Challenging Days Ahead

September Select Board Report

The dog days of summer are on the wane, and, rather than eagerly anticipating the start of school, many are experiencing anxiety. How will our teachers and children be safe? How will our learning be affected? I can hear you asking how does this apply to the Select Board?

As soon as The Select Board read the new school scheduling, we offered a floor of Town Hall to be used for students who may not have good access to the internet.

We can offer space for social distancing and access to the internet for remote learning. All we ask from school personnel has been positive. At this point we do not know whether town hall will be used, but we are ready and able to provide the safe space.

Updated Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Procedures

There are several ways to vote absentee if you do not want to go to the polls on Primary Day, September 8, and Election Day, November 3 out of concerns about COVID-19.

Register to Vote and/or Request an Absentee Ballot In Person:

The easiest and most secure way to register to vote or to vote by absentee ballot is to go to the Town Clerk’s Office in the Walpole Town Hall, 34 Elm Street, Walpole, and ask Town Clerk Sandy Smith or Deputy Town Clerk Meghan Hansson to take you through the voter registration process, if you are not already registered to vote in Walpole. You can also register to vote by mail, but the process is more complicated; call the Town Clerk’s Office at 756-3514 for more information.

VOTE

Primary - September 8
General / National - November 3
In Person: 7AM to 7PM
Walpole Town Hall - St. Peter’s Church
Absentee Voting
Request Absentee Ballot(s)
from Town Clerk (see procedure on Walpole Town Website)
Last Day to Request - Day before Election
Ballots provided or mailed once
Town Clerk receives from the State
Returning Your Absentee Ballot
Return by 5 PM Election Day
• By Mail (follow directions)
• In Person to Town Clerk (call for appointment)
• On Election Day...
an Election Official will be outside polling places to receive your absentee ballot prior to 5PM.
Thus: you avoid any mail delay; no need to make an appointment; and you do not have to go inside a closed space during COVID-19

The above is correct as of press time; however, the rules are constantly changing – check The Clarion website for updates.

BE COUNTED

Designed with thanks and apologies to Thomas Nast
The Hooper 90

Friends of the Hooper Institute Event

The Hooper Institute is celebrating 90 years of service to the Walpole community. The Friends of the Hooper Institute wanted to host a celebration, but unfortunately, with Covid-19, having a gathering to celebrate anything is difficult.

The plan was to celebrate all things Hooper including a trail run, family activities and some sort of scrumptious food at the Hooper Institute, but the plan never actually happened. Inspiration to do something was triggered in conversations with some of our recent Hooper Summer Program participants focused on the hikes that Eloise would take them on... Hooper Hikes, Hooper Adventure Camp!

So, what about a Virtual Hike, or a Fun Run 5K? Allowing local Hooper Students and their families to somehow share an experience, and in a way be DOING something together. We hope you and your family members would consider entering THE HOOPER 90! It's pretty simple. Go to RUNREG.com and look for THE HOOPER 90. Each person entered makes a $5 donation (there is also a minimal service charge) to the future of the Hooper Institute. Pick a 5K loop that you love to run, or a Hooper Hike that you love to do. Participants can enter anytime during the month of September. There will be a leader board on RunReg so we can see where you ran, and how long it took. You can submit pictures of you/your family on your Hooper Hike via email, and we will share them out on the Hooper Institute Facebook Page. What's one of your favorite hikes? High Blue, Table Rock, or Kingsbury Mountain? Do you have a fast favorite 5K Loop?

If you have questions, contact Holly at 603-445-5104, or to Register or Donate, please go to Runreg.com

Thank you for supporting the Hooper Institute. For the last 90 years the Hooper Institute has educated the Walpole Community in agriculture, forestry, botany, soils and environmental studies. We are hoping that the Hooper Institute will continue to serve our community for another 90 years

– Holly Gowdy

Listen Up!!

Recently, Highway Work Crews have been endangered as they are working on our streets in the center of Walpole, and in North Walpole on Mountain View. They are striping in the center of Town, and completing summer projects in North Walpole.

Drivers are ignoring Flaggers, ignoring cones and recklessly driving through work zones. These are serious offences which threaten the lives of our workmen. No one wants a repeat of an accident which occurred two years ago which severely injured a member of the Highway Department.

Consolidated Communications, Inc crews are also out in parts of Walpole, and will be for several months. They, too, will have flaggers, cones and work alerts. Drive carefully.

At the August 20 meeting, the Select Board voted to have the Police present at all work sites; they will issue citations as needed. Please, slow down! Pay attention. It is not "drive as you want"- it is respect the life of every workmen on the streets and highways. Respect your own as well. It isn't too much to ask.

– Peggy Pschirrer

Will you?
From Page 1, Registration & Ballots

At the same time as you register, you can request, fill out and return an absentee ballot directly to the Town Clerk.

When you are registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, or returning your absentee ballot, you should call the Town Clerk’s Office (756-3514) for an appointment. They are only allowing one person at a time into the lobby, and masks must be worn in the Town Hall. These measures are to make visits to the town clerk’s Office safe for all.

Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail:

Request an “absentee ballot request application” from your town clerk, or download the request from the NH Secretary of State’s web site. You can find the link and instructions here: https://sos.nh.gov/elections/voters/voting-during-covid-19-state-of-emergency/

In NH, you may vote absentee if you will be out of town on election day; must work through the poll hours; care for a child or infirm adult; have a disability; or if religious observance prevents voting in person. The special rule for 2020 is that you may also vote absentee if you are ill with COVID-19, are caring for someone with COVID-19 symptoms, or if you are concerned that registering or voting in person may expose you or others to COVID-19.

If you are concerned that registering or voting in person will expose you or others to COVID-19, there should be a specific box for that on the request; if not, then check the box that says “I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.”

The Walpole Town Clerk’s Office requests that you fill out one absentee ballot request for the primary election in September and a second request for the general election.

If you use different signatures for different kinds of documents, be sure you make a note of how you signed the absentee ballot application—you will need to remember it later.

Filling Out and Returning Your Absentee Ballot:

However you get your absentee ballot, here is what you do when you get it.

First, fill out the absentee ballot. Then sign and print your name in the appropriate box on the official envelope that you put your ballot into. The signature you use here must match the signature on your absentee ballot application, which is why you paid close attention to how you signed your absentee ballot request. On the envelope, if there is no place to say that you are voting absentee because of COVID, pick the choice that says you are voting absentee because of a disability. That sounds worrying, if you are not a person with a disability, but the Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General have all said that signing the disability box is okay under these circumstances.

Put your absentee ballot into the signed envelope, put the signed envelope into the mailing envelope, and return the mailing envelope, either in person to the Town Clerk or the Deputy Town Clerk, or through the mail—two stamps will be needed for mailing.

If you are returning your absentee ballot by mail, it must be handed directly to Sandy Smith, Town Clerk; or to Meghan Hansson, Deputy Town Clerk. As of now, guidelines require that the absentee ballot be returned directly to either the Town Clerk or the Deputy clerk, so there is no drop box for the completed ballot. Be sure to call 756-3514 before you go so there will be no waiting.

If you are returning your absentee ballot by mail, be sure to allow enough time for it to be delivered by Election Day.

Because of the unprecedented volume of requests for absentee registration and ballots, be sure to start the process now so you will receive the forms and be able to return them before the relevant voting day. The post office is suggesting that from the time you request an absentee ballot by mail through receiving the ballot and returning it by mail may take up to two weeks, which is why you might want to consider returning your ballot to the Town Clerk in person.

– Representative Lucy Weber
lwmcv@comcast.net
603-499-0282

North Walpole Ballot Box
(Patented in 1890)
now in the Walpole Historical Society
The Importance of Being Earnest
Coming to the Common

After the coronavirus forced the cancellation of our last two productions, the Walpole Players are back! We hope you will come out to see our staged reading of Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest on Saturday, September 12, at 5:00 PM, on the Walpole Town Common.

This witty comedy about the trivialities of late Victorian society is sure to be a lot of fun! The performance is free and open to the public. Please remember to bring your choice of seating (lawn chair, blanket, etc.).

In the case of inclement weather, the performance will take place the following Saturday, September 19.

Please email WalpolePlayers@gmail.com for further information, or check our website: TheWalpolePlayers.org.

Please note that all social distancing requirements and guidelines will apply. Family/friend groups should seat themselves at least six feet from other groups; if it is not possible to maintain a six-foot separation while seated, masks must be worn if attendance reaches 100 people or more, per the governor’s Emergency Order #63.

– Lisa Bryan

St. John’s Episcopal

By the time that you read this note, the folks at St. John’s will have welcomed their new priest-in-charge, The Reverend Duncan Hilton. And we will have celebrated our first service with him. As we navigate the ever-changing terrain of worship by ZOOM vs. outdoors, please look at our website - www.stjohnswalpole.org - for the latest service information. The Art After School Program hosted at St. John’s will also take on a new look as we attend to bring creative art to young families. More info will be on the church website. Feel free to contact us with questions, suggestions, ideas.

We look forward to new ways of being together through the next several months as we strive to be neighborly and thoughtful to all. The pandemic has forced us all to reflect on what is most important to us. Maintaining connections with each other may be the way that we live out the commandment to love our neighbor. And in this time of awareness of all our neighbors, this commandment is foremost.

– Marilyn Wilking

Walpole Conservation Commission

We wanted to address two items we’ve been hearing a lot about, namely camping on Town land and the Gateway property river access. There will be more information provided in the future but here is a quick update on these topics.

Camping on Town lands: We are hearing from you that this should continue to be allowed. The Commission is considering options and discussing these with the Select Board. Residents can expect some form of educational and informational opportunities in the future.

Gateway Property Connecticut River access: The deed and conservation easement for the property restricts the use of the land to conservation, recreation, forestry and agriculture, and no structures or improvements shall be placed upon or made to it unless considered necessary and not detrimental to the purposes of the easement. Further, the easement states that no motorcycles, motorbikes or other motor vehicles shall be allowed on the Property, except necessary forestry and farm vehicles to maintain and farm the area and reduce the potential for forest fires, as determined by the Conservation Commission. The path down to the river is not maintained and is in poor condition, and for now the Commission is not providing for vehicle access unless for agriculture or conservation purposes. Anyone is welcome to walk down to the river and carry in whatever you can carry out, following Leave No Trace guidelines (more on that in the future). We welcome your input on how to manage and conserve this Walker Road Gateway property, for the benefit of all Walpole residents. As a reminder, all the other Town and State-owned properties in Walpole with Connecticut River access have been gated in recent years (or weeks) due to bad behavior.

Trail work: Our Town lands and trails have been battered from the severe weather events hitting our region in the past several years. Look out for announcements of community trail work days in late fall and next spring and please reach out to the Conservation Commission (or attend a meeting!) to learn more about how you can get involved in stewarding these amazing Town assets.

And a friendly reminder that the Walpole Conservation Commission is an advisory board established by local ordinance to preserve the Town's natural resources for the benefit of its citizens and wildlife. Protection of these resources improves water and air quality, preserves rare species of plants and animals, provides agricultural, recreational and educational opportunities, and helps mitigate the impacts of storms and flooding.

Again, if you have any questions feel free to reach out to us via our Facebook page, send a letter to the town office or attend a socially-distanced meeting which occurs on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. Thank you and have a great rest of the summer!

– Alicia Flammia
Congregational Church

Steppin’ Out
The First Congregational Church of Walpole is “steppin’ out” in September. On Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, we will be having a yard sale. Rain date is October 3. There will be plenty of household items to purchase, but unfortunately, due to COVID, we will not be selling clothing. Our hope is to have clothing at our spring sale. There will, however, be a food table featuring apple specialties, with everything well wrapped. Masks and social distancing will be required for this event. It’s a perfect chance to “step out” a bit.

Save the Date.
Our July curbside pick-up chicken barbecue was such a success, we will be doing another one on October 17th. Stay tuned for further details.

– Chris Miller

Walpole Unitarian

Membership Update
The Great River Co-op is a cooperative grocery store in the development stages that will be coming to Walpole, New Hampshire. As we excitedly sign people up for Co-op memberships, we love seeing where all of the support and our future shoppers live and are coming from. We are blown away by how many are committed to shopping local and supporting small business in our community. We have New Hampshire members in Acworth, Alstead, Charlton, Chesterfield, Claremont, Drexville, Keene, Langdon, Lisbon, Marlboro, Newport, North Walpole, South Acworth, Spofford, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Walpole, West Swanzey, Westminster, and Cornish.

From Vermont: Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, Cambridgeport, Chester, Grafton, Jamaica, Putney, Rockingham, Saxtons River, Springfield, Westminster, and Windham.

Our Massachusetts members hail from Northfield, Princeton, Watertown, and Stockbridge. We even have members in Florida, Louisiana, California, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Utah.

We have welcomed 864 members both locally and across the miles and we could not be more grateful for those who are making the Great River Food Co-op possible. Will you be one of the member-owners who brings our membership to 900?

To learn more and join: https://www.greatriverfoodcoop.com/make-it-happen/join/

– Gretchen Markiewicz

Services
The church summer recess will continue through Labor Day weekend. We’ll join together again on ZOOM September 13th at 10:00 AM for our traditional Ingathering and Water Ceremony. We will resume after the Labor Day weekend on September 13th. ZOOM Services will continue on Sundays throughout September, and probably into October as we evaluate the impact of school openings and other easing of restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Service titles, and other information regarding connecting with us on ZOOM, will be available on our website: walpoleunitarianchurch.org

Food Collection
Our food collection for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf continues. Please leave your offerings of non-perishable food or personal items in the crate on the porch of Hastings Memorial Parish House, 14 Union Street. Deliveries go to the food shelf at noon on the 11th and 25th of September. Thank you to all who have been contributing. Our food shelf is very appreciative of your contributions!

Walpole Unitarian Church Task Force to Present Forums on Facing Racism
In light of the recent increased focus on race and racism in our country, our church has formed a task force on facing racism. The task force will present three Thursday evening Zoom forums this fall. Each forum will feature an open conversation, facilitated by Reverend Elaine Bomford and members of the congregation, focused on recommended readings and viewings. Those interested should email wuuch@myfairpoint.net to be put on the email list for Zoom attendance details. Feel free to attend one, two, or all forums.

Facing Racism I
Talking About Race: Personal Responses
September 24, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Please read So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo in advance of the meeting.

Facing Racism II
Racism and Criminal Justice
October 15, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Please watch 13th, a documentary by Ava DuVernay (Netflix and YouTube), as well as Why Fixing the U.S. Bail Bonding System is Tricky (YouTube), in advance of the meeting.

Facing Racism III
Unitarian Universalist Responses
November 12, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

There are many resources available to people who wish to become more educated about racism. As we began our study, we identified a variety of films, essays, videos and novels that we found useful, in addition to those listed above. Our list can be found at our website https://walpoleuuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian. A link to the appropriate page is prominently displayed on the homepage.

– Wendy Harty
2020 Poster Available

The Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Hen Roosts and Clothes Lines ("Walpole Horse Thieves") is pleased to announce that the 2020 membership poster has been printed. Horse Thieves can pick up their copies at the Town Hall on three days in September:

• On Wednesday, September 2 from 4 – 7 PM in the main hall.
• On Tuesday, September 8 (Primary Election Day) during most of the hours that the Town Hall is open for voting. We aren’t sure exactly where we will be located, but we will be somewhere in or near the building
• On Friday, September 11 from 4 – 7 PM in the main hall.

Normally the posters are handed out at the biennial banquet, but, as we are not holding the banquet this year due to the COVID pandemic, we are offering these three dates for members to pick up their posters.

Gentlemen who are interested in joining the Horse Thieves may also stop by at these same times and join the organization. Membership in the Walpole Horse Thieves is open to any man 18 years or older who lives in Walpole, pays a $2 lifetime dues and signs the membership book. No appointment is necessary to pick up a poster or join the Horse Thieves during these times. However, we ask that you wear a mask.

If it is not possible for you to stop by the Town Hall to pick up the 2020 poster at one of these times, you may make special arrangements with either David Westover, president; Chas Street, vice president; or Lewis LaClair, clerk. We will each have extra copies of the poster for existing members. Feel free to contact Lewis LaClair, clerk (756-0001, or LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com) if you have any questions.

– Lewis LaClair

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48 Meadow Access Lane Walpole, NH 03608
Thank you to all of the volunteers and fellow recyclers who have helped elevate Walpole recycling to the position we are in August 2020! We in Walpole are about to open one of the finest Reuse Centers in the state, and much of that success can be attributed to the good nature and work ethic of our volunteers/patrons of the recycling center. With the implementation of a new wing of the Recycling Center, volunteers will be needed to keep the brandy-dandy new Reuse Center open and available to the public going forward. Donations go to the food shelf, and the custom-built shop should present a comfortable working environment for those interested in helping to keep a valuable town resource open. Please contact Ben at 603-445-5197 to reserve a volunteer shift today!

Thank you to dedicated volunteers Joe and Marina Coneeny for their donation of a new air conditioner for the new Reuse Center. Also, thank you to Walpole volunteers Peter, Trevor and Sydney Palmiotto for painting the new reuse center in sweltering heat with masks.

Excellent carpentry work on the reuse center from the guys at Bill Hatt carpentry. Good luck to our Hooper workers Ian Gould and Ruby Frithsen in the upcoming school year at Fall Mountain. Walpole Recycling picks up recyclable material from all of the Walpole area schools, including Fall Mountain High School. When attending the new Reuse Center, please do not leave items outside of the building. It looks super trashy when this happens. All donations must be approved by staff/volunteers. Stay safe and keep recycling/reusing Walpole!

– Ben Hoy
September is the season of Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus) migration, peaking mid-month. Perhaps you’ve ventured over to Pack Monadnock Mountain to join the NH Audubon crew as they count thousands of these birds wending their way southward? These “kettles” of raptors spiral higher and higher in thermals of rising air as they follow ridgelines and finally vanish to South America.

There’s another “hawk” that passes through the cusp of August and September as it heads to South America. It’s the common nighthawk (Chordeiles minor), not a hawk at all but a member of the Goatsucker family (Caprimulgidae). Unlike a true hawk, the nighthawk does not sport sharp talons to catch its prey or a hooked bill to tear flesh. Instead, it uses its wide mouth to snatch insects from the air. And no, it does not suck milk from goats. But yes, it is active at night.

This agile flier slices through the air on slender, bent wings that come to a taper. While its body is only 9.5”, its wings are much longer with a wingspan is 24”. In flight, their bodies are gray but the belly is lighter. The final giveaway is the distinctive sharp white-colored bar almost to the tips of the wings.

Nighthawks are very dramatic to see when they migrate. They tend to cling much closer to the ground than broad-wings as they lope along with steady wing beats. You’ll notice them just above the trees as they tip, dive, feint and circle. These impressive acrobats eat on the run…or flight.

Nighthawks used to nest among us in much greater numbers. It used to be common to hear their distinctive call in the evenings, a buzzy “PEENT!” They don’t really make a nest but rely on their perfect camouflage to hide eggs, young and themselves in the open. They prefer a pebbly surface. Flat rooftops in cities used to do nicely.

However, roofing practices have changed for flat roofs, eliminating the use of pea stone. Happily, a pair nested at Keene State College this year and successfully raised one chick!

You might be familiar with one other member of the Goatsucker family, the Eastern whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferous). Vociferous is right! Nearly as large as the nighthawk with a wingspan of 19”, the whip-poor-will’s song is easy to identify. It says its name insistently from dusk till dawn. Sadly, whip-poor-wills are rare in New Hampshire. Their numbers have plummeted because of habitat loss both here and in their wintering grounds.

Nighthawks tend to follow river valleys, so Walpole is in a perfect locale. You may see large flocks if the wind flows from the north. Scan the skies in the evenings of late August and early September for the remarkable, not-so common nighthawk. Wish them well on their perilous journey to the rainforests and savannahs of Brazil.

It’s been noted that the coronavirus pandemic seems to have encouraged wildlife to explore urban areas they once avoided (see last month’s moose incursion). This turkey hen and her sizeable brood have been homesteading Prospect Hill since mid-August.

Photo: Jan Kobeski
We received our Broadband bond payment of $1,876,100.00 in a lump sum by a wire transfer, and within a few days we had made of first payment of fifty percent of the bond money to Consolidated Communications, Inc., headquartered In Mattoon, Illinois. Solid evidence that we are really going to have fibers optics for broadband service in Walpole. Could you hear us cheering?

Another landmark was the signing of an agreement with the Department of Transportation to install light poles with LED lights on the Arch Bridge in North Walpole. Work will be done as part of the renovation project for the Bridge in 2021. Walpole will pay for the monthly expense of lighting.

Camping on Town owned property is on ongoing discussion. We all want to accommodate and encourage camping for all ages. The Conservation Commission and the Select Board will continue to consider how to promote traceless camping: what you carry in, you carry out. It is also important for us all to remember that if we are camping and want to build a campfire, we must have a fire permit from the Fire Warden, Dick Hurlburt.

A new venture is on the horizon suggested by Steve Grenier. Steve has suggested we investigate changing all our streetlights to LED lights, which will provide better lighting with cost savings over time. We have accepted his suggestions so Steve will take the lead on that project.

The Planning Board approved the lot line adjustments for the parking lot abutting our recreation area so the Town will soon own the property we have been taking care of since 1982. We will purchase the property from the Fall Mountain School District for $1.00. The Town will soon own the property we have been taking care of since 1982. We will purchase the property from the Fall Mountain School District for $1.00. We have accepted his suggestions so Steve will take the lead on that project.

The lot will be available for possible insertion.

It is hard to believe that, at a Department Directors meeting this week, we will ask Departments to submit the first draft of their budgets for 2021 by September 10. We ask for a flat budget from each department which we will discuss later in September. With the uncertainties of the coming year with the Corona Virus, we are keenly aware that expenses for all services will rise, in spite of the infusions of federal and state money. We are already on notice that our Highway grants will be reduced for FY 2021, and, with the closure of hotels and restaurants, we can expect fewer dollars for the meals and rooms tax.

On a personal note, many of you know that I stumbled, tripped, or stubbed my toe, but I landed on my left knee in the hall of Town Hall on July 31! An embarrassment for sure! Jodi, Sarah and Rich rushed out as I asked to be given a hand, Jodi noticed I was bleeding. The EMS crew led by Brian Whetherby (is he always first) arrived in record time to deliver me to Cheshire County ED for nine stitches in my left knee. We have an outstanding EMS group who provide us with superb, professional service. Their equipment is first rate, and their skill in using that equipment is first rate. A big shout out to all of them.

Walpole, from my perspective, has been fortunate—blessed, if you will. We have not had to furlough anyone, nor have we laid anyone off. It appears that we have been spared the ravages of the virus that other parts of the State have felt. Let us continue to support one another with positive attitudes, safe distancing, hand washing and wearing masks.

– Peggy Pschirrer

We are excited to be opening our doors for the 2020-21 school year. With all the concerns surrounding the Covid-19 virus, we have put in place many new safety measures to ensure a low risk option for school this year.

We are opening at a smaller capacity at this time, have increased our cleaning protocols and are confident this will be a great school year for the children attending. We offer two classroom options: Early Preschool for ages 2 years to 3.5 years, and Preschool for ages 3.5 years to 5 years. At this time we have openings in both groups. We continue to offer flexible scheduling with half day or full day options, as well as 2-day, 3-day or 5-day options. Scholarship opportunities are available.

If you are interested in more information, please contact our director, Jody, at 603-756-4246, or director@walpolevillageschool.org.

– The Walpole Village School Board

Walpole Business Notes
Edward Jones
Edward Jones has opened a second office in downtown Walpole. Charlie Salisbury, Financial Advisor, has relocated from the Main St location to 8 Westminster St (the former Ruggles and Hunt). Jessica Fuller graciously shared her office with Charlie for the last 2 years and now that construction is complete, Charlie is ready to welcome his clients into the newly renovated office. Charlie began his career in the financial industry in 1998 and has been with Edward Jones since 2017. Contact: 603-756-6077 or Charlie.salisbury@edwardjones.com

– Charlie Salisbury

Joanie Joan’s
When are you going to open again?” ‘What’s happening at Joanie Joan’s?’ Those are the questions everyone keeps asking us.

I can’t believe it’s been four months since we were forced to shut down, thanks to Covid-19. Dan and I want to again thank our customers and friends for their support during this time of uncertainty.

With saddened heart, we have to let everyone know we will no longer have in-house seating. But don’t be too upset… Joanie Joan’s is not going anywhere! We have so many new things in the works to keep the village fed. But we can’t reveal the news yet. Stay tuned!

But in the meantime, you can still get your donuts and other Joanie Joan baked goods Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at Pete’s Stand.

– Joan Ireland

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

Beekeeping Workshop

Charles Andros, former NH/VT Apiary Inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop from 1-2 PM on Saturday-Sunday, September 5 and 6. Topics of discussion will include treatment of nosema and mites (including using oxalic acid), winter preparations, winter protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax hand creams.

Workshop to be held via Google Meet. Download the latest version. Registration required. Email: lindenamel@gmail.com or call 603-756-9056.

– Charlie Salisbury

– Charles Andros
Library News

The library is now open its regular hours! Masks are required to enter the library. If you are not comfortable wearing a mask or would prefer not to come into the building, we will continue offering curbside services. Please call the library at 756-9806 to schedule a curbside pickup. Hand sanitizer will be provided, and you will be required to use it before browsing. While the children’s room will be open for browsing, toys will not be available at this time. Computers will be available with a 30 minute time limit. Please email Julie at jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org with any questions. The North Walpole Branch remains closed at this time. We can’t wait to see you back in the library!

Our beloved Rose Werden retired this month. Rose has been the North Walpole Librarian since 1980. What a legacy she has left! She will be missed! She didn’t want any fanfare, but, if you’d like to send a card, you can address it to her in care of the Walpole Town Library, PO Box 487, Walpole, NH 03608.

Books, books and more books! After being closed for several months we have lots of new books. The shelves are bursting!

The search for a new director is continuing. The committee met with many patrons of all ages to get input on what they would like to see in a new director. The search is going well, and we will keep you posted.

The Friends of the Library have a display of books for sale ($2 each) in the library near the movies. Don’t forget to check it out next time you’re in. In addition, the Plant Sale continues on the porch. There are new plants every few days. Leave a check (written to The Friends of the Walpole Library) or cash in the jar.

We had a great Summer Reading Program despite Covid-19! The State of NH purchased online software for libraries to use, so we quickly moved our program online. We had weekly prizes, missions such as Where in the World is Your Librarian, Take-Away Crafts and Bingo. Our most successful program was a Story Walk in conjunction with Distant Hill Nature Trail. New stories went up every month, and you could read the story and do funny transitions from page to page while hiking. The feedback we got was so positive that we will be continuing with new stories every month! Most surprising was the large number of adults participating! Given that feedback, stay tuned for a Fall Reading Challenge for all ages!

– Julie Rios

The Mechanical Arts: Temporary Exhibit at American Precision Museum

The American Precision Museum’s new Mechanical Arts exhibit featuring historical photographs, blueprints and rare books opens at 10:00 AM Thursday, September 10, in Windsor, Vermont. This special selection of items drawn from the Museum’s archives remains on exhibit daily from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM through Sunday, September 13. “The American Precision Museum has so many artifacts in its collection that the public does not get to see regularly,” says Steve Dalessio, Executive Director. “This Mechanical Arts exhibit is an opportunity for us to share unique objects that have never been put on display.”

The American Precision Museum is located at 196 Main St, Windsor, VT, in the 1846 Robbins & Lawrence Armory, a National Historic Landmark, and traces the beginnings of manufacturing to modern technology through exhibits and interactive programs. Open daily, through October 31, 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

– Alice Cable

Non-fiction Book Group

On Monday, September 7, at 6:00 PM, the Non-Fiction Book Group will be meeting virtually on Zoom to discuss Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism. From economist Anne Case and Nobel Prize winner Angus Deaton, a groundbreaking account of how the flaws in capitalism are fatal for America’s working class. The book paints a troubling portrait of the American dream in decline. For the white working class, today’s America has become a land of broken families and few prospects. As the college educated become healthier and wealthier, adults without a degree are literally dying from pain and despair. This “Best Seller” is available at the library or online in text and audio. Join us on Zoom for a discussion. For more information, call 756-3695.

– Ron MacLachlan

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Two of the delighted participants in the Summer Reading Program

PHOTOS PROVIDED

PHOTOS PROVIDED

PHOTOS PROVIDED
Hooper Golf Course

Play continues to be active at Hooper, in part reflecting the outdoor opportunity golf allows in these times of Covid-19. We are pleased to now have more than 250 members. The course was recently surveyed by the NH Golf Association when they provided new rankings for each hole. We now have a new scorecard reflecting these changes. If you visit the course, you will notice lots of bare ground on the fairways. These patches had been covered with crab grass that we weeded out. By the end of the month we will be commencing a fairway seeding program while ground temperatures remain elevated. Now let’s hope for some rain, and even then it will be a year or more before the fairways are fully recovered.

Hooper golfers’ news this month: Brian Pickering sank a hole-in-one on the 4th hole, his first ever; Peter Bowman won Hooper’s course championship, with Steve Tullar on top in the Senior Division and Ethan Hall winning the Junior Division. Kaylee Lintner organized five Monday morning sessions for 26 6-12 year old campers learning the golf fundamentals. The camp was sponsored by Craig Vickers State Farm Insurance, and a full field participated in the ever-popular 9-hole night time golf competition.

Hooper has initiated a Forest Management Plan with Long View Forest. We will be working with them now and in the years to come to care for and improve our roughly 80 acres of forestland. Their goal and ours is “leaving the land better than we found it”. This will include a forest inventory, mapping and assessment. One of the initial pressing issues will involve controlling, and eradicating where possible, invasive species including Japanese knotweed, glossy buckthorn, burning bush, multiflora rose, common barberry, bittersweet and others.

– David Howell

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Help The Kids Get Back In School

We live in an area of the United States where there is a low incidence of COVID-19 infections. Thank you for being careful. Geographically, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine have all had low COVID-19 numbers. Even New England has done the best of the regions of the United States, and we are insulated by the strong policies of New York and New Jersey.

We are entering a new phase of life with the pandemic as we contemplate returning the children to schools. Parents are afraid. Teachers are concerned. Administrators are trying to understand the risks so they can make sound decisions. All options have challenges. We have the risk of the children not going to school and being among their peers weighed against the risks of not sending them to school and missing vital learning and developmental time. Many children have little or limited access to technology. Many children rely on the school meal programs for their healthiest meal of the day. Working parents, especially moms, are struggling to balance their lives, juggling work, childcare, educating the children and running a household. All the suggested models involve difficult choices. It’s hard.

If you have no children in the Fall Mountain Regional School District, you may ask “What does this have to do with me?” In my opinion, this is when the strength of our community in support of educating our children is absolutely critical. If our priorities are correct, we will conduct ourselves with that in mind. And here is how we do that;

Wear a mask. That alone signifies that you may not know where the virus is or who has it, but you do know that the message of the mask is that you are part of something bigger, a community of concern. Certainly not all masks are alike. Some are not that good in preventing the virus from leaving or getting in your body. BUT, what the mask does say is “I want to be part of the solution to this pandemic, not part of the problem.” And besides, it may keep you from touching your face, one of the most common ways to get the flu or a cold, not to mention sending the message to socially distance at least 6′ from others.

Get a flu shot. The vaccine is the result of the best estimate of some of the smartest public health people as to which strains of the influenza virus will be the most prevalent this coming fall, winter and spring. You do not want to encounter the COVID-19 virus if you are battling the flu.

Respect the requests of town officials, service and retail providers when they establish guidelines for dealing with the pandemic, especially when you are asked to wear a mask when inside any space or when unable to maintain at least 6′ when outside. These are difficult and often costly decisions that can be interpreted as an imposition, or even worse a violation of an individual’s rights. But, more importantly, they are made with the safety of employees and of you in mind. You may believe that you have a right not to wear a mask, but you also have a responsibility to everyone else to keep them safe. It is well known that you can shed the virus for 2–3 days before feeling sick. Why would you want to infect others?

Be aware of the three C’s: Close contact, large crowds, congested areas. Over and over these are the three most common characteristics of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We know about nursing homes, cruise ships, slaughterhouses and prisons. Now we see cases following weddings, funerals, back yard parties, college towns and sports. So when people head home or to their dorm room, apartment or other living space, they bring the virus into those places, now one of the most common sites of new infections. NONE of these events are worth your health or worth jeopardizing the education of the future citizens of this district.

We can minimize the impact of this pandemic by supporting one of the most important priorities this fall - our children. Please do your part to keep them, their families and their schools healthy and safe.

– Chuck Shaw, Health Officer
Walpole, North Walpole and Drewsville

Gleanings
from the Town Minutes

Selectboard - August 6

Access to River: Ms. Mayberry reported that access to the Connecticut River, off Route 12 across from Aubuchon’s, was blocked off last week. Mrs. Kara Dexter would like access to take a truck down there to remove the trash. Mrs. Pschirrer spoke to the Police Department about this. They know Mrs. Dexter wants to clean it up. Ms. Mayberry will let her know that she should contact the Police Department. Mr. Dalessio felt they should put up a proper gate at some point. Mrs. Pschirrer and Ms. Mayberry agreed.

Mr. Dalessio moved that we direct the recent Highway Block Grant Aid to be used for the re-striping of lines on the roads in the Town.

Camping: Mrs. Pschirrer has been following recent Conservation Commission emails. Ms. Mayberry does not know why there is a “No Camping” sign by Walker Road. Mr. Dalessio noted that when money was being raised for the Walker Road property, it was to be available for recreation. Mrs. Pschirrer had a complaint from somebody today who said, when he went to put his kayak in the river, he realized there is a gate there. He could not carry his kayak all the way down to the river. The first complaint was from someone who gave money to purchase this property. He was told it was for recreation and there would be access to the river, but there is not. Mr. Dalessio would not have agreed to lease the property if he had known about the gate. Mrs. Pschirrer pointed out that when they were raising money for the property, the big interest was access to the river. Ms. Mayberry will follow-up on how long the Gowdys have on their hay agreement. People need a fire permit if they are going to be camping. Mr. Dalessio suggested inviting Mrs. Alicia Flamma, Chair of the Conservation Commission, to attend a meeting to discuss the Walker Road property.

Planning Board - August 11

Election of Officers: Mr. Marcom proposed Ms. Joanna Andros to fill out the term of James Aldrich who passed away in April and Mr. Jeff Colley was proposed to fill in for Jeff White, who resigned in July. Mr. Harrington seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Both new members have to be sworn in by Town Clerk Sandra Smith. Mr. Aldrich’s term expires in 2021. Mr. White term ends this year.
Historical Society

Walpole Academy

Today, in New Hampshire and across the country, schools are making difficult decisions about how to continue educating our children, due to the ongoing Pandemic.

But back in 1836, the Walpole Academy, where the Walpole Historical Society is now housed, prepared a catalog for the school year ending February 28, 1937.

The photos show a copy of this small document belonging to Almeda V. Albe, whose name is on the cover. A total of 40 ladies and 67 gentlemen were listed, with the largest number attending in Summer (1856) and Fall (1850) terms, the smallest number attending Winter term only (1840). Each term lasted 11 weeks. While most students came from Walpole (56), Westminster (11) and Charlestown (8); students came from other states – Royalston, MA; Troy, NY; and Columbia, SC. A boarding house could accommodate 20 females under “constant direction and guardianship of the Teachers...” at a cost of $1.75 per week, which included washing. Male students boarded in private homes, according the 1963 Walpole History.

Some of the students were quite academic: some 30 studying Ancient Languages, presumably Latin and Greek, while 17 studied French. Tuition was $5.00 for those studying the languages, and $4.00 for those studying English. Children under age 8 years paid half tuition. Classes were also available in science, math, philosophy, and geography, preparing them for college, teaching or business.

The Academy boasted of its delightful location overlooking the town, which for “the beauty of its scenery, is not surpassed by any on the Connecticut...” River. Despite its lofty ideals, the Academy struggled with the usual antics and behavior problems when teachers lacked the ability to teach. Desks were known to be carved with various tools, just as they were many decades later. Some of the students, however, later became leaders of the town.

– Joanna Andros

Labor Day

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It is a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. By 1894, 28 states had adopted the holiday. Congress passed an act, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public “the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations” of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. The character of the Labor Day celebration has changed in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. Today, for most Americans, Labor Day conjures up images of barbecues, parades, and the wistful end of summer. Adapted from U.S. Department of Labor

– Ray Boas
Crop Hunger Walk

For many years, churches in Walpole have worked together to sponsor the annual *Crop Hunger Walk*, a planned walk of approximately 3.5 miles in Walpole, to raise money benefiting the sustainable development work of Church World Services. The money is used to help alleviate hunger and promote clean water projects around the world. Participants sign up for the walk, collect donations and/or contribute to the walk themselves. Twenty-five percent of the money we raise through our Walpole Crop Hunger Walk goes directly to the area Fall Mountain Food Shelf, which is the chosen beneficiary the Walpole Crop Walk committee.

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, rather than walking as a whole group with all participants starting together, we have designated a weekend (September 26 and 27) in which participants may complete the walk at a time they choose during the weekend. Participants may walk alone or with family members or close friends. This year’s route is the same one used in the past two years. It will be available on Walpole’s Crop Hunger Walk website (see below). There also will be paper maps in a large envelope posted on the front door of the First Congregational Church on the Common in Walpole as of the morning of September 26th.

To participate in the Walk, go to the website for the Walpole Crop Hunger Walk shown below and register. If you are associated with a church, you can sign up with your church. If you aren’t associated with a church, you may also sign up as an individual or family group. Please make a donation and sign the waiver. Alternatively, if you are not walking, but would like to donate, you can donate as an individual or with an associated church. Walkers are encouraged to invite friends and family to support them and use the website to donate once you have registered yourself. Questions? Please call Ellie Shaw at 756-4866. Use Walpole’s Crop Hunger Walk link for registration, donations or more information:

www.crophungerwalk.org/walpolenh

– Ellie Shaw

Northern Lights Credit Union Celebrates Two Years in Langdon, NH and Our Branch Lobbies are Open!

We want to thank the many residents and small businesses of Cheshire and Sullivan Counties that have become members of Northern Lights; the success of the Langdon office has greatly exceeded our expectations.

We look forward to many more years and many new members.

If you haven’t visited us at 181 River Street in Langdon, NH, please feel free to stop in and experience rural banking at its best; or visit us on the web at: www.northernlightscu.com.
Cancer Survivors

Survey Volunteers Needed

Researchers are looking for post-treatment cancer survivors willing to be interviewed for a Survivorship Services Study

The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, is conducting a study in order to understand how to better support adult cancer survivors in New Hampshire. These interviews will take about 45 minutes and will take place by phone during September. Participants will receive a $25 Amazon gift card in gratitude for their time.

Participation in these interviews is voluntary and interviews are confidential. The results of the interviews will be summarized and shared with the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program; no individuals will be identified. To be eligible, interviewees must be adults, reside in New Hampshire, and have completed cancer treatment within the past five years. If you are interested in participating or receiving more information, please contact Karen Horsch at khorsch@comcast.net.

– Jessica E. Morton
Health Communication Specialist

Reader Commentary

I would like to respond to David Northcott’s letter in support of camping. I ALSO support camping on Walpole town land. However, I understand why people want to ban or regulate camping. As a Boy Scout, I am sure they teach you how to respect the land and practice Leave No Trace principles. Not everyone does this. One of the Leave No Trace principles is to dispose of waste properly. There was a camp across from Aubuchon’s Hardware that has already resulted in one 900-lbs cleanup and is in the works to be cleaned up again. Those disrespectful people caused that area to have a No Vehicle ban put on it because they could not clean up after themselves. I am disappointed this area was closed to vehicular traffic because of a few bad people.

What YOU can do, and what we ALL should do, is hold your family and friends accountable if you see them littering or leaving a mess behind camping. You can (and should) pick up trash when you see it at any camping area or hiking trail. Always leave places cleaner than you found them, no matter where you are. It is our duty as responsible campers and trail users to not only police our friends, family, neighbors, and complete strangers, but do our town and planet a service by keeping it clean. The dirtier campsites are left, the more likely it is they will pass a no camping ban. If we want to keep our public lands open to the public, we need to keep them clean! Hold these principles close to you and, as you grow older, do not forget them.

Keep speaking up for what is right, David. I hope to see you in the woods one day.

– Kara Dexter

Some of the remaining trash near the Cold River Bridge

You deserve a break. Happy Labor Day.

Jessica Fuller
Financial Advisor
57 Main Street
Walpole, NH 03608
603-756-2513

For information: 756-3677 or grayreiner@myfairpoint.net
...by 1894 Walpole farmers were shipping milk to Boston; and, in July 1895, sixteen farmers sent a daily average of 235 cans from Walpole station, and 26 farmers shipped from Hall’s Crossing, where a station had been erected for that purpose?

Dairying began as a subsistence form of farming to supply a family’s needs for milk and butter. Most Walpole farmers had from three to ten cows in 1840. Josiah Bellows had fifteen, William Buffum fourteen, one hundred families owned one cow, and 69 families had two. Easily spoiling, milk consumption was mainly by the cow’s owner. The word ‘dairy’ harkens back to Middle English dayerie, deyerie, from deye- a female servant or dairymaid. Dairy work included milking, with any excess milk used in making cream and butter, along with cheese. Butter was produced universally ages ago when it was more essential in the diet of most people. It was several centuries before the consumption of fresh butter became an established custom. The art of making butter originated in the home, becoming women’s work.

In New Hampshire, the majority of the dairy industry has been in the fertile Connecticut River Valley. With the coming of the railroad, which reached Walpole in 1849, farms now had new, distant city markets for their goods. By the early 1850s, the majority of dairy farms were within ten to twelve miles of a railroad line. The Boston and Maine Railroad, by 1890, was bringing fresh product to Boston from 150 miles away, including from Walpole.

Walpole dairy herds increased in number with the milk heading to Boston. Milk surpluses also grew. Up until 1856, making butter was strictly a farm operation, but its production could no longer be accomplished on the farm. In that year the first small creamery and cheese factory began in Orange County, NY. In 1871, the first commercial creamery was completed in the midwest. “Creamery” is the term denoting a specialized plant that produces butter.
In 1884, there was talk of establishing a creamery in Walpole to make butter. Instead, in 1888, Walpole farmers joined along with others from Westminster and Putney, Vermont, to establish the Vermont Valley Creamery. A building was built on School Street in Westminster, and in operation by late 1889. Cream was collected from member farms to be made into butter, which at the time was selling for 29 cents a pound. By 1900, 140 patrons were sending in cream that was made into 4,000 to 4,300 pounds of butter a week. Simplifying work on the farm was the cream separator made in Bellows Falls by the Vermont Farm Machine Company. It was still, however, women’s work.

Everett L. Houghton was the first to deliver milk in Walpole. The year, 1895. That September, he was delivering to “43 families twice a day, average 57 1/2 quarts per day at 5 cents per quart, from ten Jerseys.” He later bought other’s routes, adding them to his.

By the 1950s, bulk tankers replaced milk cans for the storage and transportation of milk. Farmers who could not afford the new tanks closed. Home delivery in DIVCO (Detroit Industrial Vehicle Company) trucks continued into the 1960s. I remember growing up in rural Connecticut with the milk man leaving our milk in the refrigerator through the 1950s. Sometimes, when I was lucky and mother agreed, he would take me in his truck to play with Linda up the road. Home delivery came to an end as supermarket shopping became popular.

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**Milk Cans**

Do you know why milk cans are shaped the way they are, narrow at their tops and wide at their bottoms? I didn’t and searched out the answer. Their design is entirely functional. The narrow top keeps the milk in the can from accidentally sloshing out should the lid’s cap come loose. The wide bottom, connected to the cylindrical sides, was usually reinforced around the rim at the base. This allowed workers to “reel” the can, eliminating the need to lift the heavy container. A can was moved forward while it was turned counterclockwise on the base rim.

Vintage milk cans are listed on eBay from $50 to $100 and more, based upon condition. The can I have illustrated is a miniature souvenir can from Borden’s Milk. My grandfather worked for the company in Manhattan and gave the can to my mother. It has been my treasure for over six decades.

— Ray Boas

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**You Need to Know That...**

**Carnation Nonfat Dry Milk**

In 1899, Elbridge Amos Stuart founded the Carnation Company in Kent, Washington. Legend holds he noticed a box of Carnation cigars in the window of a Seattle shop and decided to use the name for his evaporated milk. Nonfat Dry Milk was invented in 1954.

**Can be used to:**

- **Clean Silver** - Mix five ounces Carnation Nonfat Dry Milk, twelve ounces water, and one tablespoon Heinz White Vinegar of Real Lemon lemon juice. Let silver stand overnight in the mixture, then rinse clean and dry.

- **Take a Milk Bath** - Add one-half cup Carnation Nonfat Dry Milk to warm water for a soothing bath.

- **Soothe poison ivy, insect bites, and sunburn** - Mix ten ounces Carnation Nonfat Dry Milk and twenty-five ounces water in a quart container. Fill up the container by adding ice cubes and two tablespoons salt. Apply to infected area with a cloth for twenty minutes, three or four times daily.

- **Paint your house** - Mix one and a half cups Carnation Nonfat Dry Milk and one-half cup water until it is the consistency of paint. Blend in a water-based color to make the desired hue. Brush as you would any other paint. Extremely durable, early American colonists made their paint from milk.

Adapted from: Magic Brands - 1,185 Brand-New Uses for Brand-Name Products by Joey Green.
Reopening Preparations

Along with educators across the country, SAU60 administrators and staff labored throughout the summer to craft procedures that would enable students to return — safely — to their classrooms with the beginning of the school year. In a letter to parents dated August 5, Principal Sam Jacobs and Assistant Principal Justin Cassarino detailed the plans currently in place for Walpole Primary, Elementary and Middle School students, focusing on protecting the health of the entire community while maintaining the educational standards and philosophy Walpole families have come to expect.

The Clarion thought the broader community might appreciate a condensed version of the reopening plans, not just for information’s sake but also for the insight they provide into the effort and commitment of the educational professionals who attend to our children.

- Student capacity will decrease by 50% to facilitate social distancing. Walpole schools will have no more than 10 students per classroom.
- All classes will be split into “A” and “B” groups — meeting in class two days a week and virtually two other days; with Fridays serving as a “rotational” day (in class one week; virtual the next).
- Students will only be exposed to students at their own grade level; each level will have their own lunch and recess. Cafeteria and recess will be socially distanced — no more than 20 students at a time. Tables will be sanitized; hands will be washed before and after recess and cafeteria.
- Students in grades 5-8 will remain in their classroom and staff will come to them.
- COVID-19 screening will be administered to each student before boarding busses or before entering school. (In case a child does not pass the screening, parents are asked to remain at bus stops or drop off locations.)
- School visitation will be limited to minimize exposure risk.
- Face masks are required. Parents are asked to provide two masks per child each day. Masks should be washed daily; school spaces will be disinfected frequently.
- School supplies will not be shared.
- Classrooms will be equipped with plexiglass dividers to allow small group learning.
- Windows will be open. (Parents Are encouraged to send extra layers as the weather grows colder.)
- Cleaning and disinfecting will be a priority — classrooms, common areas, offices, workspaces, and “high-touch” surfaces.
- Schools with shared bathrooms will limit access to one child at time.
- The first day of school depended on the group assigned to each child — August 31 or September 1.

The letter contains far more detail, but even this summary makes evident the challenges that had to be addressed and the thought and level of detail needed to meet them. (Because of complexity and space limitations, we’ve omitted details relating to Fall Mountain Regional High School’s reopening — that information is available online at the FMRHS website: www.sau60.org.)

As we’re seeing from schools in other regions, thorough preparation is critical in keeping schools open, and this opportunistic virus is very good at finding lines of least resistance and forcing a return to virtual learning. To date, Walpole has been spared a serious COVID assault; hopefully, the measures now in place in SAU60 plus cooperation by parents and students will help maintain that status quo.

– Jan Kobeski

Newspaper Club

While this will be a unique school year for everyone involved, I believe the staff and students are capable of working together to overcome the obstacles before us. The WES Newspaper Club will resume with several returning 7th grade students, one 8th grader, and, hopefully, more incoming 6th grade students. Since we cannot have lunch together in person between different grade levels, I will be hosting virtual lunch meetings via Google Hangouts several days a week for the Newspaper Club members at home to join me. This is how last year’s Newspaper Club met several times when schools went to remote learning. Student articles, like always, will be on varying topics, including student interest pieces, as well as what is going on in our school and a student’s perspective on the school year. I am grateful to the Walpole Clarion for giving these students a voice, and a chance to write to their community.

– Jacob Gagnon
Hooper Institute News

And it’s a wrap. Nine high school students took advantage of the Hooper Institute Summer Work Program working a total of 750 hours over eight weeks. Congratulations for their hard work and dedication, and many thanks to our four mentor sites – Abenaki Springs, Malnati Farm, Alyson’s Orchard and the Walpole Recycling Center! We couldn’t possibly run this program without the generosity of community members and Friends of Hooper Institute. There is still time to donate to support our youth and ongoing education programs. Call 756-4382 or email hooperinstitute@myfairpoint.net

Thank you, and happy September!

– Helen Dalbeck

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Sasquatch and Me!

Woke up from my nap on the couch, and BBC had a program about a group trying to find Big Foot, aka Sasquatch, in areas where locals had claimed to have seen one or more.

Well they should have come to Chester, Vermont many years ago and tried to find the one I encountered.

In the fall, after chores were done on the farm, I was allowed to grab my rifle and head to the mountain top. I would climb to the ridge and start at the Fox Run Chair and travel about five miles to Roach Hill, while on the lookout for the elusive white tail.

One early morning as dawn was breaking and I had entered into a thick stand of hardwood, I caught a glimpse of something moving through the trees. Thinking my day was ending early and soon I would be heading home with my venison, I crouched down and waited. Then I saw this huge hairy figure moving through the trees. My heart began pounding and my breathing got heavy. The object stopped and stared at me. It then turned and disappeared.

I turned and headed down the mountain as fast as my shaky legs would carry me. I couldn’t wait to tell my Dad, believing he would grab his rifle and we would head back up the mountain.

Imagine my disappointment when he laughed and said, “I told you to stop making up stories. If you didn’t want to go out this morning, you didn’t have to.” He walked away, still laughing, looking for my Uncle to tell him. Uncle turned out to be more understanding and said, “It probably was a bear, raised up on his back legs looking around.” As he walked away I heard him snickering.

The next morning, grabbing my rifle, I was determined to prove my story and I headed for the mountain. As I approached the same area as the day before, I crept as silently as possible, crouched down and waited.

Suddenly it appeared. Must have been nine feet tall, covered with hair from toe to head. My first thought was to shoot it, but it looked like a person and I didn’t think my 22 bullet would even dent its skin. The last thing I wanted to do was to make it angry. I jumped out from behind my tree and yelled, “Ah ha, caught you!” which I realized immediately was really stupid.

It turned to run away, and the next stupid thing I did was to dive and grab it by the ankle. As he began to get away, I pulled his leg.

Yup, I pulled his leg, just like I have been pulling yours during this entire story.

Sorry, the Pandemic made me do it!!!
Publisher's Corner

Have you guessed? The Clarion encourages you not only to stay safe and alive during the COVID pandemic, but encourages you to VOTE and BE COUNTED. You will again see these themes the next couple of months.

It has continued to surprise me that, with face to face activities essentially having come to a halt, I still have received twenty-four pages of information and entertainment to share with our special community. We all anxiously wait to see how the school year begins and evolves. Walpoleans have worked to keep the virus out of town and the area, but we all have to keep up the diligence for the well-being of all.

Select Board chair, Peggy Pschirrer, has again provided us a good overview of what is officially happening in town. In sending her article, she said, “As always it is a pleasure to write for the Clarion.” On behalf of the community, thank you, Peggy. You will note in her report, and elsewhere in this issue, that there are some conversations ongoing over the use of Town lands. Having attended the last select board meeting, and hearing discussions on other issues, I feel that solutions will be found to the satisfaction of all residents. Our town officials listen, and then take appropriate action.

I have narrowed in on what I want to share with you next month in ‘Did You Know That’ and I already have another submission for the October issue. My regular contributors send their submissions up to a week before the closing date. That really helps as we plan the layout for the issue. If you have something to share with the community, make sure you send your submission early. And do thank and support the advertisers who make your Clarion possible.

– Ray Boas, Publisher
The new addition to the Recycling Center is nearing completion… see page 7.