



Town Meeting Time March 10 and 14

Annual Budget Hearing

The Annual Walpole Budget Hearing was held on February 5 for presentation of the upcoming budget to interested residents prior to voting at Town Meeting. In addition to elected officials and town staff, there were about fifteen interested residents in attendance for the hour-long meeting, one of the largest number of attendees I have seen over the years. The proposed 2026 budget will be the first Article voted upon at Town Meeting Saturday, March 14, 2026.

The proposed 2026 operating budget of \$4,876,836 reflects an increase of 2.95% as compared to the

- Continued Page 11

School Ballot Withdrawal Vote March 10

Article 10 on the school ballot, to be voted upon at the polls on Tuesday, March 10, is probably the most important issue for Walpole voters this year, and the most important in my recollection of Walpole votes. Consideration for withdrawal from the Fall Mountain Regional School District (FMRSD) began years ago, and has followed a process. Information sheets have been mailed to residents (and may be found on the CLARION website) which you should read for further understanding. Also on the website is the FMRSD Q&A pertaining to this article. Following is an article provided by the Walpole Selectboard, and on pages 4 and 5 are resident statements, both pro and con.

-Ray Boas

On March 10, Walpole voters along with Langdon, Alstead, Acworth and Charlestown voters of Fall Mountain Regional School District (FMRSD), will vote to decide whether to allow Walpole to withdraw from FMRSD in order to establish an independent local school district. The proposal, which received approval from the State Board of Educa-

- Continued Page 2

2025



Town of Walpole
New Hampshire

Annual Report of the Town Officials, Departments,
Committees & Walpole Fire District

Oldest Resident Sought

Walpole's oldest resident and holder of the Boston Post Cane, Shirley Sanctuary, passed away the end of December 2025. She was awarded the honor, becoming "holder of the cane" in May 2023. The search is on again for the oldest resident in Walpole, North Walpole or Drewsville to receive this honor, which has been bestowed since 1909. To continue the tradition here if you are possibly one of the oldest residents, or know of someone who could be, contact the Selectmen's office at 756-3672, or email sdowning@walpolenh.us. Deadline is March 31.

Edwin A. Grozier, (Editor and Publisher of The Boston Post), sent 700

- Continued Page 16

Town Meeting

Voting at the polls
Tuesday, March 10, 2026,
7am to 7pm
Walpole Town Hall
and St. Peter's Church

Town Meeting reconvenes
Saturday, March 14, 1:00 pm
Walpole Town Hall
34 Elm Street
at which time
Warrant Articles 2-17
will be voted upon.

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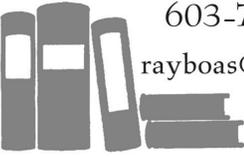
Summer hours starting April 11th:
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 Monday- 4pm-9pm

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- School Ballot from Page 1

tion in December 2025 to move to a vote, centers on some Walpole voters' concern regarding Walpole's "educational autonomy." Educational Autonomy has not been supported as shown through decisions made in the last few years which impacted Walpole school education.

The history of this consideration includes a vote in 2024 for the town to create a Walpole town study regarding the withdrawal from the FMRSD. With the conclusion of the Walpole Withdrawal Study group being that it would likely be financially equal to the current spending along with allowing for local control over local education. Following this conclusion, Walpole voters voted to request that the FMRSD School Board conduct a Feasibility Study according to RSA:195.25. In December of 2025, the NH Board of Education voted to allow this proposal to go to the voters on the March 10th vote on the school ballot following a feasibility study review.

Financial and Operational Considerations

Along with Walpole educational autonomy, a piece of the discussion is the disparity between tax contributions and student population. Currently, Walpole accounts for **39% of the district's tax base** but only **29% of the student body**. Supporters of the split point to state data showing that Fall Mountain's per-pupil costs (estimated at **\$25,312** for 2024-25) are higher than neighboring independent districts like Westmoreland and Winchester.

If the town votes to leave, Walpole would retain ownership of its three school buildings, which currently have no debt obligations. The new local board would then have the authority to decide the future of the North Walpole School and negotiate its own contracts for teachers, transportation, and special education.

If the formation of Walpole School District is allowed to occur, key

items will need to be determined. The following items will not be determined with certainty until the Walpole School District is formed. This includes a school budget to be approved through a town vote, transportation of Walpole students, withdrawal (or not) from SAU 60 as the administration portion for Walpole.

To Pass the Withdrawal of Walpole from FMRSD

For the measure to pass, it must meet one of two legal thresholds:

Criteria A: A simple majority vote in favor within both Walpole and the entire regional district.

Criteria B: If Walpole achieves a **60% supermajority**, the withdrawal is authorized unless 60% of the entire regional district votes "No."

If approved, a transition year would begin in 2026 to elect a new school board and set an independent budget, with full operational independence starting **July 1, 2027**. If this is not approved, the FMRSD will continue with Walpole as part of the regional school district.

-Carolyn Vose

North Walpole
Village District Budget Hearing
 Tuesday March 10, 7 pm
 Village Hall
Village District Annual Meeting
 Tuesday, April 7, 7 pm
 St. Peter's Hall

"Tentative Dates" provided for time and location check
<https://www.northwalpolevillage.org/>
 For time and location



Walpole Fire District
Annual Meeting

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

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
9:00 am and 10:30 am
38 Elm St., Walpole
rivervalleychurch.com

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

Unitarian Church

Sunday, March 1st the Walpole Unitarian Church will host CONNECTION OF SPIRIT THROUGH MUSIC with Eugene Friesen, cello; Liz Rogers, voice; and, Cliff Oster, planetary gong. Corner of Main and Union Street. Everyone is welcome.

-Lenette Wilde

Whit Turns 80

Fellow Friends and Family of Whit Aldrich, please help celebrate Whit turning 80 on Sunday March 22nd by stopping by 60 Homestead Ave between 1:30 and 3:30 to wish him a happy birthday and enjoy some dessert. Hosted by his children, Caroline and Joe. Please spread the word to anyone that would be interested that may not receive the CLARION.

Town Elections March 10

To the right are the candidates for election this year. You will note that incumbents are running for reelection without opposition. In past election cycles when there have been multiple candidates for an office the CLARION has asked for "why vote for me" statements. Thus this year you see no statements since there are no contests.

-Ray Boas

Voting Information

Most residents in Walpole and North Walpole are already registered to vote, but if you are not, you may visit your Town Clerk on or before February 26th. After February 26th if you are not already registered to vote, you will need to register on Election Day. What should you bring with you for registration? First, government issued photo ID, and second, bring proof of your residency in town via a motor vehicle registration, a rental agreement, and/or a utility bill, or such. Third, you must now present proof of US citizenship; so, please bring a US passport or birth certificate (or naturalization papers). If you have changed your name since birth, you will need to document that with a marriage certificate or court documents. (If you are already on the voter checklist, you do not need to bring proof of citizenship.) If you were born or married in NH and need one of these certificates but don't have one of these certificates to prove citizenship to register to vote, please see the Town Clerk. For more information go to the NH Secretary of State's web page. On the landing page is a tab on a banner "Learn how to register to vote". Here a wealth of information is available to answer your questions.

**Remember, on Election Day
always bring your government
issued photo ID**

-Meghan Hansson - Town Clerk

Candidates for Town Office Candidates Filed for Town of Walpole Election March 10, 2026

Selectman
Three-Year Term
(Vote for One)
Steven Dalessio

Moderator
Two-Year Term
(Vote for One)
Jack Wozmak

Town Treasurer
Three Year Term
(Vote for One)
Stephen Varone

Trustee of Trust Funds
Three-Year Term
(Vote for One)
Robert Kimball

Supervisor of Checklist
Six Year Term
(Vote for One)
Cynthia M Westover

Zoning Board
Three-Year Term
(Vote for One)
David Edkins

Planning Board
Three-Year Term
(Vote for Two)
Trevor MacLachlan
Jason Perron

Cemetery Trustee
Three-Year Term
(Vote for One)
Dale Woodward

Library Trustees
Three-Year Terms
(Vote for Three)
Erin Bowen
Susan H Johnson
Katherine Nerrie

Hearing Attendees Withdrawal Comments

During the first Withdrawal Informational Hearing on February 11, I asked four people who made statements before the select board and about forty other attendees to provide for CLARION readers their comments based upon what they had stated. All agreed, and agreed to having their names included.

-Ray Boas

• • • • •

My name is Thomas H. Ronning. I am a NH educator and Walpole resident. I support the Walpole Withdrawal from the Fall Mountain Regional School District and want to share my reasoning. I believe the time has come for Walpole to have full control over our educational programs and financial obligations.

Many times the Walpole Site-Base Committee has asked the Fall Mountain Regional School Board to allow our tax dollars to maintain programs and teaching staff, only to be told, "No". Despite having endured many budgetary cuts and loss of staff, the Walpole School educators have maintained strong state test scores.

One hundred percent local control would allow us to not only maintain but improve these results, eliminating the need to continue making requests to use our own tax dollars effectively and prudently. An independent Walpole School Board will not only control our curriculum, it will control our costs as well. You will be assured that your Walpole school tax dollars will be used exclusively for the education of Walpole students and only Walpole residents will determine the Walpole school budgets yearly. Westmoreland, Chesterfield and Winchester are all independent districts and they all have much lower per student costs. We can too. The opposing narrative that this approach will cost more, ignores the lower costs of our neighboring independent districts.

We owe our children the very best education they can obtain, and are fortunate to have veteran, multi-degreed, award-winning teachers and support staff in our schools. Local control would allow all educational and financial decisions to be made for our own community. The time is now.

Please vote YES on school Article 10.
-Thomas H. Ronning

• • • • •

My name is Josh Beer, and I am a graduate of the Walpole Schools and Fall Mountain Regional High School, where I am now a teacher, and have two children at Walpole Elementary School. Others have put forth some compelling reasons for withdrawal, which I won't dwell on here, instead I humbly suggest considering the following issues before casting your vote on March 10th.

1. Potential educational downsides: For example, the district middle schools have three Unified Arts teachers who rotate each trimester. If Walpole withdraws, and without hiring additional teachers, our students could miss out on these and other District classes, programs, and sports teams.

2. Losing all control over grades 9-12: Regardless of where we tuition our students, whether back to Fall Mountain – which there is no guarantee this will happen - or to Keene or Bellows Falls we will have zero control or representation on any of their school boards.

3. Dissenting and dispassionate voices: The Walpole Withdrawal Committee consisted of 10 members, 7 of which wrote the Majority Report and 3 authored the Minority Report, which can be found on the SAU 60 website. Also, when the Walpole Withdrawal Committee met with the State Board of Education this past November, which is available to watch on YouTube, the State expressed real concerns over the withdrawal plan and probable tax increases for Walpole.

4. Likely increased taxes and decreased educational opportunities for the other four district towns: If Walpole withdraws there will likely be increased taxes in the remaining four towns, which very well may lead to decreased educational opportunities for all the students in those towns.

5. Potential to achieve the desired local control by staying in the District: Since the withdrawal process started the Fall Mountain School Board has repeatedly stated that if Walpole does not withdraw, they will investigate ways to amend the District Articles of Agreement to address Walpole's concerns about the need for greater local control.

Wherever one comes down on these issues this is an incredibly consequential decision that impacts not just Walpole residents and students but the residents and students in all five District towns. I hope everyone will carefully weigh all the pros and cons of withdrawal when deciding what's best for our students, town, and community.

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 -Your Neighbor


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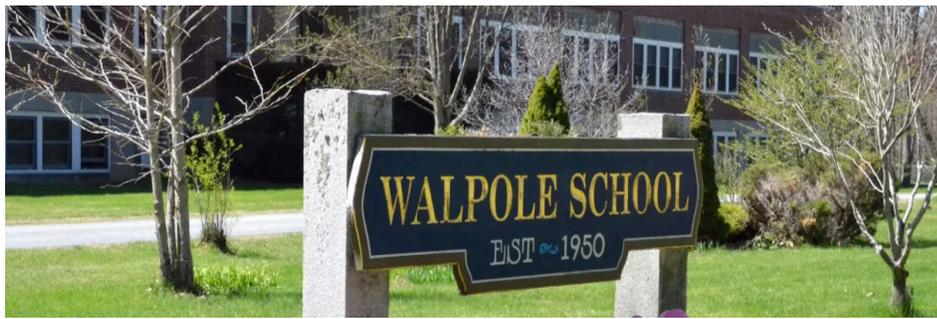
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From the perspective of a School Board member from Chesterfield

To introduce myself, I am Amy Treat, a resident of West Chesterfield, NH, an elected School Board member in Chesterfield for over 9 years and currently the Vice Chair. I am also the School Counselor at Walpole Elementary School (grades 5-8) and have held this position for 8 years, but have been a School Counselor for 23 years. I am the mother of 2 adult children, both of whom went through Chesterfield School, K-8, and then graduated from Keene High School. My oldest daughter is a certified teacher at Westmoreland School and my youngest is a freshman at KSC.

As an experienced educator and as an experienced school board member I can provide information to the townspeople of Walpole that could help with their decision about the withdrawal of Walpole from the Fall Mountain Regional School district. Chesterfield is very similar to Walpole in that we have a similar number of students and socio-economic status. The biggest difference between Chesterfield and Walpole is that Chesterfield has one building for students K-8 and Walpole has 3.

Chesterfield has its own school district and is part of SAU 29. It is one of the "towns" of SAU 29, all of which have their own school district and, in turn, their own school boards. Chesterfield has 5 members on their board. We have been an independent school district since the 1960's and have also tuitioned our high school students to Keene High School since that time. In my opinion there are only positives with being an independent school district. Our board, as

elected officials, get to make decisions based on what is right for our students, our staff and our tax payers. We work very closely with the principal of our school, as our school expert, to make decisions that are best for our students. We have developed a great relationship with our town budget committee and they trust us to do the job that we were elected for and trust our administrator and the budget that she has built.

I am very happy to speak to others about this and answer any questions that I might be able to answer.

-Amy Treat
 eventamy@hotmail.com



I've lived in the Fall Mountain School District for 50 years. I taught English at Fall Mountain from the mid 1970s until 1985. Both of my kids went to the Acworth School, Vilas Middle School, and one went to Fall Mountain. I came to Walpole in 1998.

I am very concerned for all of the kids in the school district and do not feel the kids in Charlestown, Alstead, Acworth and Langdon will receive an adequate education if Walpole withdraws.

Additionally if Walpole students are tuitioned in to Fall Mountain Regional High School, Walpole will have absolutely no say in curriculum or how the school is managed because there will not be a school board member from our town. Charlestown will have a rather large voting majority over the 3 small towns and budgets are likely to be slashed. This does not bode well for creating future citizens.

-Judy Epstein



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

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

March at the Library

Drop-In Mom's Group: Monday, March 9, 10:30 am. For new moms and those with young children. Led by Sarah Breen, a maternal-child nurse, and board-certified lactation consultant

Tales from the Spice Rack. Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 pm, Main Library. From ancient trade routes to modern kitchens, spices connect the past and present. This presentation by Plymouth State Associate Professor Laura Tilghman explores cloves and vanilla—two spices largely grown in Madagascar. Learn how everyday ingredients reveal the people and global systems behind what we eat. Sponsored by a grant from NH Humanities.

Lunch and a Movie: *In the Heat of the Night.* Thursday, March 19 at 1 pm, Main Library. Bring your lunch and come in from the cold to enjoy a movie in our Community Room.

Gardening Workshop. Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 pm, Main Library. Just in time for spring, the Walpole Community Gardeners will present a



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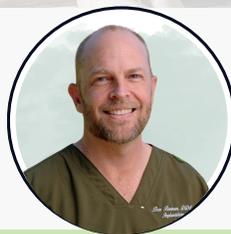
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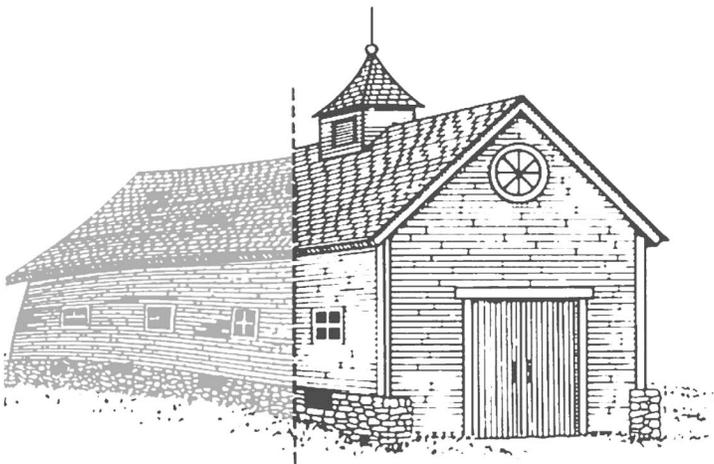


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Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

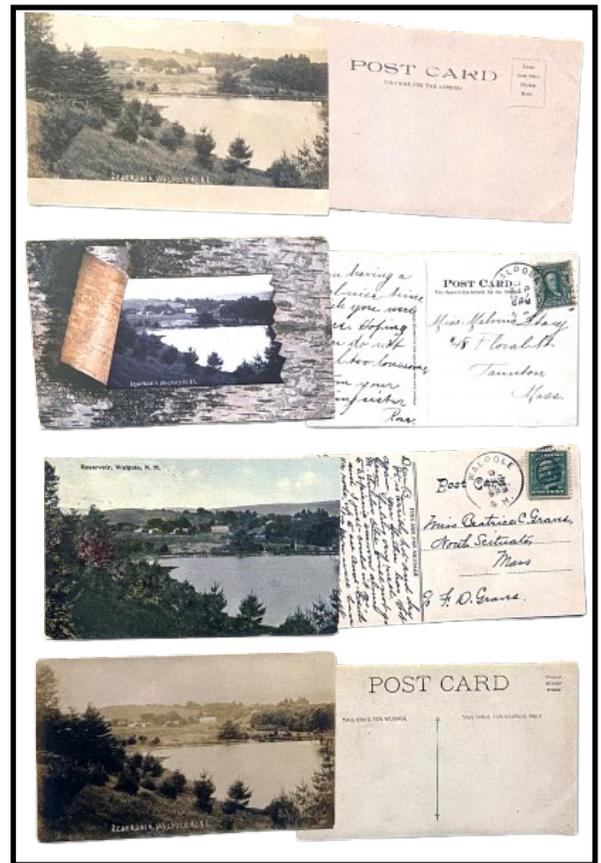
...there are over 600 different postcards of Walpole dating from the late 1890s to the 1950s documenting Walpole Village, North Walpole, Drewsville, the Connecticut River and their surroundings? You may recall I used postcards and stereoviews in my 2014 book, *As it was ... and still is ... Walpole, New Hampshire*, showing that not much has changed since the 1870s.

Collecting postcards is a rewarding, educational, and relatively inexpensive hobby. A collection can be formed in many ways. Cards may be collected from one's home town, around a holiday theme such as Halloween, and I even once met someone who collected postcards depicting "Outhouses." The possibilities are limitless. But sadly as with many hobby and collecting pursuits, interests change, and now many hobbies, such as collecting postcards, have much smaller audiences. I call these changes "generational" since it seems people look back and collect what they remember from their younger days

to relive memories. When have you last seen for sale postcards, or received one in the mail?

The first copyright for a postcard in the US was in 1861. In 1873 the US Government issued its first postal card. An act of Congress in 1898 authorized private printers and publishers to produce their own postcards. This is the first of six styles of postcards, each with characteristics helping with dating. Many books on postcards explain each of the styles and periods. The mailing of postcards was most popular during their "Golden Age" from 1895 to 1915, peaking between 1905 and 1915.

Having now collected Walpole postcards for over twenty-four years, as with most "view cards," those with town scenes, Walpole is no different in the use of the same image by different publishers and repeated in



LEFT: PIONEER ERA Pre 1898 - Earliest Walpole card I have found, mailed October 29, 1903

ABOVE: Walpole Reservoir.

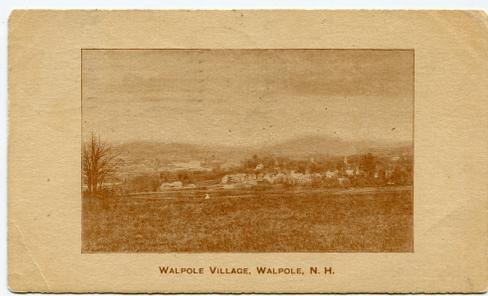
Top to bottom:

Undivided Back - Real Photo - pre-1907

Divided Back in Vignette - Mailed Sept. 3, 1907

Divided Back - Mailed 1914

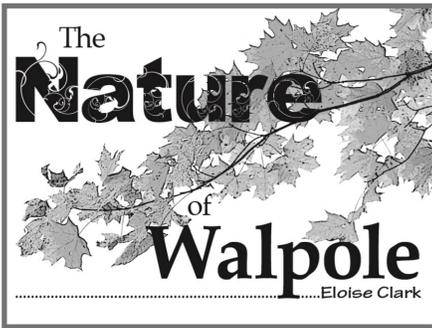
Divided Back - Real Photo - c1920



succeeding postcard eras. In reviewing Walpole postcards it appears less than ten percent of the cards were in full color. The balance were Real Photo Postcards starting with the Undivided Back Era. The few cards in color have similar address sides and were published by The Walpole Pharmacy or A. P. Davis. My conclusion is that in the Golden Era of Postcards, the traveling salesmen who toured the countryside to convince local shopkeepers (usually the pharmacy) to stock cards did not deem Walpole to be a large enough market to stop. The desire for postcards was then filled instead by local photographers who made and sold views of the town, streets, and individual buildings.

FLORENTINE FILMS

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The placid landscape of Walpole belies its complex and tortured geological history. It is a tale spanning hundreds of millions of years. Our area bedrock has yielded clues that have been intriguing geologists for a fraction of that time. They've discovered a remarkable story.

The Earth's crust is made up of a number of plates of varying sizes and shapes floating on molten magma. Heated by the Earth's core, magma moves in giant convection currents that cause the plates to collide or pull apart. This process is known as plate tectonics. Perhaps you have heard that North America is moving westward about an inch per year? This is plate tectonics at work.

Let's set the scene about 500 million years ago, when proto-Walpole slumbered peacefully beneath the Iapetus Ocean in warm, equatorial seas. To the west lay the Laurentian plate, ancestral home of North America. To the east was Baltica, proto-Europe. Where the two plates met, was an island arc of volcanoes, similar to modern day Japan. Erosion from each continent caused layers of sediments to settle on this shallow sea floor. Trilobites, soft shelled marine animals undulated above the ooze.

Beginning about 475 million years ago, during the Ordovician Period, the tectonic tide turned. The Iapetus Ocean began to close. The island arc of volcanoes began their march toward Laurentia. The sea floor was swept westward before them, as though on a conveyor belt. Lighter crustal rocks were piled up on the continent, heavier mantle rocks were subducted and melted. Seabed sediments were baked by intense heat.

Limestone and muds became marble and slate.

When the island arc of volcanoes crunched into Laurentia, magma lifted the sea bed skyward above a series of plutonic domes. Called the Bronson Hill Arc or Anticlinorium, this narrow band stretched 150 miles along the length of the eastern side of the Connecticut Valley, arcing into Maine. Proto-Walpole had emerged onto land.

A period of mountain building where continental plates meet is called an orogeny. The Taconic orogeny is named after its remnants, the Taconic Mountains. When new land fuses or accretes with the older continental plate, that land is called a terrane, the Taconic terrane for example.

The plates were mostly quiet over the next 50 million years or so during the Silurian Period. Land plants grew. Weathering eroded land. Quartz sands and muds settled onto the nearby ocean floor, ingredients for rocks we find today. Proto-Walpole was underwater again, as the first primitive fishes swam overhead.

The Acadian Orogeny commenced about 375 million years ago, during the Devonian Period. It was caused when the micro-continent of Avalonia broke away from Baltica. This small sliver of land surged westward. The Green Mountains tilt west

from being bulldozed by feisty Avalonia. Land cracked, buckled and slid over existing bedrock. Crust was heated, compressed and folded. Molten magma was injected between existing rock formations. A towering mountain range arose from the impact. Known at the Acadian Mountains, they added new terrane, eastern New England.

In our area, a thrust fault pushed and folded older rocks atop younger ones. Known as the Fall Mountain Nappe, it's one of several geologists have identified as part of the Connecticut Valley terrane.

During the Alleghenian Orogeny about 220 million years ago, the Earth's continental plates fused into the supercontinent of Pangaea. It's difficult to imagine mountains as high as the current Alps, but the early Appalachians were thought to be as lofty. Erosion has carried away their bulk.

When Pangaea began pulling apart or rifting about 180 million years ago, the Atlantic Ocean was formed and with it our current coastline. A hundred miles inland, in an old volcanic valley, a river flowed. Proto-Walpole had at last found a home, far from tectonic turmoil.

**Walpole's Fall Mountain
(looking south) as an illustration
of the one and only
Fall Mountain Nappe.
-Photo Eloise Clark**



Post Office Service Slow Down

May I start this WARNING, by complimenting our local Walpole Post Office as having the finest staff I have worked with in my over forty years of almost daily shipping. They are exceedingly knowledgeable, helpful, and friendly. The recent policy changes impacting postal service are out of their hands.

I grew up with 3 cent First Class Mail. Collecting commemorative stamp issues since the early 1950s led to my passion for history evolving to all things I do today bringing me pleasure and a livelihood. I even remember at least one year with our rural delivery twice a day during the holidays (five miles from the post office). BUT NOW DELIVERY SERVICE is slowing down. For my almost twenty-four years shipping books from Walpole, mail left our post office shortly after noon, and shortly after five pm — dispatches for all classes of mail service twice a day, same day - NO LONGER.

Recently checking the tracking on a package I sent, I was shocked to see that package did not leave the Walpole post office until the next day. Asking at the counter if a truck had broken down, I was told, "no Ray, now we get a morning delivery, the truck continues, and when empty comes back for pickup - now once a day." I get Vermont news feeds and know changes have been happening in Vermont, slowing down the mail. Also changes are coming as to when and where postmarks will be applied. A letter you post today, may not be postmarked elsewhere for several days. That will have significant impact on mailed payments and mail-in ballots just to cite a few examples in cases where the addressee determines if the letter is late or not based on the postmark. Imagine if someone at 9 am pays for next day delivery for an outgoing item (supposedly guaranteed within two days). The first day is now

spent sitting in the Walpole post office.

Can we do anything about this? Can we do anything about what our government is doing, even with this quasi-governmental agency? Following the news, probably NOT - the best we can do is plan our mailings accordingly and hope. I have had books cross county in two days. Now one day will be spent in town before leaving. Where else will my books rest while crossing the country?

-Ray Boas

(NOTE - sharing this with Walpole's Post Mistress before publication, Lori replied, "This is a nationwide policy for any offices more than 50 miles from the processing plants, so basically all of the rural areas. When you mail something from our office the expected delivery date given on the tracking is taking into account this extra processing day. That's all I can add. Just encourage everyone to mail early.")



Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Walpole Village School will be hosting our Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast March 29 from 7:30 am - 10:30 am at the Walpole Town Hall. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, local maple syrup, juice and coffee. The cost is by donation.

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

-Walpole Village School Board

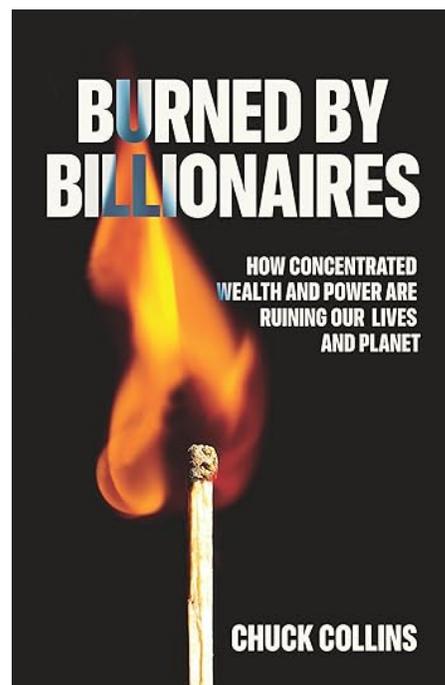
Book Talk Burned by Billionaires

A book talk presented by Chuck Collins on his book *Burned by Billionaires* will be held at Walpole Bridge Memorial Library, Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 pm.

Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Are Ruining Our Lives and Planet is a book that argues extreme wealth concentration among the ultra-rich negatively impacts society, politics, and the planet, leading to issues like political hijacking, housing crises, and environmental damage. Collins, a scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, details how the actions of the top 0.01% rig the system in their favor, undermining democracy and creating a "myth of meritocracy". The book serves as both a critique and a call to action, offering solutions for a more equitable society with universal abundance. A period for questions and answer will follow the talk, books signed by the author will be available for purchase.

Seating is limited. RSVP required by emailing rsvp.walpole@gmail.com. Please indicate if you would like to join the event via Zoom, and we will send you the link before the event.

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You are invited to participate in

Sending Sunshine

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



Schedule:

at the Flat Iron Cooperative - 51 Square - Bellows Falls, VT
Wednesday, March 4 - Thursday, March 5
Wednesday March 25 - Thursday March 26
11 am - 3 pm all four days

at The Gathering Place - 14 Westminster St., Walpole, NH
Thursday, March 12 - Friday, March 13
11 am - 4 pm both days

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

Walpole International Affairs Discussion Group

We have a friend returning to WIADG – and a very special friend he is. On Thursday, March 19, 2026, the Walpole International Affairs Discussion Group (WIADG) will welcome back Professor Karl Kaiser, Senior Associate for the Program on Transnational Relations at Harvard University, whose topic will be US- Europe Relations: Where Do We Stand?

Professor Kaiser's accomplishments are notable: He is former director of the German Council on Foreign Relations in Bonn/Berlin; has served on several commissions in the German and Dutch Parliaments and the US Congress House Committee on European Affairs; and has served as an advisor to Chancellors Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Prof. Kaiser received a PhD from University of Koln, studied at University of Grenoble and Oxford, worked for Henry Kissinger at Harvard and is currently Professor of Public Policy, Emeritus at the JFK School of Government, Harvard. We are very lucky to have him visit us at WIADG once again!

Join us at 6:30 pm for a reception at Walpole Town Hall prior to the talk by Karl Kaiser at 7:00 pm, followed by a lively Q and A. Our annual membership is \$25, but first time visitors are free, so bring your friends. Hope to see you there!

For more than 20 years Walpole International Affairs Discussion Group (WIADG) has been hosting notable speakers on current international affairs and foreign policy, providing a venue to meet others in our community who are internationally-minded or who want to know more about the current state of affairs in our world. For more information, email me at tara.eric@gmail.com.

-Tara Sad

- Budget from Page 1



Gleanings from the Town Minutes

2025 budget. Chairing the meeting, Steve Dalessio explained that, besides general salary increases of 3%, there were increases to health insurance costs, Mutual Aid, and tipping fees and waste hauling for the Recycling Department. It was noted that 40%-50% of the recycling budget is offset by fees collecting for disposal of large items and bag sales. Recent savings on Town expenditures include a new town phone system and the solar array at the Recycling Center offsetting electrical charges.

Also to be voted upon on Saturday, March 14 are a number of Warrant Articles requiring funding. As in past years, these include vehicle purchases and money to be set aside in Capital Reserve Funds for future purchases such as vehicles for the highway and police departments. These articles are routine, and things voted upon and passed each year. Plan to attend Town Meeting Saturday, March 14 at 1:00 pm, this year back at the Walpole Town Hall.

-Ray Boas

Selectboard February 2:

SCHOOL WITHDRAWAL MAILINGS:

The Selectboard received a question regarding the cost of the mailings. The Selectboard accepted a donation for the entire cost of the three mailings. There was no taxpayer funds used to post the mailings.

The appropriateness of the Selectboard endorsement at the end of the letter on the first mailing was questioned by a citizen. By consensus, the Selectboard agreed to sign both mailed letters. The Walpole Selectboard has a responsibility to address the impact of the school district's budget on the Walpole tax rate. The Town approved a warrant article at the 2025 Town Meeting to conduct a feasibility study for the Town to withdraw from the cooperative school district. The initial study group concluded that it would be beneficial to the Town to withdraw from FMRSD. It is up to the voters if they want educational and financial control of the Walpole Schools.

Town Minutes - WALPOLE GATEWAY

Selectboard - February 12 - MG Building on South Street:

Ms. Vose expressed concern regarding the recent Planning Board minutes related to the "MG" building, noting that it appeared the process for granting a special exception was not being followed. Mr. Dalessio assured Ms. Vose that the required process will be followed when the "MG" building is sold, and the property is proposed for commercial development. He also clarified that, at the time of the Planning Board meeting, no site plan

Planning Board - February 10 - Site Plan: Lawrence & Lober

- Preliminary meeting. - Rick Hamm, president of Lawrence & Lober Electric and Adam Steele, vice-president, were at the meeting to discuss preliminary plans for a potential building. Mr. Hamm said they were considering buying the former Abingdon Spares property on South Street for the business, which is now located in Bellows Falls, Vt. He is looking at building a 6,000-to-8,000-square foot building for his warehouse and office. He said he had about 25 employees, but most of those employees take the company trucks home at the end of the day. There already is plenty of space for parking in back of the building for employees, he said, as well as more on the property. After a question from Board member Andros Mr. Hamm said the building would face toward Route 12.

Chair Miller said that the property has been designated at Residential B, so the buyer would need a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment as well as a site plan application form the Planning Board. The Zoning Board meets the following week on a Wednesday and the person to contact would be Chair Tom Murray. Mr. Miller suggested that Mr. Hamm look at some of the buildings at the former Pinnacleview Equipment because all their buildings have a colonial architectural style and since this building would be the entrance to the town of Walpole it would be in keeping with the town's architecture. Mr. Miller also suggested he consider the landscaping. Mr. Hamm and Mr. Steele left the meeting and will let the Board know if they would be back for a more formal meeting.

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gift basket
Tractor Supply of Walpole – gift card or canine care pack
Walpole Veterinary Hospital – 5 free wellness exams

For more information contact:

Walpole Town Clerks Office
603-756-3514 or townclerk@walpolenh.us

Radio Follies Auditions

Walpole Players will once again be presenting an evening of old radio shows. We will go on the air on April 11th with Mud Season Radio Follies. If you're interested in joining the fun on stage, our first meeting will be Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30 pm in the Helen Miller Theater, second floor of Walpole Town Hall. For more information call Judy Epstein at 603-345-0230.

MAPLE WEEKEND MARCH 21ST - 22ND 12PM - 4PM

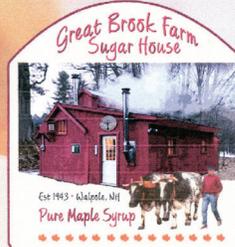


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Producers Association

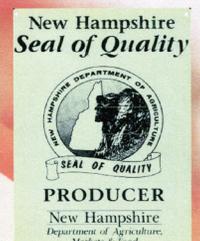
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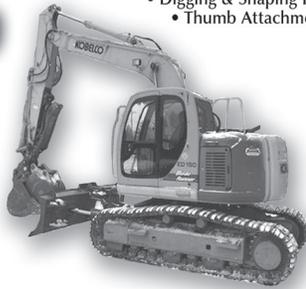
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WES Boys Basketball Caps Strong Season with Tournament Title

By Colby Beckwith (8th grade) and Jake Gagnon

The Walpole Boys' Basketball team entered the CVL playoffs on Monday, February 9th. The boys' team had finished their season with a record of 14-2. Walpole played well against Marlborough in the semifinals but ultimately lost in a close contest. Walpole would have another opportunity, a week later, to compete for a title.

This season's boys' squad was anchored by a strong 8th-grade class, which included the players Corbin Beam, Colby Beckwith, Ethan Houghton, Miles Smith, Seamus Cahill, and Will Lent. The team had many other contributions from 7th graders Ben Swain, Louie Lakin, Chase Paquette, Owen LaFayette, and Levi Jacobs, as well as incredible improvements from players in fifth and sixth grades. The squad was led by one of the best basketball coaches in Mr. Cassarino, ensuring a bright future for the Walpole program. "The growth of these players has been unbelievable," said head coach Justin

Cassarino. "Having 19 players who showed up every day and put forth their best effort and attitude at every game and practice. Our 8th graders have been great leaders and role models for all of our players. Although we didn't win the championship, I see this season as a huge success, and we are champions in my eyes."

The boys' basketball team entered a tournament hosted by Charlestown Middle School just a week or so after the regular season concluded. In the first round, Walpole defeated Vilas before falling to Springfield. Despite that loss, their hopes remained alive in the tournament. They took advantage of that opportunity by winning consecutive games on the evening of Thursday, February 19th. Walpole defeated Belkows Falls to earn a chance to play Springfield in the championship game of the tournament. The boys then avenged their earlier tournament loss by overcoming Springfield to claim the tournament title in a very close game. Eighth graders Seamus Cahill and Corbin Beam earned places on the All-Tournament Team, as did 6th grader JJ Marsh, who all made huge contributions to the championship victory.

Walpole Girls Basketball Team Captures Championship

By London Swain (8th grade)

On Wednesday, February 11th in the Hubbard Gymnasium at Walpole Elementary School, the girls basketball team won the CVL championship against Dummerston Middle School. After a long hard fought season, the final championship win ensured an undefeated season.

There were great efforts from all 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. In the first 2 quarters of the championship game, Walpole built up a large lead. In the second half, the younger players got playing experience in the championship and they all showcased the progress they have made in their sea-



son. Towards the end of the game, the starters came back into the game and Walpole won with a 7 point lead.

This team worked very hard for this win and it was very well deserved. Not only was the court energy amazing but the bench energy was too. Everyone who was not on the court was cheering loud and proud for this team and it really made an impact. The crowd was loud and the cheers for the team also made a very positive impact. Our coach, Sandy Smidutz, has been very supportive and the team couldn't have done it without her. Every single person on this team made a huge impact on the championship game and should be very proud.



Photo: Paul Hebert

Staff of the Month: Anna Dunn

By Allie Vickers, Juniper Jenkins,
and Harper Rodenhauer (6th grade)

Anna Dunn is the music teacher at Walpole Schools. She is really great at singing and playing instruments. "My favorite part of my job is watching students find joy while experiencing music, whether it's singing, danc-



ing, or playing an instrument. I also love watching my students grow musically and getting over challenges and how proud they are when they accomplish that."

Mrs. Dunn explains that sometimes there just aren't enough hours in the day for her to do all the things she wants to do with her students but the challenge is to make the most of the time she does have with them and plan accordingly. She doesn't have a particularly favorite instrument but she likes to play the piano, but also enjoys brass instruments as in trombone, trumpet, and baritone horn. She will also play woodwind instruments like clarinet. Saxophones and clarinets are more challenging to her.

She didn't always know that she was going to be a music teacher but she knew that she wanted to do something with music. "I've always been involved in music since I was a

child, but I wasn't always sure if I would be a music teacher or something else in music. During my college years, I thought about being a professional musician for a while and actually worked as one on my college breaks. I played my trombone on several cruise ships and got to travel to the Caribbean Islands, Europe and Bermuda all while playing my trombone. I also got to play Broadway Musicals at the Palace Theater in Manchester and played in various performing groups around New England," Mrs. Dunn said.

In her free time, Mrs. Dunn loves the outdoors. "I love being outdoors with my family. We like to go on walks, go snowmobiling and will soon be starting our sixth year as hobbyist maple syrup producers. I am also an avid gardener and enjoy cooking."

Mrs. Dunn loves how fun choir can be, like working on harmonies as a group. She likes that band is like walking down memory lane. She enjoys watching the band grow because she played in band when she was young. Her favorite thing to do with the band and choir is the Boston Pops field trip that they have done for several years. Thank you Mrs. Dunn for all you do in Walpole schools.

At the Movies with Wilder

By: Wilder Moffit (6th grade)

There are several new and upcoming movies in 2026 to get excited about. A lot of the following movies would be perfect for kids.

The first movie to discuss is the movie *Goat*. The release date was February 13th. It features a small goat with big dreams. His name is Will Harris and he is voiced by actor Caleb McLaughlin. Caleb is known for playing Lucas Sinclair in the TV show *Stranger Things*. *Goat* was produced by the NBA superstar Stephen Curry with Will's story being based on Steph's life.

For all of the gamers out there, *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* hits theaters soon. It's about Mario, Luigi and Princess Peach embarking on a brand new adventure. Bowser Jr. wants his father, Bowser back and Rosalina has joined the mix. The release date is April 3rd.

Toy Story 5 is about the toys trying to be more popular but now Bonnie has an iPad that they have to compete with. Woody comes back to help the toys in their moment of need. It will be released in June.

The Odyssey features Tom Holland as Telemachus, Matt Damon as Odysseus, and Zendaya as Athena. If you know the story then you know but if you don't I'm gonna tell you. It's about this man named Odysseus and he goes off to fight in a war and once he is done they lose the way home for twenty years as Athena helps him on his perilous journey. The release date is July 17th.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day starts right after the events of *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. No one knows who Peter is but they still remember Spider-Man. Peter lost his aunt, his best friend, and his girlfriend. He did get into college and I personally think that Bruce Banner is his college professor. The Scorpion broke out of jail and now Peter is going to have to fight him. The release date is July 31st.

Perhaps the biggest movie to come out this year is *Avengers: Doomsday*. *Doomsday* is the first Avengers movie to come out in nearly seven years. The last Avengers movie was *Avengers: Endgame*. *Doomsday* is about the X-Men, the New Avengers, and Doom's team fighting and searching for cosmic beings so Doctor Doom doesn't get them first. Franklin Richards was already taken and now the Fantastic 4 are going to Wakanda for help. Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier and his team come to Wakanda to also help the Fantastic 4. The release date is December 18, 2026.

- Oldest Resident from Page 1

letters to Selectboards in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, in August 1909. In a fascinating publicity move, he asked if they would be trustees of one of the 700 ebony, gold-topped canes he recently had made. Grozier stipulated the canes were to be given to the oldest citizen in the town. Upon that person's death, the cane would return to the town to be presented to the "new" oldest citizen. Originally, the senior Grozier's intent was that only the oldest male was eligible to receive and use the walking stick, but in the 1930s his son, Richard, extended the eligibility to women.

Walpole received one of the Boston Post Canes, and luckily still has it.



In the past 107 years a good number of New Hampshire's canes have gone missing. To negate that peril, as is done elsewhere in New Hampshire, Walpole's cane is maintained on display in the Town Hall following recognition to our oldest citizen, and presentation of a certificate. In the works is a plaque honoring Walpole's holders of this honor. But, records are incomplete, and your help is needed to fill in names of previous "holders of the cane." Names, dates (birth, death, and when named "oldest citizen"), and particularly pictures would be appreciated. Besides Shirley, previous "oldest citizens" of record include: Mary Shaughnessy, Charmian Trundle, Joseph Francis Bushway; Nathalie Elaine Nelson; Marion Fennessy; Anna Leach; Edwin H. Pearce; Emma Boyn-

ton; Mary Houghton Aldrich; Carrie Lucy Knowlton; John Prentiss; and Oliver Hubbard. If you can assist in completing the list in any way, please contact the Selectboard office.

-Ray Boas

Peggy on Recycling

The New Hampshire Bulletin recently published an article about the decrease in recycling by municipal transfer stations. Tracking the data on all waste materials is complicated because most recycled materials have many stops before the material is repurposed. So, knowing that the State of New Hampshire doesn't require recycling, I spent an hour or so at our Transfer Station learning from Shaena Hakey, who is the new Manager of Walpole's Recycling Department.

The Center has three fulltime employees and one parttime employee as well as twenty volunteers with varying schedules. The facility is one of Walpole's gathering places – the staff and volunteers are welcoming; neighbors and friends share news (and gossip) and generally enjoy the experience. I asked one of the regular employees what she would ask of the public: her response - "Please read the signs and deposit the recyclables in the right bin!! Plastic tops on bottles always need to be removed and disposed of separately, but metal tops on bottles can be recycled with metals. Feel free to ask questions of the Staff or Volunteers!"

Shaena identified the items and the tonnage we recycled in 2025: 3.42 tons of aluminum cans with revenue of \$4,379.52; cardboard, 94.34 tons, with revenue of \$7,54.13; glass, .87 tons; plastic, 8.87 tons with revenue of \$252.12; tires, 2.81 tons; and scrap wire of .30 tons with revenue of \$815.50. That represents 118.61 tons of material repurposed and saved from a landfill and approximately \$112, 981.27 dollars in income. The Transfer Station does not make money. The income realized from the sale of recyclables and fees for items dis-

carded probably is no more than forty percent of the cost of operation. The 2026 Town budget for the Recycling Center is \$410,835. – down from 2025 because the new solar system covers the cost of electricity, and there have been changes in personnel.

Plastics can only be recycled if they are labeled #1, #2 or #5. All other numbered plastics - #3, #6, #7 - cannot be recycled; they must be disposed of in the yellow bags. Our solid waste is trucked to a facility in Concord where we pay tipping fees.

Anyone from anywhere may use the Center so long as waste is in a Yellow Bag, a bargain for \$2.00, although that is under consideration for an increase. Some residents have complained that too many non-Walpoleans take advantage of our open-door policy. Many, many years ago, the Transfer Station did require identity stickers to ensure only residents used the facility.

Roadside cleanups still occur twice a year with bluebags the State provides for pickups. Some of us obviously can't resist just tossing all manner of goods in the nearest ditch.

A valuable addition to the Recycling Center is the Re-use Center with its own eleven volunteers, scheduled by Michael Neary. The Fall Mountain Food Shelf received \$9,211.75 from the Re-use Center in 2025, and the Walpole Library received almost as much from the Re-Use Center as it did from its annual book sale.

The next time you go to the Walpole Transfer Station, a/k/a the Recycling Center, or as one cherub said "the dump", thank the Volunteers and Staff who serve us all well.

(Formerly a Selectboard member, the views expressed here and in "Peggy's Desk" are solely those of the author and do not represent the official position of the Town.)





Come learn during the first of six workshops in our Growing Together: Garden Workshop series on March 5 as we talk about Garden Planning and Seed Starting. Our second workshop on April 2 will focus on Pest and Disease Management. Interested in gardening but don't have a great spot? Learn more about our Walpole Community Garden at the Walpole Public Library on March 26.

On March 11 we will be joined by the Harris Center for our *Secrets of Salamanders and Spring Frogs* pro-



gram that kicks off right in time to help with their Salamander Crossing Brigades. Learn about our fun amphibians and how you can help protect them in the spring.

Calling all runners, walkers, and Earth lovers! Join us for our Earth Day 5K run/walk on April 18 to celebrate and support our planet! Bring your friends, family, and running shoes and we will see you there! Registration is now live.

Hooper Summer Programs are right around the corner! For students in grades 1-8, check out one of our Hooper Camp offerings. Information

on our different camps can be found on our website. Registration for all camps open April 1. Have a high schooler? Check out our High School Work Program! This program aims to get students out into the field studying one of our focus areas of botany, agriculture, soils, forestry or environmental science. During their hours, they work with a mentor at a local site in Walpole to learn and gain skills in these fields. Students are matched with sites based on interest and availability. Students must be 14, have transportation to and from their sites and be willing to work hard! Applications open April 1.

Hooper Institute Summer Work Program

The Hooper Institute is looking for a variety of local businesses interested in mentoring and employing student summer workers in the coming months. This would need to be an opportunity that aligns with the Institute's subject areas of agriculture, forestry, botany, soil science, and environmental science. The Institute is committed to educating Walpoleans of all ages and supporting our community. The Hooper Institute's summer work program was created to build bridges between our youth and local businesses. This is a young student's first chance to begin exploring their interests in future careers, and a chance to mentor the future of our community.

Previous placements have included farms, vineyards, and landscaping. The Hooper Institute is open to hearing further suggestions and offers that align with our subject areas and values. As an employer you will serve foremost as a patient teacher and mentor. This is a student's first professional experience building habits and skills such as communication, time management, and work ethic.

Staff at the Hooper Institute will encourage students entering 9th grade and onwards to apply. Our team will require these students to submit an application and complete an interview as a means of experiential learning. Our goal is to immerse students in their first professional atmosphere for further development.

Students will be paid through the Hooper Institute's available funds. These workers must follow local and federal labor laws. Supervision and safety are essential considerations for all job placements. If you are interested, please contact us at hooper.educator@gmail.com or 603-756-4382.

-George Gowdy



Women of Walpole

The Hooper Institute and its Executive Director Greta Drager hosted the February meeting of the Women of Walpole, held in the beautiful new downstairs kitchen and meeting area. Greta gave us a tour of the facility and shared information about both past and upcoming Hooper Institute programs. The March WOW meeting will be held on Wednesday March 18 at 2 pm at the home of Aylene Wozmak, and we will hear about the hiking adventures of Sarah Breen, Joey Andros and Caryn Corcoran. Additional details will be provided in the monthly email sent prior to the meeting.

As always, Women of Walpole welcomes any woman living or working in Walpole to join us. Guests are always welcome (and encouraged) to attend a meeting to check out our latest and upcoming programs. If you would like to learn more or be put on our email distribution list please contact Mary Feeney (508-397-2583) or Carolyn LeBail (714-717-4184).

-Mary Feeney

Save the Date(s)

Event(s) listed limited to within the next two months: e.g. April issue may include May and June events. Submissions must be twenty words or less. Details as event nears.

April 4 - EASTER EGG HUNT - Walpole Historical Society Lawn, 10 am - Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299

May 16 - KURN HATTIN 5K RACE

May 16 - FMEEA DISTRICT 5K - Fun Run & Walk - fmeea.com

May 23 - FIRST ANNUAL KIDS FISHING DERBY - Whitcomb Pond - Walpole Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

Walpole Police Statistics

On February 4th I met with Walpole Police Chief Justin Sanctuary and Janet Clough, Administrative Assistant, to discuss the statistics and clarifying information CLARION readers have expressed an interest in learning and understanding to be aware of their surroundings, and become additional "eyes" for the safety of all residents.

It was our hope definitions and examples of statistic categories would be soon included. On February 19 I was advised some accident data was being prepared along with comments from the Chief, for this issue. Those statistics and comments were not received by press time.

-Ray Boas

SAVE THE DATE

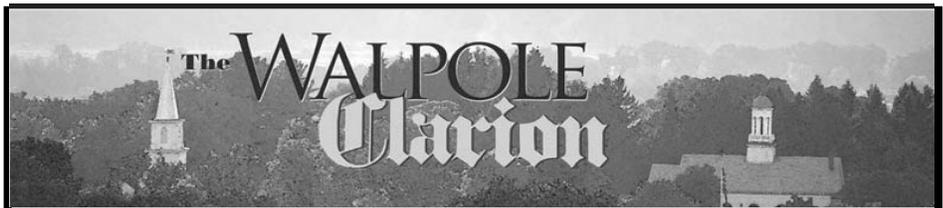
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FROM THE CLARION

A sampling of way we've reported in more than 14 years of publication:

One Year Ago (March 2025) - Did Your Know That ...that 250 years ago, March 14, 1775, then Captain Benjamin Bellows (second son of Walpole's Founder Benjamin Bellows) led Walpole's militia across the Connecticut River to aid our neighbors in Westminster?

Three Years Ago (March 2023) - The Walpole Community Power Committee recommended the Walpole Select Board move forward with the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH).

Five Years Ago (March 2021) - At the Selectboard meeting February 11, Steve Grenier presented his findings on changing the Town's street lights to LED lights..

Seven Years Ago (March 2019) - The select board urged voters to vote "Yes" on the article to appoint a neutral consultant to lead a study of how any Town can withdraw from the Fall Mountain Regional School District.

Nine Years Ago (March 2017) - Hearings were held to see if the Town would receive property in the Village, known as the Westberg Property. Formerly the site of a plating plant, this land, once cleaned up (with grant monies), will serve as needed "downtown" parking for employees and shoppers.

Eleven Years Ago (March 2015) - A big thank you to the youth of Pinnacle View 4-H Club. A group arrived at my door wishing me a Happy Valentine's Day and giving me a bag of cookies. Overwhelmed I told them, "You really have made my day." These visits have continued since. Walpole raises nice youngsters. - Ray Boas.

Thirteen Years Ago (March 2013) - One of the most exciting items in this year's budget to be presented and voted upon at Walpole's Town Meeting on Saturday, March 16, is new chairs for the Town Hall.

The
**Walpole
Clarion**
ON-LINE

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MILESTONES

Passed

Joy Dannenberg
December 29, 1956 - December 11, 2025

Elizabeth J. Brady
October 24, 1935 - January 18, 2026

James (Jim/Jimmy) Robert Storey
July 4, 1947 - January 19, 2026

The WALPOLE Clarion

A monthly for the Walpole Community

Ray Boas, Publisher
PO Box 757
Walpole, NH 03608
603 756-4545

Submissions about community events
and achievements welcomed.

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

April Deadline - March 21

Tara Sad: Copy-Editing
Ray Boas: Layout & Design
The Walpole Clarion on-line at:
thewalpoleclarion.com

250th Countdown

On the night of March 4, 1776, General George Washington successfully placed artillery, including cannons captured from Fort Ticonderoga by Henry Knox, on Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston, making the British position in the city indefensible. Faced with the threat from above and unable to safely



hold the harbor, British General William Howe ordered the evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776. Over 8,900 British soldiers and 1,100 Loyalists sailed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Before leaving, they destroyed fortifications and supplies. The departure of the British was a major victory for the colonies, boosting Continental Army morale and reputation. It marked the end of the British occupation of Boston.

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Sunday, February 22, 3:50 pm and a few hours before I send the March files to the printer. Latest I have ever sat down to write to you. It has been a hard, but fun, almost three full days (plus the innumerable hours last week) laying out this issue for you. An important Town Meeting issue. Read about the budget, and the school withdrawal article on the Tuesday March 10 school ballot. Additional documents on the subject may be found linked from the home page of the CLARION website. I am pleased with the other articles shared with you here.

Snow on the ground, and more coming in hours. I am making extensive plans and looking forward to my "Shunpiking" adventures as the weather improves. I have already "written to remember, and to share with others" two new adventures this year. My sincere thanks to several readers of "Shunpiking with Ray" who have stopped me in Town to express thanks for that sharing. I love to explore, often starting on-line, and find little known experiences nearby, and then explore. If you know of an area (remote and dirt roads preferred) that is unique and historic, and relatively unknown, let me know. For example, have you been to Daniel Webster's birthplace, where Robert Frost wrote "Two roads diverged..."; or The Museum of Everyday Life? Shame on me, I now find I never wrote about that adventure in September 2024. Well, off to other writing - stay safe and well.

—Ray Boas, Publisher



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