that you could watch. It is called Banana Ball and it is very fun and entertaining. This was first introduced by the professional team the Savannah Bananas. They are kind of like the Harlem Globetrotters for baseball.

The type of things you will see at this extravaganza are trick plays, fun dance routines, and even a guy pitching on stilts. One person you might know is Youtuber Coach Rac, who will do backflips when he is catching fly balls. Banana is one of the biggest baseball leagues in terms of popularity and it was only formed a few years ago. In conclusion, Banana Baseball is entertaining and fun for everyone even if you don't watch baseball.

Walpole Staff - Walpole Fire Department Play Epic Annual Game

By Ila Sivret (8th grade)

Annually the WES PTG runs a classic Families Night Out Week that everyone looks forward to especially including the big event for the week: Walpole Staff vs. the Fire Department in a basketball game with the winning team taking home the trophy for the year.

This year the fire department just played better. Sadly the teachers lost but played their hearts out, with strong defense and making every opportunity count.

There was some good natured family and teacher-student rivalry. The teachers are always kind and generous but we got to see their fierce side as they try to fight for the win! The fire

department works hard to keep our families, town and community safe, and they took time off their schedule to play for the amusement of the Walpole families. Also a thank you to our Walpole school teachers for playing out there for the students and families as they have educated kids for so



many years.

The Walpole kids were so excited to see our teachers play and see them do their best, and also tease them the next day. They came to support the game and our school, to show what we represent as a school. Laughs were shared at this game. It is always so exciting to see the new things, games, and ideas of the PTG. Thank you so much for bringing joy to our community.

Walpole PTG Hosts Family Night Out Week

By Jake Gagnon

Every year, Walpole's Parent Teacher Group hosts a Family Night Out Week, formerly known as Screen Free Week. For four days during the week, there are events at Walpole Elementary School that are free to the public for kids to come and have a great time.

After a surprise snowstorm postponed Candy Bar Bingo on Monday, March 24th, the week kicked off with an Animal Adventures Show which

the Walpole Outdoor Education program co-sponsored. In front of a full Hubbard Gymnasium audience at Walpole Elementary School, families learned about a variety of animals from all over the world. For most of the animals, people were even able to pet them as the trainer walked around the gym safely holding the animal. These animals included a kinkajou, a bush baby, an enormous snapping turtle, and several more. With the presentation of each animal, the presenters educated the audience about each one.

On Wednesday, there was candy bar bingo. On Thursday, the staff of Walpole Schools played against the Walpole Fire Department with the latter bringing back home the championship trophy. Finally, on Friday, March 28th, there was a Glow Dance in Hubbard Gymnasium that included tunes spun by DJ Selena, light-up ears and tattoos provided for each dancer, and other concessions and light up swag for purchase.

It was a memorable week of wonderful events that the Walpole Parent Teacher Group provided to further support the Walpole community.



Charlestown Futsal

By Louie Lakin (6th grade)

In Charlestown, there is a middle school futsal league that started recently. It is indoor soccer but on a basketball court.

There are multiple teams that use real soccer team names. For example, one team name is Barcelona. They use a ball that is heavier and smaller than a regular soccer ball. This is because some players could be out of control and hit people in the crowd or break things.

The top four teams get into the playoffs. In the playoffs, the teams play two games against each other and whoever has the most total goals advances to the finals. Only the top four teams make it to the playoffs.

There is also a high school league that allows some eighth graders to join it. In conclusion, futsal is indoor soccer on a basketball court that is a good idea for soccer players to do during the winter and spring to stay in shape and to keep playing the sport that they love.

MLB: Sidearmers: Worth the Hype?

By Mason Paul and
Levi Putnam (8th grade)

Submariners are pitchers of a time long ago. Long gone are the days of Kent Tekulve. Still a few remain, as relics of the past. A few of these pitchers still play in the MLB today of the elite that survive are Tim Hill, a lefty of New York Yankees, Tyler Rodgers with the lowest arm slot of -61° for the San Francisco Giants. Though it should be noted, relievers are not the only pitchers who throw like this as Cy Young winner Chris Sale throws from a similar angle.

Now why, you may ask, do these pitchers choose to almost frisbee the ball to home. Sidearm and submariners have a special advantage when facing same handedness hitters, this is because the low arm angle creates a frisbee like sliders that we see



Hooper Institute Morning Camps 2025

MORNING CAMPS — WEEK 1: June 30, July 1, 2 and 3. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm -For Walpole Students entering 1st and 2nd grade — **WEEK 2:** For Walpole students entering 3rd and 4th grade July 7, 8, 9, and 10. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Cost each session per camper is \$ 50.00 *camperships available - Morning Camps are based at the Hooper Institute 165 Prospect Hill. Rain or shine — Join us for the fun and adventure of woodland play, outside activities, songs, crafts and group games. Camp themes will reflect Hooper Institute's five areas of study which are farming, botany, environment, forestry, and soils. Everyone will make a camp T-shirt which we will provide and expect to play outside! We are happy to welcome Chloe Pittman back to our camps as our Camp Director.

ADVENTURE CAMP: July 7, 8, 9, 10 — All campers meet mornings Monday thru Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Four day session cost per camper \$50.00/week. For Walpole students entering 5th – 8th grade, 15 students max. We will explore together the trails and waterways of Walpole, meeting at a new location each day. The camp is led by Helen Dalbeck along with an adult volunteer. This is an active, fun and adventurous week. Details will follow once registered.

WOOD CAMP: July 21, 22, 23, 24, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm For Walpole students entering 5th – 8th grade, 12 students max. Four day session cost per camper \$ 50.00/ week. This year we have been invited to have our woodworking camp at the Heartwood School in Alstead, NH! Our session will be hosted by Tedd Benson, led by Helen Dalbeck, adult volunteers and our summer high school workers. Projects are kept top secret and are wood, craft, carpentry based. Thank you Tedd Benson, Bensonwood and the Heartwood School.

For all **CAMP FORMS** or questions Contact Helen Dalbeck
(603) 566-2805 — hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net
Registrations due by June 6

out of Rogers and Sale, Fastballs almost have a rising tendency because of the arm angle. Pitchers with low arm angle have proven to be just as and sometimes even more effective than over top hurlers. Pitchers like Tyler Rogers and Tim Hill were some of the most effective relievers last year. As Well as Chris Sale the 2024 NL Cy Young winner Chris Sale.

In conclusion, sidearm pitchers are more than worthy of the hype with their strategic advantage of facing same side batters. As a manager they have more flexibility to call upon in the bullpen. A good championship team should have one to deploy in certain situations.

Distant Hill Events

Sunday, May 4, 10 to 11:30 pm, and 2 to 3:30 pm — 'Vernal Pool Explorations' - Two family-friendly walks to explore unique wetland habitats.

Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, 10 am to 4 pm — 'First Open Garden Weekend of 2025' - Come explore the beautiful shrub gardens of Distant Hill. 'Also held the first and third weekends of June through October.

Sunday, May 18, 10 am or 2 pm — 'Guided Tours of Distant Hill Gardens' - To celebrate the first Open Garden Weekend of 2025 Michael Nerrie will lead two guided tours of the gardens.

Walpole Foundation

Rancho Viejo will soon be the new restaurant in Walpole on Westminster Street, opening approximately June 1. A family restaurant, Rancho Viejo will serve Mexican food at a reasonable price and will have a full range of margaritas!

Renovations are underway for a bright new, welcoming look. Rancho Viejo will be open seven days a week from 11:00 am - 10:00 pm.

- Bert Wiemers

Great Decisions

"Great Decisions" discussion group will meet Monday, May 12, at 6:00 pm in the Walpole Town Library. The topic is "U.S.- China Relations in Tense Times", moderated by Career Ambassador Stapleton Roy.

Stapleton Roy began his diplomatic career in 1956 and rose to become a three-time United States Ambassador, serving in Singapore, the People's Republic of China, and Indonesia. Subsequently he was the Founding Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Wilson Center in Washington. He was a Trustee of the Asia Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Vice Chairman of the National Committee on US-China Relations.

The relevant reading from the Foreign Policy Association is "Competition, Cold War, or Conflict? Navigating U.S.- China Relations in Tense Times", by Thomas J. Christensen, which is available at the Walpole Library. All are welcome 6:00 pm Monday, May 12, in the Hubbard Meeting Room, Walpole Town Library beginning with a Master Class video prepared by the Foreign Policy Association which cannot be shown over Zoom. Those of you joining via Zoom, please join at 6:30 pm For the Zoom link or a copy of this article provided by email contact Jane Malmberg, Library Director: jmalmberg@walpole-townlibrary.org in advance of the meeting.

- Sue Kibbe



As we look forward to warmer weather, it's exciting to remember that Walpole's Old Home Days celebrations are now 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, the always popular booths and activities on the Common and much more.

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 Gretchen at gretchen-markiewicz@gmail.com. This year the Committee is especially hopeful that a wider variety of food options will be offered on the Common.

Parade entries of all sizes, shapes and forms are sought! Parade entry is free and is a fun way to show your connection to Walpole. We encourage the passing out of swag along the Parade route and bribing of judges. This is a fun , family centered, non political event. Prizes awarded for best/ most fun entries in many categories. Line up begins at 8am at the Walpole Middle School and Parade begins at 10am. Route is 1.2 miles around town.

As with all OHD activities we are Volunteer Powered- can you give a few hours to help with line up and directing the parade? Contact Stephanie Vose and Andrea Sivret at Walpoleparade@gmail.com to register or volunteer.

Additional information is available on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/walpoleoldhomedays> or by contacting walpoleoldhomedays@gmail.com.

Help Our Trails (HOT) Day
New Date — May 17

The 3rd Annual Help Our Trails (HOT) Day will now take place on Saturday, May 17, from 9 am to 12 pm. The committee postponed the event by two weeks due to the slow start to this spring's vegetation growth. To volunteer please sign up in advance by sending an email to walpoletailhelpers@gmail.com. Additional details may be found in the April CLARION on page 11. -Wendy Grossman

Walpole Trail Committee

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In Memory of Mary Lou Huffling

Mary Lou Huffling, a woman who dedicated her life to uplifting others and building a stronger, more compassionate community, died on April 5, 2025.

Mary Lou's legacy is one of service, love, and unwavering commitment to those around her. Seeing unmet needs in her community, she acted with remarkable vision and determination. She was instrumental in founding the Fall Mountain Food Shelf, which continues to provide vital



support to individuals and families across the area.

Recognizing the isolation faced by many elderly residents, she established the Fall Mountain Friendly Meals program - a welcoming space where seniors and others could gather for nourishment and companionship. Her compassion extended further with the creation of a meals on wheels initiative for homebound individuals, ensuring that no one went without food or human connection.

Learning that local seniors were being forced to leave their lifelong communities due to a lack of nearby housing options, Mary Lou spearheaded efforts that led to the development of Papermill Village - a housing project that now serves seniors and others facing housing insecurity.

A woman of deep empathy, quiet strength, and a wonderful welcoming smile, Mary Lou's legacy lives on through the lives she touched with her generosity and care. Her presence brought comfort to many, and her absence will be deeply felt. The Board of Directors of the Fall Mountain Friendly Meals and Food Shelf and the many volunteers who carry on her vision, are determined that her legacy must and will continue long into the future.

Since it was unlikely that no single person would be able to do all that Mary Lou did out of love, it was suggested that a part-time paid position be created to manage the ordering, reporting and compliance pieces of the organization. Mary Lou agreed that this was a viable option. Also, there's now a manager in place at each of the 3 programs to carry on Mary Lou's legacy of helping our community with an abundance of love and devoid of judgment.

Donations may be made to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf or the Fall Mountain Friendly Meals, P.O. Box 191, Alstead, NH 03602.

-FMFS Board of Directors



The WALPOLE Clarion

A monthly for the Walpole Community

Ray Boas, Publisher
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Walpole, NH 03608
603 756-4545

Submissions about community events
and achievements welcomed.

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

June Deadline: May 23

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing

Ray Boas: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line at:
thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

In the lead article in the May 2024 CLARION, I provided a history of Decoration Day, now Memorial Day. Younger generations look forward to a three day weekend signaling the beginning of summer activities. But going back over 150 years, and putting things into perspective, Decoration Day, and now Memorial Day was and is a day of remembrance, reflection, and time to thank those who have helped preserve our freedom. A quote I shared then is "Keep the past present so it has a future." I cannot improve upon that statement

A busy "Month of May" as you can see in this issue's pages, particularly as we are gearing up for Old Home Days the end of June. A tradition every three years, current and past residents, young and old, can get together and enjoy all that Walpole has to offer. There have been changes within our community, even since I have been here. Those changes are minimal in my opinion compared to elsewhere, and really seem to be only in the mix of commercial facades, both in the village and on Route 12. For Old Home Days in 2014, I published AS IT WAS...AND STILL IS - WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE. On its 128 pages are images since the 1870s, and comparing those images to Walpole today, much has remained the same. Remember "Keep the past present so it has a future."

—Ray Boas, Publisher

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Old Home Days
June 25 - 29
See Page 14

2025 Walpole Old Home Days



Our Roots Run Deep.