



# Another Town Meeting Concluded

## Town Meeting 2026

Town Meeting 2026 concluded following voting at the poles on Tuesday, March 10, and at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 14, when over 130 voters “signed-in” to vote on Articles 2 through 17. Saturday’s meeting began at 1:16 pm, concluding at 3:47 pm.

On Tuesday ballots were cast for candidates for Town offices. There was no competition for any positions, so all incumbents were re-elected. Also voters on Tuesday cast their votes on the Fall Mountain Regional School District Warrant Articles and Proposed Budget ballot. Of greatest interest to Walpole voters was Article 10: “...for the withdrawal of the preexisting District of Walpole from the Fall Mountain Regional School District ...” Walpole voters cast: 336 Yes Votes, and 440 No. The overall vote within the entire school district was 580 Yes and 1929 No, thus defeating the withdrawal proposal.

First under consideration on Saturday was the Town’s 2026 budget of \$5,733,116, of which \$4,876,836 is for the Town Operating Budget. Select-board Chair, Steve Dalessio addressed the budget indicating it represented an increase of 2.8% as compared to 2025. This increase he explained was due to an overall wage increase of 3% consistent with national trends, and a 6.8% increase in health insurance

costs, which is less than other districts. There being no questions the budget passed unanimously.

Articles 3 through 12 were, as in past years, basically approving purchases for equipment, and the setting aside of funds to Capital Reserve Fund accounts to lessen the cost and tax impact of future purchases. All articles were passed. Article 13, also passing, was more of a house keeping article to bring an optional tax credit for Veteran Service-Connected Total Disability in line with RSA 72.35.

The remaining three articles were Petition Warrant Articles (also on bal-

- Continued Page 2

## Village School and Community Room Progress

We’re excited to share that the Walpole Village School & Community Room is ahead of schedule and on track for completion in July 2026! We’re asking for the community’s help to raise the remaining \$36,968 needed to reach our capital campaign goal this spring.

If you would like to help us make the goal, to donate: Make checks payable to The Walpole Foundation, PO Box 167, Walpole, NH 03608 or

- Continued Page 11

**Walpole Fire District Annual Meeting March 19 - Tom Sawyer, Chris Borden, Mark Houghton, David Adams and Jennie Meister cut the ceremonial ribbon “breaking ground” for the fire station addition. After grant applications and delays the past few years construction will begin later this year.**



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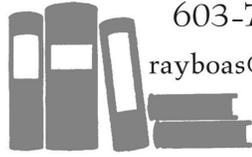
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 Monday- 4pm-9pm

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- Town Meeting from Page 1

lots in other New Hampshire towns) designed to express Walpole voters' concerns to our representatives in Concord. At the State level legislation has shifted costs for essential services down to local communities, thus raising local property taxes. Revenue to the State has decreased as business and other taxes have been reduced. This desire to "Protect Local Taxpayers" was addressed in Article 14. Article 15 requested transparency with "...the Education Freedom Account program..."; and Article 16 was written to "...affirm our right to self-governance over local boards and local elections..." These three articles had overwhelming support, and the results of those votes will be sent to our legislative representatives in Concord to express the voters' concerns.

-Ray Boas

**Walpole Police Statistics**

No police activity statistics have been provided by the Walpole Police Department for this issue. At Town meeting Saturday, March 14, Chief Sanctuary answered questions concerning mutual aid given to other area police departments. He indicated that our location adjoining the north south corridor of the Connecticut River prompted many of problems and calls as non-area individuals are traveling through. He did not, however, provide examples of instances for these stops, or investigations, nor any numbers at the meeting.

-Ray Boas

**Of the twelve candidates re-elected, four were sworn in at Town Meeting March 14. Left to Right: Erin Bowen; Steve Dalessio; Stephen Varone; and Jack Wozmak officiating having been sworn in earlier.**



**Easter Egg Hunt**

Sponsored by  
 Walpole Cub Scout Pack 299  
**April 4, 2026**  
 Walpole Historical Society Lawn  
 Starts promptly at 10AM  
 'till all eggs are gathered.  
 All ages thru Grade 5,  
 Toddlers to age 4 are separate  
 from ages 5 and up.




# 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](http://rivervalleychurch.com)

For Service Schedules  
visit the church websites.

## River Valley Church

**You're invited to celebrate Easter with us at River Valley Church.** This year, we'll gather for one special service at 10:00 am at the Walpole Town Hall for a meaningful morning that will include uplifting live music, fresh local coffee, Allen Brothers Donuts, and an Easter photo booth for individuals and families. We'll also celebrate water baptisms, marking powerful stories of new life and faith, and hear a hope-filled message from the Bible centered on the question, "Did It Really Happen?" For more information, please visit [www.rivervalley-church.com/easter](http://www.rivervalley-church.com/easter)

**Curious about faith, life, or meaning? Try Alpha.** Beginning Sunday evening, April 12 at 5:00 pm, River Valley Church will host Alpha, an 8-week video-based course designed to create space for honest conversation about life's biggest questions. Each evening includes a shared dinner, a

short engaging video, and open, friendly dialogue where no question is off limits. Alpha is completely free and open to the public. Whether you're new to church, exploring faith for the first time, or simply looking for a place to talk and listen without pressure, you are welcome.

-Justin Barney - Lead Pastor

## UCC Resignation

*(From: Walpole Congregational Church - Thursday Email Announcements March 12, 2026)*

Friends, I have some news to share. A few months back, I addressed some rumors that I was planning to resign or retire. I shared what I knew at the time and promised you would hear it from me, when plans became more defined. Well, that time has come. I will turn 65 on August 9, 2026. August 15<sup>th</sup> will be the end of the pay period and will be my last day on the job.

That said, it will not be our last day in Walpole. I have sabbatical time and vacation I will not have used. That time will be used up in November. Jane plans to retire in February 2027. We will continue living in the Parsonage through April. During that time, I will mostly be around but hopefully doing some traveling as well.

I have assured our lay leaders that I am more than happy to help with the transition to the interim period, and help prepare the church profile for the search process. That said, once there is an interim minister, I have professional and covenantal obligations to step

back and get out of the way so that you and the interim minister can get about the work charting your next chapter.

This is an exciting time for all of us. May God bless us and guide us into the future.

-Sincerely, Richard (Malmberg)

## UCC

### Holy Week and Easter

**Maundy Thursday Supper, Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae:**

April 2, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

**Good Friday Vigil 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm** the sanctuary will be open for silent prayer and reflection.

**Easter Pie and Bake Sale , Saturday April 4,** 9:00 am until goods are sold.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** 6:15 am at Hooper Golf Course, 8<sup>th</sup> tee, followed by breakfast at the church in Fellowship Hall.

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

**April Community Potluck Supper: April 25, 5:30 pm.** Bring a main dish, side or dessert and we will provide beverages. A freewill offering will be received for the World Central Kitchen.

-Richard Malmberg

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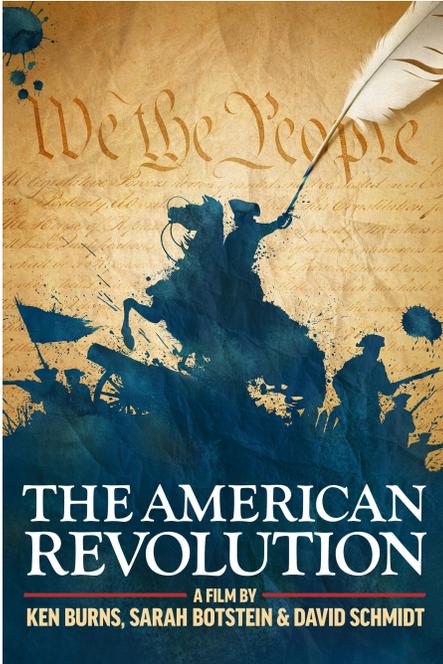
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US @ 250 BIG WATCH



*The American Revolution*, a film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. Tuesday, April 7 at 6 pm, Walpole Town Hall. Join us to commemorate and reflect upon the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a screening of an excerpt from the film and a discussion led by an expert in constitutional law, Margaret Mott.

This event is made possible by New Hampshire Humanities, in partnership with NHPBS, with additional support provided by Dogswell Benevolent Trust. By the People: Conversations Beyond 250 is a series of community-driven programs created by humanities councils in collaboration with local partners. The initiative was developed by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

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SAVE THE DATE - MAY 16th for our annual *HOT (Help Our Trails) DAY* (rain date, May 23rd). We will get together at the town hall in the morning for camaraderie, coffee, doughnuts, and sign-up lists for your help with trail improvements!! Swing those tools from 9 to 12!. Look for flyers around town, and notices in the *Walpolean*.

You are always welcome to join our meetings. Town Hall, 7pm, on the second Wednesday of the month. [walpoletrailhelpers@gmail.com](mailto:walpoletrailhelpers@gmail.com) at any time.

-France Menk

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**Pinnacleview 4-H**

On March 7th Pinnacleview 4-H members and other 4-Hers from across Cheshire County paid a visit to Great Brook Farm's Sugarhouse, learning all aspects of Maple Syrup Production. David Westover works with Brady, as they tap a tree.

-Photo UNH Cooperative Extension, Cheshire County



## Postal Problems Persist

*(Editorial Note: following last month's article on the Post Office Slow-down, the post office crisis potentially deepens. As a book seller shipping through the post office almost every day for the past 36 years and as a publisher, sending you the CLARION for almost 15 years I am concerned. First Class Mail - to and from Walpole - has recently slowed. You may wish to send your 2027 Valentine Day's cards now.)*

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is in a serious financial crisis, and 2027 could be a breaking point. A complete shutdown is extremely unlikely, but a more realistic 2027 scenario, if no action is taken, may include: higher stamp prices; slower delivery standards; facility closures or consolidations; and, workforce reductions

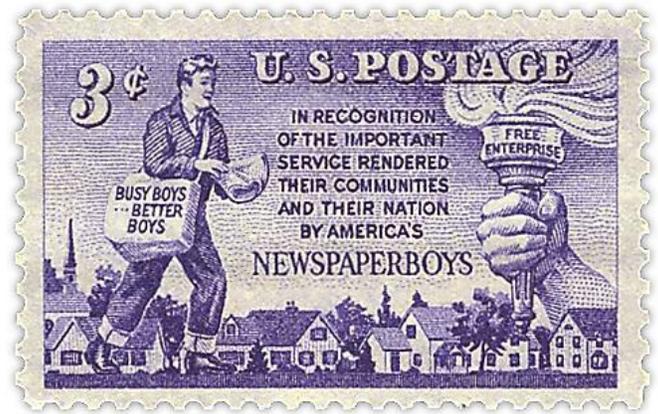
The March 17, 2026 House Oversight Subcommittee hearing, opened by Representative Pete Sessions, focused on the worsening financial condition of the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the reforms needed to ensure its long-term viability. Sessions emphasized that USPS has

lost billions of dollars and faces declining reliability, warning that significant changes are required to "course-correct" the agency.

The hearing featured testimony from Postmaster General David Steiner, appearing before Congress for the first time since taking office. He outlined a strategy to stabilize USPS finances, including increasing revenue, reducing costs, and modernizing operations. Lawmakers examined whether USPS can become financially sustainable enough to justify expanding its borrowing authority from the U.S. Treasury.

A central concern discussed was USPS's ongoing financial crisis. The agency has experienced years of losses due to declining mail volumes and a rigid universal service obligation requiring nationwide delivery. Steiner warned that without major reforms, USPS could run out of cash within about a year.

Proposed solutions included raising stamp prices, increasing the borrowing cap (currently \$15 billion),



**US Commemorative stamp issued for Newspaper Boy Day, October 4, 1952. The year I began collecting commemoratives and enjoying history. First Class Mail was 3 cents until 1958 then to 4 cents - the first increase since 1932.**

restructuring pension and retirement obligations, and potentially reducing delivery frequency or closing facilities.

Overall, the hearing highlighted bipartisan concern over USPS's financial instability and the need for congressional action. While some operational improvements have been made, lawmakers and witnesses agreed that structural reforms—particularly changes to funding and revenue models—are essential to preserve reliable postal services for the future.

-Ray Boas

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Links may also be clicked from the  
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### April at the Library

**US@250 Big Watch:** Tuesday, April 7 at 6 pm, Walpole Town Hall - The American Revolution, a film by Ken Burns. See Page 4 for details.

**Poetry Reading:** Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm, Main Library with local poets Chard de Niord, Alice Fogel, and Leslie Lewis.

**Children's Author Visit.** Saturday, April 11 at 11 am. Louise Wannier will read from her latest work, *Tree Spirits*, answer questions, and share a take-home craft for kids.

**Lunch and a Movie:** *Dark Waters*. Thursday, April 23 at 1 pm, Main Library. Bring your lunch and come in from the cold to enjoy a movie in our Community Room.

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



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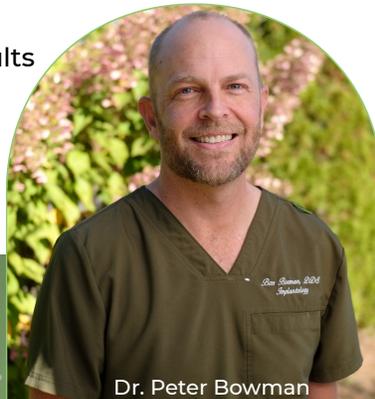
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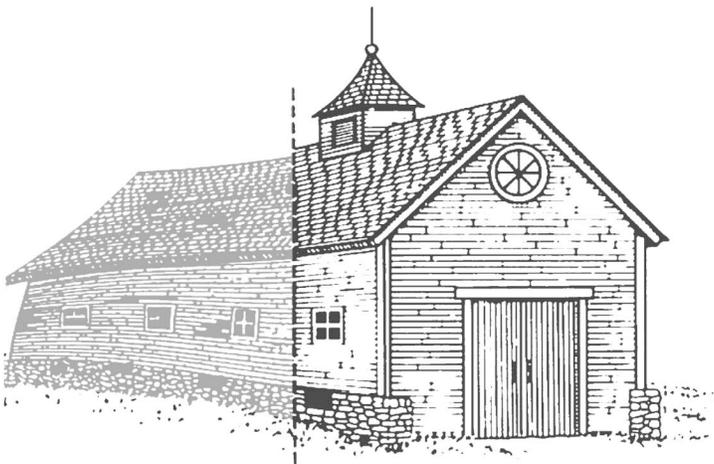


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# Did You Know That...?

Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...the Walpole Historical Society contracted with PROF. RAB'S WAGON OF WONDERS to exhibit historical Walpole artifacts during Old Home Days in 2017, and again for Old Home Days in 2022 following a five year hiatus due to COVID?

Sadly the Professor's application to be on the Common was both times denied by the Selectboard. "We do not want additional tent stake holes in the ground, and find your exhibit too commercial with its 10 cent admission fee per person (25 cents for a family)," the governing body stated. Thus, a request sadly was not even brought forward for Old Home Days in 2025.

On a trip a dozen years ago Prof. RAB stumbled upon a "Tent of Wonders" being exhibited for the last time at a remote Genesee County location. The exhibit included "Lost Literary Treasures and Historical Artifacts of Note". Negotiations followed, and soon the Professor was in possession

of this significant collection of literary and historical artifacts. Learning of this vast collection, now residing in historic Walpole, the society asked Prof. RAB not only to exhibit what he just acquired, but also to locate and exhibit artifacts significant to Walpole's history and its residents.

"How do I top the unique one of a kind national treasures I have now stored away," he related to this writer, continuing, "how can I exhibit local items with more significance than Tea from the Boston Tea Party; George Washington's Axe and a limb from his Cherry Tree; Bricks from Humpty Dumpty's Wall; Jack's Candlestick; and, Pickets not yet painted from Tom Sawyer's Fence?"

Searching the internet and remote barns and cellar holes in Walpole's hills was a challenge the Professor related to the CLARION, even though the CLARION had shared with the Professor the two most recent books on Walpole history, *Walpole As It Was...And Still Is..* and the compilation of these *Did You Know That* articles published for Old Home Days in 2022. Guided by clues in these publications the search was on in depth, and now just some of the Professor's recent discoveries can be shared on



these pages. But, the search continues, and maybe you can help by finding and reporting to the CLARION another lost artifact of Walpole histo-



ry. And, as Old Home Days comes to be celebrated again in 2028, with your support, and possibly a Petition Warrant Article, the Professor will be allowed to share his wealth of artifacts - both National and Local - with the fine citizens of Walpole, New Hampshire. Yes, who does not want to see some residual ice from the iceberg that sank the Titanic, or some remaining glacial ice that melted forming Lake Hitchcock that covered Walpole's Common 10,000 years ago?

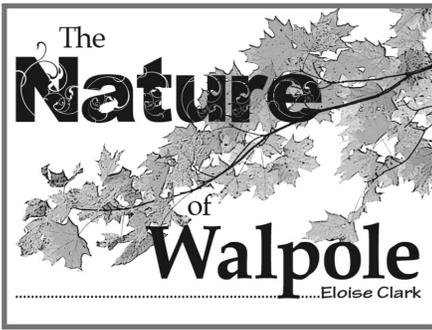
## Walpole Literary Artifacts pictured on rear cover:

- 1 - Louisa May Alcott's first ball-point pen found in the walls of the Alcott Apartments.
- 2 - Typewriter used by James Michener when he lived on the Common starting his novel *HAWAII*.
- 3 - First Camera Used by Florentine Films - on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.
- 4 - Isaiah Thomas' first press used to print the *Farmer's Museum* in Walpole in 1793.



## FLORENTINE FILMS

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April is a good time for a geology field trip. Vegetation has not yet emerged and obscured the land forms. Distant Hill Gardens geology trail is an excellent place to begin. There are a variety of rock outcrops with interpretive signs that explain what you can see and touch. Each sign is rich in details that will deepen your knowledge of what lies beneath your feet.

Michael Nerrie has made much of the three-quarter mile long trail easy to access on hard-pack trails. The trail includes ten stops. Stop one begins with the geologic history of our area. It's very complex but the diagrams and clear text give insight into this dramatic saga.

Stop number two explains the index minerals in the exposed bedrock and how those minerals help determine the depth at which the rock formed. This is a crucial tool used by geologists to unravel the geologic history of an area.

At stop three, look for pebbles in ocean bed sediment that were flat-

tened and stretched when the ocean floor was uplifted during times of mountain building. Remarkable to see, it's really intriguing to imagine forces that could make rocks stretch.

Stop four has an outcrop containing oval-shaped rocks called boudins. A string of them is referred to as boudinage, a sausage-like rock formation. In this case the boudins are made quartz, an igneous rock embedded in the metamorphic bedrock. Stretched by intense heat and pressure, the metamorphic rock broke into segments. This allowed igneous magma to fill the voids and create this unusual pattern.

Stop five is at an outcrop with an example of "cross-bedding". The bedrock you see was once on the ocean floor. Currents were continually depositing sediments eroded from land. This cross-bedding shows the direction of the ocean currents at the time the sediments were deposited.

If you visit late this month, look for unusual plants on Rattlesnake Knoll at stop six. Because the bedrock formed from ocean sediments, it is rich in calcium. The neutral pH and rich soils allow for a number of rare spring ephemeral wildflowers. The Connecticut Valley is home to displays of these small beauties in the spring. Further east, the soils become more acidic and inhospitable to them.

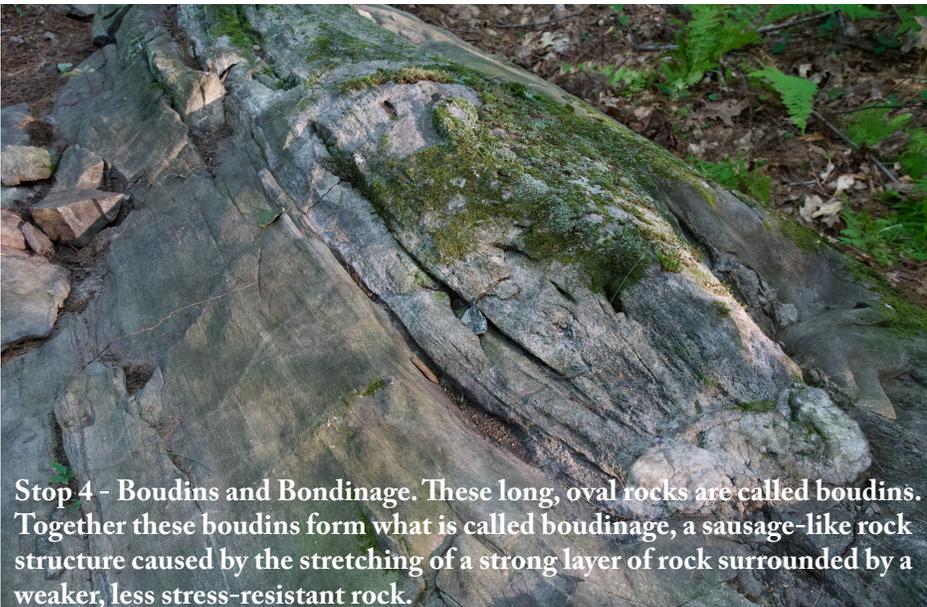


Stops seven and eight feature a pegmatite mine and pegmatite outcrop. Look for crystals of the minerals feldspar, mica and quartz. You may also see sparkles of more unusual gems such as tourmaline and beryl.

Stop nine visits a rock face with fallen rocks below. Weathering through the eons has reduced the exposed cliff to piles of rocks, known as talus. During the freeze-thaw cycle, water infiltrates between cracks in the rocks. When it freezes it expands and causes the cracks to widen and eventually split the rocks.

Finally, stop ten reveals a turbidite. It's the site of a sudden undersea landslide. Look for layers of sediment from fine-grained siltstone to coarse gravel.

What may surprise you most is finding examples of old seabed now perched 1,200 feet above sea level. This hints at our tumultuous tectonic past. Enjoy the spring air as you contemplate our complex geologic history.



Stop 4 - Boudins and Bondinage. These long, oval rocks are called boudins. Together these boudins form what is called boudinage, a sausage-like rock structure caused by the stretching of a strong layer of rock surrounded by a weaker, less stress-resistant rock.

## Walpole Business Notes

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

### **Watkins Tavern Opening for Lunch**

— Saturday, April 11th, Watkins Tavern will be rolling out our summer hours featuring lunch four days a week. We will be open Thursday-Sunday 11 am to 9 pm and Monday 4 to 9 pm. Come help us kickoff the summer season and enjoy a weekend of Master's Golf themed fun and specials and taste our new delicious menu items.

## Walpole Artisans Cooperative New Artist's Reception

Please stop in 52 Main Street, Sunday April 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm to say Hello to our new artisans, and of course to all the old familiars as well. The store will open for sales; there will be light food and drink to partake of as you mingle with the members of our cooperative. The new members we are featuring are Marie Sakellarion, Louise Slayton, Kris Stewart and Kathy Kemp. Brief descriptions of their works and their artistic journeys follow below:

**Marie Sakellarion** - Marie creates original acrylic paintings, both on canvas and on treasure boxes. She also makes warm fleece-lined, wool mittens from repurposed sweaters. She brings her unique touch to a wide variety of surfaces such as canvas, wood, metal, and fabric. Marie's subject matter reflects her deep appreciation for the natural and domestic world, with works that capture landscapes, animals, plants/flowers, and even detailed home portraits.

**Kris Stewart** - Kris creates original paintings and offers prints of her work on coasters, matted prints, and note cards. She is an oil painter in love with color and texture. Kris tries to use them both generously in her work to evoke a sense of "being there" within



~ Louise Slayton ~

her viewers. Primarily self-taught, she has also trained with several well-known artists such as Qiang Huang, Dave Santillanes, Carol Marine, and Hugh Greer, among others.

**Louise Slayton** - Louise creates her own knitting patterns and makes wearable art in the form of hats, fingerless gloves, cowls of various sizes, headbands, and leg warmers. She also weaves heirloom overshoot patterns to create functional art, such as table runners, hand towels, placemats, and pot holders. She also sold her creations at Country Artisans back when the Colony Mill was a shopping center for unique gifts.

**Kathy Kemp** - Kathy creates assemblage artworks using time-worn wood, industrial remnants, and found objects. By bringing these experienced materials together in new relationships, she builds modern compositions that explore balance, contrast, and quiet tension. Antique hardware, salvaged wood, and other overlooked materials often find their way into her work, where their textures and histories help shape the final form.

-Joe Beer

-Meg Kupiec

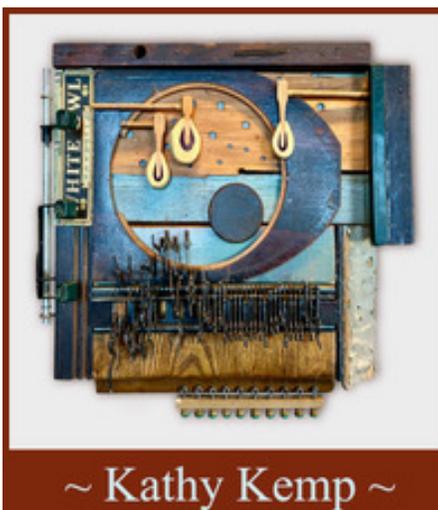
## Walpole Players 2026 Mud Radio Follies

Ahh, April, the month with so many firsts; first baseball game, first chance to file taxes, first full month of spring! Come and celebrate all this and more with the Walpole Players at their annual Mud Season Radio Follies on Saturday April 11.

Is that tax filing deadline making you nervous? Find out how George Burns and Gracie Allen make their taxes add up. Want to catch up on the new baseball players? See how Abbott and Costello figure that out. Think spring is the perfect time of year to learn to drive? Let the Bickersons steer you in the right direction.

Director Judy Epstein has assembled a talented cast of familiar faces and first timers; see another first for April. For the cast, this is a low-pressure show; no need to memorize lines, but this is live, so anything could and usually does happen.

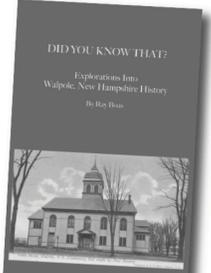
This is a cabaret style show so plan to bring an indoor picnic to enjoy before and during the show. The stage will be set at the Helen Miller Theater on the second floor of Town Hall. Show time is 7 pm and the doors open at 6:30. You can get your tickets in advance at Mascoma Savings Bank on Main St. We appreciate their help every year with ticket sales. Round tables comfortably seat 6 so get your friends together to reserve a table. Please check our Facebook page for updates. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday April 11.



~ Kathy Kemp ~



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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 Gathering Place - 14 Westminster St., Walpole, NH**  
**Monday, April 13 - Tuesday, April 14**  
**11 am - 4 pm both days**

**at the Flat Iron Cooperative - 51 Square - Bellows Falls, VT**  
**Thursday, April 16 - Friday, April 17**  
**Thursday, April 23 - Friday, April 24**  
**11 am - 3 pm all four 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 Reyns — Questions may be directed to [preyns@yahoo.com](mailto:preyns@yahoo.com)



From his private collection of World's Fair Souvenirs, Prof. RAB has graciously shared these two favorites with CLARION readers.

— see page 19



## Helping Seniors Program

Do you have time on your hands and skills you would like to share with Seniors in our community?

River Valley Seniors at Home (RVSAH), a member of Walpole Advocates for Seniors (WAFS), is an organization that strives to respond to the needs of our aging neighbors, helping to make it possible for them to stay in their homes longer. Helping out with things like small house repairs, paperwork that is overwhelming, technology that is mystifying can make life so much better for a senior. With your lifetime of learned skills, you can make a huge difference.

We are looking for: Handyman services - Technology assistance - Organizational services - Shrub maintenance.

Does this sound interesting? If so, call Tara Sad, RVSAH's Executive Director, at 603-903-3249, or email her at [tara.eric@gmail.com](mailto:tara.eric@gmail.com), to find out more about our Helping Seniors Program.

-Andrew Wilking & Kit Bowry,  
RVSAH Board Co-chairs

- School from Page 1

donate online at [www.thewalpole-foundation.org/wvs](http://www.thewalpole-foundation.org/wvs). We also accept gifts from Donor Advised Funds and donations of stock/appreciated securities.

Businesses with New Hampshire Business Profits, Enterprise, or Insurance Premium Tax liability are encouraged to support the project with a state tax credit donation. Tax credit donors receive a state tax credit valued at 75% of their total contribution (\$10,000 donation = \$7,500 tax credit). The remaining 25% may be eligible for a federal tax deduction, and tax credits carry forward for up to 5 years. Tax proceeds fund our project instead of your tax dollars going into the state's general fund. To learn more, visit [nhcdfa.org/walpole-village-school-community-room](http://nhcdfa.org/walpole-village-school-community-room)

-Jocelyn Horton

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To encourage you to license me by April 30  
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- The Pawtastic Nanny of Walpole (Dog walking/Pet sitting)  
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

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## Walpole Students Pen Winning Essays in Celebration of National Women's Month

By Jake Gagnon

This March, Walpole sixth grade students competed in an essay contest hosted by the Bellows Falls Woman's Club. The theme of the project was "A Woman I Admire." Students began crafting their essays in class in February before being judged in the competition in early March. Four Walpole students earned top honors.

The sixth grade students could select either a woman that they knew personally or a woman that has made an impact historically, either in the past or present day. Student choices varied from their mother, to a paraprofessional, to several women throughout history. Other examples of student selections included Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, Mia Hamm, Anne Frank, Alyssa Liu, Terri Irwin, Caitlin Clark, and many others. All students learned a lot more about the lives and inspirations of their chosen subjects, either through discussion with someone they knew personally or through research on a historical figure.

The Bellows Falls Women's Club read through each essay together at their March meeting and selected the winners. They stated that the choices were difficult, since they were blown away by the depth of writing and the passion of the Walpole sixth graders. Rieley Harper earned the top honors with her beautiful essay celebrating her mother. Soren Barney and Ellie Griffin tied with second place. Barney penned an essay on Earhart while Griffin wrote about Susan B. Anthony. Rounding out the honors was Annabelle Welch, who earned third place for her essay about Rosa Parks. Each of the top three finishers received a check from the Bellows Falls Women's Club.

## Getting Ready for Easter

By Reagan Westover (6th grade)

Easter is coming up soon so get excited for the Easter Bunny to come hide eggs all around my yard. Easter is coming up soon on Sunday, April 5th this year. When asking my classmates what their favorite parts of the holiday were, I expected the typical answers such as finding eggs or hiding eggs or (of course) chocolate. I was pleased to hear that celebrating with

family or friends was a typical response. Because the best part of Easter is spending time with friends or family. You get together with your close friends or family or whoever you would like. Then if the Easter Bunny comes you can go find the eggs. Sometimes when I look for them I have to get another basket because I find eggs so fast. While finding the eggs and eating sweets is great, hanging out with your friends or family is amazing.

## Walpole Drama Club Prepares for Upcoming Show

By Juniper Jenkins (6th grade)

Over the last few years, the Walpole Elementary School Drama Club has been led by the team of Mrs. DeSorcie and Mrs. Dustin. They have guided students in fifth grade through eighth grade into creating memorable and often funny performances.

"I enjoy leading Drama Club because the performing arts played a very important role in my life as a middle school and high school student and I like to be able to share that experience with students now," said Mrs. DeSorcie. "I hope that they find as much enjoyment in it as I did when I was in school. I also get to lead the drama club with Mrs. Dustin, who is my daughter, and we have a lot of fun doing it together. She has also spent a great deal of time on stage and producing shows with me."

Mrs. DeSorcie's experiences include both acting on stage and working behind the scenes in props and costuming, playing flute in a pit orchestra, and serving as a producer for many shows.

The current play the Drama Club is working on is called "Hot Lunch" about all the adventures that occur each day in a school lunchroom.

From left to right: Annabelle Welch, Rieley Harper, Ellie Griffin, and Soren Barney - Photo: Mr. Gagnon



## Staff Of The Month: Georgia Anderson

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

Georgia Anderson is the nurse at Walpole schools. She loves helping kids feel better all throughout the day.

We asked what her favorite thing about her job was and she said that "It's very rewarding. I get to see you all, and I learn something new everyday." Her least favorite thing is when she can't help people or if she doesn't have the answer. One of her favorite parts about being a nurse is the relief people get when they have been helped. Georgia helps a lot of students each day. She believes that, on average, she probably sees about twenty students a day between the schools.

Georgia wasn't always going to be a nurse. "I wanted to be a lawyer or own my own Greek Restaurant." She could also picture herself being an Social Emotional Learning teacher. Georgia would love to travel to Greece. She likes to watch Wheel of Fortune and Ace Ventura Pet Detective. Her favorite flower is a lily. She enjoys going to the beach, spending time with her friends and family, and other things like reading and going to festivals.

Georgia's favorite part about Walpole is that "everyone here is so nice and welcoming. I love the community." Thank you Georgia, for being our nurse and such a wonderful part of Walpole schools.

**MUD SEASON  
RADIO FOLLIES  
of 2026**

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Questions? Contact Erin Beaudry | ebeaudry@kurnhattin.org | 802-721-6914

## Women of Walpole

The March WOW meeting featured riveting presentations by Sarah Breen and Joey Andros describing their adventures hiking the Appalachian trail and walking the various Caminos, plus maps provided by Caryn Corcoran of the various Walpole trails for more local walking. The April WOW meeting will be an evening meeting on Wednesday April 15 at 6:30 pm at the home of Margie Palmer for socializing following a business and fundraising discussion.

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

## Great Decisions

"The Third Nuclear Age" will be the topic when the "Great Decisions" public forum will resume on Monday, April 20, at 6:00 pm in the Walpole Town Library. All are welcome to join the discussion, which will focus on the dangerous new nuclear age that – with the expiration of the New START treaty between the U.S. and Russia – portends a renewed arms race to the finish.

Adrian Basora, former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, will moderate the discussion. Adrian is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and on the International Advisory Board of the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

The relevant reading from the Foreign Policy Association is "The Third Nuclear Age: Trump, the Order, and the Bomb" by Gideon Rose, adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and adjunct professor of

political science at Columbia University. This article is available at the library and a copy can be emailed upon request to Library Director Jane Malmberg: [jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org](mailto:jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org) You may also request a Zoom link from Jane Malmberg, but please join at 6:30 pm, following the "Master Class" from the Foreign Policy Association which cannot be shown via Zoom.

-Sue Kibbe

## Exploring NH's Role in Breaking Baseball's Color Line

Walpole resident Bill Ranauro has published a new book, *The Chosen City: The Owner, the Players, and the New Hampshire City that Integrated Baseball in the United States*. Published by Spines US of Boynton Beach, Florida, the author tells the little-known story of how baseball's color line was broken in Nashua, New Hampshire.

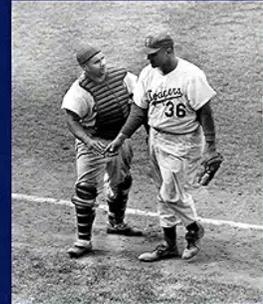
By 1946, Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe were already established stars in the Negro Leagues. Despite this, each harbored ambitions to play in the major leagues. After being signed by Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey, the two players were assigned to play at Nashua, New Hampshire, Brooklyn's new minor league affiliate.

Questions abound, including whether the two Black players and their families would be accepted by fans in a city that was virtually all white.

Most baseball fans know the story of Jackie Robinson breaking the

## THE CHOSEN CITY

The Owner, the Players, and the New Hampshire City That Integrated Baseball in the United States



BILL RANAURO

color line in Major League Baseball in 1947, but Robinson was playing in Montreal, Canada in 1946. This made Nashua the birthplace of baseball's integration in the United States, and Campanella and Newcombe became the first Black players of the twentieth century to play professionally alongside white players.

The book is available in paperback, hardcover, and eBook editions at the Toadstool Bookshop in Keene, Village Square Books in Bellows Falls, Balin Books in Nashua, and Gibson's Books in Concord, and is available online at Amazon.com. The author will be doing a presentation and signing at the Toadstool Bookshop in Keene on Saturday, April 25 at 11:00 am. You can visit the author's website at [BillRanauro.com](http://BillRanauro.com).

## 2026 EVENTS at DISTANT HILL



Join us for one or more of our many free events at Distant Hill in 2026, with more being added throughout the season.

Scan this QR Code for the Distant Hill Event Collection, or visit our website at [www.distanthill.org](http://www.distanthill.org) to learn more





April is a great time to get involved with the Hooper Institute! 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! Want something a bit more calm? The Harris Center is back to celebrate our Mother Earth with a Family Hike on the Fanny Mason Trail on April 22 at 3:30 pm for Earth Day. Registration is required.

Dig in with us on May 7 from 5:00-6:30 pm for our Soil Health workshop with resident expert Fritze Till. Join us to dive into the foundation of all gardening, soil! Learn about the soil layers, soil testing, and our favorite soil amendments that help with everything from pH to texture and more. Registration is required. Registration can be found on our website or you can email [hooper.director@gmail.com](mailto:hooper.director@gmail.com).



**Middle School students working in the school garden-high tunnel, getting things put to bed.**



**ABOVE - bloodroot, a spring ephemeral in Distant Hill gardens.**

Hooper Summer Programs are now open! Enroll your students who are entering grades 1-8 in Hooper Camp or encourage your high school student to apply for our Summer Work Program. Both opportunities will make sure your kids spend time outside enjoying the great outdoors this summer. Find out more information on our website, Instagram, or Facebook page, or email [hooper.director@gmail.com](mailto:hooper.director@gmail.com)

-Greta Drager

## Distant Hill Programs

Distant Hill is offering four free public programs this spring at Distant Hill Gardens and Nature Trail, inviting participants to explore seasonal wildflowers, vernal pools, and a restored stream habitat. The programs will take place in late April and May on the property's network of accessible trails and garden paths. All events are free and open to the public, but advance registration is required.

The first program, Spring Wildflower Walk, will be held Friday, April 24, from 3:00-5:00 pm. Participants will view native spring ephemerals in the gardens before heading onto the trails to look for early wildflowers emerging in the forest.

A Mother's Day Wildflower Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 10, from 10 am to noon. The guided walk will highlight the diversity of native wildflowers that bloom in mid-May and discuss their ecological relationships with pollinators and forest habitats.

On Monday, May 11, from 4-5:30 pm, the program Vernal Pool Exploration for All will introduce visitors to the temporary woodland pools that appear each spring. Participants will learn about the amphibians and invertebrates that depend on these seasonal wetlands and why they are important to forest ecosystems.

The final event, Exploring the 2024 Habitat Restoration of Great Brook, will take place on Wednesday, May 20, from 4-6:00 pm. The walk will focus on the recent restoration of Great Brook on Distant Hill and explain how stream restoration improves wildlife habitat and supports healthy watersheds.

Space for the programs is limited. Participants must register in advance through the organization's Eventbrite page. For full event descriptions and registration information, visit - <https://tinyurl.com/distanthill-events>

-Michael Nerrie

## 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.**

**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.**

## FMEEA 5K

The Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association's (FMEEA) District Dash 5K Fun Run & Walk will take place at Fall Mountain Regional High School in Langdon, NH, Saturday, May 16. Proceeds fund FMEEA grants to teachers for opportunities that enrich students' lives beyond standard classroom budgets, including field trips, travel for educational competitions, cultural performances, and hands-on learning programs.

- Pre-registration: <https://www.fmeea.com/district-dash-5k>

- Same-day Registration: 8:00 am

- Kids' Fun Run: 9:15 am

- 5K Race: 10:00 am

Both runners and walkers are welcome. The course runs through the beautiful trails on the Fall Mountain High School campus. Prizes are awarded in each age group.

-Kimberly Lewis

## 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 (April 2025)** - At Town Meeting...Article 6, "...to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and suitability of the withdrawal of Walpole from the co-operative school district..." drew a number of speakers presenting background and recommendations.

**Three Years Ago April 2023** - The Walpole Village School and the Walpole Foundation announced that, effective February 28, 2023, the Walpole Village School property had been purchased by The Walpole Foundation.

**Five Years Ago (April 2021)** - It wasn't hard to socially distance at this year's Town Meeting as COVID concerns keep many Walpoleans away.

**Seven Years Ago (April 2019)** - Dick Hurlburt has served as Fire Chief a total of 24 years, 1985-1991 and 2001-2019. Mark Houghton presented him with a plaque in recognition of his service.

**Nine Years Ago (April 2017)** - Sandwiched between Pinnacleview Equipment, Inc. and Diamond Pizza, by late May, Caitlin and Chris Caserta will be opening The Hungry Diner.

**Eleven Years Ago (April 2015)** - The Walpole Community Garden is the only "No-Till" Community Garden in New Hampshire. We are developing a small heirloom Apple Orchard where Permaculture is practiced. We donate 15- 20% of our produce to the Fall Mt Food mShelf, and Applewood Senior housing.

**Thirteen Years Ago (April 2013)** - Did You Know That ... the library building was a gift to the town in 1891 from Hudson Eliot Bridge as a memorial to his father, Hudson E. Bridge?

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# MILESTONES

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A monthly for the Walpole Community

Ray Boas, Publisher

PO Box 757

Walpole, NH 03608

603 756-4545

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May Deadline - April 22

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## PUBLISHERS CORNER

Spring could be "in the air" - "no foolin'." The last thing I work on when completing the next issue of the CLARION for you is this column with my thoughts, and reflections. Many reflections come when I review the past almost 15 years of issues to compile "From the Clarion..." I like to believe the CLARION pages have documented much of the history of our wonderful community since October 2011.

Also the advertisements reflect the times documenting business activity over the years. I have always considered myself a "passive seller." In my bookshops I have had shelved thousands of titles - there if you wish to purchase. When I have advertised an item for sale (car, furniture, antique) I offer something at a good price for the buyer - no pressure, buy if you wish. And with the CLARION I have never solicited an advertisement - that is just not my style. So, in reflecting back over past issues it pleases me to see the wide range of advertisements I have been asked to run, and I am flattered by those who have been here for years. A BIG THANK YOU.

I had another milestone birthday recently. I am sure that for some reason Cathy and I were guided to Walpole in 2002. Maybe simply to bring you the CLARION each month. We all wish to "make a difference." I hope I may be able to continue my efforts serving you here for some time to come.

-Ray Boas, Publisher



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Walpole Historical Literary Artifacts located by Prof. RAB  
details see page 8.

