



Coming Out of Hibernation

Redcoats and Rebels WHS Presentation

The members of the Walpole Historical Society will gather for their 2026 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 5 in the Walpole Town Hall. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a potluck supper followed by a short business meeting and the election of board members. At 7:00 pm there will be an illustrated presentation, "Redcoats & Rebels: New Hampshire and the American Revolution," by Mary Adams of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

- Continued Page 10



A Treasure Next Door



Alstead borders Walpole to the east with three distinct areas: Alstead, originally called Paper Mill Village, Alstead Center, and East Alstead with Mill Hollow at the outlet of Lake Warren. A quiet and overlooked community of less than 2,000 residents, Alstead's history exemplifies 18th century rural industrial America. Chase's Mill, powered by Lake Warren, has recently been restored to serve everyone as a workshop for hands-on learning, a community gathering space, and a living museum demonstrating the history of small-town industry in New England. A community treasure, I spent a few hours April 16 at the mill with Juliana Stevens (involved with the mill since age 3), and her husband Bob Brown who first encountered the mill in 1953, and later took woodworking classes there. A seniors group from Peterborough later arrived for a tour, and I followed along.

- Continued Page 4

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation Grant

Distant Hill Gardens & Nature Trail has been awarded a 2025 Direct Effect, 2nd Cycle Quality of Life Grant of \$24,999 from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center (NPRC) to support its new Trail Accessibility Initiative. Distant Hill is one of 56 organizations to receive a Direct Effect Quality of Life Grant in 2025, with a total of \$1,141,186 awarded.

Distant Hill is deeply honored to receive this generous grant from the Reeve Foundation. Their support enabled Distant Hill to purchase a TerrainHopper all-terrain mobility vehicle, thereby increasing accessibility across

- Continued Page 11

Memorial Day Parade Monday May 25

Begins 11:30 am
at the Unitarian Church
Line-up starts at 11

Ceremony follows on Common

Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 299
and Cub Scout Pack 299

Volunteers welcomed in scouting.

We are looking for Veterans to
march in the parade,

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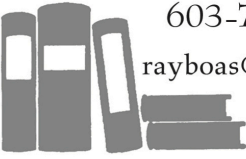
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Gateway Preservation Continues

First sign read FOR SALE - later, the next sign read AUCTION MARCH 26 - and then SOLD. Almost four and a half acres at the southeast corner of South Street and Route 12, and its 6,000 square foot building, will have a new owner by the end of April. At the auction, with about a dozen registered bidders, THE WALPOLE FOUNDATION was the successful bidder. The underbidder a contracting company currently in Vermont. Other than continuing to preserve this parcel at the Gateway to Walpole, the Foundation has no plans currently for the property.

Previously the building housed Abingdon Spares, the World's Largest MG TC-TD-TF Parts Specialist, which was formed by Jerry Goguen in 1968 in Needham, MA. Moving to Walpole, Jerry also founded and directed The Westminster MG Car Museum in Westminster, VT. Jerry sold in about 1995, and when sold again the business was relocated to Deep River, Connecticut in 2015. In 2023 the business was again sold and is now in Maine.

The MG name for the iconic sports cars comes from "Morris Garages," which began producing its own vehicles in 1923-1924. From 1929 to 1980 MGs were made in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, UK - thus "Abingdon Spares."

-Ray Boas



Village School Recognized

Walpole Village School (WVS) has been awarded Step 4—the highest level of achievement in New Hampshire's Granite Steps for Quality (GSQ) program. This distinction reflects the school's strong commitment to continuous quality improvement in early childhood education.

Programs participating in GSQ focus on enhancing quality through a range of initiatives, including staff credentialing, ongoing professional development, practice-based coaching, comprehensive assessment, and collaborative leadership.

Walpole Village School, a private nonprofit program, became an implementation site for the Pyramid Model—an evidence-based framework that supports the social-emotional development of young children—in 2021. As part of this work, the school has partnered with a Preschool Technical Assistance Network (PTAN) coach while working toward full program-wide implementation.

"This team's commitment to achieving fidelity in implementing the Pyramid Model is exemplary. They are well deserving of this recognition," said Tammy Vittum, Pyramid Model coach.

- Continued Page 3

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.**



Walpole community to join in this effort. Red bags are available on Sunday morning at the Church, and filled red bags or grocery bags or can be dropped off on Sunday mornings as well. Prayers of blessing and thanksgiving for our abundance are offered weekly before the donations are transported to the Food Shelf.

The Fall Mountain Food Shelf offers food and personal supplies to all who are in need. For more details: info@stjohnswalpole.org

-Marilyn Wilking

Unitarian Concert

CAMEO Arts Foundation presents Cameo Baroque Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 pm at the Walpole Unitarian Church. The program includes works of Couperin, Leclair, Boismortier and others, and is a benefit for the Community Asylum Seekers Project - CASP. Cameo Baroque — Leslie Stroud, traverso, Beth Hilgartner, recorders and voice, Laurie Rabut, violin and viola da gamba, and Ernie Drown, harpsichord — specializes in historically informed performance on original instruments. Admission is by free will offering, all of which goes to CASP. CASP cultivates a supportive community for those seeking asylum in the US, provides for their basic needs and legal representation, and accompanies them on their journey towards building a life in this country. While it primarily serves clients in southeastern Vermont, CASP has been instrumental in the development of other organizations serving asylum seekers in Vermont and New Hampshire.

-Wendy Harty

- School from Page 2

Walpole Village School Director Jody Metcalf expressed pride in the staff's accomplishment and emphasized the impact on children and families. "Our dedicated staff have invested significant time in Pyramid Model trainings, developing resources, and planning curriculum to build a strong social-emotional learning environment," Metcalf said. "We see the results every day—children are actively engaged in play, using problem-solving strategies independently, identifying their feelings, and communicating their needs. Teachers also partner with families to extend these skills beyond the classroom." Teachers say the approach has made a noticeable difference.

"Early childhood classrooms are busy, but the tools and resources we've gained through the Pyramid Model have made them more productive, engaging, and full of growth," said lead teacher Carolyn Edson. "Each day, children practice routines, identify their feelings, learn calming strategies, and solve problems with peers."

The school's commitment to high-quality practices is also reflected in family feedback. A recent engagement survey showed a 96% overall rating on key indicators that Pyramid Model practices are effectively in place. "My child has become more social, made many friends, and learned to share feelings and ask others about theirs," one parent shared. "I couldn't be happier with the staff and their support. My child loves coming each day."

Walpole Village School is also an active participant in the Monadnock Community Pyramid Model, a regional initiative supporting implementation of the framework across early childhood programs. Founded in 1974, Walpole Village School serves children ages 2–5 in a safe, engaging, and nurturing environment. The school plans to expand as it moves into a new facility for the 2026–27 school year. For more information visit:

www.walpolevillageschool.org.

Red Bags for Fall Mountain Food Shelf

Included in the mission of St John's Episcopal Church in Walpole is a specific promise to help support the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Last November, in an effort to increase awareness and participation in our mission, the congregation initiated the **Red Bag Project**. Patterned after a similar effort by St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, we purchased heavy-duty red canvas bags which participants can take home and fill with food and other home goods items, such as tissues, bath tissue, paper towels and feminine products. These beautiful red bags are a potent reminder to us all of our ongoing promise of support.

As expected, donations have increased significantly and will continue indefinitely. We welcome others in the

- Treasure from Page 1

Heading east on NH 123, climbing the hill towards Lake Warren, the road takes a sharp left crossing the mill pond. Chase's Mill is on the left, probably the fourth mill built here since 1767. In the quarter mile downstream were five to seven additional mills in years past. In total disrepair in 1912, Hartley Dennett bought the mill, tore it down and built a new mill on the original stone foundation. Completing his project in 1919, he had a woodworking shop here, and used the spacious loft upstairs for community discussions, craft sessions, and dances. When Dennett passed in 1936, his stepson, Heman Chase (1901-1988) took over using it for his own wood and ironwork projects. He also gave woodworking classes for neighborhood children and continued to provide the space for community functions. Heman in 1969 published *A SHORT HISTORY OF MILL HOLLOW*, a fascinating 115 page book. I cannot even begin sharing all of its fascinating history here.

Now in 2026, you need to experience the mill and what it has to offer. In October 2016, the newly formed Mill Hollow Heritage Association became owners of this historic property. Fundraising began, grants applied for and received, and extensive stabilization and renovations were undertaken, just as COVID arrived. Documenting the renovations is an excellent video by Walpole's Gail Golec that may be found on the mill's website - <https://www.chasesmill.org/> - linked from the "About - Our History" page. Continuing Heman's work, the association's vision is to "...serve the commu-

Visiting the mill on 22 June 2013, during Alstead's 250th anniversary celebration, Margaret Chase Perry (one of Heman's two daughters) showed me the "sophisticated" mechanisms and explained how they ran the planner on the floor above.

BELOW: The penstock pipe installed in 1919, rusted out by 2013 from lack of use. In the restoration it was replaced to again feed the water turbine to power the mill.



nity as a welcoming place for gatherings, discussion groups, and learning about history, society, energy, and environmental conservation." Is so doing they "... offer classes and workshops that expand the skills and knowledge of local residents on topics from tool sharpening to pencil drawing, repairing furniture, woodworking, and spinning wool. Opening Memorial Day, weekend hours are 10 am to noon. Visits may also be arranged by appointment. There is a full schedule of classes, including "maker space" sessions, lectures, social events, walks and more. Visit the website to learn more, and get involved and enjoy this neighboring treasure and community resource.

MUD SEASON IS STILL HERE

Please respect the soil March to Memorial Day later at high elevations



MUD SEASON POINTERS TRAIL CONDITION REPORTS
<https://walpoleoutdoors.org/news/>

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Drewsville Store a Winner



Each week, WMUR-9 looks for the best that New Hampshire has to offer in their Viewers' Choice feature. Asking for nominations for the Best Country Stores, coming in third on April 9 was the Drewsville Country Store. Owner Matt Benoit and his wife, Donna Martin purchased the historic store in July 2024. WMUR reported "People rave about the owners of Drewsville General Store, saying they have brought the store to life and do a lot for the community."



Walpole Walking Group

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

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

- Debbie Hutchings

Memorial Day BBQ

May 25

**Honoring
Ted Brooks
& George Gage**
for years of dedicated coaching of Walpole area youth

**Honoring
Ted Brooks and George Gage**
for all the years of dedicated coaching in the Walpole area. 100% of proceeds donated to Maplewood Nursing Home Activity Department.

Ticket price is \$15 each which includes:
½ BBQ Chicken (Sponsored by Hubbard LLC),
Potato Chips, Can of Cold Drink & Koozie Keepsake.

Tickets available until May 13th by contacting
Text/Call: Sharon (Brooks) Struthers 603.499.2378
Text/Call: Deb Davey 603.398.5128
or Cindy Westover @Galloway Real Estate Office

Chicken will be available for pick-up at the BBQ Pit at Walpole Recreation Dept. after the parade noon - 1 pm

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<https://walpoletownlibrary.org>
or call 603-756-9806.

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

May at the Library

Our April screening and discussion of The American Revolution, led by Meg Mott, was a big success. We are incredibly grateful for the support of New Hampshire Humanities, NHPBS, and the Cogswell Benevolent Trust. A special thank you goes to the Walpole Historical Society, who helped promote our event and provided delicious treats.

Author talk: Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 pm. Bill Ranuaro will discuss his new book, *The Chosen City: The Owner, the Players, and the New Hampshire City that Integrated Baseball in the United States*.

US@250 Big Watch. 1776. Thursday, May 21 at 1:00 pm. We will continue our celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with a screening of this musical film about events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



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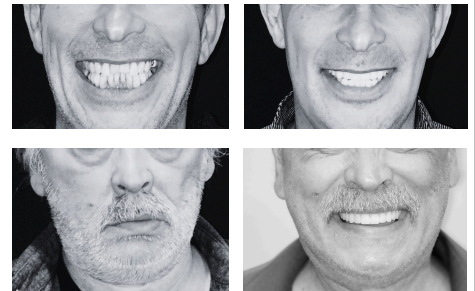
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This Memorial Day

Today we remember our brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

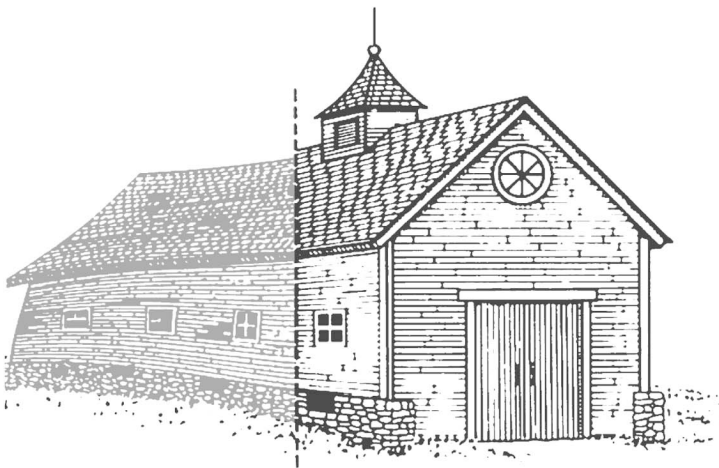


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Did You Know That...?

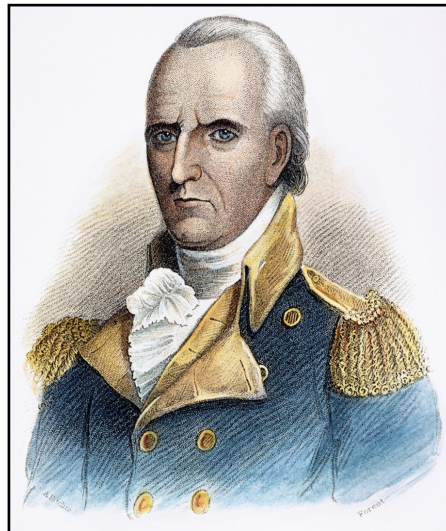
Explorations into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

"Live Free or Die" is probably the most iconic state motto and in all likelihood with the least understood origin? This was written in 1809 by John Stark (1728 - 1822) who is considered New Hampshire's most distinguished Revolutionary War hero and the "Hero of Bennington," August 13, 1777, leading to the defeat of the British at Saratoga.

Born in Londonderry, NH, eight year old John Stark moved in 1736, to the area that became incorporated as Derryfield in 1751. The town's name was changed to Manchester in 1810 honoring the vision of industrialist Samuel Blodgett who planned to make the area the "Manchester of America" after the heavily industrial Manchester, England.

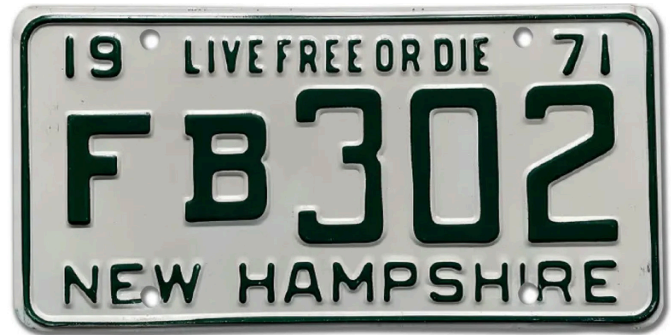
Stark's military career began when he joined Rogers' Rangers in 1755 during the French and Indian War. In 1758 he was at Fort Ticonderoga, later at Bunker Hill, Bennington, and many more crucial events. His amazing military career, contributing in the founding of the new nation, is documented in many books. In retirement, in the early 1800s, Stark stayed in touch with those whom which he served, often receiving letters of tribute. The veterans of the Bennington campaign formed a fraternal order and kept in touch with their leader over the years. Although their membership shrunk every year

the bond of brotherhood was strong. For their 1809 celebration the committee wrote to General Stark, July 22, asking him if he would attend the upcoming celebration on August 16. At this time, Stark's health was failing, but his reply was heartwarming, sincere and expressed his sorrow that he could not attend. With his reply, General Stark penned a toast to to be made at the reunion



celebration. "Live Free or Die; Death is not the Worst of Evils"

Stark's toast reflected the Revolutionary spirit. In these few words Stark defined that spirit—that freedom was worth any sacrifice, even life itself.



Stark's words have "stood the test of time" over the past over 200 years.

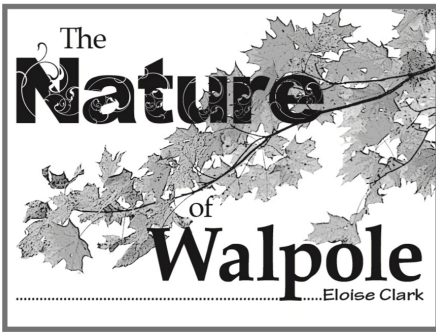
New Hampshire did not have a state motto until 1945 when the *Manchester Union* held a public contest to select a state motto. There were 3,500 entries. "Strong and Steadfast as the Granite Hills" was initially favored. With the ending of World War II a stronger, anti-tyranny motto became desired to symbolize American sacrifice for freedom. On April 25, 1945, "Live Free or Die" was adopted with a 179 to 85 vote in the state House.

The NH state motto has over the years been the center of political identity, cultural debate, and of legal fights. It was first featured on state license plates in 1971. George Maynard and his wife viewed the motto as unacceptable to their moral, religious, and political beliefs. For this reason, they covered up the motto on their license plates. On November 27, 1974, Maynard was issued a citation for violating the state statutes regarding obscuring of the state motto. Lawsuits followed, and in 1977 the case was decided in the United States Supreme Court in *Wooley v. Maynard*. Argued November 29, 1976, it was decided April 20, 1977, that "New Hampshire could not constitutionally require citizens to display a state motto that went against an individual's morality upon their vehicle license plates." A landmark case in support of Freedom of Speech, and fitting for its words.

FLORENTINE FILMS

Making films in Walpole
for 40 Years.

Left - General John Stark
Above -1971 NH plate with
"Live Free or Die"



On a beautiful May morning last year, I counted a dozen different species of warblers flitting from branch to branch in the large sugar maple tree by our back door. From blackburnian warblers to redstarts, these colorful birds hopped among the emerging leaves of the tree.

Hungry after their dangerous and exhausting flights from the tropics, a feast awaited them. Caterpillars had just hatched out to take advantage of tasty new maple leaves. Throughout our wooded countryside, trillions of these tiny protein packed insect larvae were doing the same. The abundance of caterpillars not only feeds the migrant birds but enables them to nest and raise young. Baby birds grow quickly with this nourishment.

We sometimes call these tiny caterpillars "inchworms". Despite their diminutive size, they have an out-sized appetite for tender tree leaves just unfurling with the warmth



of spring. Maple, oak, basswood, willow, aspen, birch, ash and cherry are all targets. Some inchworms are specialists that feed on only a couple of types of trees or shrubs. Others are more catholic in their tastes. No leaf escapes being munched on by caterpillars.

The large maple spanworm prefers the sugar maple by my back door. It maxes out at an inch and a half before ceasing growth and forming a pupa. These overwinter in the soil. The spanworm is gray-brown in color. It fools predators by stiffening its body when threatened, resembling a short twig. It becomes a two-inch moth in shades of brown.

The green-striped mapleworm also favors its namesake. Its body is light green with darker green stripes running lengthwise. It's covered with short spikes which may deter predators. Its brownish head has two long filament "horns" protruding from the neck area. Pink markings on the underside give a clue as to its adult form. It becomes the rosy maple moth. This small moth has pale yellow and pink wings. It's very pretty and common to see.

These two maple loving caterpillars share little in looks other than having long, slender bodies. *Caterpillars* written and beautifully illustrated with watercolors by Amy Bartlett Wright introduces us to 120 common caterpillars of North America. This Peterson guide differentiates caterpillars by their varied appearances.

About thirty percent have hairs, bristles or spines that deter most, but not all birds as predators. About sixty percent have smooth skin without hair. They may have knobs, bumps, filaments or horns but are not hairy, making them more attractive to our feathered friends.



Above: Large Maple Spanworm

Left: Rosy Maple Moth

In September, the warblers returned to our maple tree. They were on their reverse migration, emptying out of the northeastern forests, heading back to the tropics for the winter. Using my binoculars, I saw them plucking tiny reddish-brown caterpillars from beneath the leaves.

These were likely fall cankerworms that feed on many kinds of trees. These caterpillars can lower themselves from trees on long strands of silk. Winds then carry them to new trees to find food. The female lays her eggs in a compact mass around small twigs where the eggs overwinter. A true inchworm, it also has a light, greenish brown form with side stripes.

It is no accident that warblers time their arrivals with the hatching of these tasty treats. These protein rich meals help fuel their long and perilous journeys.

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Mary Adams has written: "New Hampshire often gets overlooked in the narrative of the American Revolution, overshadowed by its noisy neighbor to the south. Nowadays, few people know about Paul Revere's first ride, which was to Portsmouth in December 1774 to warn the patriots that the British were coming to reinforce Fort William and Mary, five months before the Redcoats marched on Concord and Lexington. Nor do they know that two-thirds of the troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill were from New Hampshire. Most people are also unaware that New Hampshire's Provincial Congress adopted the first state constitution in January 1776, making no mention of royal authority and essentially declaring independence from Great Britain six months before anyone else. And this is just the beginning of New Hampshire's revolutionary story."

The Annual Meeting is for members of the Walpole Historical Society. All are welcome to join and can do so the evening of the Annual Meeting. There is no need to be a resident of Walpole or to have a long history of ancestors in New Hampshire. Please consider attending our Annual Meeting and joining in all our activities! For more information, please visit www.WalpoleHistory.com.

-Christie Winmill

SBW Photo Contest

Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) is pleased to announce a call for entries for its 2027 Community Calendar Photo Contest. The contest runs through Sunday, May 31.

Now in its eighth year, this annual contest celebrates the people, places, and experiences that make our region unique. SBW invites both amateur and professional photographers to submit images that capture the beauty and character of New Hampshire, with a focus on local events, attractions, businesses, and everyday moments within the Monadnock Region.

Selected images will be featured in SBW's 2027 wall calendar and may also appear in other marketing materials, including the Bank's website, holiday cards, and note cards.

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded for each winning photo, and participants may submit up to 10 entries. All submissions must be made electronically. Entries will be evaluated based on subject matter, quality, and how well they reflect the spirit of the contest.

"We've been inspired year after year by the creativity and perspective of photographers in our community," said Danielle Ruffo, Vice President of Community Engagement & Marketing. "We encourage photographers of all skill levels to share what makes this



Photo by Jennifer Desautell

place special to them. We're excited to see this year's submissions."

Entries must be submitted through the contest link on SBW's website. Visit www.walpolebank.com/photocontest for complete rules, details, and submission information. No purchase is necessary to enter or win. All entries must be received by Sunday, May 31.



Selectboard - April 9:

Special Town Meeting to Approve a Bond for the New Police Station: Mr. Dalessio emailed Peggy Pschirrer the correction needed for the draft Petition for a Special Town Meeting. Attorney Hockensmith will correct the document. There was a discussion of the date of 7/27/2026 for a Town Meeting. It was felt that the business of the Town needs to continue independent of citizen vacations and travel. The Police Station Committee is close to selecting an architect to prepare the design. It should be available by the Special Town Meeting date.

Memorial Day Parade: Approval was sought to add a bus of Veterans from Maplewood to the parade. The bus will be decorated and placed just before the fire trucks. The Board thinks that will be a good addition to the parade.

Boat Launch Clean-up: Mr. Dalessio announced the Police Department, with help from the Highway Department and Recycling Center, cleaned up the boat launch in North Walpole. Ruggerio donated the dumpster and some labor. Other volunteers included Kara Dexter.

ashuelot concerts

Louisa Stonehill (violin),
Francisco Vila (cello) &
Nicholas Burns (piano)

Music for Mothers' Day
Bellows Falls Opera House
May 10, 3PM

Haydn, Dvorak & Mendelssohn
Piano Trios

Book online:
ashuelotconcerts.org



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
Thursday, May 14 - Friday, May 15
11 am - 4 pm both days

at the Flat Iron Cooperative - 51 Square - Bellows Falls, VT
Wednesday, May 20 - Thursday, May 21
Wednesday, May 27 - Thursday, May 28
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 Reyms — Questions may be directed to preyns@yahoo.com

- Grant from Page 1



TerrainHopper

its entire trail network.

“Over the past thirteen years,” noted Michael Nerrie, founder, builder, and steward of Distant Hill, “we have designed and built more than two miles of wheelchair-accessible trails, as well as several miles of traditional hiking trails. However, due to the terrain, some areas of our 155-acre property cannot support conventional accessible trails. Until now, those areas have remained off-limits to many visitors. Thanks to the Reeve Foundation Quality of Life grant, our TerrainHopper has changed that. It removes the last major barrier to accessibility, opening all of our trails—not just the officially designated accessible routes—to wheelchair users and others with mobility challenges.”

With this grant, Distant Hill is taking an important step toward fulfilling its mission to make nature and outdoor spaces accessible to everyone in our community, so all can experience the beauty, health benefits, and deep connection that come from exploring the natural world.

The TerrainHopper mobility vehicle is offered in partnership with Monadnock Outdoors and the Cheshire County Conservation District. Monadnock Outdoors is a collaboration of community leaders dedicated to building a healthier, more connected region where individuals thrive by engaging with nature and staying active. Their goal is to promote physical activity, active transportation, and a love of the outdoors to enhance the overall well-being and vitality of the Monadnock region.

Remember Where You Were? What You Were Doing? and When?

May 5, 1961 – As a ninth grader, standing outside the school auditorium, the school PA system came on and we listened in silence as Alan Shepherd completed his flight as the first American to travel into space. Then noise and cheering broke out.

Friday, November 22, 1963 – Mrs. Alston and I were leaving the high school auditorium after making final preparations for the opening night of the Drama Club’s production of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM. Exiting the door the PA system came on followed by wailing and tears. Shows cancelled, weekend spent in front of the television trying to understand JFK’s assassination.



July 20, 1969 – Apollo 11 mission lands the first two humans on the Moon, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. I watched it live in the Officers’ Wardroom aboard the USS Bushnell, AS-15. Later decided to pay outrageous cable TV connection cost in Key West, Florida. (my base pay was \$222.22 a month then)

September 11, 2001 – Working in the bookshop with TV on in background, Cathy at dog groomers – the Twin Towers come down. I call asking her to get home immediately, scared we all had no idea what was going on. I called the US Navy Supply Corps detailers and volunteered to be recalled to active duty.

May 13, 2008, shortly after 3 pm. – Did not sound like our car in the driveway with Cathy returning. Going to the door there stood Mike and Justin in uniform. “Cathy was in an accident and is not coming home.” Next 48 hours a blur.

April 10, 2026 – 8:07 pm – ARTEMIS II Splashdown — peacefully viewing while “on break” at the West Mountain Inn, Arlington, VT – lovely Inn, and all to myself. Decided to reflect back and write this.

Some things stay with us indelibly. Cherish every moment.

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by Erik Doescher

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5K District Dash - Fun Run & Walk



The District Dash is a primary fundraiser for the Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association (FMEEA). All proceeds go directly back into our community through FMEEA grants. This year alone, we provided 21 grants totaling \$52,914 to teachers across the Fall Mountain Regional School District. These funds have supported enriching experiences for our students, including the TIGER Program, guest speakers, various museum trips, hands-on science fairs, and performing arts opportunities.

Event Details: Saturday, May 16 at the Fall Mountain Regional High School trails in Langdon. Registration opens at 8:00 am - Kids' Fun Run: 9:15 am - 5K Race Start: 10:00 am.

We would love for you to join us this year as a runner, a sponsor, or both! Pre-registration is now open. For more information and to sign up, please visit our website: <https://fmeea.com/district-dash-5k>.

-Kim Lewis



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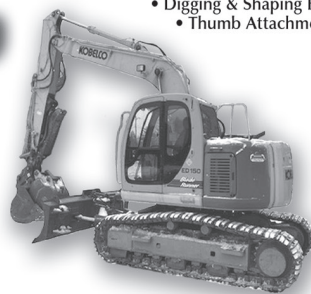


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Walpole Students Read Pages for Pizza

By London Swain and McKinley Ruskowski (8th grade)

Walpole Schools celebrated the month of March with a reading challenge that fed brains and bellies. Walpole. Students in grades Pre-K through 8th grade took on the Pages for Pizza reading challenge. The challenge had grade level reading requirements in order to earn a free personal 1-topping pizza from Diamond Pizza. For the challenge, each student reads as much as they can for the month and keeps a log of their pages read signed by a parent, teacher, or other adult. Here were the requirements for each grade level:

- PreK: 20 Books
- Grade K: 25 Books
- Grade 1: 30 Books
- Grade 2: 500 Pages
- Grade 3: 750 Pages
- Grades 4-8: 1,000 Pages

This year, Mr. Cassarino also offered a challenge to grades 5-8 that, if any individual class could beat a team of teachers and their combined page total for the month, they would receive a class ice cream party. Many students rose to the challenge. This year's impressive team of teachers, which included Mrs. McGuirk, Mr. Gagnon, Mrs. Etzweiler, Mrs. Ronning, and Mrs. Manwaring.

The team of teachers finished with 12,508 total pages for this challenge. Class 5-1 read 21,096 total pages while 5-2 led the entire school with 47,055 pages. Class 6-1 read 24,225 pages and 6-2 finished with 32,462 pages. Class 7-1 read 4,507 pages while 7-2 read 15,088 pages. Finally, 8-1 finished the month with 14,612 pages and 8-2 with 14,833 pages read. It was another fun and terrific March to build literacy and community with the help of two of the greatest things in the world: books and pizza.

Walpole 8th Graders Make Annual Trek to Fenway

By Sawyer Dumont (8th grade)

On Wednesday April 8th, the entire 8th grade at Walpole Elementary School took a field trip to Fenway Park. We left the school at around six in the morning and got back at around eight o'clock that night. This was the third or fourth time that our school has participated in the Red Sox STEM Day. The Red Sox host a couple of educational days each spring and we have been lucky enough to go. This year, the morning sessions were hosted by NASA. The presentations included a Q and A with an actual astronaut, as well as student made bottle rockets. Walpole once again participated in the egg drop off of the Green Monster. The structure was built by Corbin Beam, Will Lent, and Liam Stahler. After taking a tumble off of the Green Monster, the egg survived without cracking or breaking.

The game began a little after one. The Red Sox cruised to 5-0 win over the Milwaukee Brewers. It was cold and windy but very entertaining and fun.

Staff of the Month: Kathleen Sherrod

By Wilder Moffit (6th grade)

Mrs. Sherrod is currently the 5th and 6th grade math and science teacher at Walpole Elementary School.

She has been in Walpole for over a decade now. She has been teaching for 29 years. When she taught elementary school, she did all subjects but math for 7th and 8th but 2 years for 5th and 6th grade. She has even taught split grade classes. Mrs. Sherrod has no favorite grade as she thinks that every grade is fun to teach.

Mrs. Sherrod's goal as a teacher is to make students see math as an important subject and one that is not boring. She wants everybody to have a better understanding of math.

She has had many jobs in her life. These jobs have included babysitting, working at a pet store, working at the GAP, and working at the company Avon, which is in her home country of Canada. While she has had many jobs, her passion is in education. She loves teaching and cannot imagine doing anything else. She wants to teach until she can't anymore.



The Super Mario Galaxy Movie: My Review

By: Wilder Moffit (6th Grade)

I went to see the new Mario movie and I'm going to tell you what I thought, so grab some popcorn and sit back and relax and enjoy the ride.

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie was released on April 1st. I went to see it with a friend of mine, Bryce. When I saw it the weekend it was released. My score is 10/10 no notes. The choreography was amazing, the pacing was phenomenal, and Yoshi, the Brothers' dinosaur sidekick, made for absolute cinema. I think Donald Glover/Childish Gambino did a great job as the voice actor Yoshi, while Chris Pratt turned in another great performance as the voice actor for Mario.

All of the casting decisions of this amazing film made an impact on the viewing pleasure. I hope they make another which, after strong opening weeks at the box office, seems promising. Princess Daisy was announced to be in the next movie which is amazing. They could also go in a slightly different direction by making a Super Smash Bros. movie which the box office would sky rocket with sales. I was a little disappointed that Donkey Kong wasn't featured in this film but he is going to have his own movie soon which is good for Donkey Kong fans. I want to see this movie 20 more times or even 100 times since it was so good. I think that the Rotten Tomatoes ratings are a bunch of bogus. The movie's critics rating is 44% which is absurd, but the popcorn meter, which ranks the audience's approval rating, is "Verified Hot" at 89% as of this writing. I would agree with the latter score.

Pokemon Legends: Z-A review

By Nolan Palmer (6th grade) and Isaac Putney (7th grade)

Pokemon Legends: Z-A is the newest game in the legends series. It, in our opinion, is a really great game that can be difficult at times, but the progression is way better than Legends Arceus. Instead of taking place in the past, it is in the future.

Instead of having regional forms, there are new mega evolutions. The starters are Totodile, Chickorita, and Tepig. Meganium has the worst base stats, but they are close. Meganium's base stats are

625, while Emboar has base stats of 528, and Feraligatr has 530.

The game starts with you (the player) going to Lumios City. You then meet someone who helps you get your bag back. Then she takes you to Hotel Z, which you rest in. After that, she invites you to her team. Then you are ready to catch some Pokemon. She gives you Pokeballs to catch them.



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“Lights ... Camera”

On April 4 from 6 pm until 6:30 am the next morning the Walpole Police Department closed County Road between house numbers 364 and 409 for a FILM SHOOT. Assisting in the location selection was Walpole native Rudi Gohl who serves as the co-producer of the film. Rudi told the CLARION, “I was brought on by one of the producers, Ari Adams. We went to the Putney School together and his brother, Zak, is the director. They brought me on as a producer as well, which was great for me to be able to work on a film in my hometown while reconnecting with an old friend. It was too good to be true.” Rudi shared that filming included a car crash scene on County Road with amazing help from the Walpole Police, Fire and Highway Departments.

The film, *Here, Kitty* is an independent psychological thriller set in Vermont, centering on a couple grappling with the recent loss of their child to a miscarriage. When the couple take in a stray cat, their quiet attempt at healing turns increasingly unsettling, as the animal's presence begins to blur the line between comfort and menace. The film captures the distinctive beauty and melancholy of New England towns, where atmosphere and landscape reflect the emotional descent at the heart of the story.

-Ray Boas

Women of Walpole

WOW members enjoyed a social gathering the evening of April 15 at Margie Palmer's home after a brief business meeting. The May WOW meeting will be held at the Walpole Historical Society at 2 pm on Wednesday May 20; Christie Winmill, President of the Historical Society will talk about some past and present Walpole history. If you have not been to the Historical Society building this will be a wonderful opportunity to visit.

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

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Great Decisions

On Monday, May 11, at 6:00 pm in the Walpole Town Library, “Great Decisions” will present “The Future of Human Rights and International Law” exploring the status of human rights and international law in the United States. It may surprise you to learn how very few international human rights treaties have been ratified by the U.S. Congress.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, is the most translated document in the world. While this is cause for optimism, the undermining of human rights in the U.S. – targeting women, immigrants, non-white racial and ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ individuals – has reached levels not seen since the UN's establishment. Why has this happened?

The relevant reading is “The Future of Human Rights and International Law in a Divided World” by Jose E. Alvarez. A copy of this article, published by the Foreign Policy Association, is available at the library and can be emailed to you upon request to our Library Director: jmalberg@walpoletownlibrary.org If you are joining the discussion via Zoom, please request the Zoom link and join at 6:30 pm; in-person meeting begins at 6:00 pm with a Master Class video.

-Sue Kibbe

On Set ...

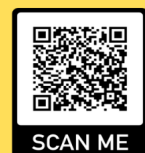


2026 EVENTS at DISTANT HILL



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 to learn more





Thank you to everyone who made Earth Day special this year. We loved seeing so many community members outside in support of our Earth at both our 5K and hike. A big thank you to our 5K sponsors and donors: Walpole Veterinary Hospital, Galloway Real Estate, Walpole Grocery, and Allen Brothers.

We invite you to join us for the Hooper Birthday Picnic on May 16 from 1-3 pm as we celebrate the legacy of George Hooper, whose generosity established the trust that continues to support our programs today. This community gathering honors that legacy while supporting hands-on learning opportunities for the Walpole community through Hooper Institute programs. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon on the grounds of the Hooper Institute with activities, time with friends and neighbors, and a shared celebration of our programs.

This event includes a potluck lunch (sign-up required), 50/50 raffle, bake sale, yard games, and more! Proceeds from this event directly support and sustain Hooper Institute programs and hands-on learning experiences.

We are also excited to announce that we have been awarded the Cheshire County Conservation District's Conservation Opportunity Fund! This grant will support the development of a native plant garden at the Walpole Primary School, creating a new space for teaching and learning.

A few spots are left to dig into the garden season on May 7th from 5:00-6:30 pm at our Soil Health workshop with Fritze Till. Registration is required and available on our website or by emailing hooper.director@gmail.com.

Our Flower CSA is back! Sign up to receive six weeks of fresh, locally grown flower bouquets, featuring seasonal blooms such as sunflowers, zinnias, and dahlias, all cultivated and arranged by high school students and

staff in our school gardens.



Make Mother's Day meaningful with a unique, locally grown gift. Subscriptions are \$120 through Mother's Day and \$140 afterward. Bouquets will be available for weekly pick-up at the Hooper Institute (165 Prospect Hill Rd), beginning July 10. Proceeds support our educational programs, school gardens, and hands-on learning opportunities for our high school student workers. Availability is limited; contact hooper.director@gmail.com to purchase a subscription.

-Greta Drager

Hooper Scholarship

The Hooper Scholarship was established as a trust in the will of George L. Hooper to foster and promote the teaching and learning of agriculture, forestry, botany, conservation, environmental sciences, and the development and improvement of soils. This scholarship is available to all Walpole NH citizens, regardless of age, who wish to pursue study in these and other closely related fields. Since its inception in 1998, many Walpole students and adult residents have received funding. By May 15 of each calendar year, applicants for college or graduate coursework scholarships should submit a letter of application outlining accomplishments to date and the proposed program of study for the upcoming year, recent academic transcripts, and household financial information. Applications for workshops or seminars such as bee keeping, seed saving, cheese making, sustainable agricultural practices, food security, alternative energies should submit a letter of application outlining the proposed workshop/seminar, its applicability to support study in appropriate fields, an fee information. Applications are accepted throughout the year. All application materials should be submitted to Chair, The George L. Hooper Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 729, Walpole Town Hall, Walpole NH. 03608

-Carol Malnati

MAY 16
H.O.T.
 (HELP OUR TRAILS)
DAY

9am meet at Town Hall
 Bring tools, humor, and energy
 to help our trails until noon
 (There will be coffee, donuts, & camaraderi)

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Save the Date(s)

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

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

Sept 19 - WHS hosts Prof. RAB

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FROM THE CLARION

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

One Year Ago (May 2025) - Plans to build a new energy-efficient facility for the Walpole Village School at 75 Westminster Street are moving forward. The new building will feature a multi-purpose Community Room available for broader public use when school is not in session.

Three Years Ago (May 2023) - Mud Season (noun): "A time of year (such as early spring) that is characterized by excessively muddy ground" was among the 370 new words added to the Merriam Webster Dictionary.

Five Years Ago (May 2021) - This year marks the 100th anniversary of Hubbard Farms. Oliver Hubbard graduated from the New Hampshire Agriculture College in 1921, and began his commercial poultry business in Walpole.

Seven Years Ago (May 2019) - The Walker Road Conservation Project Open House was held May 11, The Gateway to Walpole was threatened with the prospect of a gas station taking over a beautiful piece of agricultural land until the townspeople of Walpole acted.

Nine Years Ago (May 2017) - In 1761, John Graves bought property in Walpole. Great Brook Farm came into existence beginning a tradition of dairy farming. Now, after nine generations and 256 years the cows are gone.

Eleven Years Ago (May 2015) - There will not be a regular weekly Walpole Farmers' Market. The WFM is in transition, and is in the process of figuring out what a farmers market in Walpole might look like in the future.

Thirteen Years Ago (May 2013) - The (late) Real Twist Soft Serve Ice Cream stand held its first Classic Car Cruise Night of the season Sunday, May 19.

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The WALPOLE Clarion

A monthly for the Walpole Community

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

Submissions about community events
and achievements welcomed.

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rayboas@comcast.net

June Deadline - May 21

Ray Boas: Layout & Design

The Walpole Clarion on-line at:
thewalpoleclarion.com

Pinnacleview 4-H

This month Pinnacleview 4-H members got to participate in Cheshire County 4-H Presents at Fall Mountain Regional High School Sunday April 19. Members of different 4-H clubs from across Cheshire County were able to present different topics that interest them, using a poster, doing a table top presentation, public speaking or even sending in a picture or poster. 4-H presents is a communications contest which allows 4-H members to develop oral and visual communication skills. Pinnacleview, members Alana Lee, Emma-Ann Lee, Alyssa Frederic, Connor Frederic, Sophia Formica, Paisley Bigelow, Reagan Westover, Brady Westover sent in pictures. Posters were entered by Evie Formica on Cow and Dairy products, and Khloe Guathier on showmanship. The members who did table tops were Savannah Anderson on A.I. in the dairy industry, Sawyer Rowina on maple syrup, Harper Gauthier on women's wrestling, and Reagan Westover on the jersey cow. Then there was member Connor Frederic who did a public speech about trains of the twin states. Some Pinnacleview members were able to move forward with their entries to the NH State 4-H Presents. including Sophia Formica, Alyssa Frederic, Emma-Ann Lee, Connor Frederic, Alanna Lee, Savannah Anderson, Reagan Westover.

-Alyssa Frederic

Pinnacleview members who made it to "state" holding their pictures.
From left to right: Alanna Lee, Emma-Ann Lee, Alyssa Frederic, Sophia Formica

-Photo: Michelle Langholff



PUBLISHERS CORNER

Reading the New York Times feeds every morning, an article I started this morning, 22 April, caused me to pause to share with you here. The article - "A Year After U.S.A.I.D.'s Death, Fired Workers Find Few Jobs and Much Loss" - can be Googled. With "Shunpiking with Ray" I enjoy sharing my travel stories on-line - "I write to remember and write to share." Reading this Time's article I felt the need to share.

Reading the personal stories in this article you come to realize a loss to one individual or family is not solitary. There is a "trickle down" impact. In the case of U.S.A.I.D., created in 1961 under President Kennedy, nearly all of the agency's 16,000 employees lost their jobs, as well as about 280,000 contractors, partners and local hires worldwide. Consider the lack of income, not only to purchase food and bare essentials, but first to go is discretionary spending for entertainment and things. Forty-year olds have moved back home with parents to survive.

My never complaining Dad (who lost both of his legs due to poor circulation) taught me, "Ray, there is always someone worse off." I reflect on his teachings and feel blessed. My out-of-print book business has become almost non-existent. It is the way our country and economy has recently changed. I will be fine but I care greatly for those less fortunate. It is hard to comprehend what many must be trying to do to survive. We all need to find our own way(s) to make an impact and help — if only by filling a "red bag."

-Ray Boas, Publisher

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