



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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2024 ELECTION RESULTS

ONE-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE HAGUE TOWN BOARD

Edna Frasier (R) 99.33%/ 296 votes
Write-in .67%/ 2 votes

THREE-YEAR UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE HAGUE TOWN BOARD

Lara Smith-Ryder (R) 56.5%/ 226 votes
Chris Richards (D) 43.5%/ 174 votes

MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY (113TH)

Warner (D) 61.83%/ 4,086 votes
Messina (R) 38.04%/ 2,514 votes

MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY (114TH)

Simpson (R) 98.1%/ 21,026
Write-in 1.09%/ 231 votes

STATE SENATOR

Stec (R) 98.35%/ 25,340
Write-in 1.65%/ 424 votes

CITY COURT JUDGE

Hobbs (D) 98.91%/ 4,821 votes
Write-in 1.09%/ 53 votes

REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U.S.

CONGRESS

Stefanik (R) 54.29%/ 19,160 votes
Collins (D) 45.63%/ 16,105 votes
Write-in .08%/ 28 votes

U.S. SENATE

Gillibrand (D) 51.75%/ 18,103 votes
Sapraicone (R) 47.78%/ 16,715 votes
Sare (L) .4%/ 139 votes
Write-in .08%/ 28 votes

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Trump (R) 51.63%/ 18,589 votes
Harris (D) 47.34%/ 17,043 votes
Write-in 1.02%/ 369 votes

PROPOSITION 1

YES – 48.87%/ 17,097 votes
NO – 51.13%/ 17,887 votes

HAGUE FOOD PANTRY: SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

The Hague Food Pantry is here to lend a helping hand to those in need. It provides food assistance to families and individuals in our community, ensuring no one goes hungry. Thanks to the addition of a new refrigerator, fresh food donations, along with non-perishable items, can be accepted.

The pantry is located at 9793 Graphite Mountain Road in the Hague Community Center and is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm. Donations of any kind are greatly appreciated. The community is encouraged to fill out the survey that is in the lobby of the community center, which will help the food pantry better serve local needs.

Scan the QR code at the pantry to donate.

For more information, contact Amanda at 518-543-6161 or haguefoodpantry@gmail.com. Together, we can make a difference!



Photo courtesy of Pat McDonough

VISITOR AND WELCOME CENTER AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

As reported in last month's *The Hague Chronicle*, the Hague Town Board appointed a seven-member advisory committee earlier this year to make recommendations for updating the Town of Hague's Comprehensive Plan (which was first created in 2002) and to take a look at using grant money to make improvements in the town's infrastructure.

The committee currently consists of Supervisor Josh Patchett and Town Board Member Chris Richards, as well as five public members.

One of the first focal points for the advisory committee is the town park, where a new welcome center and performance pavilion are being considered. Hague applied for and was awarded two grants to help finance the initial planning for this. In addition, Hague has applied for other grants and the state will decide if the town is awarded those in mid-December 2024.

As it moves forward, the town is relying on a robust public engagement process, which will form the foundation for the committee's recommendations to the town board. This includes a public survey, as well as public workshops and meetings (both in-person and virtual).

Property owners and registered voters will receive a postcard with a link to the survey in mid-December. The link will also be on the town website and paper copies of the survey will be available at the community center. It's important that residents fill out the survey to ensure that their opinions are heard.

(Continued on p. 2)

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by *Pat Hintze*



We have had a wonderful year filled with many interesting trips and delicious lunches. One highlight was our luncheon cruise on the Lac Du Saint Sacrement, where we enjoyed great food, live music, and stunning views of the fall foliage.

Those who attended the Garlic Fest had a fantastic time and even brought back some treats for those of us who couldn't make it—how thoughtful!

Our Halloween Party and meeting were also memorable, with creative costumes, lots of fun, and plenty of delicious food. The top costume winners received mums to take home as prizes.

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 3, 2024 at Frederick's in Bolton Landing. Be sure to check out the photos afterward, as Maria Waters always does a fantastic job of sharing them. Thank you, Maria — we truly appreciate your efforts!

On December 5th, we're planning a shopping spree, which promises to be a fun-filled day.

As we wrap up the year, the Hague Seniors would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year! ■

CORRECTION REGARDING THE 2024 MEMORY TREE

Checks should NOT be sent to the Hague town offices as was stated in the November issue. Instead, checks for one dollar per name should be mailed to HVFD, PO Box 585, Hague, NY, 12836.

Checks or cash can also be dropped off at the Hague Volunteer Firehouse (HVFD) Monday - Friday from 7 am - 5 pm with Terrie Davis or Donna Trudeau or from 2 - 5 pm with HVFD Treasurer Steve Fleischhacker. ■

VISITOR AND WELCOME CENTER, CONTINUED

A public meeting will be held in January, during which participants will hear about the results of the community survey.

In addition, there will be a presentation on the new Hague Welcome Center and a workshop to discuss recommendations for the update to Hague's Comprehensive Plan. The date for this meeting will be announced in the January issue of *The Hague Chronicle* as well as on the town website.

Click [HERE](#) to access the "Visitor & Community Welcome Center" page on the town's website, where you'll find updates and announcements about the survey and upcoming meetings.



HVFD

by *Donna Trudeau*



Hague Fire and EMS had ten fire calls, two EMS assists, one standby, five drills, eight EMS calls, and one drill for a total of 158 volunteer and paid hours.

In our continued effort to serve the community, we held a CPR class for anyone who was interested.

We had a successful Trunk and Treat followed by a Halloween Party at the firehouse.

We will have our annual "Breakfast with Santa" from 9 - 11 am on December 21, 2024.

We thank everyone for their continued support. ■

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) Agreements

by *Jack Bast*

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements are arrangements where property owners make fixed annual payments to local taxing authorities instead of traditional property taxes. These agreements are often used to encourage development by providing tax incentives and they can significantly impact local school district revenues.

The Town of Hague, being part of the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD), is affected by PILOT agreements negotiated by the Town of Ticonderoga and the TCSD. These agreements can influence the distribution of tax revenues, impacting funding for local schools. Therefore, the Hague School Advisory Committee's involvement in the development and oversight of these agreements is crucial to ensure that the interests of Hague's residents and students are adequately represented.

New York State (NYS) Laws provide tax exemptions for some projects that are aligned with specific public policies such as the development of renewable energy or infrastructure that supports the economy. The laws also provide local governments - i.e., county, town, and school - with the opportunity to negotiate PILOT agreements that can compensate them for some portion of the lost revenue. The law also provides the affected governments with the ability to opt out of the tax exemptions provided by the state law, in which case, the energy projects would be fully taxable.

The Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) has been a party to these two forms of PILOT agreements for seven energy projects in the last several years, with an estimated value in the range of \$150,000,000. With these PILOT agreements, the project owners will receive school property tax exemptions in excess of \$1,000,000 annually and the benefits to them will continue to increase over the next 30 years at our expense. The TCSD has not enacted an opt-out provision and thus no energy projects are or will be taxed at their full value. The Town of Hague was not included in any of the existing PILOT negotiations. Those

(Continued on p 3)

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE, CONTINUED

exemptions will necessarily need to be made up by increased payments from the taxpayers of Hague and Ticonderoga.

Hague Town Board Resolution #91, requesting inclusion in PILOT agreement negotiations going forward was transmitted to the Town of Ticonderoga and to the TCSD on September 13, 2024. Neither the Town of Ticonderoga nor the TCSD responded.

In separate follow-up letters to the Town of Ticonderoga and to the TCSD on October 16th, Supervisor Patchett expressed his dissatisfaction. He stated that Hague continues to seek commitment from both organizations to fully cooperate and collaborate with the Town of Hague in PILOT matters. As of November 20th, no response to Hague's letters has been received.

Continued follow-ups by Hague are required and are planned.

In the meantime, a SAC expert knowledgeable in the field of PILOT agreements has carefully researched the several PILOT agreements entered into by the Town of Ticonderoga and the TCSD. The preliminary results indicate highly unfavorable terms and conditions *even for the citizens of Ticonderoga*, much less for the school-tax-paying citizens of Hague.

The TCSD has compounded the negative impacts of negotiation shortcomings for Hague by refusing to include the Full Market Value of energy projects in the School Tax Levy Apportionment.

A White Paper is being reviewed by the committee for future action. ▣

DEFRANCO LANDSCAPING AWARDED 2024 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

DeFranco Landscaping, Inc. has been named the 2024 Business of the Year by the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC). The DeFranco family is currently celebrating over 40 years of service to the North Country and Lake George region.

The award was presented at TACC's annual celebration, which honors outstanding local businesses and emphasizes community support and growth.

Founded in 1984 by David and Jo Anne DeFranco, the company is known for high-quality landscaping that combines sustainability, creativity, and community focus.

Tony DeFranco, company president, accepted the award alongside his parents, expressing gratitude: "It's an honor to accept this with my parents, whose vision and dedication built the foundation for what we are today."

The company's success is attributed to strong partnerships with local businesses, clients, and community organizations. "The support from the North Country, including Hague and Ticonderoga, has been incredible," Tony noted. "These relationships have helped our business grow while strengthening the community."

DeFranco Landscaping has also built relationships with local organizations and regulatory agencies, resulting in collaborative projects. As the company looks ahead, Tony emphasized its ongoing commitment to TACC, its clients, and the local community.

"We live and work on Lake George and are excited to continue giving back to the place that has given us so much," he said.

For more information, contact Tony at 518-791-9816. ▣



FRIENDS POINT ROADS TO CLOSE

The Friends Point roads will be closed for the 24-hour period of 12:01 am on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 to 12:01 am Thursday, January 2, 2025. ▣

HHS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

Do you want to learn more about Hague's history? You're in luck! The Hague Historical Society (HHS) has launched its new website, where you'll find a wide variety of historical information. Many of the popular presentations from the annual meetings are now available on the site for your viewing (and listening) pleasure. These include presentations about hotels, tourism, markets, an old-time burglar in Hague, and more.

Or, watch interviews with Dolly Kennedy, Bruce Craig, and Jim DeLarm.

You can also learn about Hague's historical markers, which are placed around town from Sabbath Day Point to Graphite. Can you name all eight sites?

Or, how about taking a virtual walking tour of downtown Hague? You'll find all this and more on the website, with even more to come.

The HHS sent a fourth quarter 2024 digital newsletter to its members. If you're a member and didn't receive the email with the link to the newsletter, be sure to let the HHS team know by sending an email to haguehistorical@gmail.com. Printed copies of this newsletter are also available at the community center.

And if you're not a member, but would like to join, you can also do that on the new website. Click [HERE](#). Or visit HHS on Facebook and join the lively conversations that are going on there about people and places in Hague's past.

There is already quite the buzz there about The Cave. This iconic bar is the topic for the HHS 2025 museum exhibit and annual meeting presentation. ▣

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 10/24/2024

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch, Board Members Linda Mury, Tina Barth-King, and Chris Navitsky. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger, Alternate Alane Vogel, Robert Holmes of RU Holmes Engineers, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Alexandra Finocchio (attorney with Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes representing the Sisca family), Callie Sullivan, Joseph Castiglione (attorney for the law firm Young/Sommer), and Karolyn Kimble. Andrea Sisca was in attendance via ZOOM. Absent was Board Member Jon Hanna.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CUNNINGHAM (OXFORD COTTAGE) (76.20-1-32) 4 SILVER BAY ROAD (TR1) VAR 15-24

Zoning Issue: 160-52 B Wall over four feet.

The applicants are seeking approval to address a dangerous situation caused by excavation for a new structure. The proposed solution includes a six-foot wall as part of the stabilization plan.

The public raised concerns about slope remediation, access to plans, and the impact of a pending appeal of the stop-work order. Legal counsel for adjacent property owners argued for a delay in the ZBA decision until the appeal is resolved.

After deliberation, the board approved the variance with conditions, including engineering certification of storm water and erosion controls, periodic inspections, and immediate commencement of work following APA approval. The vote passed (3-1) (Barth-King).

ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 LAKESHORE DRIVE (HP) VAR 08-24, SP 04-24

Zoning Issues: 160-20 A Front yard setback, 160-65

Continuation of non-conforming structure, 25% increase. The application to replace a retail building with a two-story mixed-use structure was denied. The board cited traffic hazards, increased lot coverage, and noncompliance with zoning limits as reasons. The motion to deny passed (3-1) (Navitsky).

HARRISON (26.17-2-42.121) 9110 LAKESHORE DRIVE (HP) VAR 11-24

Zoning Issue: 160-52 B Wall over four feet erected.

The board denied a variance for a retaining wall built without permits and out of compliance with the original design. Concerns included stormwater management failures and adverse neighborhood impacts. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to close the public hearings was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

ROSSELLI (93.16-1-6) 92 SABBATH DAY POINT ROAD (TR1) SP 07-24, VAR 16-24

Zoning Issue: 160-50 B (b) [1] Shorelines.

The motion to deem the application for an addition to a residence and associated renovations passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

RICHARDS (12.18-1-16) 9568 LAKESHORE DRIVE (TR1) VAR 09-15

An extension was granted for temporary living arrangements in an accessory structure while the primary residence is completed.

The variance was extended for one year with conditions for evidence of progress. The motion passed unanimously.

LINCOLN (43.13-1-30) 5 BAYBERRY LANE (TR1) VAR 16-23 & VAR 01-24

The applicant requested changes to an approved variance regarding an exterior wall but, after discussion, opted to leave the original variance, as approved.

SISCA (76.20-1-3.1) 8 SILVER BAY ROAD REGARDING CUNNINGHAM (76.20-1-32) 4 SILVER BAY ROAD

A public hearing was scheduled for the next ZBA meeting to address the challenge to the ZEO's conditional release of a stop-work order. The motion passed unanimously.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Zoning Board of Appeals. ❏

PLANNING BOARD - 11/07/2024

Present were Chairman Pam Peterson, Board Members Judy Gourley, Meg Haskell, and Edna Frasier, with Sandra Powell attending via ZOOM. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Tony DeFranco of DeFranco Landscaping, and contractor Bill Best.

ZONING ISSUES

Rosselli (93.16-1-6) – 92 Sabbath Day Point Road (TR1)

The applicant seeks to add to the mudroom and screened porch, open the kitchen to the great room, replace windows, siding, and the roof, and modify the driveway and garage.

Zoning Issues:160-50 B (b) {1} Shorelines

Chairman Peterson noted that a site visit was conducted on October 9, 2024. Frasier commented that the visit was positive, with no issues raised regarding the proposal. Haskell highlighted the project's benefits, including increased permeable surfaces and a reduced driveway footprint. Powell asked why a variance was necessary. Kirchberger explained that the house and project site remain within 50 feet of the shoreline.

A motion was made and seconded to issue a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The motion cited that the addition would be farther from the shoreline and would not increase nonconformity. The vote was passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to deem the application complete, contingent on submission of missing dimensions from the prior meeting. The vote was passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Bosco (26.14-1-5) – 28 Friends Point South (TR1)

The applicant proposes constructing a new lakeside stone patio and replacing timber steps with stone steps. The patio expansion will use permeable materials.

Zoning Issues:160-23 C (1) (g) Development within 100 feet of a stream, pond, river, or lake

DeFranco presented plans, including photos. He explained the project involves replacing an existing 261 sq. ft. patio

PLANNING BOARD, CONTINUED

(currently 46 feet from the lake) with a 923 sq. ft patio and boulder wall, encroaching to 39 and 31 feet from the lake. The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) has issued a Notice of No Jurisdiction. A site visit was scheduled for November 13, 2024, at 1 pm.

Viscardi (43.17-1-18) – 7 Viewpoint Road (TR1)

The applicant seeks to build a 4' x 11' second-floor bump-out for a reading nook and interior renovations.

Zoning Issues:160-23 C (1) (g) Development within 100 feet of a stream, pond, river, or lake

Best explained that the bump-out would be cantilevered, avoiding the need for additional foundations. The bump-out will be 77 feet from the lake. A site visit was scheduled for November 13, 2024, at 1:30 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board discussed a potential meeting time change. After considering consistency with the ZBA and feedback from its members, the Planning Board agreed to maintain the 7 pm start time for now.

Kirchberger highlighted upcoming training opportunities and cautioned members against discussing town business on social media.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Planning Board. ❏

TOWN BOARD - 11/12/2024

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett and Board Members Martin Fitzgerald, Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, and Chris Richards. Also present were Deputy Highway Superintendent and ZOOM Coordinator Tim Fiallo, 17 community members in person, and 17 people via ZOOM.

The board began with a moment of silence in memory of Eleanor Streeter Finkle and Gertrude Jordon.

WELCOME GUESTS/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Community members questioned the board about the supervisor’s salary increase. The members of the board asserted that they compared other town supervisor’s salaries within Warren County as well as the salaries of employees in other departments, as justification for the town wide pay increases.

Questions also addressed sales tax revenues based on property values.

Patchett thanked Jim O’Toole, the Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD), and community center staff for organizing this year’s Veteran’s Day Service and acknowledged community members for their attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on Local Law #2 of 2024, allowing alternates to serve on the Planning Board and Zoning

Board of Appeals opened. As no one spoke for or against the proposal, the hearing closed and the law was unanimously adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds: Patchett reported that the town continues to seek bids for staining the community center.

Highway: Fiallo noted the highway department has prepared equipment for winter and replaced seasonal flags.

Sewer Districts: Bast emphasized the importance of a capital reserve for unexpected expenses and highlighted progress on securing a permanent emergency generator for the Cape Cod Village Club pump station. A specific line item for purchase of a new waste water treatment plant (WWTP) truck within three years is in the budget.

Town Park: Fitzgerald commended Todd Fish for his contributions to the park and community grounds.

Technology: Bast reported slow progress on the transition to the domain HagueNY.gov.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bast detailed ongoing efforts to address streaming of Ticonderoga Central School District Board of Education meetings and dissatisfaction with responses regarding PILOT agreements. Research into PILOT agreements suggested unfavorable terms for taxpayers in Hague and Ticonderoga. (See article on page 2.)

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Patchett reported the following:

- A Community and Visitor Center Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th at 10:30 am at the community center.
- The STR Public Hearing has been canceled.
- The community center and all town offices will be closed Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving.

NEW BUSINESS

The board unanimously adopted the 2025 Town Budget and authorized a Fixed Lump Sum Snow and Ice Agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT).

CLOSING PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The board was asked about storm water control measures. Patchett confirmed that the town adheres to guidelines set by the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC).

Cherubini congratulated newly-elected board members Edna Frasier and Lara Smith-Ryder.

The meeting concluded with an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Town Board. ❏

WHISPERS OF CHRISTMAS

by Mark Roma

In Hague's wintery embrace as soft waters gleam

A heavenly-sent Christmas whispers yuletide dreams

Snowflakes drift lightly down on trees draped in white

As frosty mountain peaks cradle a sullen twilight

A winter's hush huddled over woods so deep

Nestled in like precious memories we'll forever keep

Roma, a songwriter/poet from Hague, makes monthly trips to Nashville and NYC to collaborate with artists and fellow writers. ▣

HAIKU

by dl mattila

water drawn
from a deeper well
clasped hands ▣

The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths, including a small, high-quality photo. Please send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

ATTENTION:

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR PROOFREADING OF *THE HAGUE CHRONICLE*.

Please contact Bobbi Bryant Taylor at editor@thehaguechronicle.org if you can help out.

FIRST "Q & A WITH LGA" ADDRESSES INITIAL PROCELLACOR RESULTS

The Lake George Association (LGA) held its first "Q & A with LGA" webinar in October, during which Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky and LGA Chair Dr. John E. Kelly III reported on the initial analysis of water, plant, and sediment samples taken in the hours, days, and months after the ProcellaCOR treatments in Blairs and Jelliffe-Knight Bays (Glenburnie and Huletts Landing, respectively). The LGA has been and continues to work with its partner, The Jefferson Project, to collect and analyze the samples.

Kelly also talked about the agreement between the LGA and the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) to collaborate on developing a comprehensive invasive species management plan for Lake George.

At the end of the live presentation, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. Almost a third of the 30+ questions were related to whether there are plans for future use of the herbicide in Lake George as a way to manage Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). The short answer: There are no plans to use ProcellaCOR in 2025 at this time.

Other questions were about the toxicity of the chemical, the effects on native plants, hand harvesting of EWM, and the potential return and spread of EWM. Watch a recording of the webinar [HERE](#). ▣



Fall foliage on October 22, 2024. Courtesy of Sandy Powell

NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) is hosting the 15th Annual Ticonderoga Area North Country Christmas Celebration from now until December 8, 2024. The event includes a variety of festive activities:

December 1st: Tree Lighting – 5:30 pm, Ticonderoga Community Building. *Light the tree, meet Santa, and enjoy hayrides with holiday music.*

December 2nd: Santa's Mailbox Opens – 2 pm, TACC Office. *Send letters to Santa by December 13th for a response.*

December 4th: Crown Point Tree Lighting – 5 pm, Veterans Memorial Park. *Holiday trivia follows at 6:30 pm at War Cannon Spirits.*

December 6th: Shop and Dine Night – until 8 pm. *Visit local businesses, enjoy live music, and join the Parade of Lights at 6 pm.*

December 7th: Breakfast with Santa – 8-11 am, Ticonderoga Elks Lodge. *Activities include games, cookie decorating, and more.*

December 8th: Festival of Trees Reception - 1-3 pm, Hancock House. *Explore holiday-themed trees and decorations.*



“Thank you to all who support this community event,” said TACC President Matthew Courtright. “Shop, dine, and celebrate locally to make a difference in your community.”

For details and updates, visit www.ticonderogany.com or call 518-585-6619. Follow TACC on Facebook.

SHARED HOLIDAY PARTY

Silver Bay YMCA will be offering a "Shared Holiday Party" this year on Friday, December 6, 2024, starting at 5:30 pm.

A Shared Holiday Party helps alleviate the awkwardness of throwing a holiday party for a small staff, making it the perfect way for small businesses to celebrate the holidays!

As an added bonus, a Shared Holiday Party takes all the hassle out of planning a holiday party. The menu is set, the entertainment is booked, and the decorations will be hung with care.

This Shared Holiday Party includes a cocktail hour with a cash bar, holiday cheer, dancing, a DJ, a buffet dinner, dessert, and the opportunity to network with other party guests! Prices start at \$70 per person.

To learn more about this unique experience, call Renee Ahmeti at 518-543-8404.

LGLC DECEMBER BIRD COUNT

On December 15, 2024, you can help count birds for the nation-wide Audubon Bird Count Program, organized locally by the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC).



Christmas Bird Count 2023 by Gary Chapin

You can survey routes by foot, car, or boat or watch a feeder and then submit bird counts, weather conditions, and hours to the LGLC. The LGLC will then provide all of the compiled information to the Audubon Society.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

LGA HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Lake George Association (LGA) has named Dr. Brendan Wiltse as its new executive director.

In a letter to LGA members, Board Chair Dr. John E. Kelly III noted that Wiltse's appointment will further strengthen the organization's science-to-solutions approach to protecting Lake George. Wiltse currently serves as Executive Director of Paul Smith's College's Adirondack Watershed Institute, where he has spearheaded road salt reduction in Mirror Lake. Salt reduction is among the LGA's top priorities in the Lake George basin.



Wiltse holds a doctorate in biology, with a focus on fresh water ecology. Along with his dedication to protecting fresh water through science, advocacy, and community education, one of his top priorities in his new role is to establish good working relationships with government, business, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Lake George basin.

His start date is on or before January 2, 2025. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

WIND CHILL OPENS WINTER DRIVE-THRU

The Wind Chill Factory on 9N in Ticonderoga now has a winter drive-thru. It is open daily from 11 am – 9:30 pm.



LOOKING BACK

by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

DECEMBER 1974

(As reported in the January 1975 issue of *The Hague Chronicle*)

STUDENTS DECORATE POST OFFICE

The sixth-grade students of Hague Central School decorated the Hague post office as its Christmas art project. The program was under the direction of Mrs. Sharon Meola, the art instructor. Christmas scenes were expressed in four wall murals and decorated lanterns made from colored construction paper hung from the lobby ceiling. The decorations remained until the first of the year and provided a pleasant atmosphere during the holidays.

2024 UPDATE

Here are some holiday memories from the authors:

Thanksgiving gave way to the wonders of the season. At school, there was much anticipation and preparation for the next few weeks.

There were Christmas concerts (with a visit from Santa Claus, who distributed gifts to the children and participants in the audience) and a holiday meal with numerous tables covered with cupcakes and cookies made by the cooks of the cafeteria and the town's parents. There were also many splendid decorations that thrilled the children!

Hague Postmaster Penny Bolton accepted letters for Santa Claus from local children in a special mailbox at the post office. She then put personal notes from Santa in the return mail. That sure brought a look of childhood hope on those innocent faces and joy in Penny's eyes!

We had fun decorating trees, sledding, skating, building snowmen, and night time caroling to the homes of Hague's elderly with our parents. We even enjoyed hot chocolate and a cookie at many of those homes! Many of us have continued that same tradition with our children and grandchildren.

I remember visiting friends and neighbors on Christmas Eve, often delivering a nut bread loaf or a plate of decorated Christmas cookies. Buck and Anna Denno's house was always our first stop.



I recall attending midnight mass at the Catholic Church, followed by steak and eggs at Ray and Marge Laundree's home.

Who can forget the Lazy Z Christmas Tree Farm where we marched up the hill, picked out, and chopped down our Christmas tree?

The children left cookies and milk on the kitchen table for Santa and grass or hay outside for the reindeer.

I remember delivering a decorated Christmas tree to Virginia Shattuck's front porch one Christmas morning.

Some adult fun was going caroling with friends in the soft falling snow and then, after hoarseness and the cold

weather took over, enjoying refreshment at the local bar, where the tree was decorated with beer cans!

CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO *ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA*:

"Christmas is traditionally a Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also become a secular family holiday, observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts.

In this secular Christmas celebration, a mystical figure named Santa Claus plays the pivotal role.

His popular image is based on traditions of Saint Nicholas, a 4th century Christian saint. The Dutch are credited with transporting the legend of Saint Nicholas (Sinterklaas) to New Amsterdam (now New York City), along with giving gifts and sweets to children."

No matter what one's beliefs are, Christmastime is a magical, heartfelt time to be kind, happy, and forgiving. It is a time to embrace our loved ones, our friends, and the beauty this earth has bestowed upon us. It is a time to bend down to the children and see on their level what excitement, fun, joy, and security mean in their world.

It is a time for us to help those less fortunate and to remember, with love and smiles, those who have passed, yet remain forever in our hearts.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone! ▣



TI ARTS

The Small Works Show, created by many artists from around the region, will continue at Ti Arts until January 4, 2025.

On Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, 2024, the Heritage Museum will hold its holiday store at Ti Arts. Come shop and see beautiful art. It's a "twofer!"

Ti Arts will sponsor two upcoming classes: a music writing class led by Evan Mack at the high school and an illustration class at the Ti Arts gallery on Saturday, December 14th from 12 – 2 pm taught by children's book author/illustrator Shaundra Bartlett Yaw. Each child will make a Christmas drawing.

Check out the Ti Arts website for details: www.ticonderogaarts.org. ▣

DAVIS TO LEAD FORT TICONDEROGA BOARD IN 2025

The Fort Ticonderoga Association has named Roy Davis as the chair of its board of trustees, beginning January 1, 2025. Davis will succeed Sanford Morhouse, who has served as chair since 2011 and who will transition to a trustee emeritus.



During Morhouse's tenure, Fort Ticonderoga became a national cultural destination, completing significant preservation projects like restoring the 1826 pavilion and fort walls. The site also acquired the Robert Nittolo Collection and expanded its educational programs, both on-site and digitally.

Davis, a trustee since 2023, chaired the Strategic Planning Committee in 2024, which spells out the fort's vision through 2030. As chair, he plans to grow digital education, improve

visitor experiences, and advance preservation. His tenure coincides with America's 250th commemoration, which will bring new exhibitions, events, and research to the site.

"Roy Davis's leadership positions Fort Ticonderoga for growth and success," said President and CEO Beth L. Hill. "His experience and vision will help launch exciting initiatives."

Davis brings nearly three decades of leadership from his career at Johnson & Johnson, where he served as corporate vice president of business development. Since retiring, he has held advisory roles with the Cleveland Clinic and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has served the Lake George Association.

Davis praised Morhouse's dedication, saying, "Sandy's leadership has been vital to Fort Ticonderoga's growth. I'm honored to build on his legacy."

This leadership transition ensures Fort Ticonderoga's continued innovation, preservation, and impact as a leading cultural and educational institution. ▣

SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE: You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* anytime **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. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, McDonough, Schaffer, (see roles below) and Paul Budd.

Please send all news items and Soundings to editor@thehaguechronicle.org by the 20th of the preceding month. Please send comments to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org.

Publisher/Editor: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Layout Editor: Chris Quinn
Secretary: Pat McDonough

Treasurer: Charlene Schaffer
Staff: Claire Best and Tina Barth King

LIVING HISTORY EVENT AT FORT

Fort Ticonderoga will present *To Render This Place as Tenable as Possible* on December 7, 2024, from 10 am to 4 pm.



Photo credits: Fort Ticonderoga

This living history event transports visitors to the winter of 1776, a pivotal moment in the American Revolution. It explores the challenges faced by the Continental Army as they fortified Ticonderoga after their October 28th victory, preparing for a harsh winter and the uncertainties of war.

LIVING HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Musket and cannon demonstrations**: See how soldiers strengthened the fort against British threats.
- **Dramatic vignettes**: Watch soldiers being thanked for their service and being encouraged to reenlist.
- **Hospital life**: Learn about the struggles of injured soldiers and the care they received.
- **Trades and survival**: Explore how soldiers crafted supplies and planned for the coming year.

"The victory at Ticonderoga was a beacon of hope," says Vice President of Public History Stuart Lilie. "This event showcases the dedication required to defend the fort and its impact on the fight for independence."

Visit www.fortticonderoga.org for event details. ▣

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

December 2024

DECEMBER

1	December issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published	10	6 pm	Hague Town Board Meeting
1 - December 8	North Country Christmas	14	12- 2 pm	Illustration class by Shaundra Bartlett Yaw
3	5 pm Seniors Christmas Party	15		LGLC December Bird Count
5	Seniors Shopping Spree	20	6 pm	Deadline for the January issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
5	7 pm Hague Planning Board Meeting	24 - 25		CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY - Town offices closed
6	5:30 pm Shared Holiday Party at Silver Bay	26	6 pm	Hague Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
6 and 7	Heritage Museum's Holiday Store at Ti Arts	31		NEW YEAR'S EVE
7	10 am - 4 pm Living History Event at Fort Ticonderoga			

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