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Cold River Conservation in Walpole

In August, the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) conducted a project along the Cold River in Walpole. The mission of the CRC is to restore and advocate for clean water, healthy habitats, and resilient communities to support a diverse and thriving watershed. In this project, they conducted a biostabilization and bank restoration project for a Walpole landowner restoring a bank that had lost approximately 30-40 feet of land in just the last five years due to the flash flood nature of the Cold River which caused the degradation. The restoration of this section was supported by funding from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which helps farmers, for-

est landowners, and rural communities conserve natural resources.

The restoration process, as documented in a YouTube video, uses nature-based biostabilization techniques, to include root wad (the roots and stem of a tree) installations, soil lifts, and boulders and footer logs to absorb the impact of high-level waters rather than letting them hit the raw riverbanks directly. Later the bench/steps that were created are planted with shrubs and trees to hold the bank for the long term.

To learn more about the Connecticut River Conservancy - visit - <https://www.ctriver.org/>

-Ray Boas

Annual Crop Walk

The Annual Walpole Crop Hunger-Walk will be held Saturday, October 10. Crop Walk Hunger Walks are held throughout the country every year, and Walpole churches and community groups have joined the Crop Walk each fall for the past 25 years. Funds raised go to Church World Service (CWS) to alleviate hunger, assist in disaster situations, sustainable agriculture, and clean water practices both locally and beyond. Twenty five percent of what our walk receives in donations goes to our chosen local recipient, the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. In recent years, that amount has been between \$3,000 to \$5,000.

- Continued Page 2



YouTube Video — Biostabilization Project in Walpole

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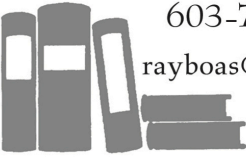
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-Crop Walk from Page 1

Please mark your calendar and join the walk on Walk Day, Saturday, October 10th at 9:15 am. The walk is an approximately three mile stroll around the village. We meet at the First Congregational Church on the Common, where you can check in or register if you have not already done so online. The walk begins at 9:30.

To participate in the walk, to register, to donate, or to find out more about the CROP Walk, go to www.crop-hungerwalk.org/walpolenh. If you are not able to participate in the walk, but would like to donate, please consider donating, using the secure link.

The need is especially great this year due to federal funding cuts. The reduction is felt both locally and globally. Along with other food shelves, the NH Food Shelf lost nearly \$1,000,000 in Federal funds this year leading to a drop in certain types of donations such as fresh produce, dairy products and proteins.

Thank you for supporting the Walpole Crop Walk. Your support is always appreciated. CWS is a 501(c) (3) organization with a four star rating from Charity Navigator.

For questions please call
Jana Sellarole - 603-313-4076

Its Down To 0.014 Inch

Heather Cox Richardson is a noted historian at Boston College who, on September 15, 2019, published her first post on Facebook that has become an almost daily **Letters from An American** in which she carefully reviews and presents the current political scene while reflecting and comparing with our country's history. Her writing style takes a classroom-teaching approach designed to explain fundamental democratic and constitutional concepts to the public without judgement. Her work is fully documented with notes.

A snippet from her September 13 message I found of interest: "...Trump's attempt to use the United States Postal

Service to screen mail-in voting has recently had a test run. Yesterday, Jim Saksa of *Democracy Docket* picked up a story from Jeff Berlew of the *Tallahassee Democrat* to report that the USPS rejected mailed ballots from Leon County, in Florida, because the words "return service requested" were only 0.236 inches from the election office's return address. They were supposed to be a full quarter-inch apart. So, the delivery of those mail in ballots came down to a federal complaint about a spacing issue of 0.014 of an inch. ..." Her delving goes deeper and more revealing than most traditional news sources.

You can find Heather on Substack at — <https://substack.com/@heather-coxr Richardson> — and you may wish to sign up for her free email along with 2.9 million other subscribers.

(Endnote: On September 15, 2026, Heather related how **Letters from An American** began seven years ago. I have that reproduced on the CLARION website, linked from the homepage. Take the time to read, and hopefully then subscribe,)

Police Statistics

On September 18 the CLARION received the recent Town of Walpole Staff reports which included Walpole Police Department Statistics from August 1-31, 2026. That report presents "raw numbers" in both bar graph and pie chart format. In July the Police had 552 calls, and in August 538. The 538 included: Criminal Investigations 115; Public Safety 263; and, Motor Vehicle 160. Definitions of these categories, and examples of what is happening in town and where were requested early this year but have not yet been provided. With those definitions and examples Walpole residents can become safer, and potentially assist our force in providing additional "eyes and ears" as to what may be going on. In addition such information will help voters when the funding for the new Police Station comes up again for a vote.

-Ray Boas

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://walpoleuu.org/>

River Valley Church
Sunday
9:00 am and 10:30 am
38 Elm St., Walpole
rivervalleychurch.com

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

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Congo Church Welcomes Melissa

The First Congregational Church of Walpole welcomed Melissa O'Brien as its interim minister when she led her first Sunday service on September 27.

Melissa lives in Peru, Vermont with her partner, former Stratton Mountain School cross country coach, teacher and headmaster, Sverre Caldwell, and their Yellow Lab pup, Buster. She previously served United Church of Christ congregations in both Peru and Pawlet, Vermont and most recently was the interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs—the town where she grew up.

A graduate of St. Lawrence University, Melissa earned a master's degree in education from the University of Vermont and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Care from the Fordham University School of Religion. She has worked in hospice and hospital chaplaincy, and spends a great deal of her time with seniors in care communities. She loves to host Soul Circles, Soul Food dinners, and open community conversations on end of life.

Melissa was drawn to First Congregational Church by its history, its people, and "the possibilities inherent in this wonderful community." "I felt an immediate affection for this congregation," she said, "And I am eager to become part of the wider Walpole community and to try new things, like Waffle Church for families and Supper Church in the evenings. There are lots of ways

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to be church in 2026. It's great to stay open and curious, and it's clear that the folks at First Congregational are that."

Melissa has three adult children: Sam and his wife, Mišel, who recently bought a home in Exeter, New Hampshire; Nate and his wife, Gretta, who live in Vermont, and Helen, who lives and plays in Bozeman, Montana. Melissa enjoys nearly every kind of winter activity, including alpine skiing, hockey, snowshoeing, and sledding. During the warmer months, she rides her e-bike around town and grows an abundance of flowers and vegetables.

Above all, she looks forward to meeting the people of Walpole, getting to know the other ministers and churches in town, hearing their stories, and discovering what she, the congregation and community might create together during this next exciting chapter.

**Melissa with (left to right)
Sam, Nate and Helen.**





An event every Saturday 12:30 pm at the Museum

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

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

October 3 – **Historical Treasure Hunt** - a hunt throughout the museum, devised by Liam and Lily Schoen, which will reward visitors with surprising discoveries as well as delicious refreshments and great prizes! Fun for all ages!

October 10 – **Favorite Dolls from Our Childhoods** - Every doll has a story and the ones we treasure and keep have the best stories. Loribeth Robare loves to play with dolls. She has collected dolls her whole life and has been a doll maker for the past 40 years. Please join her on October 10th and bring your favorite doll (past or present) for a fun show and tell. We will be looking at antique dolls from the Historical Society collection along with unique handmade dolls, dolls from the past and some from the not too distant past. If you love dolls, please join us!

October 17 – **Celebration of George and Martha Washington** - with tea, cake, and special refreshments featuring the Washington favorite – cherries! The couple's love story will be explored with readings from Mary Higgins Clark's thoroughly researched book, **Mount Vernon Love Story**. Enter a raffle to win an antique tea set complete with vintage linens. prizes! Fun for all ages!



Prof. RAB's WAGON OF WONDERS arrived at the Walpole Historical Society Museum, Saturday, September 19 to a welcoming crowd to exhibit his collection of WALPOLE WONDERS. Studying Walpole's history and its important events, the Professor has for fourteen years been searching for possible and probable remarkable relics, remnants and remains of extant items potentially representing Walpole Wonders of History.

Twenty historical events were represented with associated plausible artifacts covering from Lake Hitchcock (which in fact covered Walpole) through to the early and late twentieth century. Visitors were amazed

(and often amused) by items such as the leftovers from the feast at Goldsmith Tavern in 1777; the Horse Thieve's last rescued nag; and, the first divot made on opening day of the Hooper Golf Club.

The most recently found Wonder came about from the DID YOU KNOW THAT ARTICLE in the July issue of this paper. That article discussed the tearing down of the Statue of King George III on July 9, 1776, in New York City following the reading of the Dec-



laration of Independence. Carted off to Connecticut to be made into bul-

lets several pieces of lead were stolen along the way. In later years one such piece was almost melted by a Wilton, Connecticut, plumber to be used in his trade. Reading that story, Mark Houghton remembered some metal scraps his family had saved for possible use. One such piece had a story — could it be? Could this melted piece have been salvaged when the Town Hall burned down in 1917 as legend may have said? Mark talked with the Professor about it just before it was to be remelted and cast as a Water Meter Housing. Could it be part of the Paul Revere Bell salvaged from the 1917 fire? Loaning it instead to the Professor for the day's exhibit, the metal blob prompted much interest and excitement. Is it potentially possible?

The Exhibition Booklet
from the exhibit:
WALPOLE WONDERS
may be viewed from a link
on the CLARION website.

Three Nights of Halloween Fun

Halloween is returning to downtown Bellows Falls with a weekend of spooky fun at the Bellows Falls Opera House. The Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA) invites the community to enjoy classic Halloween entertainment while helping support the restoration of the Opera House Lower Theater.

The festivities begin on Wednesday, October 28, with a special screening of the beloved 1986 cult classic *The Worst Witch*, part of the Opera House's Wednesday Night Classic Movie series, and starring Fairuza Balk, Diana Rigg, Charlotte Rae, and Tim Curry as the unforgettable Grand Wizard. The film has become a Halloween favorite for generations of fans and is the perfect way to kick off a weekend of spooky fun.

On Thursday, October 29, the Haunted House opens for a Family-Friendly Low Scare Night from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, offering younger visitors and families the chance to experience the attraction with toned-down scares in a fun Halloween atmosphere.

For those looking for something more intense, the full Haunted House returns on Friday, October 30, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, featuring frightening scenes, unexpected surprises, and plenty of Halloween thrills throughout the Lower Theater. The evening concludes with a special screening of George A. Romero's horror classic *Night of the Living Dead* beginning at 10:00 pm. For more information, visit BellowsFallsVT.com or follow Bellows Falls, VT on Facebook and Instagram.

A poster for the Bellows Falls Haunted House event. The background is a dark, misty image of the Bellows Falls Opera House clock tower. The text is in a mix of bold, orange, and white fonts. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

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OCTOBER 28
CLASSIC MOVIE WEDNESDAY @BFOH
THE WORST WITCH | 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 29
FAMILY FRIENDLY, LOW SCARE
5:30-7:30 PM

OCTOBER 30
FULL SCARE | 6 - 9 PM
NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD - 10 PM

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Learn more: <https://bellowsfallsvt.org/haunted-house-2026/>

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You and your family are invited to a 'Walpole Welcomes Newcomers' Party

Saturday, October 3

(rain or shine)

2:00 – 5:00 pm

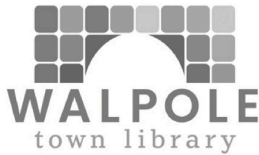
The Town Common

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

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

October at the Library

French Conversation Group. Thursday, October 8, from 2:00-3:00 pm, Main Library. Join us at the library for a monthly conversation group facilitated by Diane Nichols. Intermediate and advanced French speakers only..

Corbin's Animal Garden. Wednesday, October 14, at 6:00 pm, Main Library. Presenter Mary Kronenwetter discusses Corbin Park, a local 22,000-acre prestigious private hunting park that has hosted illustrious guests including Theodore Roosevelt, the Prince of Wales, Rudyard Kipling, and Augustus Saint Gaudens. This program is made possible by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities (nhhumanities.org).

Movie: *The Sheep Detectives*. Thursday, October 15, at 1:00 pm, Main Library. Bring your friends and some snacks to enjoy a film in our Community Room. disasters, you'll get an inside look at the catastrophic events that tested North Walpole's resolve.

Dia de Muertos/Day of the Dead. Thursday, October 22, 3:30 pm, Main Library. Families are invited to join an educator from the Mariposa Museum to learn about this vibrant festival. Registration require



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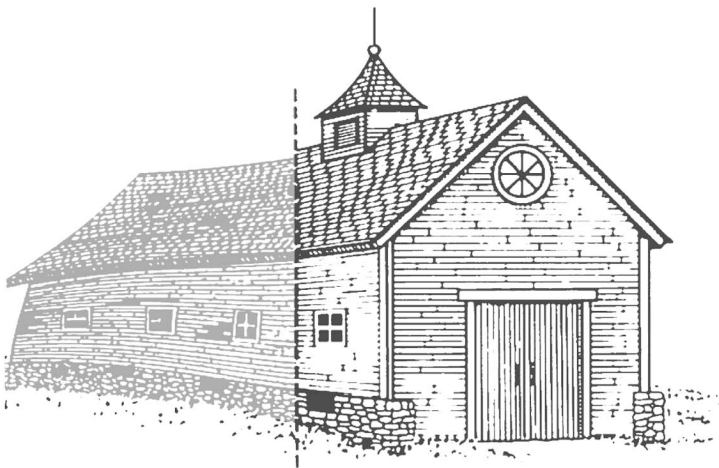
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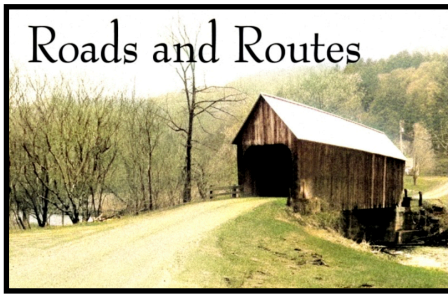
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Roads and Routes

(Since January 2021, I have occasionally included articles encouraging you to get out and explore our area. "Shunpiking" for decades, I enjoy documenting and sharing my experiences on - shunpikingwithray.com - my travel website.) Here is a close by afternoon outing that you can include with a lunch or dinner out, and answers the question you may have - WHAT HAPPENED WITH #6154?

You may have passed by Budd RDC #6154 on Route 12 just south of the Vilas Bridge and not even taken notice. There on the old remaining Boston and Maine railroad tracks sat, in disrepair, two Budd Rail Diesel Cars (RDC). An RDC is a self-propelled railcar, 85 feet in length, and able to operate in either direction. In October 2022, the Cheshire Railroad Depot in Troy, NH, purchased this best unit for \$6,000. Fundraising began, and the search for a capable mover. Raising \$20,000, the move from North Walpole to Troy, was accomplished November 30, 2023, for the car to be restored and displayed on 100 feet of track specially laid adjoining the original 1847 train station.

Saturday September 12, I began my day's explorations by finally visiting the Cheshire Railroad Depot and #6154. One of my faithful "shunpiking" readers asked me where the station was, to which I replied, "...In Troy heading south



with the Common on your left - instead of turning left at the end of the Common, turn right and take your first left on Depot Street (of course) and you will see the station down the hill." I enjoy museums, the work that goes into their exhibits, and the enthusiasm of docents, and may I say I am most impressed with what I saw and experienced in the time I visited here. Kim, the chairperson of the Troy Historical Society, was most welcoming and informative. She enjoys sharing local stories, and memories of train travel in our area, and hopes to document peoples' memories of those experiences.

I strongly encourage you visit here, maybe October 3rd for the 5th Annual Depot Day. For more information see the Troy NH Historical Society website - <https://www.troynhhistoricalsociety.com/new-page-1> - or my story and more details on "Shunpiking with Ray" at - <https://shunpikingwithray.com/2026/09/13/almost-riding-the-rails-12-september-2026-troy-nh/>



I AM READY...

ARE YOU?



Harmony at Home: A Musical Evocation of the Alcotts

Musicians of the Old Post Road, the acclaimed period instrument ensemble, will arrive in our midst this fall to play a concert unique and specific to Walpole in two ways. The concert, entitled **Harmony at Home: A Musical Evocation of the Alcotts**, will share a special moment in Walpole



history. And, the program will feature the amazing period instruments in the collection of the Walpole Historical Society. The performance will take place at 3 pm on November 1, 2026 in the Walpole Unitarian Church.

The Alcott family, including author Louisa May Alcott, lived in Wal-

pole for several years in the 1850s. Many of their experiences in Walpole later became episodes in Louisa's famous 1868 book, **Little Women**. The fortepiano to be featured in this concert is the **actual** instrument lent by Walpole resident Dr. Henry Whitney Bellows to the Alcott family during their stay in Walpole. This real-life Walpole event became a pivotal moment in Louisa's book.

This performance will feature the 1790s Bellows-Alcott fortepiano, as well as a period flute and violin from

the collection of the Walpole Historical Society. The program will celebrate the music played in the Alcott household: songs sung by the Alcotts, popular Scottish songs of the mid-nineteenth century, and American music played at dances in the 1850s.

Tickets for this highly anticipated concert will not be sold at the door. To avoid disappointment, please use the ticket form printed below to purchase your tickets in advance and insure yourself of a seat!



2026 Fall Concert

Harmony at Home: A Musical Evocation of the Alcotts

November 1, 2026 at 3 pm
Walpole Unitarian Church, 14 Union Street, Walpole, NH

To purchase tickets, return this form with your check in the enclosed envelope.
Tickets will be held at the door. No tickets will be mailed.

General seating: \$35 each x _____ = \$ _____
Reserved seating: \$50 each x _____ = \$ _____
Concert sponsorship: \$250 for 2 tickets & program recognition \$ _____

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Please mail this form and your check to: Walpole Historical Society, P.O. Box 292, Walpole, NH 03608 www.WalpoleHistory.com



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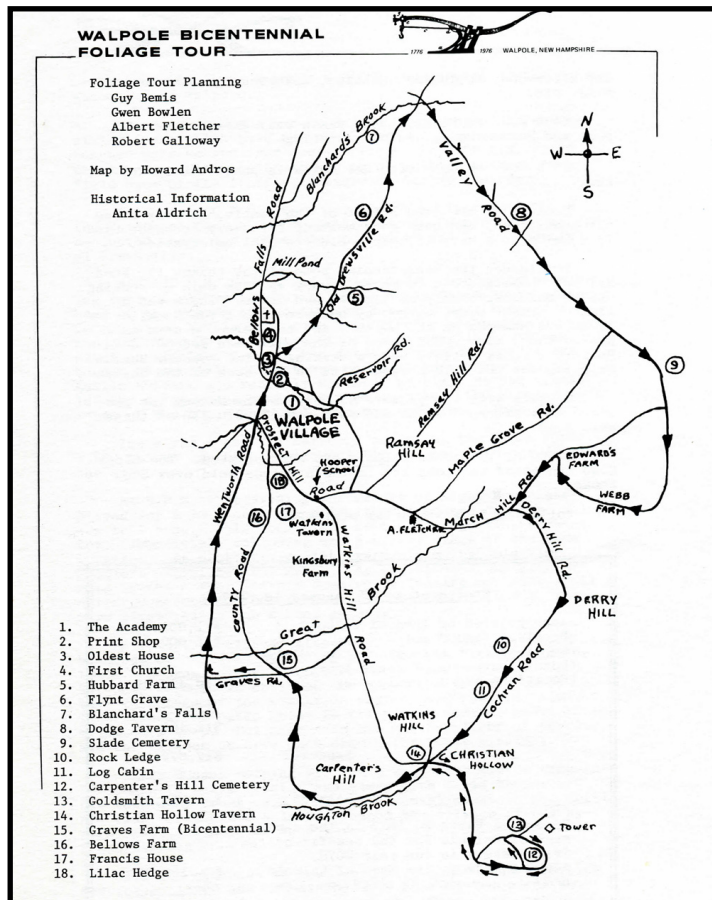
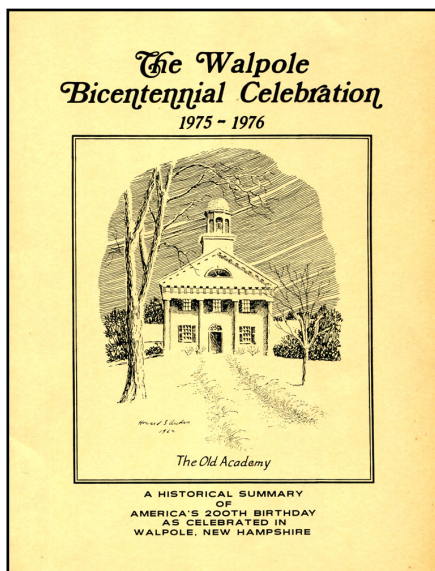
The **Walpole Bicentennial Foliage Tour** took place on October 5, 1975. As the leaves are beginning to fall and change some in 2026, I thought it appropriate to share that tour with its eighteen "special points of interest." Take the tour and you will see not much has changed since. A four page PDF of the tour with its full size map is available from a link on the CLARION website.

Quoting from the introduction to the tour in the Bicentennial booklet: "... you are starting your tour on the earliest surveyed road through Walpole. That was in 1762 (213 years ago) and at that time there were only two or three houses in what is now the present village. One of these houses is still standing and that is number three on your map. The

rest of the village was mostly forest land.

One hundred years ago, according to "Fogg's Gazetteer" for 1875, Walpole ranked third in the state in value of agricultural produce totaling \$254,095 and tabulated as follows: acres of improved land 19,433; number of horses 408; number of cattle 1,278; number of sheep 9,219; number of swine 441; bushels of wheat 1,001; of rye 514; of corn 38,660; of barley 33,373; pounds of wool 39,103; bushels of peas and beans 61; of potatoes 15,355; pounds of butter 50,000; of cheese, 4,670; gallons of milk sold 145; tons of hay 6,657; pounds of maple sugar 10,500 and pounds of tobacco 95,850."

Starting point for the tour is the "Academy Museum" (Walpole Historical Society) and soon departs the village heading to Drewsville on Old Drewsville Road, a recently designated



"Scenic Road." Looping on the outskirts of town on Valley Road you will swing back (do follow the fifty year old directions, but the old Fay Hill Road may be marked MacLean Road) soon turning sharply right before coming to the top of Barnett Hill Road (not so named on the booklet map). One of the most expansive views in town, stop and savor the views into Vermont, including Okeemo if there is no haze. Using the full size map beware as some of the numbered spots are in incorrect locations. Number 16, 17, and 18 are on Wentworth Road and not County Road. But, the main point is to get out and enjoy Walpole countryside, and what better time as when the leaves turn color. Also make your drives at different times of the year, and in opposite directions. If like me, each trip you will discover something "new."

FLORENTINE FILMS

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The Nature of Walpole

.....Eloise Clark

The first time I spied a porcupette it was cradled in the branches of an old apple tree. I was drawn by a mewling sound, almost like a kitten. Not quite knowing what was crying, I investigated and soon found a very adorable young porcupine.

The mother must have been nearby, as porcupettes nurse for about three months. They'll spend time with Mom learning where food sources and denning sites are within their home range before facing the winter alone. Porcupines will den in hollow trees, fallen logs, under rock overhangs or in crevices. They are excellent tree climbers with their long claws. They use their spiny tails to brace their bodies as they ascend a tree.

The porcupette encounter was decades ago, but on a recent evening, I heard the mewling sounds again. Although, this time they were punctuated with whimpers and screams. They seemed to be emanating from our pear tree. When I investigated the next morning, I found many of the tree's sucker shoots had been neatly snipped off and leaves were missing. Judging from the size of the tooth marks, I surmised our tree had been "niptwigged" by a porcupine.

As our second largest rodent after beavers, adult porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*) can weigh about 20 pounds and measure about 30" long. Their diet varies by season. I've seen them grazing in fields eating clover and dandelions. Corn is also a favorite. They'll consume berries, seeds, roots and stems. It's reported they are good swimmers and will eat pond lilies. They seem to have a particular

fondness for fruit trees and will consume both leaves and fruit.

They survive on their fat reserves and hemlock needles in winter. They will also gnaw through the bark of trees to reach the succulent inner bark. This can seriously wound a tree, sometimes girdling it. That means the flow between the leafy crown and the roots is cut off and the tree dies. As one can imagine, the porcupine is not a favorite of those who rely on trees for a living.

Because of their vegetarian diet, porcupines crave salt. They have excellent senses of smell, taste and hearing. They'll find their way to buildings with plywood floors which they'll demolish for the salty glue binding the layers. They can also damage vehicle tires. They'll gnaw on shed deer antlers and the bones of dead animals to obtain sodium and calcium. Sadly, salt draws them to roads where frequently they become road-kill.

And what of my distressed porcupine? I wondered if it's shrieks and moans meant a predator was on the attack? Although I heard no other sounds, the fisher is a known hunter of porcupines. Agile and arboreal, they can track down squirrels and specialize in porcupines, despite their 30,000 quills.

Usually, the quills serve as armor for porcupines, helping them waddle along in relative safety. When an



animal gets too close, the porcupine turns its back and lashes its tail. At the slightest touch the quills are released. These 2-3" hairs have a series of barb-like scales at the tips. When a quill is embedded, a sponge-like material within it absorbs fluids and expands, making it almost impossible to pull out. The porcupine will try to warn its attacker by chattering its teeth and emitting a foul odor.

Don't be spooked if you hear a mewling, moaning, wailing cacophony on a misty October night. It might just be a porcupine making its "siren calls" to lure a potential mate.

Happy Halloween!

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





Happy Fall! What a wonderful time of year to slow down, enjoy the changing leaves, and appreciate the beauty of a new season.

We have had a recent staff change here at the Hooper Institute. Some programs may look a little different in the coming weeks, and we appreciate your understanding and patience during this time. We remain committed to providing hands-on programming in our schools and community, and we look forward to continuing to offer meaningful experiences in Walpole.

Even with this transition, we are excited to announce that tickets are now on sale for our Hooper 100 Year Gala! We are excited to celebrate 100 years of Hooper programming and impact in Walpole. Information about purchasing tickets can be found in the Clarion, Walpolean, Hooper Newsletter, on our website, and social media. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at hooper.director@gmail.com or 603-756-4382.

Meanwhile, the start of the school year has been wonderful! Our students have been learning and exploring in the gardens, diving into the world of insects, and exploring some of their favorite fall themes, including owls, bats, and pumpkins. Our middle schoolers will continue to receive weekly lessons while each class in grades Pre-K through fourth will receive one Hooper class a month focused on a seasonal topic, giving students the opportunity to explore the world around them through hands-on learning. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year!

We are grateful for the continued support of our families and community as we head into another season of learning, exploration, and connection.

Greta Drager

Fall at Distant Hill

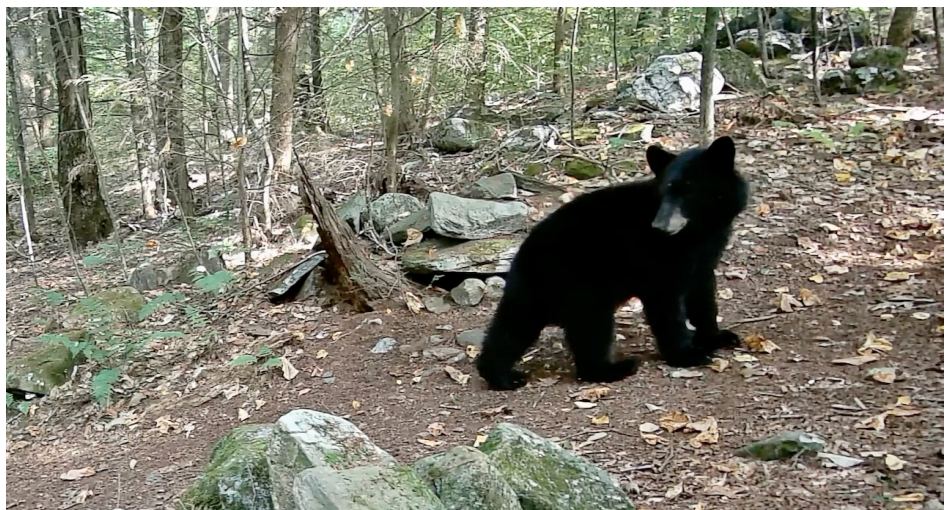
October's events begin with **Open Garden Weekends** on Saturday and Sunday, October 3–4 and October 17–18, from 10 am to 4 pm. Visitors can stroll through the gardens and explore the property at their own pace. No registration is required.

Other October programs include:

- **Cheshire Walkers Hike at Distant Hill** — Tuesday, October 6, 9:30–11 am
- **Aloha Yoga Forest Bathing Sunset Walk** — Friday, October 9, 5:30–7 pm
- **Wildlife Trail Camera Workshop** — Sunday, October 9, 10 am–noon.
- **Preschool Story Time at Distant Hill Nature Trail** — Thursday, October 15, 10:30 am–noon. Story Time is held on the second Thursday of each month.
- **Shrubs for Fall and Winter Interest** — Sunday, October 18, 10:30 am–noon.
- **Invasive Plant Workshop** — Wednesday, October 21, 2–4 pm.
- **Wildflower Meadow Planting with Seed-Balls** — Sunday, October 25, 1–3:30 pm.

The events offer many ways to connect with nature—from gardening and hiking to wildlife observation, yoga, storytelling, and hands-on environmental activities.

Most events require advance registration - learn more and register @ tinyurl.com/distanthill. For more information visit — www.distanthill.org.



Hooper 100 Year Gala

Tickets are now live for our 100 year gala celebration! Join us for an evening of food and community as we reach this incredible milestone. Scan the QR code or visit our website to get your ticket today!



November 7, 2026
Walpole Town Hall



Gleanings from the Town Minutes

Selectboard Meeting Minutes - September 10 - Cheryl Mayberry raised the question of whether the Recycling Center should be open to the public for a half-day on Fridays, given that the Center is no longer conducting business pickups in Town, the previous reason for Friday closures. Chair Vose expressed support for the idea and indicated she would consult with Steve O'Connor, the Recycling Center manager, on the matter.

Walpole Town Library - Board of Trustees Meeting -September 8 - The Library Director explained the payment process for Libby, which 30% of our cardholders use. She received funding (\$3,000) from the Friends of the Library to purchase additional copies of popular ebooks and audiobooks that would be available exclusively for our patrons. This will shorten the wait time for these popular titles. She will send out an announcement to the community. Both Hoopla and Libby are included in the technology line of the budget and Jane raised it by \$4,000 for 2027.

Walpole Artist

Walpole Resident Laurel Christie, who creates miniature paintings on shells, is part of the 18th Annual Fall Foliage Art Studio Tour (FFAST) on Oct. 10 -12 featuring 25 of the Monadnock Region's finest artists and artisans in 20 studios spread across nine towns. She will join water media artist Jeanne Maguire Thieme's Pipe Dream Studio in Swanze as a Guest artist.

The self-guided tour runs Saturday Monday, Oct. 10, 11 & 12, from 10-5 pm. Visit www.fallfoliageartstudio-tour.com to see which artists you might like to visit, and to download a map and directions. Start anywhere and create your own art journey!



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, October 15 - Friday, October 16
11 am - 4 pm both days

at the Flat Iron Cooperative - 51 Square - Bellows Falls, VT
Thursday, October 22- Friday, October 23
11 am - 2 pm both days

Bring names and addresses of people to whom you would like to send greetings.
Select cards designed by local artisans or **Create** a card. **Write** greetings.
Walk to the Post Office and **mail** your cards.

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

Voter Registration Statistics

The **Independent Voter Project** - <https://independentvoterproject.org/> - is a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to re-engaging voters and promoting election reform through initiatives, litigation, and voter education. The organization compiles voting data within the US finding that 63.4 million voters are registered independent or unaffiliated. That's nearly as many as all registered Republicans. According to the website of the **Independent Voter Project**, the numbers compiled show New Hampshire as an "independent thinking" state. In NH, if registered as an "independent" at primary time you can select either a Republican or Democratic ballot. Below are the NH statistics as of this month, October 2026.

PARTY	REGISTERED VOTERS	% OF TOTAL
Democratic	305,730	28.1%
Republican	346,919	31.9%
Independent	433,708	39.9%
Other	0	0.0%



Cheshire County Conservation District's 81st Annual Celebration!

Join us for an evening of food, music, and connecting with community!

Celebrate local conservation and our 2026 awardees:

Carl Majewski, Educator of the Year
Keene Public Library, Community Partner of the Year
Monadnock Berries, Cooperator of the Year

Thursday, October 22nd
6:00 - 8:30PM
Walpole Town Hall
Walpole, NH

Individual tickets: \$38, Table tickets (seat 8): \$284
All tickets include meal, activities, and access to our auction!

RSVP By October 9th:
Scan the QR code to register or visit:
cheshireconservation.org/events





A Brand New Year

By Charlotte Kemp (7th grade) and Oliver Chabre (6th grade)

This is a year of change at Walpole Elementary School. The classrooms in the big school have changed to accommodate grades 2-8. The classrooms are new, with the middle school on the top floor, the main floor for grades 2-5, and the bottom/basement floor housing art, music, SEL, LEAP, the cafeteria, and the library.

There is also a new block schedule for sixth through eighth grade students. This means that students typically have four classes a day with each class longer than they were last year. This gives students more time to work with the teacher on assignments and participate in longer activities and work assignments.

The new block scheduling helps students get their work done in class time so it is not homework. Teachers also cannot give out homework for students, however if students don't use their time wisely the class work will become homework. This gives an opportunity when all their work is done in that class they can work on other assessments for their other classes so it doesn't become homework. Some teachers like the grades 2-8 all at the same school because some teachers would do interventions such as Mrs. Sherrod but now we have 2-4 in the school those teachers will not have to go to the North Walpole School to do the interventions.

Mrs. Corey, the school librarian, said that she likes having most of the students in the same school. The school library in Walpole moved from the top floor to the basement floor. It's a full circle moment for Mrs. Corey: She's in the same room she was when she started working in Walpole. She is also working with Mrs. Ronning for the fifth grade Reading class.

Mr. Cassarino, the Walpole School Principal, enjoys seeing all students on

one campus. He misses not seeing the middle schoolers stop by his office as often as they would just pop in when they were on the same floor. Mr. Cassarino was also excited about the School Buddies that is being set up with grades 7th and 3rd together, 6th and 4th, 8th and 2nd, and 5th grade with 1st and Kindergarten: "I am excited to see grades two through eight grow and progress all throughout the year," said Mr. Cassarino.

Mr. Minickiello: A New Addition to Walpole

By: Fin Aube and Kelsey Beam (8th grade), and Julia Kobeski (6th grade)

Have you heard about the new edition to our Walpole school? Mr. Minickiello (Mini) is the new 7th-8th grade math teacher. It's only been teaching a few weeks now but he is already showing great potential. We have interviewed him with some thoughtful questions.

Mr. Mini has always wanted to be a teacher. He comes from a family of teachers. His mother, father, and brother are all teachers. He went to Wheaton College and double majored in history and biology. If Mr. Mini wasn't teaching math, he'd want to teach history. He's always had a passion for history. When Mr. Mini was a kid in middle school he enjoyed some parts of school, but like most kids he didn't enjoy other subjects. He says he wants to make middle school enjoyable for current learning students. Mr. Mini says that Walpole is a beautiful town with



great people, most people in Walpole can agree.

We also asked him a question that took him way back: "How does your style of teaching compare and/or contrast with how you were taught math?"

"I'm doing more out of workbooks. If teachers just lecture, it is hard to keep track (for students). I like hands-on math." When he isn't teaching, his hobbies include, making board games, reading, and watching Red Sox games, since he is a die heart red sox fan. Lastly if he were to win the lottery, his first purchase would be buying a nice house. It was fun interviewing Mr. Mini, he has great potential to shape Walpole school's 7th-8th math class.



Save the Date
Turkey Trot 5K, Supporting FM CC Skiing and Running Teams
Thanksgiving Day on the Walpole Common

Girls Soccer Begins Season

By Ellie Griffin (7th grade), Paisley Gardner (6th grade), and Maya Westover (6th grade)

Young boys and girls everywhere look forward to playing sports and having hobbies. That's why Walpole always offers soccer at different levels. There's recreational soccer, middle school soccer, and, eventually, you can go to varsity or junior varsity soccer at Fall Mountain Regional High School. Currently, our middle school girls are practicing their skills.

The Walpole Girls Soccer Team is standing strong with about 23 players led by Head Coach Craig Vickers. The girls spend their time on the field practicing their fitness, speed, shooting, dribbling, and much more. They start with a lap and a warm up, and end off practice with an occasional scrimmage. The three goalies are Ava Paul, Skylar Michaud, and Maya Westover. Ava is the main goalie of the team while Skylar and Maya are younger substitutes. Given that all COED games will be played by the Walpole Boys Team, the team has 7 games currently.



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Walpole Athletes Shine on Bellows-Falls Football Teams

By: Jaxon Latham (7th grade), Soren Barney (7th grade), and Palmer Wyman (6th grade)

The Bellows-Falls Purple Dawgs 7-8 grade football team is filled with kids from Walpole because Fall Mountain did not have enough players to make a team. These student-athletes include Bryce Bisbing, Jaxon Latham (Team Captain and Starting Quarterback), Ben Bill, Ben Swain (Team Captain, O-line and D-line), and Jackson Walker. All of those players are in seventh or eighth grade at Walpole Elementary School. There is also a peewee league for grades 4-6 that has Walpole kids such as 6th graders Palmer Wyman (Team Captain and starting Tight End for the Jets) and Ezra Ashworth (Team Captain, O-line and D-line for the Patriots).

Other Walpole players include Colton Hubbard and Noah Kemp who are on the Patriots. It seems like Walpole is well represented and ready to have seasons for the Purple Dawgs and the Peewee League.

Walpole Boys Soccer Opens Season with Big Win

By William Beer (8th grade) and Connor Markiewicz (6th grade)

For this soccer season the team captains will be William Beer, Louie Lakin, and Levi Jacobs. We will be playing against a variety of teams including, Vilas (which consists of Acworth, Alstead, and Langdon), Charleston, Leland & Gray (in Townsend), Putney, Dummerston, and many more. Our goalies will include Curtis Bascom, Connor Markiewicz, Caiden Raney, and Max Smith. We have 14 kids on the team so we will have 3 substitutes. We will have our Westmoreland tournament at the Westmoreland School from October 24-25. We will have 3 group stage games, then if we get enough wins we go to the semifinals then the finals. Our 14

players are aged from fifth to eighth graders(10-13&14). We have one fifth grader, Coen Jenkins. Then we have four sixth graders, Silas Ladd, Caiden Raney, Connor Markiewicz, and Gideon Lake. For our seventh graders we have Roman Golisano, Curtis Bascom, Troy Schultz, and Soren Barney. Finally, we have our five eighth graders, Max Smith, Louie Lakin, William Beer, Levi Jacobs, and Lee Sivret. We have two coaches, Dom and his dad Richy.

We have practices every weekday and they last from 3:30 to 5:00. We start off with a lap around the field and then we go into dynamic stretching. This is stretching while moving. We then work on a skill and do ball work. To finish off the practice we usually play a game like Power and Finesse which is when you get two shots, one from the 18 yard line and then the other from the six. Our first game will be on September 10th, we play Winchester at home at 4:00 pm. We have a really solid team this year and we have a good mix of defense, mid field, and strikers. I think that we will have a good season this year.

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Pinnacleview 4-H

In September some members of Pinnacleview 4-H went down to Franklin, Massachusetts for the Franklin fair from Friday September 11 to Sunday September 13. While there they got the opportunity to sleep outside with their projects in the barns and had some fun on Saturday night throwing cupcakes in each others faces. This week from the 17 to the 20 the oldest members of the club; Alanna Lee, Paisley Bigelow, Emma-Anne Lee, Savannah Anderson, Alyssa Frederic, Rylee Clark, Connor Frederic, and Sophia Formica; are attending the Big-E with one of their projects.

-Alyssa Frederic



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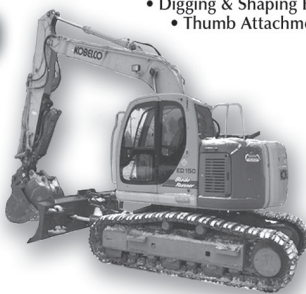
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JROTC AWARD

Fall Mountain Regional High School Cadet Olivia D'Alessandro of Walpole has been awarded the Legion of Valor of the United States of America Bronze Cross for Achievement. This prestigious honor recognizes her extraordinary achievement, scholastic excellence, and outstanding leadership within the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Across all five branches and both junior and senior ROTC, 60 cadets out of approximately 500,000 receive this prestigious award. The award was presented September 3, by Command Sergeant Major Jeff Cesaitis (ret) during the school's designated TEAM time. The presentation took place in front of an audience comprising her family, fellow cadets, and members of the school and district administration.

According to program officials, Cadet D'Alessandro's unyielding integrity, scholastic dedication, and selfless service reflect the highest traditions of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Her accomplishments bring great credit upon the Corps of Cadets, Fall Mountain Regional High School, the United States Army, and the Legion of Valor of the United States of America.

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program prepares high school students for leadership roles while fostering citizenship, personal responsibility, and a commitment to public service.





FROM THE CLARION

A sampling of way we've reported in more than 15 years of publication:

One Year Ago (October 2025) - The "Walpole Horse Thieves" biennial banquet was held September 18 at Alyson's Orchard. Honored were the Horse Thieve "Riders" who are the 12 most senior members of the Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Hen Roosts and Clothes Lines..

Three Years Ago (October 2023) - At the September 12 Planning Board meeting, Dunkin Donuts requested a public hearing for construction of a new facility on the over nine-acre parcel of land they recently purchased at the intersection of Route 12 and Upper Walpole Road.

Five Years Ago (October 2021) - Area Code 603 now required. Dialing 603 for all local calls (instead of simply 7 digits) began October 24.

Seven Years Ago (October 2019) - The week of August 26 was a busy one for Walpole Valley Farms, The Inn at Valley Farms, and The Hungry Diner as the crew from WMUR's NH Chronicle came to town to film a segment for the show highlighting all three Walpole businesses.

Nine Years Ago (October 2017) - The Walpole Police are asking all parents to play it safe. Keep your child warm and visible this Halloween.

Eleven Years Ago (October 2015) - Walpole's own Jim Skofield has received the 2015 Carol Otis Hurst Children's Book Prize for his latest children's book, Bear and Bird..

Thirteen Years Ago (October 2013) - The Walpole High School Class of 1958 celebrated its 55th Class Reunion with the Vikings in Norway where they joined Froydis Krossoy, aka "Sunny," who in 1957 joined the Class of '58 as an exchange for her senior year.



Would you like to read or share your **Clarion** on-line? Would you like to receive **Clarion** reminders of closing dates or events? Then, head to <https://thewalpoleclarion.com> and scroll down on the right to "Follow this Blog" and sign up..

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Women of Walpole

The Women of Walpole's first meeting of the 2026-2027 season was held on the Common in remarkably good weather where we reconnected and welcomed new members. We have varied topics and speakers, social gatherings, and even a field trip lined up for this season. Next month is a hands-on program. On October 21 at 2 pm at the Hooper Institute we will make two member-directed holiday themed craft projects for sharing with others. More details describing these projects will appear in your member emails.

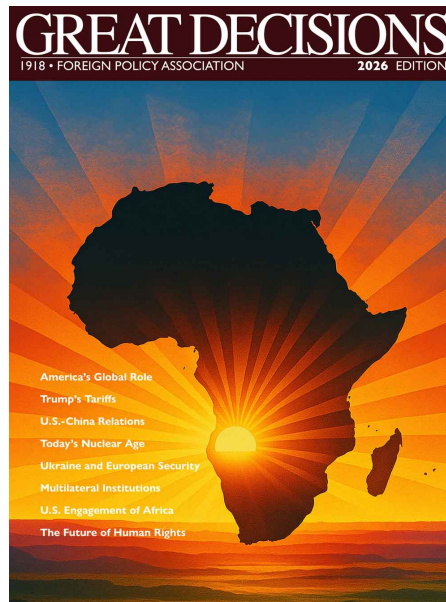
Women of Walpole, a civic non-profit organization that provides collegial and educational gatherings welcomes any woman living or working in Walpole to join us. Guests are always welcome (and encouraged) to attend a meeting to check out our latest and upcoming programs. If you would like to learn more or be put on our email distribution list please contact Mary Feeney (508-397-2583) or email at WOWalpole2025@gmail.com.

Mary Feeney

Great Decisions

"U.S. Engagement with Africa" is the topic for the public forum "Great Decisions" meeting Monday, October 19, 6:00 pm in the Walpole Town Library. To be discussed is US aid, trade, and "transactional relationships" with the 54 nations of Africa.

This resource-rich, naturally-spectacular continent is the second largest on the planet, with the fastest growing population. With a flourishing younger generation, Africa will soon have the world's largest workforce. With a rich supply of critical minerals – lithium, graphite, copper, cobalt – Africa is the target of global competition. China has lost no time in developing trade, manufacturing and mining, while financing infrastructure with bilateral loans.



The Foreign Policy Association's essay by Jendayi E. Frazer, "U.S. Engagement with Africa," is available in the library, and a copy can be emailed to you by library director Jane Malmberg: jmalmberg@walpoletownlibrary.org

All are welcome to join either in person or via Zoom. Please request the Zoom link from Jane Malmberg and join at 6:30 pm following the Master Class video which cannot be shown over Zoom. (The Master Class presents a fascinating history of U.S.-Africa interventions and China's Belt and Road Initiatives and failures, not to be missed!)

Sue Kibbe

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PUBLISHERS CORNER

Fifteen Years. Looking back to make selections for "From the Clarion..." it is like reviewing a history book. And, a look specifically at Walpole history - and how things have changed and evolved over those years. Events, activities and people we read about come and go, often to be replaced by new events, activities and people involved in our special community. Often I wonder why some activities no longer occur, and often I will send out an email to ask someone if they still have something to share with the community. Often I do hear back, but sadly sometimes I do not. Please remember that this is your paper to share your news with the community.

Monday, morning, closing day, and now in my morning news cycle: local, national, and international. Waking to attacks on the First Amendment, ICE shooting in Texas, and a Synagogue attack in Ontario - almost a "light news" day as our nation and collection of nations around our globe are on fire and full of hate. I am dismayed, afraid to go out, and terrified over the world state of affairs my children and grandchildren will be left. You know what I have said (actually not said) over the years,. My focus here is what I hope continues to be our "safe community" impacted, but hopefully continuing to be comparatively safe. I will stop now.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN - please enjoy my Plastic Pumpkin Patch on the rear cover, and "stay safe and well."

-Ray Boas, Publisher

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