



# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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Hague, New York 12836  
April 2024

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL PUBLIC HEARING

by *Bobbi Bryant Taylor*

A third public hearing on the subject of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) in Hague was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 6 pm. Residents, either in person or via ZOOM, asked questions and expressed concerns to the members of the Hague Town Board. The community center was packed and over 50 people joined on ZOOM.

After over an hour-and-a-half-long spirited discussion, the Short-Term Rental (STR) Local Law was defeated by a vote of 3-2. Some of the board members were concerned that:

- The public's questions had not been answered.
- There was inadequate concrete data regarding the incidence of problems with renters in the past.
- More specific wording was needed in the document.

Here are some of the questions/ concerns that were raised by approximately 30 people:

- How many STRs are there in Hague? (*55 are registered in Warren County/76 if you add Airbnbs*)
- How many of those are actually causing problems? Specifically what problem actions have there been? (*Data not known; anecdotal stories only*)
- Is this ordinance being suggested because of a fear of what might

happen? Are we trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist? Perhaps the ordinance is not necessary.

- How will law enforcement officers identify and enforce violations?
- Is this law in conflict with existing county zoning laws or laws regarding rentals?
- Could we grandfather the pre-existing rental properties?
- Could we reconsider the three-year waiting period on renting out a newly-purchased property?
- Can one Zoning Enforcement Officer really do all that work? And should he have that much power?
- Many residents in Hague depend on STRs to supplement their income, to pay their taxes, and just to remain in Hague.
- People need to rent their houses to pay the exorbitant taxes here!
- Could we put it on the ballot in November?

After these and other concerns were raised, several residents expressed the opinion that more time was needed to do some fine-tuning to this local law. They commented:

- We need answers to our questions; we need more facts.
- This document needs more work.
- Please don't rush into a decision on this; take the time to get it right.

Board members then commented:

Fitzgerald: "The law would insure health and safety for renters."

*(Continued on p. 7)*

## NOTICE CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION OF ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND VALUATION DATA

(PURSUANT TO SECTION 501 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW)

*Dated the first day of April 2024*

Notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data is the information which will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel which will appear on the Tentative Assessment Roll for the Town of Hague which will be filed on or before May 1, 2024.

The information may be reviewed, by appointment, in the Assessor's Office at the Hague Community Center on April 1st, 3rd, and 8th, 2024 between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm.

An appointment to review the assessment information may be made by telephoning **Sole Assessor David Martucci** at 518-543-6161. ▣

## MULTI-YEAR ASSESSMENT AVERAGING (MYAA)

by *Linda Fusco*

At the March 19, 2024 meeting of the Ticonderoga Central School District (TSCD) School Board of Education (BOE), Hague Town Supervisor Joshua Patchett constructively, positively, and effectively presented Hague's request that the BOE implement a five-year multi-year assessment averaging (MYAA) in determining the apportionment of school taxes in the 2024-2025 school tax levy.

*(Continued on p. 7)*

## THE HAGUE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE IS ON!

There WILL be a Memorial Day Parade in Hague this year after all!!! It will be on May 25th. Anyone interested in having a band or a float in the parade should please call Desiree Hilliard at 518-543-6161. ▣

## SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze



Our St. Patty's Day Party went well. There were about 40 people who came out, so we had great company. Thank you to all the people who helped to make it all happen. The food, especially the desserts, was delicious. Let's not forget the good Irish Trivia that even stumped some people this year. We did a Word Scramble. The Trivia winners this year were Sandy Burns and Paul Budd and I won the 50/50! It was truly an evening of much fun and laughter and more senior memories.



Photos from the Seniors FB page

We had a fun game night at Maureen's and we went on a tour of Maple Farm.



Coming up on April 4th, we'll have Game Night at my house at 6:30 pm. On April 10th, we'll start collecting for our White Elephant Sale.

## HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) had a total of nine fire calls for a total of 26 volunteer hours. We also had five drills with 43 volunteer training hours. We also had seven EMS calls for a total of 36 volunteer hours.

We have received our new Engine/Tanker (343), which has a 3,000-gallon tank with 1,000 gallons per minute (GPM). This is such a great asset for our community and more efficient for our firemen to quickly put out fires. We couldn't have done it without community support! We thank you!



We had two members who are now Fire/Police trained and certified. It took 21 training hours and a full day of hands-on training. Congratulations to Bill Fritzky and Sara Debuque!



We also had our awards night for 2023. In the photo above, from left to right are:

- Rick Myers for his dedication
- Donna Trudeau for her faithful and dedicated service
- Second Assistant Chief Nate Swinton for his faithful and dedicated service
- Kelly McCoy for her dedication as Volunteer of the Year
- Terrie Davis for her continued excellence in service
- Patricia Hintze for Fire/Police of the Year
- Steven Fleischhacker, our treasurer, for his dedication
- (Not pictured) Marie Hilliker the Support Member of the Year

Thanks to each one of these members for their support and service, not only to the HVFD, but for how they go above and beyond for their community. We all work hard to achieve the same goal.

We always welcome new members who would like to give back to the community or those who just want to give some time to help. We need EMTs, attendants, and drivers for both ambulance and fire apparatus. Also, we also we have an auxiliary to bring refreshments when we're on long calls.

You can benefit NYS by becoming a volunteer fireman. In the past years, you had to take all the firefighting classes, but recently, NYS has broken them up into different classes. Our annual NYS recruitment day will be April 13, 2024 from 11 am - 4 pm, when we'll have a carwash (donation \$10), food, and a giveaway. What better way to spring into spring?

On April 11th, we'll be going to the Hyde Museum. We'll meet at the community center at 10 am.

Our regular meeting will be on April 23rd at 1:30 pm, when we will be having a Summer Bonnet or Hat Contest. So, put on your thinking cap so you can win first, second, or third prize!

**CORRECTION:** In the March 2024 issue, we indicated that the Lake George Association and the Darrin Freshwater Institute had called "ice-in" for February 11, 2024. That was not correct. Lake George did not freeze this year.

## BESTE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS – 2024

by Kathy Santaniello

This year, we have five students who are receiving our Beste Scholarship Awards, including our first-ever award for a student pursuing a Master's Degree.

**Madison Fish:** Madison is a third-year student at SUNY Potsdam and is a Music Education Major. She is the daughter of Todd and Bobbie-Jean Fish.

**Nicholas Fitzgerald:** Nicolas is at Johns Hopkins University in the Museum Studies Master's Program after receiving his Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Hampshire. He is the son of Martin and Heidi Fitzgerald.

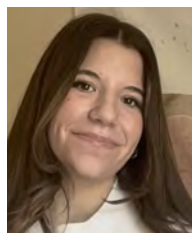
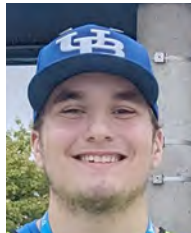
**Quentin Gargan:** Quentin is in his first year at the University at Buffalo, majoring in Accounting. He is the son of Thomas Gargan.

**Madalynn Hubbard:** Madalynn is a second-year student who just transferred to SUNY Cortland from Husson University in Maine. She is majoring in Fitness Development. She is the daughter of Ellen Hubbard.

**Nevaeh Trudeau:** Nevaeh is a second-year student at SUNY Adirondack in the Liberal Arts – Humanities and Social Science Program, majoring in English. She is the daughter of Lindsey Smith.

We congratulate all our award recipients on their continuing achievements. Best of luck from the Hague community as you go forward!

Many thanks also to those who have continued to support the Beste Scholarship Fund with donations over the years. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to: "Beste Scholarship Fund" and send to Kathy Santaniello, 14 Braisted Hill Road, Silver Bay, NY 12874. ☑



TOP L to R:  
Madison Fish,  
Nicholas  
Fitzgerald;  
MIDDLE L to R:  
Quentin Gargan,  
Madalynn  
Hubbard;  
BOTTOM: Nevaeh  
Trudeau

## A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE IS COMING

A solar eclipse, which is when the moon passes in front of the sun either totally or partially, will occur in North America on the afternoon of Monday, April 8, 2024. It will last about two-and-a-half hours from beginning to end. At the eclipse's peak, there will only be a sliver of sun showing.

Hague is lucky to be near the path of totality and will have a magnitude (the amount of the sun's disk that is covered at the time of mid-eclipse) of 99.5%.

People who want to look up to see the eclipse should be sure to wear solar viewing glasses. Many organized viewing events will have glasses available, but you can also purchase them ahead of time online by clicking [HERE](#). Another alternative is to make a pinhole camera to view a projection of the moon crossing in front of the sun.



Image courtesy of Saratoga Living

(Continued on p. 7)

## TOWN EMAIL LIST

To receive information about the Town of Hague, go to [townofhague.org](http://townofhague.org), enter your email address and click "subscribe" in the upper right-hand corner. You'll receive:

- **Timely Updates:** Information about important events, projects, initiatives, and developments in Hague
- **Emergency Notifications:** Timely alerts that will keep you and your loved ones safe in case of emergencies or urgent situations
- **Community Engagement Opportunities:** Ways you can get involved and make a difference in our community from attending town hall meetings to participating in volunteer opportunities

## BEVINS NAMED PASTOR OF HAGUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Oliver Bevins has been named the new pastor at the Hague Baptist Church.

His name just might sound familiar to those of us in Hague. He was born at Moses Ludington Hospital and attended Hague School, St. Mary's, and Ticonderoga High School.

He moved to Florida in 1989. He gave his heart to the Lord in 1997, became a pastor in December of 2003, and was the pastor at New Hope Baptist Church in Florida.

He and his wife, Sharon, moved back home to Hague in 2019 and they began to attend the Hague Baptist Church.

The service at the church is at 10:30 am every Sunday. ☑

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2/22/2024**

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch, Jon Hanna, Chris Navitsky, and Linda Mury via ZOOM. Absent was Ray Snyder. Also present were Stefanie Bitter, Esq., Aaron Roberts, engineer, via ZOOM, Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathy Clark, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Attorney Hall, and members of the audience.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1. JESBERGER (43.13-1-29) 7 BAYBERRY LANE (TR-1) VAR 02-24 SP 05-23**

Nobody spoke in favor of or against the project. Clark read a letter in favor of ZBA approval from a Cape Cod Village homeowner. She also read the planning board's positive recommendation.

**2. LINCOLN (43.13-1-30) 5 BAYBERRY LANE (TR-1) VAR 16-23 and VAR 01-24**

Clark read one letter from a Cape Cod Village homeowner in favor of the variances and several letters from Cape Cod Village homeowners, including one from the Cape Cod Village Homeowners Association Board, in opposition to the variances.

Clark reported the findings of a site visit that the planning board carried out on 2-7-2024. The members of the board found that the width of the addition is actually five to six feet more than just covering the crawl space, the bay window could have been replaced, and that something like a bilko door could have been placed over the crawl space instead. A motion was made and seconded to deny the variance requests.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously in favor of closing the public hearings.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. JESBERGER (43.13-1-29) 7 BAYBERRY LANE (TR-1) VAR 02-24 SP 05-23**

On November 16, 2023 the applicants received approval of a variance for more than a 25% increase of square footage to a nonconforming structure. Their approved project included an addition of a second story to an existing cabin. At this time, the applicants are asking for approval of the total replacement of the entire structure. The floor plans will remain the same.

**Zoning Issues: 160-23 (A). Rear line setback and 160-65 (A) Total replacement of a nonconforming structure (Site Plan)**

The Jesbergers centered the structure on the lot, which eliminated the need for some of the variances. Stormwater management and that the well be protected during construction were suggested. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the variance request 02-24, with the condition of setting the rear setback to 10' 8" at the back

stairs (the house will maintain the current setback of 13' 8") and with some minor stormwater management controls.

**2. LINCOLN (43.13-1-30) 5 BAYBERRY LANE (TR-1) VAR 16-23 and VAR 01-24**

The applicant built a 4' x 15' 8 3/4" addition to a nonconforming house for the purpose of covering the entrance to a crawl space. It has encroached the rear and sideline setbacks and has increased his percentage of lot coverage. He did not obtain a proper permit before its construction and on April 3, 2023 a Stop-Work Order was issued.

**Zoning Issues: 160-23 (A) Rear and sideline setbacks and an increase of maximum percentage of lot coverage**

Lincoln's attorney, Hall, spoke. Discussion ensued. Lincoln agreed to come back to the board with some alternatives. The motion was made, seconded, and passed 4-0 to table the variances.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. KIREKER (93.16-1-31) 54 SABBATH DAY POINT ROAD (TR-1) VAR 03-24**

The applicants propose replacing their deteriorating waterfront seawall and boardwalk with a four-foot-high boulder wall and a boardwalk along 240' of the shoreline. Installation of native plantings and erosion controls are also proposed.

**Zoning Issue: 160-50 (B) Shoreline**

Aaron Roberts, engineer, representing the Kirekers via ZOOM, explained the project. Questions were raised and answered regarding encroachment into the lake, the height of the wall, the mean-high-water line, the dimensions for the permeable fire pit area, where the wall would end at the north property line, and the size of the beach. A site visit was scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024. A motion was made, seconded and passed 4-0 to put this project on the agenda for the next ZBA meeting.

**2. PARLIN (60.17-1-22) 3 DOT & JACK LANE (TR-1) VAR 04-24**

The applicants are requesting a shoreline variance. The existing shoreline of this lot is 251.5 feet, the proposed shoreline would be 68 feet, if approved.

**Zoning Issue: 160-50 (B)(1)(c) {1} Minimum shoreline lot width**

Stefanie Bitter, Esq., spoke on behalf of the Parlins. In their estate planning, the Parlin property on the east side of 9N will be subdivided into three lots. There is a question of dock positioning. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously in favor of tabling the project until more specific numbers are provided on lots and docks. A site visit was scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024. ▣

**PLANNING BOARD - 3/7/2024**

Present were Chairman Pam Peterson, Sandra Powell, Judy Gourley, Edna Frasier, and Meg Haskell via FaceTime. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer Edward Kirchberger, Zoning Clerk Denise Gugumuck, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Tony DeFranco, and guests in the audience.

Peterson welcomed the new Zoning Enforcement Officer, Edward Kirchberger. Cathy Clark, former Zoning Enforcement Officer, has resigned and was thanked for her service.

**REFERRALS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:**

**1. KIREKER (93.16-1-31) 54 Sabbath Day Point Road (TR-1) VAR 03-24**

The applicants propose replacing their deteriorating waterfront seawall and boardwalk with a four-foot-high boulder wall and a boardwalk along 240' of the shoreline. Installation of native plantings and erosion controls are also proposed

**Zoning Issue: 160-50 B. Shoreline**

No one was present representing Kireker. A site visit was scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 3 pm.

**2. PARLIN (60.17-1-22) 3 DOT & JACK LANE (TR-1) VAR 04-24**

The applicants are requesting a shoreline variance. The existing shoreline of this lot is 251.5', and the proposed would be 68', if approved.

**Zoning Issues: 160-50 B (1) (c) [1] Minimum shoreline lot width**

No one was present representing Parlin. The project involves changing the lot lines of a previous subdivision for family estate planning. It was confirmed that the minimum shoreline lot width for this zoning area is 100' and the applicants are asking for 68'. A motion was made, seconded, and passed 4-1 (Gourley) to recommend denial of the variance to the ZBA.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. THOMPSON (26.10-1-8) 63 FOREST BAY SOUTH - (TR-1R) SP 01-24**

The applicants would like to demolish a legal nonconforming house and replace it with a new conforming house.

**Zoning Issues: 160-23 C (1)(g) New construction within 100' of the lake**

Peterson reported that the board members carried out a site visit on February 7, 2024 with Tony DeFranco. One positive aspect of the proposal is that the old garage, which presently sits on the town road right-of-way, will be demolished. The new house will be built with an attached garage and will include conforming setbacks, conforming lot coverage, and ample stormwater provisions. DeFranco reviewed a set of existing plans and a footprint of the buildings and verified roof heights of the building, which all meet the 40' code regulation. Since the ZBA meeting, they have received approval of the stormwater permit. DeFranco confirmed there are no regulations that require the homeowner to drill a well; she will be allowed to connect to the existing Class AA public lake water supply. There will be a place designated on the lot

for a well, even though, at this time, no well is planned. DeFranco stated the town should be aware that there are many legal implications involved with some of the new septic variances. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and carried 5-0 to deem the application complete. A motion was made, seconded, and approved 5-0 to approve the application as is, with no conditions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. JESBERGER (43.13-1-29) 7 BAYBERRY LANE (TR-1) VAR 02-24 SP 05-23**

On November 16, 2023 the applicants received approval of a variance for more than 25% increase of square footage to a nonconforming structure. Their approved project included an addition of a second story to an existing cabin. At this time, the applicants are asking for approval of the total replacement of the entire structure. The floorplan will remain the same.

**Zoning Issues: 160-65 (A) Total replacement of a nonconforming structure**

Peterson reported on the site visit. The ZBA had given approval with one condition for the back steps' setback. A motion was made, seconded, and carried 5-0 to deem the application complete. A motion was made, seconded, and carried 5-0 to approve the application, with one condition regarding the back steps' setback.

**TOWN BOARD - 3/12/2024**

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett, Board Members Steve Ramant, Maureen Cherubini, Jack Bast, and Martin Fitzgerald. Also present were Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, Zoom Coordinator Tim Fiallo, Bob Holmes of RU Holmes Engineers, Nicholas Bandel of Cedarwood Engineering, Eric Sandblom of SRA Engineers, Andrew Gilchrist of Gilchrist Tingley Attorneys at Law, Matt Coffin, Ken Parlin, Tom Simunek, Lance Clark, Leo Lucas, Tim and Mertie Klinger, Mary Lou Doulin, Mike and Peggy Kowalsky, Kathy Santaniello, Don Vogel, Alane Vogel, Dave DeFranco, Tony DeFranco, Sandy Smith, Roger Scales, Edna Frasier, Cathy Clark, Lara Smith-Ryder, Susan Maltese, Pat Menke, Dylan Menke, Paul Budd, Tony Dawson, Ken Parlin, Joe Tinnirella, John Geils, Seddon Beaty, and several others who did not sign in.

There were an estimated 30 attendees via ZOOM.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

(The following public hearings regarding septic systems were left open as of the January 11th town board meeting)

**1. Oxford Cottages, Inc./Lee Cunningham, 4 Silver Bay Road, tax map #76.20-1-3.2 (TR-1R)**

The applicant is seeking five variances. This public hearing will remain open and be continued at the April 9, 2024 town board meeting. Mark Schachner is the town's attorney in this matter and all questions will be addressed by him.

## TOWN BOARD, CONTINUED

### 2. **Ellie Hitzrot, 24 Tower Point Road, tax map # 76.12-1-14**

The applicant is seeking six variances. Sandblom reviewed the plans to replace the current septic system. Bandel stated Cedarwood finds no objections to the application. Motions were made, seconded, and unanimously carried to close this hearing and to approve this application.

### 3. **Thomas Simunek, 5 Greyford Way, tax map # 12.18-1-29.2**

The applicant is seeking eight variances. Holmes explained the proposed changes. Bandel stated that Cedarwood has no issues with it. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to close this public hearing. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the application. (Fitzgerald abstained)

### 4. **David Lance Clark, 9657 Lakeshore Drive, tax map # 12.14-1-18.1**

The applicant is seeking five variances. Holmes gave an overview of the application. Cedarwood had suggestions. Holmes confirmed that amended plans have been submitted to meet those suggestions. Bandel stated Cedarwood reviewed the new plans and have no issues. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to close this public hearing. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the application. (Fitzgerald abstained)

### 5. **Mike and Beth Regan, 7929 and 7931 Lakeshore Drive, tax map # 93.12-1-24.1 and 93.12-1-24.2**

The applicants are seeking four variances. Holmes gave an overview of the application and their responses to Cedarwood's comments dated 2/23/24. Bandel confirmed Holmes has responded to all comments/suggestions. Bandel stated, "Cedarwood believes the Town of Hague should also consult an attorney as to if a 'Transportation Corporation' should be required. Both properties share infrastructure for the proposed wastewater system on the other property." A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to close this public hearing. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the application. (Fitzgerald abstained)

## REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Administrative: (Patchett)** All things are running smoothly.

**Buildings and Grounds/Community Center/ Enhancement: (Patchett)** The community center was without heat for five days recently due to the breakdown of the boiler. The board needs a protocol (i.e. backup heating system, use of portable heaters, etc.) if breakdowns occur again.

**Highway: (Dunklee)** The Highway Department has been prepping the trucks for spring and grants are being sought for the Wardsboro Road repairs. Permission was granted for Coffin, Fiallo, and Dunklee to attend Highway School.

**Museum and Historian: (Ramant)** The historical department has been organizing the storage room. Kuenzel said an historical marker will be placed at the park on Memorial Day.

Motions were made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the resignations of Ray Snyder from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Cathy Clark as Zoning Enforcement Officer. Patchett thanked them for their many years of excellent service to the town.

**Planning/Zoning/Storm Water: (Cherubini)** The board has received and reviewed the monthly Zoning Report.

**Recreation/Promotion/Youth: (Ramant)** The Lake George Land Conservancy Hike-A-Thon will take place July 5, 2024. The town is still searching for leadership and volunteers to put on the Memorial Day Parade. (Sandy Smith expressed an interest.)

**Sewer District # 1 and 2: (Bast)** Four manholes near the Lakeshore Pump Station have been repaired. There are still ongoing sewer truck problems.

**Town Park and Beautification: (Ramant)** The boat launch will open on May 17th, the visitor center on June 22nd, and the lifeguards will be on duty starting June 28th. Anyone interested in working at the boat launch, should contact Ramant.

**Environmental Concerns: (Ramant)** Several street lights have been repaired. He and National Grid continue to work to repair additional lights.

**Technology and Communications Committee: (Patchett)** New computers are being provided for Oum Hilliard and Desiree Lapointe. The Town of Hague e-mail database opt-in (Mailchimp) is now on the town's website. There is also a sign-up sheet at the front entrance table. All are encouraged to sign up.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Bast asked all Hague community members to attend the Ticonderoga School Board meeting on Tuesday, March 19th at 6 pm, when Hague's request for the use of Multi-Year Assessment Averaging (MYAA) will be presented by Patchett.

Motions were made, seconded, and unanimously carried for:

- Dan Steitz to attend Dog Bite and Prevention Safety on March 26th
- Sandra Powell to attend the Adirondack Planning Conference at the Saranac Hotel on Wednesday March 25th

## NEW BUSINESS:

Motions were made, seconded, and unanimously carried for:

- Kim Coffin and Amanda Peterson to attend the New York State Town Clerks' Association 2024 Annual Conference April 21st - 24th in Albany
- Oum Hilliard and Desiree Lapointe to attend a Government Accounting Class on May 29th and 30th
- An Easter Egg Hunt for all children on Sunday March 31st following the Sunday morning church services on the community center lawn
- ZEO assistant Denise Gudumuck to work 28 hours a week or less

There was a lengthy conversation in regard to the MetTel three-year contract. Patchett will look into the board's questions and then will sign the contract.

The motion to approve a payment of \$5,000 to the Ticonderoga Chamber of Commerce (TACC) for our annual contract was tabled. The board will ask TACC to attend the April 2024 town board meeting to justify this expense. ▣

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL HEARING, CONTINUED

Cherubini: "A public vote would be an idea to consider."

Bast: "I would like to ponder what was said during the public hearing."

Ramant: "There may be ways to 'tighten up' the document using comments that were made."

Patchett reminded the group that prior to being elected town supervisor, he had been the chair of the committee that wrote this ordinance. He said there have now been "three rounds" and many compromises have been made. He stated, "We are going in circles" and "the three-year waiting period is just and fair." He explained that the reason for the ordinance is "to discourage investors from purchasing homes in Hague for the sole purpose of renting them." He concluded, "I think this document serves the best interest of the Town of Hague and its community."

Patchett asked Town Attorney John Silvestri if the document was legally sound. Silvestri replied, "Yes, it is; just like the other towns."

Patchett made a motion to approve the STR Local Law as written. The motion was seconded by Ramant. It was defeated 3-2. (Patchett and Ramant voting yes, and Bast, Fitzgerald, and Cherubini voting no).

Patchett later said the Town of Hague will provide answers to all questions about the STR Local Law and that the public may submit additional questions to Town Clerk Kim Coffin at townclerk@townofhague.org.

Patchett plans to bring the STR Local Law back to the board for further consideration and another vote. ❏

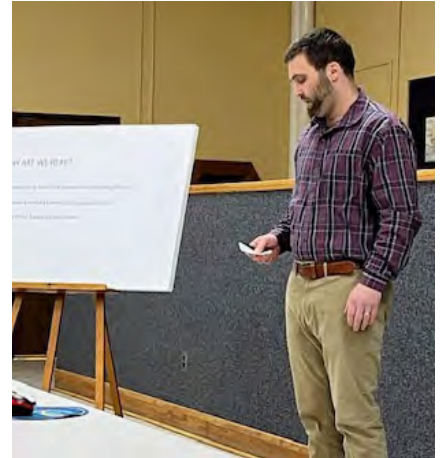
## MULTI-YEAR ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

This averaging method avoids surprise changes in school taxes, no matter when or how often new assessments happen. A MYAA process would help both Hague and Ticonderoga residents plan for their property tax levies.

Over one hundred residents from both Hague and Ticonderoga attended the meeting and Supervisor Patchett definitively set the tone, noting that, as we are one school district community, Hague is a key constituent.

The response was genuinely positive; each board member commented on the clear and concise delivery of the request by Patchett. The board and the town members were cordial as they listened to Patchett enumerate the facts regarding Hague's financial contribution to the TCSD, the assessment processes, and the benefits of using MYAA. These are the points Patchett made:

1. A New York State law, the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (NYSORPTS) (HERE) sets equalization rates each year to ensure multiple towns within the same school district can compare their assessments on an equal basis for the purpose of apportioning the school tax levy.
2. For the period since their prior revaluation (2004 to 2024), Hague has paid more than 50% of the TCSD school tax levy every year.
3. During that period (2004-2024), Hague paid \$108 million, while Ticonderoga paid \$102 million.
4. The White Paper presented to the BOE clearly shows that both Hague's and Ticonderoga's assessment processes have room for improvement.
5. Hague taxpayers are currently paying \$204,935 for each of its 35 Hague students while Ticonderoga taxpayers are paying \$8,567 for each of its 730 Ticonderoga students.
6. For taxpayers in both towns and for the district, MYAA moderates and protects them from unplanned assessment changes and increases in school taxes and allows for better planning.
7. TCSD already uses MYAA for its Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) costs.



*Hague Town Supervisor Patchett*

The Town of Hague also proposed that a working committee of members from Ticonderoga and Hague be formed to further study the pros and cons of MYAA.

President of the BOE Mark Russell applauded the Hague residents in attendance at the meeting and suggested that Hague should consider having a resident run for a position on the BOE. ❏

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## ECLIPSE, CONTINUED

Tupper Lake's Adirondack Sky Center and Observatory, the Adirondacks' only public astronomy-based organization, will host a series of guest lectures, a NASA livestream, planetarium visits, and family activities from April 5th – 9th.

Other viewing events will be held at Ausable Chasm, Lake Placid's Olympic Speed Skating Oval, Titus Mountain, downtown Saranac Lake, The Wild Center, Whiteface Mountain, and Paradox Brewery.

Silver Bay will have a weekend full of fun activities scheduled. From

Eclipse Crafts to a Constellation Walk, they'll have activities for people of all ages. View the full list of activities [HERE](#).


Unfortunately, if it's cloudy here in Hague, the eclipse will not be visible to us. Let's all hope for clear skies!



## REGISTER FOR LGLC ANNUAL HIKE-A-THON


Registration is open for the Lake George Land Conservancy's 12th annual Lake George Hike-A-Thon.

This free, family-friendly event is scheduled for Friday, July 5, 2024. Many of the hikes and paddles have already filled up, but there are still some to choose from. You can also opt to join virtually and participate from wherever you are.

Click [HERE](#) for more information. 


## ONLINE MAPS AVAILABLE

**LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION MAPPING TOOL** - The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) offers an interactive web application that you can use to find out when your next septic system inspection will be, locate a boat inspection station, learn where to buy a boat sticker, and more. Whether you are a resident, visitor, municipality, or business owner, you'll find the information you need related to the LGPC's permits. Click [HERE](#) to open the map.

**ADIRONDACK ATLAS INTERACTIVE MAP** - This provides information on recreational activities including hiking trails, boating, snowmobiling, public beaches and more, as well as amenities such as campgrounds, gas stations, and hotel accommodations. You can zoom into any area within the Adirondack Park to get detailed information. Click [HERE](#) to open the map. 

## BOOKMARK CONTEST

All fourth and fifth grade students in the Lake George watershed are invited to share their creativity in the Lake George Association's annual Bookmark Contest.

The theme is: "Planting Trees to Make Stormwater Clean." The winning bookmark will be printed and distributed to schools, libraries, and other locations throughout the watershed. The deadline to submit artwork is April 19, 2024. Click [HERE](#) for details on how to enter. 


## SILVER BAY HAPPENINGS

### CANCER RESPITE PROGRAM

Founded in 2009, the Cancer Respite Program began as a partnership with the CR Woods Cancer Center in Glens Falls to provide a stay to patients who were undergoing cancer treatment and their families. The eligibility of this program has been expanded to individuals nationwide who are currently undergoing treatment for cancer and to individuals who are within twelve months of completion of treatment for cancer.

Since 2017, Silver Bay YMCA has hosted over 150 Cancer Respite Program guests. To learn more, click [HERE](#). To apply, click [HERE](#).

### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SILVER CAMP

The camp offerings have changed, so make sure to click [HERE](#) to read the Silver Camp Booklet and learn all about this year's camp offerings. To register for Silver Camp, click [HERE](#). 



*Photo courtesy of Silver Bay YMCA*

## HAGUE STUDENTS ON 2ND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

- Grade 1:** High Honors and 100 Club\* – Liam Blanchette  
Honors – Isabella Knight
- Grade 3:** Honors – Elizabeth Gargan and Jackson Porter
- Grade 4:** Honors – Liam Scoville; High Honors – Katy Towne
- Grade 5:** High Honors – Noah Mydlarz, Maddison Smith, and Cerina Swinton
- Grade 7:** First Honors – Elena DeFranco
- Grade 8:** First Honors – Wyatt Barnes and James DeFranco
- Grade 9:** First Honors – Zebulon Denno, Brady Mydlarz, and Miya Savage  
Second Honors – Kaiden Smith
- Grade 10:** Second Honors – Brady Kennedy
- Grade 11:** First Honors – Alyssa Mydlarz
- Grade 12:** First Honors – Sophie Hubbard

\* student gets 100 on everything in a core subject



## TI BEST 4TH IN THE NORTH CRANKING UP

The Best 4th in the North Celebration will take place in Ticonderoga July 1 - 4, 2024 with live music and entertainment, food, a parade, the Montcalm Mile, a kids' zone, a grand fireworks display, and more.

Nominations for Grand Marshal are now being accepted.

"We encourage community members, organizations, and businesses to submit nominations for the 2024 Grand Marshal. Think of people who are truly dedicated to the community, serve the Ticonderoga area throughout the year, and people who have been an inspiration to the community through their leadership," stated Best 4th in the North Committee Chairperson Debbie Barber.



Nominations can be submitted on the Best 4th in the North Facebook page or by emailing [tmsp@timainstreet.org](mailto:tmsp@timainstreet.org). The deadline is April 22nd at 4 pm.

The Best 4th in the North Committee needs more volunteers to help with the planning, fundraising, and during the celebration. It typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 pm at the TACC office.

For more information, to join the committee, or for parade applications, go to the TACC Facebook page or visit [www.ticonderogany.com](http://www.ticonderogany.com). ❏

## LAKE PROTECTOR SUMMIT COMING IN JUNE

Mark your calendars for the Lake George Association's (LGA) Lake Protector Summit on June 14, 2024. Join in person at Camp Chingachgook in Kattskill Bay or livestream the event from your computer. The event is free and open to all LGA members and Lake Protectors. It will focus on how we can all mitigate the threats to Lake George water quality.



At the Lake Protector Summit on June 22, 2023. Photo courtesy of The Post-Star.

Check out the LGA's Homeowner's Guide to Lake Protection webinar, [HERE](#), which is based on presentations from the 2023 Lake Protector Summit. ❏

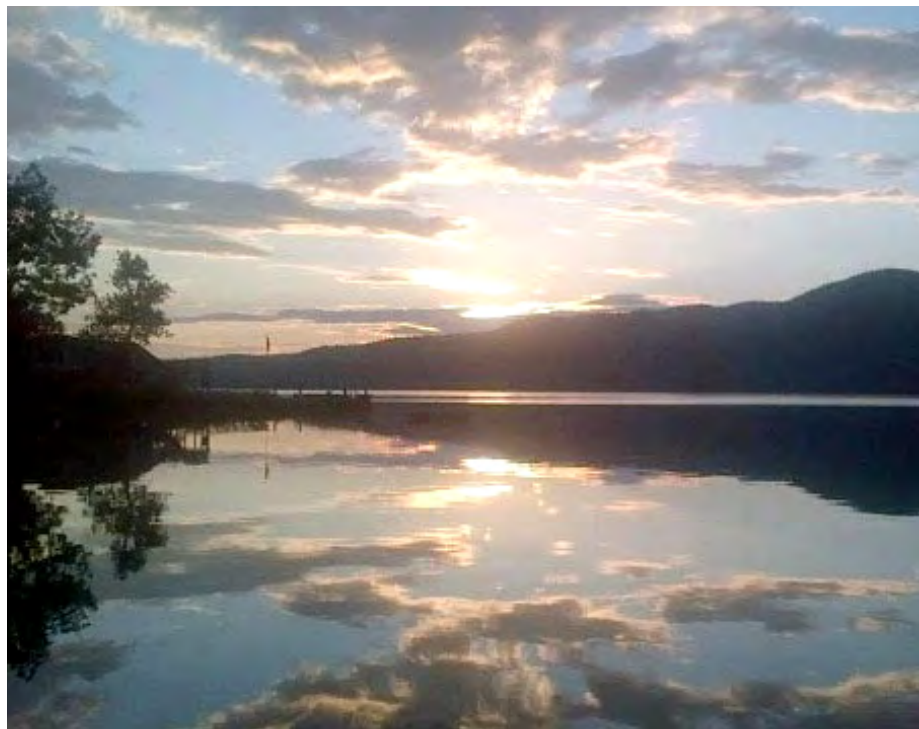


Photo courtesy of Silver Bay YMCA

*The Hague Chronicle* is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths.

We will now include a high quality photo for publication in Soundings.

Please send information and photos to [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org).

### HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

Please send all news items to Editor Bobbi Bryant Taylor at: [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org).

## LOOKING BACK

### A TALE OF TWO LAKE FAMILIES

by Jan Thomas Van Sickle



This is the story of one of the many couples whose families had summered in Hague for decades and who met, ultimately fell in love, and married here at the lake, hence joining their two families in a happy, lifelong bond.

First, we meet the Halliday family. Herbert and Vernie Halliday first arrived in Silver Bay when Herbert (a YMCA General Secretary at the Fitchburg, MA, YMCA) attended Y conferences there in 1938, along with Vernie and their three sons Jim, Ted, and Gene. The next summer, the family went back to Silver Bay for a six-week stay at the Woodside Cottage. Over the years, Vernie had a number of jobs including serving as a hostess in the dining room, manning the gift shop, being the housemother at Paine for staff, and, lastly, working in the craft shop.

Ted, born in 1923, met Shirley Raynor of the same age, at Silver Bay in 1940. Shirley's family was from Rockville Center, NY, and a friend of her mom's, who was a hostess in the Silver Bay dining room, recommended they summer at Silver Bay. During those years before Pearl Harbor, Ted and his two brothers and Shirley and her brother, Artie, all worked as EMPS at Silver Bay.

In August 1944, Ted was on furlough from the Army before going to fight in Europe and he and Shirley were married on Long Island. Ted and Shirley began staying in a Silver Bay campus cottage for a couple of weeks each summer, introducing their three children, Robin, Leslie, and Chris, to the joys of vacationing at Lake George.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Lee Roy Van Sickle and his wife, Nellie, discovered Silver Bay and, during the summer of 1953, rented a little cottage at the top of Watt's Hill. Lee was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War. That first summer, Lee learned that Keith DeLarm, who had just returned from Korea, was struggling to put his milk business back together and needed a delivery driver. So, Keith processed the milk and Lee volunteered to drive his truck while he was there on vacation.

In that same year, the Van Sickle's bought a lot on Cratty Point, inside Pudding Island. The next summer, Lee started building a cottage by digging piling footings by hand. When Keith discovered what Lee was doing, he showed up with his father's bulldozer and dug a basement for Lee at no charge.

And so, Lee built a cottage and Nellie and Lee Van Sickle became summer residents of Hague. Their three children – Camilla, Jan (Tom), and George, loved spending their summers at the lake. The children especially enjoyed walking over to Silver Bay via the "Friendship Trail" that still runs from the Parlin's home on Pudding Island Road, through the Rowan/Smith woods to the Silver Bay Road. It offered safe passage from their home to the Silver Bay campus without them having to walk on Route 9N.

The Silver Bay Craft Shop turned out to be where these two families first connected. Vernie Halliday worked at the shop for many years and Nellie Van Sickle, whose specialty was leaded glass, began to work there as well. Along the way, the children of Ted and Shirley and Lee and Nellie, Robin Halliday and Jan Van Sickle, met. They were introduced by Jeannette Babcock King, who invited both of them to the wedding of Pete Carney (grew up on Sabbath Day Point) and Peggy King (summer Hague resident). That is another love story, along with another summer romance between Jeannette and Tim King that connected the Silver Bay teenagers with the Hague and Northern Lake George Yacht Club kids.

That could have been the start of a great Lake George romance between Robin and Jan, but nothing came of it until a lucky 13 years later, when both needed changes in their lives. Behind the scenes were Vernie and Nellie at the craft shop doing some matchmaking. Robin and Jan reconnected, fell in love, and married on the tiny and picturesque nearby island we know as Scotch Bonnet.

So, after each family had been in the Silver Bay area for decades, the Hallidays and the Van Sickle's became joined together. The tradition of getting married in the area continued when Jan and Robin's second son, Matt, and his college sweetheart were married on Slim Point in Silver Bay and the wedding reception was in the old dining hall.

But, times change. The Van Sickle's have now sold their lake cottage. Lee and Nellie Van Sickle and Ted Halliday passed away in their 90's. Shirley, who turned 100 this year, still owns the

Halliday cottage on Terrace Road above Silver Bay. These days, the combined Halliday/Van Sickle family enjoys time together every summer on our favorite lake, the one the French called the Lac du St. Sacramento, and in the family home Ted named "Ultimate Folly."

Our lake cottage today is less like a folly and more like a home. ▣



TOP TO BOTTOM: Shirley and Ted Halliday, Lee and Nellie Van Sickle, Jan and Robin Van Sickle on their wedding days

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, as we prepare for the Great North American Eclipse, there will be a one-day REAL TIME REVOLUTION™ Living History Event at Fort Ticonderoga called *1774 His Majesty's Garrison of Ticonderoga*. Guests will discover the peacetime garrison life for the British soldiers and their families living at Fort Ticonderoga. They will learn how soldiers in the 18th century studied physics and astronomy to gain a deeper understanding of the world.

Visitors will explore tailoring, shoemaking, and carpentry, watch oxen haul supplies and lumber, discover the science of recreating archaeological examples from shipwrecks, watch musket firing, delve into the math of successfully aiming a cannon, and see how artillery was on the cutting edge of physics during these formative years for astronomy.

This event is free to Ticonderoga Ambassador Pass holders and Fort Ticonderoga members, with no reservations required. Tickets for the general public can be purchased online in advance at [www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org) or upon arrival.

\*Fort Ticonderoga is only open on Sunday, April 7 from 10 am – 4 pm. Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Defiance are not open to the public for the eclipse on Monday, April 8. Daily visitation begins in May. ❏

## TI AREA SPRING JOB FAIR RETURNS

The Ticonderoga Area Student Job and Career Fair will be on April 25, 2024 at the Ticonderoga Jr./Sr. High School. It is part of a joint effort between Ti-Alliance and the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) to connect local employers and the workforce.

As in prior years, it will be held from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Ticonderoga High School gym. Employers' job listings are provided to students in advance and interviews can be pre-scheduled. It is free for participating employers and is a great opportunity to connect with young, reliable seasonal employees. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

All Ticonderoga area employers are welcome to attend and are encouraged to contact Ti-Alliance Program Coordinator Melinda Fuller to RSVP and for details at [fuller.melinda@gmail.com](mailto:fuller.melinda@gmail.com). ❏

## TI ARTS GALLERY

The next show at the Ti Arts gallery will be a TI STUDENT SHOW from April 4 - April 27, 2024. There will be a reception on April 12th from 5 – 7 pm. The gallery is located at 119 Montcalm Street in Ticonderoga and it is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. ❏

**SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE**: You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time **HERE**. Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE** is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Please send all news items and Soundings by the deadline listed in the calendar, to [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org) Please send any questions to [publisher@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:publisher@thehaguechronicle.org).

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## TEEN CENTER AWARDED GRANT

Silver Bay YMCA has been awarded a \$5,000 grant for its Ticonderoga Teen Center from the Cloudsplitter Foundation.

The Teen Center, which is open five days a week during the school year, is a free drop-in program for area teens in 6th through 12th grade.



*Silver Bay YMCA's Chef Anthony Basile gives a cooking lesson at the Ticonderoga Teen Center. Courtesy of Silver Bay YMCA*

"Our goal is to create a safe and engaging environment for teenagers to connect with their peers, access resources, and engage in positive and constructive activities. We are grateful for the support of these grants, as they play a critical role in our ability to make a positive impact on the lives of the teenagers we serve," stated Jackie Palandrani, Silver Bay YMCA's youth and teen director.

To learn more about the teen center, visit [silverbay.org/youth-teen](http://silverbay.org/youth-teen) or follow the teen center on Silver Bay's Facebook page. ❏

## MASON STAR DINNER

A public roast pork loin dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A. M. and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served Monday, April 22, 2024, from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will also be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be available at the door. Parking will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House parking lot. ❏

## THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

## CALENDAR

April 2024

### APRIL

1	EASTER MONDAY	19	Deadline for the Bookmark Contest		
	APRIL FOOLS' DAY	20	6 pm	Deadline for the May issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>	
	The April issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published	22	EARTH DAY		
4	7 pm	4 pm	Deadline for nominations for Best 4th Grand Marshal		
4 - 27	TI STUDENT SHOW at Ti Arts Gallery	4:30 - 6 pm	Mason Star pork loin dinner		
7	10 am - 4 pm	Living History Event at Ft. Ti	23	1:30 pm	Seniors Club Meeting
8	SOLAR ECLIPSE	25	9:30 am - 1:30 pm	Ti Area Student Job and Career Fair	
9	4:30 pm	Town Board Meeting	7 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting	
12	5 - 7 pm	Reception at Ti Arts Gallery			
13	11 am - 4 pm	HVFD Recruitment Day			
15	TAX DAY				

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS:** Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm