



Summer Rolling to an End

Sign Saga

A Public Hearing was held by the Zoning Board July 16 to consider two sign variance applications from Blue Seal, the firm recently purchasing the Agway store at the intersection of Route 12 and Main Street. The first variance was for a new "wall sign" decreasing in size from about 60 square feet to 50. An increase in square footage was requested for the free-standing sign in front of the building to include a new electronic messaging center (EMC). To accommodate a commercially available electronic sign with changing messages, the applicant requested an increase in size by 20 percent from the 32 square feet allowed by Walpole's ordinance to 38 square feet.

At Town Meeting in March, voters were presented with, and approved, ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to make eight (8) amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. Amendment 7 stated: "The purpose of this amendment is to streamline the sign approval process by placing it with the Planning Board, which has authority to review and approve site plans for non-residential development." The Zoning Board, however, still retains oversight of variances for size compliance, but all other sign aspects are now to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board.

- Continued Page 3

Hubbard Memorial Grant

Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children (established in 1894, located in Westminster, Vermont) has received a \$10,000 grant from the Ira S. and Gertrude S. Hubbard Memorial Fund through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. These funds will be used to continue advancing its important mission of providing children in our care with a safe, caring place where they can learn, play, grow, and experience the joy of childhood.

"We are honored to receive ongoing support from the Hubbard Memorial Fund," said Kurn Hattin Executive Director Sue Kessler. "This generous

- Continued Page 2

From Peggy's Desk

Thirty years ago, this month of August, my late husband Dick and I bought the Aldrich farm on Wentworth Road. We had both grown up in Illinois in a community surrounded by farms and coal mines. Walpole appealed to us with its many dairy farms and small size. My husband had found Walpole on a summer day when he crossed the toll bridge in Claremont and came south on Route 12. He was already familiar with northern New Hampshire as he trained in the White mountains for his treks in Nepal. Galloway Real Estate offices were open when he wandered into Walpole one Saturday. Myra Mansouri assured him

- Continued Page 2

On Thursday, July 17, a **Good Trouble Lives On** demonstration was again held on Route 12, north of Huntington Road. Below is part of the assembled crowd that day.

The organization has held national days of action to respond to the attacks on civil and human rights by the current administration, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the organizers. On June 14 about 37,000 participated in NH including approximately 180 in Walpole.



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- Grant from Page 1

funding will have a meaningful impact on our ability to uphold the high standards we value—in the classroom, throughout our campus, and in every aspect of our children's experience."

Through its comprehensive residential and educational programs, Kurn Hattin provides stability, structure, and opportunity for families facing difficult circumstances. Continued support from charitable foundations helps ensure that these life-changing services remain accessible to the children and families who need them most.

-Lorie Rogers

Free Art Afternoons for Middle and High School Students

This is a free program for students who will be in middle school or high school. It will be held on Tuesday afternoons from September 16 through December 2 generally following the school calendar. It will be led by people well trained in the arts (BFA degrees and beyond) assisted by community volunteers. While there will be "formal teaching", the emphasis will be nurturing imagination, building community, and encouraging creativity. Students will be exposed to different styles of art and some art history, as well as different mediums and techniques including pencil, charcoal, watercolor, acrylic paint, and colored pastels. All supplies are provided. We will have snacks. The program will be held at St. John's Parish Hall ("the stone church") supported by community donations and the Richard Schmid Fine Art Foundation. To register or for questions email artinfo@stjohnswalpole.org as space is limited to 20. Or call Marilyn at 713-410-737

-Marilyn Wilking

- Peggy from Page 1

she could show him several farms if he would come back with his wife. And, indeed, he did, and she did.

How do you become part of a new community? As a flatlander, can you or will you be accepted? We first met our neighbor, Sheldon Sawyer. And then Bob Graves who stopped by to check us out. Sheldon planted our fields with corn and kept horses in one of our fields. Both welcomed us.

Fast forward to 2008 when the Walpole Grange sponsored a Leadership program led by Sue and Chuck Bingaman. I joined the group to learn about Walpole, and frankly, to compare the program with the one I had initiated in New Haven. Everyone who participated became a member of the Grange.

That Leadership Program and Sheldon Sawyer and membership in the Grange were the stepping stones to my involvement in the life of Walpole. The Grange has been a steady force in this agricultural community for at least 150 years. Time has diminished the number of farms in Walpole and the membership in the Grange. The Grange feeds all poll workers at every election in Town and provides baked goods for voters; sells hot dogs at Town meetings; hosts a turkey dinner with all the trimmings every October which raises money for an annual scholarship; and recognizes the unsung heroes of Walpole with an Annual Awards night. You can read about this year's Awards elsewhere in this issue. When you next see any of these folks, add your thanks for their incredible contributions. And get involved in your community.

**PICTURE
 YOUR
 MESSAGE HERE**



**Contact the
 Community
 Support the
 Community**

- Sign Saga from Page 1

As the Public Hearing began, Chair Tom Murray commented it was "...a pretty good size audience" present over concerns of the changing messaging sign at this potentially dangerous intersection. The applicant explained the desire to have the sign changing every 20 to 30 seconds with a new message of a sale or product promotion. Motorists would have to look quickly to read the advertisement. Safety concerns were raised by many of those in attendance. Questioned also was if the sign would be in operation and changing 24 hours a day. With almost one and a half hours of discussion, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:30 pm.

The Board, in its ensuing discussion, considered restrictions on the use of the changing electronic messaging center (EMC), concluding that any restrictions now should be considered by the Planning Board with the recent change of responsibility. In granting a variance there are five criteria that must be considered, includ-

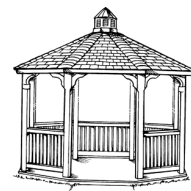
ing if denial creates a hardship for the applicant. A motion was made to approve the size increase of the free-standing sign to accommodate the EMC, but there was no second. The board continued consideration. In reviewing the original application to the Planning Board, it was noted that, as presented, there was also proposed a new Blue Seal sign with a message center that complied with the size ordinance. As a result, board member Shane O'Keefe moved to deny the variance since, by admission on that application, there was no hardship. The motion of denial passed unanimously.

Blue Seal must now return to the Planning Board for approval of sign usage specifics: e.g. time of message display; if turned off and when; etc. Zoning Board members agreed that with the change of responsibility at Town Meeting that both boards need to meet and work out the process and procedures of both boards in governing signs in Walpole.

-Ray Boas

Walpole Foundation

The small gazebo located at 11 Westminster Street was purchased in 2006 by the Walpole Foundation.



This gazebo has been a great gathering place for people socializing over the years.

When the gazebo was purchased it had electricity in it. Sometime over the years the wires were at the base were cut. The gazebo remained powerless until this last month. With the generous donation of EE Houghton and the upcoming Old Home Days it was brought back to its glory. Lights were strung for the Old Home Days events. It will be a great asset to have the power back. Christmas lights can be hung once again! The Walpole Foundation thanks Mark Houghton for his generosity and Steve Grenier for his hard work.

-Bert Wiemers

Terry White L.M.F.T.

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2025 Old Home Days Our Roots Run Deep "Now History"



Above - Congregational Church Winning Float
Below - Walpole Village School
- Iron Kettle Farm Team
-Photos courtesy: Eric Brandolini, and CJ Lederman



The Walpole Old Home Days Committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of this year's event.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our generous sponsors and advertisers, as well as all parade participants, common booth vendors, and event organizers. Your involvement was instrumental in creating a vibrant celebration for our community.

Special recognition goes to Mosey Down for their exceptional musical performance on Friday evening, and to Tom and Eva for providing the delightful strawberry shortcake. We thank Jon Tarmey and his crew for their excellent work at the grill, and Evan from WOOL FM for expertly managing the day's music and announcements.

Our profound thanks are also extended to the Walpole Fire, EMS, and Police Departments for their unwavering commitment to public safety. We are grateful to Brad Nash for maintaining the cleanliness of the common, and to Eric and CJ for capturing the spirit of the day through their outstanding photography.

Finally, a heartfelt acknowledgment to all the dedicated volunteers and committee members whose tireless efforts and commitment were essential in bringing Walpole Old Home Days to fruition. And of course, a huge thank you to the entire Walpole community for coming out, participating, and making this year's Old Home Days truly special!

-Vicki Hurlburt

Parade Winners

Overall Winner: The Congregational Church
Youth winner : Pinnacleview 4-H
Business Winner: Pinnacleview Equipment
Adult winner: The Recycling Center
Musical Entry: NHPA Pipe and Drum
Honorable Mention: Julia Cermola - National Anthem.

Potted Plant Winners

Overall: Stephanie Vose
Individual: Jean Kobeski
Club: Pinnacleview 4-H
Youth: Sending Sunshine

Talent show Winners

Adult Category

1st Lukas Doescher singing and playing guitar to his original song Scent of Summer
2nd Lily Vickers singing Hallelujah
3rd Verne Gage playing a number from Phantom of the Opera on trumpet

Kids Category

1st Lucy Druke singing Ordinary
2nd Calla Kingsbury doing a gymnastics routine to Break Free
3rd Renleigh Campbell dancing to Hand Clap

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.**

Strawberry Shortcake Thank You

River Valley Seniors at Home (RVSAH) is honored to have been named the non-profit recipient of this year's Strawberry Shortcake Extravaganza during the 2025 Old Home Days festivities.

We want to thank Allen Brothers and Alyson's Orchard for their generous donation of the strawberries that went into the delicious desserts; the volunteers who helped to wash, stem and cut the 50 pounds of berries; and most of all Tommy Murray and Eva Beauregard for their hard work, their ever-present humor, and their unbelievable generosity. Their donation will be used to help our Walpole seniors be able to stay in their homes longer.

Thank you, Eva and Tommy!

-Tara Sad, Executive Director and
The Members of the Board of RVSAH



You are invited to participate in

Sending Sunshine

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



August Schedule:

at The Flat Iron Cooperative – 51 Square – Bellows Falls, VT
Tuesday, August 19 through Friday, August 22
11 am – 3 pm all 4 days

“Save the Dates”

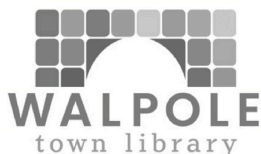
Celebrate National Bluebird of Happiness Day!
Wednesday, September 17 through Friday, September 19
at The Gathering Place – 14 Westminster – Walpole, NH

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

Select cards designed by local artisans or ***Create*** a card. ***Write*** greetings.

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

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



For more information,
visit the library website -
<https://walpoletownlibrary.org>
or call 603-756-9806.

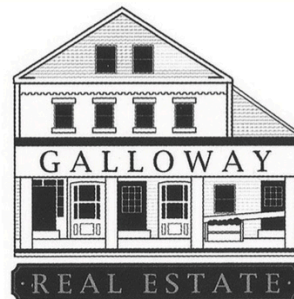
Links may also be clicked from the
Clarion On-Line Resources page.

August / September at the Library

Fairy House Building: Thursday, August 7 at 1 pm, Main Library. Fairy House building with the Grafton Museum. Parents must accompany children at this program.

Third Annual Walpole Reads: This year, we're diving into Claudia Rankine's impactful *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Grab your copy beginning August 1 – we will have plenty available at the Main Library. The Walpole Reads book discussion with Alice Fogel will take place on Wednesday, September 17 at 7 pm, Main Library. Registration begins August 18.

Wild Chocolate: Thursday, September 4 at 6 pm, Main Library. The Walpole Town Library welcomes Rowan Jacobsen to talk about his book, *Wild Chocolate: Across the Americas in Search of Cacao's Soul*. Following Rowan's presentation, Marietta Burdick of Jouvay Chocolate will talk about their partnership with cocoa farmers in Grenada and provide samples for a chocolate tasting.



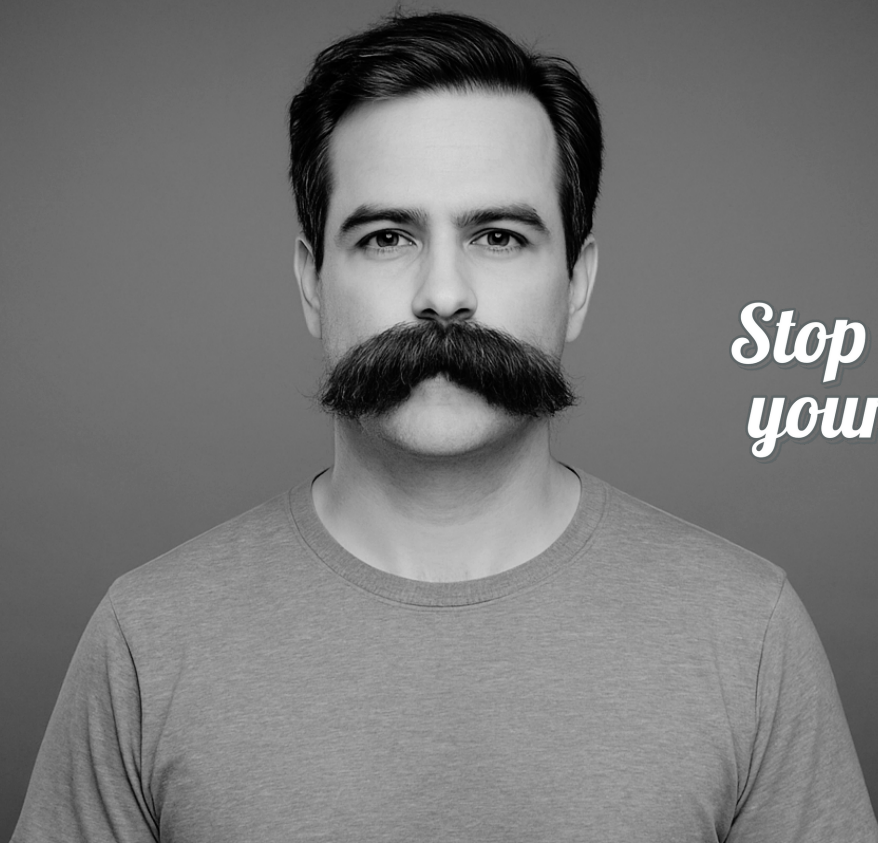
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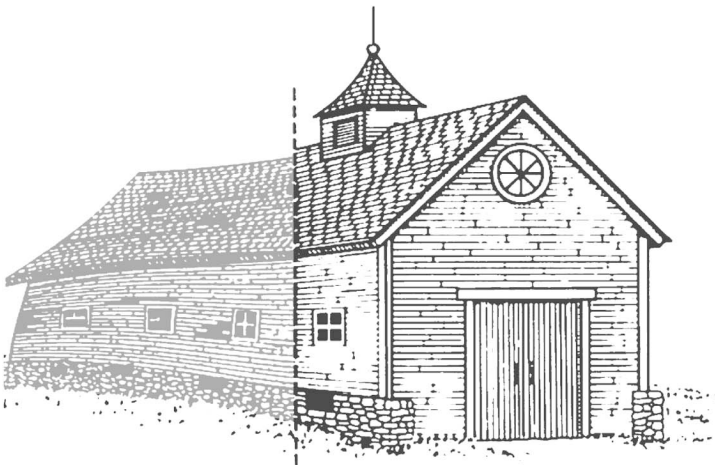


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Did You Know That...?

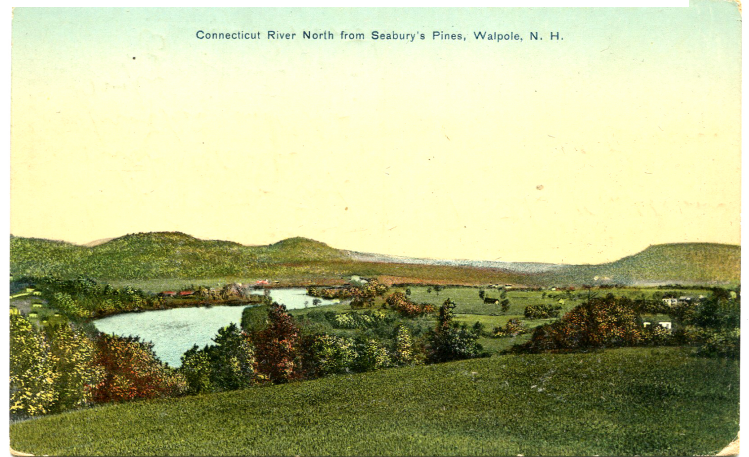
Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the Connecticut River meanders 410 miles from just shy of the Canadian border to the Long Island Sound? Beginning at the Fourth Connecticut Lake, about 300 yards south of the US border with Quebec, Canada, the river continues south through the Third, Second, and First Connecticut Lakes, all in Pittsburgh, NH. Over its course south the river drops about 1600 feet in elevation. The Connecticut River is Walpole's entire western border, partially visible off Route 12 north of the bridge to Westminster. The Connecticut River also serves as the boundary between New Hampshire and Vermont. Unlike most river boundaries which are the centerline of the river's water, New Hampshire lands run to the low-water mark on the western side of the river. Under dispute for almost 150 years, a 1933 Supreme Court ruling finally established the boundary line. Ninety-nine cities and towns now border the Connecticut River, including the cities of Springfield, MA and Hartford, CT.

Native Americans had several names for the river, all basically having the same meaning. "Connecticut," for the Connecticut River, originates from the Mohegan-Pequot word "Quinnehtukqut," translating to "long tidal river" or "beside the long tidal river." Similar spellings include "Quonoktacut" (also Quonecktacut) interpreted by some to mean "river whose water is

driven in waves by tides. In fact, the definition fits as the Connecticut River is tidal north to Windsor Locks north of Hartford.

The river was a vital transportation artery in colonial times, and was the first major river highway prior to the development of suitable roads and the railroads. Flatboats carried goods—especially timber, potash, and farm produce—downstream to Hartford and onto the Sound. Following winter timber harvests and spring floods, log drives dominated the river landscape with one important terminus in Bellows Falls and North Walpole. In the early 1800s, steamboats began moving goods and people up and down the river. To navigate around many falls and rapids, locks and canals were constructed. The falls between Bellows Falls and North Walpole were significant enough to hamper fish from moving further upriver to spawn. Native Americans found this the ideal summer camp for catching those fish. Later, in 1802, the first canal and locks in the US were com-



Above:
Postcard mailed in 1916 looking north from the hills just north of Walpole Middle School. Fall Mountain on the right to the rear of image.

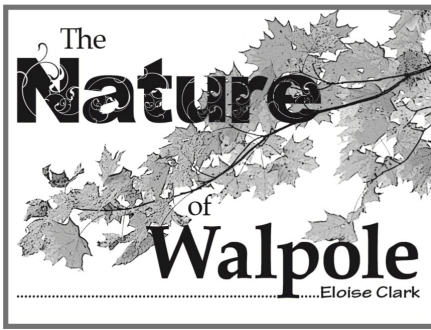
pleted in Bellows Falls allowing commerce to use the river above the falls. The steamboat Barnett made it from Hartford to Bellows Falls in December 1826, but never made it further north. The boat's builders had miscalculated, and the boat was constructed just inches too wide for the locks. By 1822, steamboats had become the commercial vessel of choice south of Hartford.

By the mid-20th century the river was choked with pollution, and was an ecological disaster. Even Walpole was one of the last still pumping its raw sewage into the river. But with environmental consciousness increasing in the 1960s, and the Clean Water Act in 1972, the river began its comeback, and is now considered one of the cleanest major waterways in America. In 1997, it was named one of only fourteen American Heritage Rivers.

(Note: There are thirteen related Connecticut River history articles in the book *DID YOU KNOW THAT - EXPLORATIONS INTO WALPOLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY*).

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When we think of mammals who use aquatic habitats, we might immediately imagine a beaver or otter, perhaps a muskrat or mink? There are two smaller mammals who are also at home in this environment. Both the water shrew and star-nosed mole are rare to see but inhabit our area.

The water shrew (*Sorex palustris*) has a streamlined body measuring 3 inches from nose to rump. The furred tail doubles its length. Its trim body weighs only a third of an ounce. It lives in cold, clear brooks. It likes riffles interspersed with quiet pools. It lives a solitary life in a bankside burrow, perhaps beneath gnarled tree roots or between boulders.

Such a chilly environment requires two layers of fur. While the outer guard hairs shed water, a dense undercoat enables the shrew to retain its body heat. The hairs trap air next to the skin, so the body stays warm and dry. Underwater, the shrew appears to be a silver bubble. The layer of air also causes the shrew to float like a cork on the surface of the water, where it may be an easy target for a large trout.

While the water shrew will hunt on land for prey including snails and

the occasional fungus, its main targets are aquatic insects: the larvae of caddisfly, crane flies, mayflies and stoneflies, even small fish. It can sustain dives of half a minute or more as it searches for quarry. And hunt they must. With a hyperactive metabolism and low body fat, every shrew must continually search for a meal.

Its feet are another feature that enables water shrews to succeed. The hind feet are bordered with stiff hairs. These enable the shrew to literally run across the surface of the water for short distances. The shrew will dive from a rock and plunge to the bottom propelled by its flipper feet. It uses the whiskers on its snout to locate prey.

The star-nosed mole (*Condylura cristata*) is larger, with a 5 inch long body and 3 inch tail. Like other moles, it is a digger with a muscular upper body. Its scoop shaped paws have five stubby toes with long sturdy nails that help it plow through the



soil. It prefers wet areas, with swampy ground. The edge of a cattail swamp or mucky areas near a pond or stream suits it well.

The star nosed mole is virtually blind but feels its way using long whiskers on its snout. Most famously, it feels with its star-like snout. Eleven pink tentacles surround each nostril and form the centimeter wide "star". Each of the 22 tendrils has an Eimer's organ with 17,000 receptors. It's estimated these are six times more sensitive than the human hand.

The star-nosed mole has the distinction of being the "fastest eating mammal". In only 8 milliseconds it's able to locate prey. It can consume eight separate prey items in less than two seconds!

Star-nosed moles swim and dive with ease. They have been seen swimming under the ice in winter, foraging on the bottoms of streams and ponds. They will eat all manner of invertebrates: aquatic insect larva, snails and slugs, leeches and small crayfish. In turn, they are eaten by foxes, owls, snakes, weasels and cats. They might also fall prey to large fish, such as a northern pike.

The nocturnal ramblings of water shrews and star-nosed moles make them difficult to observe or even find. Enjoy knowing these diminutive predators are out and about making a living in the shadows of the night.



**Left and above:
Water Shrew
Center Column - Star Nosed Mole**

Walpole Grange Awards Night

On July 15, Walpole Grange #125 hosted its annual Community Awards Night presentation, honoring seven outstanding individuals and businesses for their contributions to our community. Walpole Grange is the local chapter of the National Grange, the oldest general farm and rural public interest organization in the United States. Walpole Grange has been serving the farmers and residents of Walpole and surrounding communities since 1887.

This year's awards included: Young Farmer Award - Sage Stark; Educator Award- Mrs. Lisa Mulhearn; Youth Service Award - Scott and Judy Northcott; Business Award - Paul Tole, Sr. and Tole's Automotive; Community Citizen Awards - Crystal Phillips and Kelly Patch. Short biographies of the award winners may be found from a link on the CLARION's website home page. <http://thewalpoleclarion.com>

-Leroy Watson

Fall Mountain Alumni Reunion

The Fall Mountain Regional High School Alumni Association, FMRHSAA, would like to invite all FMRHS alumni and their families to our first annual reunion event on Sunday, August 10, 11:00-3:00, at the His & Hers Farm in Acworth, NH.

Let's bring the entire community together to reunite, reminisce, and make memories.

Food Trucks (for a fee), Music, Corn Hole and Lawn Games, Face Painting, and Horse Drawn Rides, and we have more activities in the works.

For questions contact Tammie Amato tamato7462@gmail.com.

-Tammy Vittum



WALPOLE SOCIETY

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Banquet Filling Rapidly

Reservations for the Horse Thieves' biennial banquet are pouring in 50% faster than 2023 and it's possible we'll run out of room at the Alyson's Orchard banquet facility. In the first 20 days taking reservations we received almost half the number we can accept. If you want to attend, we encourage you to reserve ASAP.

Invitations and reservation forms were mailed to all members in late June. If you didn't receive your invitation, contact Lewis LaClair. Only Horse Thieves and their guests may attend the banquet. To join email LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com, or 756-0001. Membership is open to any man 18 or older who lives in Walpole, pays \$2 lifetime dues and signs the membership book.

The speaker for the banquet will be Alan Rumrill, director of the Cheshire County Historical Society. He's a popular speaker and will talk to us about "Railroads of Cheshire County." We understand he's also researching Horse Thief organizations and may share some early findings. The banquet will be similar to the last four with a fabulous meal "home cooked" by the officers and committee under the supervision of Chef Tom Murray. "Riders" may attend with one guest at no cost. As always, "tickets" are non-refundable. Entrée options are the very popular roast beef, or vegetable lasagna. There will be a cash bar run by Alyson's. Doors open at 5 pm with dinner served at 6. As always, our popular membership poster will be handed out as Horse Thieves arrive for the banquet.

-Lewis LaClair, Clerk

2025 Walpole Grange Community Awards Night Recipients L to R- Adam Terrell, President, Walpole Grange, Paul Tole, Sr., Business Award; Judy and Scott Northcott, Youth Service Award; Lisa Mulhearn, Educator Award; Kelly Patch and Crystal Phillips, Community Citizen Awards; Sage Stark, Young Farmer Award. — Photo Provided



Annual Teddy Bear Parade

A great time was had by all, July 19, at the 4th Annual Teddy Bear Parade hosted by the Walpole Town Library and Distant Hill Nature Trail. Young and old joined together to celebrate the wonderful comfort of teddy bears (and all kinds of stuffies) with stories, songs, and a rousing parade complete with kazooos!

-Julie Rios

Of important note - the Teddy on the lower right has been with his owner since birth - the owner's birth that is.



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Closed
Monday & Tuesday



Announcing . . . a special event every Saturday from August 2 through August 30

Please join us at the Walpole Heritage Museum at **12:30 pm** every Saturday through October 18 for a fascinating discussion, demonstration, or reenactment, in a sociable setting.

August 2 - Edwin Guild: Walpole Farmer, Teacher, Activist? - Christie Winmill will discuss the little-known story of a truly inspiring Walpole resident.

August 9 - From the 1793 Kingsbury rag-paper mill of "Paper Mill Village" to today's hand-made bacterial "bio-paper" - Walpole artist Eric Gjerde will trace 230 years of regional papermaking ingenuity. Live demos, historic photos, and giant origami tessellations reveal how local waterpower still shapes contemporary paper art.

August 16 - Walking Tour of Walpole - meet at **10:30 am on the sidewalk** in front of the museum to join Bill Ranauro, local author, on an architectural tour of the village.

August 23 - Men's Fashion of the 1800s: Aspiration, Technology, and the Greek Ideal - Christopher Sink will lead a discussion using many examples in the museum's collection.

August 30 - Scavenger Hunt! Bring the whole family for a chance for **visitors of all ages** to search for special discoveries at the museum. Prizes!

Visiting hours for the museum at 32 Main Street are noon to 3 pm. Come visit for the 12:30 pm special events and a closer look at our surprisingly varied collections and an opportunity for an engaging discussion!

The Walpole Historical Society Museum is free and open to the public and all are welcome. For more information, visit www.WalpoleHistory.com. Please plan to join us!

Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Selectboard - June 19

Vilas Bridge Review by State Reps:

Mr. Dalessio, Pat Kiniry, and Katherine Kopij attended the meeting with the Executive Counselor Hill and the NHDOT Commissioner. Mr. Dalessio stressed to the visitors that the sewer line crosses the river under the bridge and other issues such as traffic; emergency vehicles; poor access to Bellows Falls, our sister town. Mark Houghton is already talking to the person working on the design of the new bridge. There was a discussion about how imbedded Walpole people are in the greater community.

Conservation Commission - July 7 Trail Committee - Tom Murray created the new trail at the Gateway. It is the first new trail created by the Trail Committee.

Gateway Management (Invasive Control):

The invasive control work will be started after June 30th and completed by the end of September. There was a discussion of warning signs that will be posted when the invasives are treated to warn people to stay away for 24 hours.

June 30 - Brush hogging was completed on the Walpole section of the Cheshire Rail Trail. With the overgrowth cut back, now is a great time for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians to explore the 7+ miles of State-owned Rail Trail along the west side of Walpole. The usable trail extends from behind the CITGO/Jiffy Mart in the north to the Westmoreland border in the south. The Cheshire Rail Trail then continues southward to Keene and beyond. In Walpole, the trail is accessible from Blackjack Crossing Rd., Halls Crossing Rd., River Rd., the Walpole Gateway, Route 123, and

the Boat Launch WMA. There is a dedicated parking area on River Rd, and limited parking at other locations. Please do not block the gates or the trail when you park. Maps of the Rail Trail are available at walpoleoutdoors.org (the Conservation Commission website) and in Town Hall.

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by Erik Doescher



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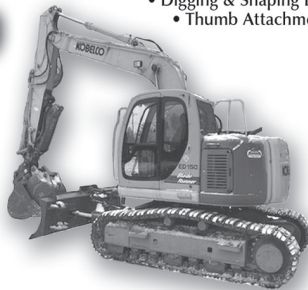


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100th Anniversary Celebration Vilas Pool and Recreation Area Alstead, NH

The Vilas Pool and Recreation Area in Alstead will celebrate its 100th Anniversary Saturday, August 16 from noon to dark at 39 Acworth Road, Route 123A.

Vilas Pool was built in 1926 by local philanthropist Charles Nathaniel Vilas, who was born and raised in Alstead before moving to New York City. Vilas pool and Recreation Area has been open to the public for summer-time recreation activities since it was gifted to the town in 1930. The venue can also be rented for events such as weddings, baby showers, birthday parties, graduation parties, and dances. The park features a stone carillon bell tower. Mr. Vilas built the carillon bell tower as a gift to his wife, who had a great love for music. The bells were a special order made for Vilas by the Meneely Bell Foundry of Troy, N.Y.

"The Vilas Pool Management Committee has been working diligently to be able to offer the community a fun day full of activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the park." Said Mrs. Schoonover (a volunteer and member of the management committee).

Admission to the event will be by donation. Food, beverages, and exclusive merchandise will also be available by donation. The park is only able to accept cash. For more information, follow Vilas Pool Park on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/VilasPoolPark> or contact Bobbie Wilson at vilaspoolpark@gmail.com or 603-835-6127

-Ryenne Schoonover

(Editors Note: I have over the years enjoyed my visits here, sitting on the porch reading and writing and sharing conversations with others. For more history, do look back at my Did You Know That... article in the May 2024 of the CLARION, pages 8 and 9 - remember you can access Past Issues on the CLARION website).

SAVE THE DATE

Vilas Pool & Recreation Area

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sat • August 16th

KIDS EVENTS

12 to 4 PM
Pony rides, face painting, bounce house, bubbles, and more!

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES


5 to 9 PM
Swimming, kayaking, swan boat rides, live music, and fireworks!

Admission, food, beverages & exclusive merchandise by donation.

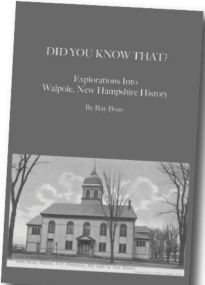
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Vilas Pool Swan Boat July 5, 2025
-photo Ray Boas



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Lost Hiker with Heat-Related Injury in North Walpole

<https://nhfishgame.com/2025/07/16/lost-hiker-with-heat-related-injury-in-north-walpole/>

- **KNOW YOUR LIMITS**
- **KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AT ALL TIMES**
- **LET SOMEONE KNOW**
- **WHERE YOU WILL BE GOING**
- **WHEN YOU EXPECT TO RETURN**
- **EXACTLY WHEN AND WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE LATE**

If you don't feel at all well - STOP - turn around

THE TRAIL WILL BE THERE FOR ANOTHER DAY

PLEASE READ OUR DETAILED NOTICE ABOUT HOT WEATHER HIKING

walpoleoutdoors.org



The Walpole Old Home Days celebration was a good time had by all Walpole residents. However, I am confident in saying that Walpole Recycling's very own Shaena Hakey, "the Recycling Queen," was the belle of the ball. Perched high atop our Walpole Recycling truck on rather precarious (last minute idea) towers of aluminum bales, Recycling Queen Shaena demonstrated a royal wave along the parade route amid a myriad of bubbles produced by fellow recycler Don Tretler. The love from the Walpole Old Home Days crowd for our Recycling Queen and Walpole Recycling bubble float was sincerely appreciated by our staff, and of course our Royal Recycling Highness Shaena Hakey.

Our solar panels needed a new inverter installed recently under warranty by Solar Dave. We are back up and running strong on solar, with yesterday's electrical production topping off at 23kw. Since we have installed the solar panels, we have produced 35 MWh of power through the panels. The energy produced covers Walpole

Recycling's energy needs, and the excess solar credit benefits the Walpole Town Hall. It has been a great experience checking in on the electrical output of the panels through the Solar Edge app. The environmental benefits outlined in the Solar Edge app tell me that we have saved 56,327.4 lbs of CO₂ emission, and 426 equivalent trees planted from our solar panels production.

Please remember to follow the one-way traffic pattern, and avoid U-turns, even during quiet times at the Recycling Center. Thank you all for your support of our recycling mission at Walpole Recycling. Keep recycling Walpole!

-Ben Hoy/ Walpole Recycling



Walpole Village School and Community Room Project

Momentum continues to build for the new Walpole Village School & Community Room building. We've now secured \$3.6 million—94% of the \$3.85 million needed to construct a new three-classroom preschool and multipurpose community space at 75 Westminster Street. Thanks to the generosity of the Walpole community, we're on track to break ground this fall.

The new facility will feature three energy-efficient classrooms to serve children ages 2–5 and a multi-purpose community room available for public use outside school hours. With more than 40 students enrolled this fall, and growing demand for infant care, this new building will expand access to high-quality early childhood education while creating a much-needed gathering space for community groups and events.

We're now \$244,372 away from the finish line. Your support can help us close the gap and make this wonderful building a reality. Businesses are eligible to receive a New Hamp-

Cub Scout Mum Sale

The Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299 will soon start taking orders for their Mum



Fall Fundraiser. All proceeds from this fundraiser pay for scout activities and registrations.

This year the sale is starting August 4, and going thru September 8, unless we sell out before then. This is a very popular fundraiser and we have a limited number of mums available. Please place your order early to guarantee you can get what you want. We sold out last year.

Mums are between 15 to 18 inches across, and planted in 9.5 inch pots. Colors available are red, white, yellow, and orange-bronze. We are selling them for \$20 each. The mums come from a grower in Bowdoin, Maine. Mums will be available for pick-up on Sunday, September 21, on the Walpole Town Common between 9:00 and 10:00 am.

You can place an order by finding a Cub Scout from Pack 299, or you can call Debbie Pawelczyk 603 445-5475.

-Debbie Pawelczyk

shire tax credit equal to 75% by donating to the project through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Each gift, large or small, truly matters and brings us closer to creating a safe, healthy, and inspiring school environment for our youngest learners, and a welcoming gathering space for the entire community. To learn more, donate, or explore tax credit opportunities, visit www.the-walpolefoundation.org/wvs. Donations can be mailed to The Walpole Foundation, PO Box 167, Walpole, NH 03608.

-Jocelyn Horton & Laura Palmer
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



Hi, my name is Greta Drager and I will be the new Executive Director for the Hooper Institute. I am very excited to take on this role and get to know the Walpole community! I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in Ohio with degrees in Middle Childhood Education, focusing on math and science, and Special Education. I am also a recent graduate of Antioch University, with my Master's in Environmental Education. Prior to Antioch, I was a middle school science teacher in Northern Utah and focused on sustainability, cooking, outdoor recreation, advocacy and community service. My teaching style focuses on a hands-on, inquiry and experiential approach to learning. Aside from my time as a classroom teacher, I have also held a variety of roles in both the outdoor recreation and environmental fields including working as a garden educator and a summer camp counselor. Outside of work, I love hiking, skiing, rock climbing, backpacking, reading, and tending to my home garden. I look forward to bringing all of my past experiences and interests into my role at the Hooper Institute.

I was drawn to the Hooper Institute due to the focus on environmental science while also focusing on community building. I am an avid gardener and believe that the best way to learn is in the field getting your hands in the dirt! I enjoy the opportunity to learn with and from all community members and believe that everyone, from children to adults, have unique knowledge and perspectives to offer. One of my goals as Executive Director is to strengthen and expand program offerings for both students and community members to allow for the Hooper Institute to support all in the community. Some of my other goals include increasing our outreach and marketing strategies, strengthening and adding to our community partnerships and developing new programs and workshops. My biggest goal as Executive Director is to get to know the Walpole community and to ensure that the Hooper Institute is doing its best to meet the needs of the town. I look forward to future opportunities to meet the residents at events and around town!

Come Enjoy Time at the Cheshire County Fair

From July 31 to August 3, the Pinnacleview 4-H Club will be at the Cheshire Fair! These hardworking youth are passionate about dairy cattle, agriculture, animal science and so much more! The Cheshire Fair highlights everything from cow grooming and training to leading them in the show ring. The Cheshire Fair is a fun and educational event for all ages. Come support the next generation of agricultural leaders and experience the heart of 4-H in action!

-Emma Ann Lee
Pinnacleview 4-H Club Reporter

Preparing for the fair are Edward Gowdy, Sage Stark (recent recipient of the Grange's Young Farmer Award) and Tyson Patch.

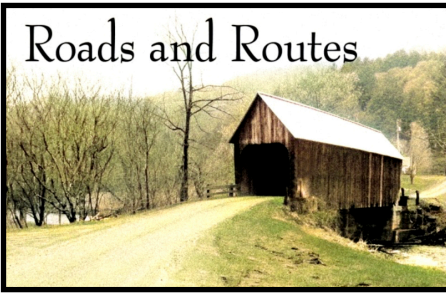
Photo: Holly Goudy



Greta recently with some of Adventure Week campers. Photo Provided



Roads and Routes



Since January 2021, I occasionally have included articles encouraging you to get out and explore our area. “Shunpiking” for decades, I enjoy documenting and sharing my experiences on shunpikingwithray.com, my travel website. Relating some facts about the Connecticut River in this issue’s “Did You Know That...”, I thought I would share my recent cruise on the Connecticut. A day trip you can enjoy as well.

In heading south to Greenfield, Deerfield, Turners Falls, Gill, or Northfield, Massachusetts, I have options. In Vermont I can head south to these towns by I-91 (as a last resort), or on US 5. But, best from home, head south on RT 63 from Westmoreland or RT 10 from Keene. I always enjoy US 5, but may I recommend you become familiar with NH routes 63 and 10. For this adventure, head south out of Northfield, Massachusetts on Route 63.

In about six miles you will see, on the right, a sign for the Riverview Picnic Area and River Cruise (just past this on the left is the Northfield Mountain Recreation Center). This area and its recreational opportunities have been

developed by First Light Power, which also developed the power generating facility here with a mountain-top reservoir, New England’s largest energy storage facility, capable of powering more than 1 million homes. <https://firstlight.energy/energy/northfield-mountain-generating-station/>

Make the right turn towards the river and parking lot. Then head down the walking path to the picnic area and dock where you will find the 44 seat riverboat, The Heritage. I purchased my ticket on-line (<https://firstlight.energy/stewardship/connecticut-river-cruise/>), but you can



also buy a ticket on-board. On my peaceful cruise I was joined by two other guests. With the experienced captain and informative lecturer, we headed south toward Turners Falls, enjoying the scenery and learning along the way. An hour and a half unique trip on this historic and amazing waterway. My full report of the

The French King Bridge over MA Route 2.



Photos: Ray Boas



trip is on “Shunpiking with Ray”

Afterwards I crossed over to the Visitor Center, which provides a concise history of the river and the power generating facility. Then I back-roaded down to Deerfield for some favorite stops before swinging back up to the Gill Tavern, in Gill of course. Population about 1,500. You do want to take this route back north, stopping at the tavern just off the small Town Common. I have always enjoyed my meals here, even when exploring nearby Hell’s Kitchen and Satan’s Kingdom - but that is another tale on my travel website.

Scouts Thank You



On Sunday evening, June 22, the Walt Sayre Orchestra, including Ajan LaRock Beer as featured vocalist, performed for a large crowd on the Walpole Common. The music provided was well received and greatly appreciated. All the scouts and their leaders extend a sincere thank you to the musicians, and the over a dozen area companies that contributed financially to this concert benefitting the Boy and Cub Scouts of Walpole. It is a real comfort to the leaders particularly that there are those in the community so committed.

Many thanks also to all those who donated while at the concert. While many remain nameless, noted are the generous donations by Charles Street, Steve Dalessio, and Krystyna and Dennis Marcom.

So where do the donations go? The membership fee to Daniel Webster Council in Manchester is \$200 for each scout and \$150 for each leader per year. The total registration amount this past year was over \$8000. The leaders prefer to pay all scout fees from the treasury rather than charging the families. Also, scout badges aren't free and summer camp and other activities are expensive.

-Scott and Judy Northcott

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FROM THE CLARION

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

One Year Ago (August 2024) - The Walpole High School Class of 1959 held its 65th Class Reunion on June 29. They commenced to discuss old times and share times since then. Class members are currently living in retirement and facing the challenges of today. Everyone was not able to attend as they currently live in far off places.

Three Years Ago (August 2022) - The people of St. John's Episcopal Church collected \$213.62 for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf during Walpole Old Home Days, and presented the proceeds to Mary Lou Huffling.

Five Years Ago (August 2020) - Library Director, Justine Rogers Fafara, has left Walpole's Bridge Memorial Library to work at the library in Newport, NH. Justine came to our library in 2015 and has fearlessly led the library through expansion of our programming and our building.

Seven Years Ago (August 2018) - The Hooper Golf Course and Watkins Tavern were sold to a local businessman, Fred Dill, and a group of investors, headed by David Howell, for \$500,000.

Nine Years Ago (August 2016) - Agnes Cicalone, holder of Walpole's Boston Post Cane passed away June 14, 2016. Agnes was 100 years old.

Eleven Years Ago (August 2014) - The Walpole Players' 5th Annual Summer Theater Camp, under the astute leadership of Jim Skofield and Carolyn Norback, was held the first two weeks of July.

Thirteen Years Ago (August 2012) - At 9 am June 19 Judy Spinella, while on her walk on County Road, spotted a black bear that ambled into the middle of the road.

The
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Clarion
ON-LINE

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Mark Harold Van Note
September 22, 1949 - June 8, 2025

Scholarship Awarded

The Walpole Town Library Trustees presented the first annual Shirley Capron Scholarship to Fall Mountain Regional High School graduating senior, Annaliese Kenyon. Beginning this fall, Ms. Kenyon will study Biology at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire. She will enroll in a pre-veterinary program with the ultimate goal of pursuing an advanced degree in veterinary medicine. Congratulations Annaliese.

-Bill Ranauro

Walpole Business Notes

Your 100 word submission of "business notes" is welcome for possible insertion.

Walpole Neighbor Launches Home Styling Service — Kim Anderson, has launched Anderson Interiors, a home styling service created to help local homeowners refresh and personalize their spaces. Inspired by her work with area home sellers and her love of New England design, Kim offers virtual design boards, decor recommendations, and practical styling tips — all tailored to the way real people live. A longtime supporter of the Walpole community, Kim combines a down-to-earth approach with a creative eye. Anderson Interiors is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves a home that feels warm, welcoming, and uniquely theirs. Kim also works as a licensed real estate agent with Keller Williams Metropolitan. To connect, email kimmyanderson@kw.com.

Great Decisions

Mark your calendars for Monday, September 15, 6:00 pm, at the Walpole Town Library, when we will be discussing "The Future of NATO" with former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Adrian Basora. The relevant reading from the Foreign Policy Association is "The Future of NATO and European Security" by Kori Schake and is available at the library or by request via email addressed to our Library Director, Jane Malmberg: jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org

-Sue Kibbe

Vintage Wrought Iron Patio Set - 5 Pieces

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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

September Deadline - August 22

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing

Ray Boas: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line at:

thewalpoleclarion.com

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

When people ask about something I have written, particularly with my travel tales on "Shunpiking with Ray", I happily reply, "I write to remember, but also to share." In that sharing, I am hoping that my reader(s) may be prompted into action to explore and experience what I have found and enjoyed.

I received a lovely note from a CLARION reader in early July thanking me for relating my visits to Plymouth Notch for the 4th of July and Calvin Coolidge's birthday, encouraging readers to attend. In part the note read "...my family and I followed your suggestion and went to Plymouth Notch, VT, for their Fourth of July celebration. We had an extremely fine day of it - a very classy event..." Thank you LW for your note, I sincerely appreciate the time you took to mail it to me.

When I include my occasional column ROADS AND ROUTES, I am sharing, in part, my writing of one of my local trips — something you may not be aware of and possibly enjoy as I did. This month I share on page 17 a Connecticut River Cruise, just a short piece down the road. Take the one-and-a-half hour cruise, and explore the towns in the area as well.

Another Old Home Days is over. Since all events were after the July CLARION went to the printer, words of thanks and some images are here in August. Before you know it another OHD will be here. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

—Ray Boas, Publisher

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