

Ballston Area SENIOR UPDATE

January/February 2026

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear BASC Members,

Happy New Year! May all your dreams and wishes follow you wherever you may go. Thank you for being an active member. I would like to thank past president, Francine Dudka and the executive board of the last term. I am hopeful with the team that will be installed Jan. 8, we are able to continue the trends of good business, good fun and compassion.

I had been coming to picking sessions over the last few years, which has filled me with joy, meeting members and guests alike. With the urging of Barbara Broderson to become a senior center member, I finally succumbed. I am a Marine Corp veteran. Thank you to all the veterans. From there a semi truck driver, of over 30 years, with various trucking companies, moving anything that needed to be moved. The biggest challenge I encountered was delivering 60 foot rebar to various sites in Boston Ma. for big dig project. My last ten years hauling general freight up and down the East coast. I met a lot of great people, and learned a lot about how to resolve issues on the fly. I now find myself in a much larger delivery system. I have been tasked to help run a not for profit organization. I have heard members call the BASC a club, we are not a club, but a group of seniors who enjoy spending time with others, doing things that make us all happy, involved in community. We all have different parts to play in the organization. With your participation, and the leadership installed, we can make this the place that is fun and exciting for our seniors and our community. Come to weekly meetings, help make the BASC the place that you want to come to, form togetherness and watch it grow.

As I begin my tenure as your new BASC president, I'm depending on you and your support. Remember you are the reason why we, (our executive director board), are here. Our seniors and the Ballston area community are important to all of us. I would like to see whenever you come to the center, greet everyone with a smile and hello. Do that wherever you may go. Sometimes that's the ticket to brighten ones day.

In my humble opinion, we all became members to do things as a group, enjoy the company of others, and help grow the organization, with membership in the community.

Respectfully Submitted

Earl Eaton

Thank you, have a happy day!



So many fun and interesting things on the crafters table at our meetings. Sue and Earleen keep it topical so check in every week, or join them Tuesday mornings 10.00am-11.45.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on **February 12th** with treats for everybody!

FESTIVE DINNERS

The next Festive dinner will be on **Saturday March 14th** at the Senior Center to celebrate St Patrick's Day. It will be catered by The Neighborhood Kitchen.

Ticket prices and sale dates will be announced soon.

FUN ACTIVITIES

I am in contact with the people who run the store Tea and Honey in Saratoga to come in and do a tea tasting activity. I will announce the date and what the class entails when we have finalized the details.

CRAFTERS

The Crafters are holding a class to make Valentine Gnomes on Tuesday January 20th at 10.00am. Come and make a fun project, and find out what else the Crafters are making.



The new Board members were sworn in January 8th. From L to R: Linda Elmer, Secretary; Chuck Crawford, Director; Lisa Watson, Membership; Eric Watson, Vice-President; Earl Eaton, President; in front: Janet Welcome, Director. Meg Stevens, Finance, was sworn in the next week.

Thank you to all our out going Board members for all their hard work on BASC's behalf.



At the last dance of the year, Rick and Sally enjoyed their slow dance. Mark Hersh was the DJ for our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and the December dance. He'll be with us for Valentine's Day too.

Breakfast With Santa was hosted by The Home of The Good Shepherd, Saratoga, in December. They provided a hot breakfast and muffins, coffee and hot chocolate, all of which was wonderful. And they brought Santa too for photos! Hopefully this will become an annual event.



WEDNESDAY PICKIN' SESSIONS

The evening sessions on the 1st Wednesday of the month will be January 7th and February 4th from 6.30 to 9.00pm. The afternoon sessions will be on the 3rd Wednesday and will be January 21st and February 18th from 1.00 to 3.00pm.

If you play an acoustic instrument and enjoy performing with others, come along to the Pickin' Sessions. If you enjoy hearing live music, come along and sing, clap or tap your feet. There's no entrance fee but snacks to share would be appreciated. Doors open at 6:00pm evenings and 12.30pm afternoons.

Contact: Email Earl Eaton Jr. at eeatonjr@aol.com for information.



DANCE

The first dance of the year will be **Saturday February 14th** (hey that's **Valentine's Day!**), and our favorite DJ Mark Hersh will be providing the music and fun. The music begins at 7.00pm and ends at 10.00pm.

The entrance fee is \$7.00, and there will be snacks and coffee and punch.

Other dates will be added once the bands or DJs are hired.

A Little Chuckle

What do you get if you cross a bee with a doorbell?
A humdinger!

What do you call a fake noodle?
An impostea!

Why do bananas use sunscreen?
Because they peel!

Thank you to Janet Welcome for these.

2026 TRIP SCHEDULE

March 24th Howe Caverns, including a boat ride inside the caverns. Lunch at The Bulls Inn Café.
Resident Members: \$45.00, Non Resident Members: \$55.00, Guests: Full Price.
Sign up: January 22nd & 29th

April 9th Beardsley Castle Murder Mystery Dinner.
Sign up: March 5th & 12th.
Resident Members: \$45.00, Non Resident Members: \$55.00, Guests: Full Price.

July 8th Lake George Steamboat Co. Mardi Gras Cruise on Lac Du Saint Sacrement.
Sign up: June 4th & 11th.
Resident Members: \$45.00, Non resident Members: \$55.00, Guests: Full Price.

August 9th Woodstock Theater 'Crazy for You', matinee. Meal after at The Pearl Moon Café.
Sign up: July 2nd & 9th.
Resident Members: \$60.00, Non Resident Members: \$70.00, Guests: Full Price.

October 6th OctoberFest at Gavins.
Sign up: September 3rd & 10th
Resident Member: \$45.00, Non Resident Member: \$55.00, Guests: Full Price.

TRIP PROCEDURE

Trips leave from the Pool room entrance at the Community Centre.

Dues for 2025 must be paid 30 days prior to trip date. The sign up dates will be on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays. Masks must be worn when requested.

Resident member-lives within Saratoga County, all others considered non-resident.

All payments by check only made out to BASC (if replacing cancelled seat, make payable to the member who cancelled). Member can sign up one other member as seat mate. Sign up on first come/ first served basis.

Cancellation: If member cancels before the head count is turned in, they will be refunded. Trip Chairperson contacts first member on wait list. If no member on wait list, member may find a substitute. If substitute is a non-member, pay guest rate. If no replacement after head count is turned in, no refund. For more information, please contact the Trip Coordinator: Mary Egan 518 630 6322.





JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Michael Bouchard
 Sharon Smith
 Elizabeth Mabb
 Mary McGrath
 Bob Zink
 Linda Timmons
 Sarah Snyder
 Rosemary Rhodes
 James Carlson
 Mary Osielski
 Kevin Connolly
 Louise Bean
 Gerry LaPrate
 Pamela Markert
 Bridget Kolinowski
 Patty Westbrook
 Jonathan Gadbois
 Karen Kump
 Linda Butchino
 Howard Hutchins
 Shirley Laskey
 Madeline Miller
 Jodi Kenna
 Marilyn Preissler
 Thelma Armer
 Betsy Chung
 Charlene Hoffman-Anderson
 Dora Lee Stanley
 Barbara Nachbar
 Virginia Vargas
 Diane Okonsky
 Richard Okonsky
 Mary Ebert
 Eric Watson
 Shirley Whitbeck
 Anne McKenzie
 Lynne Raucci
 Timothy Spencer
 Earleen Van
 Luz French
 Nancy Utermark
 Linda Mellen

Susan Brewer
 Noreen McClements
 Diana Northrup
 Eleanor Tabor
 Michelle Mitchell
 James Bennett
 Joan Keefer
 Karen Millington
 Wayne Wales
 Elizabeth Bathgate
 Bill Tamburri
 Rosalie Peters
 Ocala Kane
 Daniel Buneo
 Susan Johnston
 Jenelle Bowen
 Ed Moore
 Neil Kennedy
 Patricia Patrick-Henry
 Marcia Barbolt
 Helen Bouchard
 Marcia Hall
 Mark Klompas
 Bernadine Clancy
 Nancy Czupil
 Janice Harris

 Barb Disinger
 Anthony Zanella
 Bernard Kudlacik
 Mary Egan
 Christine Whalley
 Eileen Williams
 Ed Newell
 Mary Newell
 Christine Thrane
 Donna Morgan
 Ronald Rhodes
 Walter Stoeckl
 Terry Ann Durant
 Penelope Loretto
 Susan Croft
 Terry Puffer
 Pauline Manosh
 Michael Planko
 Donna M Nadeau



Donna M Nadeau

OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE

Old folks are worth a fortune: with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years: some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentleman every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.) After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed—with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do—all the time. No matter where I am—in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen or down in the basement—I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'

The author is unknown, but they certainly had a sense of humor!



Heather from Paint N Gogh helped us paint Christmas scenes (or winter) on glass. Everyone loved it! She will come back and do a spring themed painting on canvas. Details in March.



The Special Events committee organized competitions for Halloween costumes and Christmas sweaters, these are the winners. And we all got treats as usual!



People from the Emergency Corps came in to give us a lecture and demonstration on the latest thinking about helping someone who has had a heart attack. Always informative and helpful. If you have an idea of someone who you would like to talk to us, please tell Jim Frey, Director.



Carol on piano and Marcia on harmonica for the Chorus' 'American Folk Songs' program.



Helene brought her train whistle for 'The City of New Orleans'. Ginny and Marcia sang 'Where have all the flowers gone?'



CJ and Becky shared a moment while dancing at the Thanksgiving Dinner.

STORM

By Janet Welcome

Raining, Raining
It won't stop raining
Rain turns to snow;
Snow, snow

All day snow
Overnight freezing
Freezing
The rain keeps freezing

To ice
Ice on the road, it's hard to drive
On the walkways
People slip and slide

Oh, but, on the trees
On every branch, on every twig,
On needles, on leaves
On the wires overhead

ICE
Dangerous ice

Breaking trees and limbs
Crashing into homes
Blocking driveways and roads
Breaking wires
People without power

Oh, but, what vision
GOD'S crystals
How beautiful to see
The SUN
Shining making prisms
For all of us to see

People stopping cars
Taking pictures of
One of
GOD'S
SPLENDORS
ICE

Around the Town

Happy January Everyone – I hope all the Seniors are looking forward to a great “2026”.

The Town has projects continuing and some new ones coming up for this year. The new Highway garage is almost complete. I will keep updating the Seniors when the highway operations will be moving to their new home on Rowland Street. I’m sure we will be celebrating with a ribbon cutting. In the meantime, the Highway crew has been working hard at keeping our roads safe during this snow and ice season. Please remember that the Town has sand and salt mixture available to residents outside the main highway gate. The mixture can be taken in 5-gallon pails, free of charge.

We will be looking to construct two new pavilions at Burgess-Kimball Park. At this time we are still in the planning stage. The pavilions have become a very popular meeting place for parties and other events during the summer months. I will give you more information in the next couple of months.

A bright spot during the winter months is First Friday in the Village of Ballston Spa. February 6th is the date this year for one of our favorites, Chocolate Fest. If the weather cooperates it’s a nice time to stroll around the village and sample some chocolate treats.

That’s about all for this issue. Everyone stay warm and safe and watch out for icy sidewalks and roads. Don’t take any chances and stay home during bad weather.

Barbara



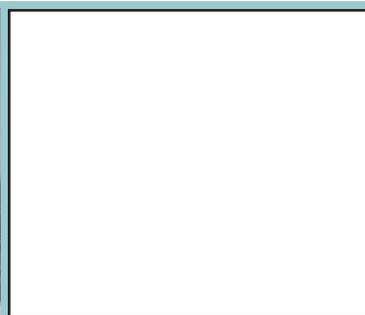
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Mondays

9.00am—12.00	Shooting Pool
10.00am—11.00am	Chorus
11.15am—12.00	Exercise

Tuesdays

10.00—12.00	Crafts
1.00—4.00pm	Mahjon

Thursday

9.30am	Social Time
10.30-11.15	Flex & Stretch Chair Exercise
11.30	Lunch & Meeting.
1.00—4.00pm	Shooting Pool

Fridays

11.15am—12.00	Exercise
6.30—9.00pm	Shooting Pool

If you would like to take part in any of these activities, please call Dan Buneo for pool at 518 309 3093, Earleen Van for crafts at 518 920 4640, Alison for exercise at 518 288 3565, and Carol Moll for flex & stretch at 518 399 8926.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY

7th Pickins' 6.30-9.00pm
 8th Luncheon, Meeting, Board Meeting. Pizza tix
 15th Luncheon, Pizza, Meeting.
 20th Class to make Valentine's Gnomes.
 21st Pickins' 1.00-3.00pm
 22nd Luncheon, Pot Luck, Meeting. Trip tix.
 29th Luncheon, Meeting. Trip tix.

FEBRUARY

4th Pickins' 6.30-9.00pm
 5th Luncheon, Meeting, Board Meeting. Pizza tix
 12th Luncheon, Meeting. Pizza tix.
 14th Dance with DJ Mark Hersh 7.00-10.00pm
 18th Pickins' 1.00-3.00pm
 19th Luncheon, Pizza, Meeting.
 26th Luncheon, Pot Luck, Meeting.