



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

Published Monthly Since 1972
Volume 55 Number 02

www.thehaguechronicle.org

Hague, New York 12836
February 2026

HAGUE LOOKS AHEAD AS POPULATION AGES

Hague is experiencing demographic changes that are common across the Adirondacks. While the town's population has declined over time, its median age has continued to rise, making Hague one of the oldest communities in Warren County.

Nearly half of Hague's residents are sixty or older, with a significant portion over eighty. The town's median age far exceeds the county average, reflecting long-term shifts, such as fewer young families and longer life expectancy.

Tracey Clothier has been working with a citizen committee on a new Hague Comprehensive Plan, the town's first major update in more than two decades.

Clothier has noted that Hague's experience mirrors regional trends, with aging populations and declining school enrollment presenting challenges for housing, services, and the local workforce. Warren County's recently adopted comprehensive plan points to similar issues countywide.

A public survey conducted as part of Hague's planning process showed strong support for encouraging year-round economic activity and reducing the town's sharp seasonal population swings — steps residents believe are keys to long-term stability.

(Continued on p. 2)

HAGUE FISH & GAME CLUB HOSTS FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Hague Fish & Game Club, Inc., in partnership with the Town of Hague, will host its annual winter fishing tournament on **February 21 and 22, 2026**, welcoming anglers of all ages to participate on public waters throughout Essex, Warren, and Washington Counties.

The two-day tournament is open to the public, with a \$40 entry fee for participants sixteen and older, covering both days of fishing. Youth under sixteen may participate at no cost. A 75 percent payout will be awarded and junior prizes will be donated by local merchants.

Tournament categories include lake trout, perch, salmon, and pike. A total of six door prizes will be awarded, one each hour from **10 am to 3 pm** on Sunday.

Weigh-ins will take place at the Hague Fish & Game Clubhouse, located at 488 West Hague Road. Weigh station hours are **Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm** and **Sunday from 8 am to 3 pm** sharp. Awards will be presented at **4 pm on Sunday**.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register at these participating bait shops: the Silver Bay General Store in Silver Bay; FMB Bait & Tackle in Port Henry; FISH307 in Lake George; The Crossroads Country Store in Chestertown; T & S Redemption Center in Crown Point; and Schroon Lake Bait and More in Schroon Lake.

The tournament has long been a winter tradition for the Hague Fish & Game Club, bringing together local anglers and visitors, while supporting youth participation and local businesses. □

TOWN RECEIVES TWO GRANTS

The Town of Hague has recently received two grants. The first one, from the New York Department of State, is for \$90,000. It will support the development of a comprehensive Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for Lake George and Hague Brook, advancing resiliency, infrastructure planning, public access and long-term waterfront stewardship. This work complements LGA's ongoing stormwater monitoring and wetland research through the West Brook Conservation Initiative. Click [HERE](#).

The second one is from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NY DEC) and is for \$228,000, under the category of a Water Quality Improvement Program. Specifically, this grant money will support the construction of a modern salt storage facility, reducing chloride pollution to Hague Brook and ultimately to Lake George.

The Town of Hague has been a longstanding partner in watershed-wide road salt reduction (more on that [HERE](#)) and achieved SWIM® Certification (more on that [HERE](#)) in 2019, demonstrating municipal leadership and measurable progress in protecting Lake George water quality. □

HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

Please send all news items to
Editor Bobbi Bryant Taylor at:
editor@thehaguechronicle.org

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Judy Stock

Weather and health issues meant a quiet January for the seniors, who had their last meeting on January 27, 2026, featuring snacks and charades.

The first event in February is scheduled to be a game night on the 5th at the home of Pat Hintze. Please check with Pat (518-543-6502) to confirm the time and place.

On February 14th, the closing fireworks will be held at the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival. Since this is a night event in the middle of winter, it is again important to check with Pat to make sure that the carpool will still be going.

The monthly club meeting will be held at the Firehouse (HVFD) on February 24th at 1:30 pm. In addition to the business meeting, there will be soup and sandwiches. ☐



HAGUE LOOKS AHEAD AS POPULATION AGES, CONT'D

At the same time, Clothier said residents are deeply committed to protecting what makes Hague unique. "People love this town," she said. "They want to preserve its small-town character and protect its natural assets while planning responsibly for the future."

The draft comprehensive plan outlines goals to guide public and private investment and identifies several priority projects, including redevelopment of the former Beachside Hotel site, added amenities, such as a performance pavilion at the town park, and construction of an historical museum near the community center.

Clothier is optimistic about Hague's future, citing strong community engagement and growing interest in regional cooperation to support tourism and shared economic benefits. ☐

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department responded to four fire calls, two EMS assists, and one standby in December and conducted five drills, for a total of 119 volunteer hours.

EMS handled seven calls and held two drills, totaling 21.5 combined volunteer and paid hours.

We are always looking for new volunteers. Anyone interested in learning what we do and how we do it is welcome to join us on **Tuesday nights at 6 pm** for our weekly drill.

Please remember to use the buddy system when going out on the ice. Always be prepared and carry a warning device, such as a whistle. Remember: NO ICE IS SAFE!

Our Fireman's Breakfast will be February 14th from 9 - 11 am, \$12 adults; \$8 children 12 and under.

Planning is underway for our Annual Polar Plunge on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at the Trout House Resort docks. Sign-ups begin at 1:30 pm and the first plungers will enter the water at 2 pm.

All participants will receive a Polar Plunge knitted hat and a bumper sticker. Those who raise \$100 or more will also receive a free shirt. Plunge shirts and supporter shirts will be available for purchase at \$20, with all proceeds benefiting the University of Vermont Children's Hospital. ☐

NEWLY LAUNCHED FILM SPOTLIGHTS GRAPHITE

Many people have used a Ticonderoga Number 2 pencil, but few realize that while the pencils were not made in Ticonderoga, the name has a strong local connection. That history is tied to the mining of graphite in Hague, specifically in the settlement of Graphite.

The *History on the Road* YouTube Channel has produced a film about the town of Graphite, located on Route 8 on the way out of Hague. In the film, Town Historian Sally DeLarm Rypkema explains how the mines there supplied what was considered the world's highest-quality graphite during their heyday, which was from the mid-nineteenth century until 1921. At its peak, about four hundred people worked in the mines, a period when Hague's population grew to more than one thousand — a number it has never reached since.

Rypkema also explains how the name "Ticonderoga pencil" came into use. She describes Graphite as a thriving settlement with numerous buildings, including homes, a school, three saloons, a boarding house, a post office, a sawmill, a pool room, a livery stable, and a movie house that also served as a dance hall. The community supported baseball and basketball teams and even had a ski club. The film features historic photographs of the settlement, the mines, and the mill.

Rypkema and the film crew then go for a walk through the site today, where she points out foundations and other remnants of the former settlement. ☐



HHS WINTER NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED

The Hague Historical Society (HHS) has published its Winter 2025-26 newsletter. The issue includes articles on Hague's involvement in the 1980 Winter Olympics, historical lake-freeze factoids, the life and times of the Watts family, Winter Carnivals of years past, and more. Click [HERE](#) to read the newsletter. ☐

HAIKU

by *dl mattila*

goosebumps emerge
with chattering teeth
polar plunge ☐

HHS FOCUSING ON HAGUE CENTRAL SCHOOL

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

In 2026, the focus of the Hague Historical Society (HHS) will be on the Hague Central School, where Hague students were educated from 1927-1979. There will be a museum exhibit, which will open in late spring and a presentation at the annual meeting in June.

We have lots of interesting material in our archives, but we would also love to hear from any of you who have memories to share, photos, uniforms, items from the school, or anything else to lend or donate to the HHS. Please email us [HERE](#).

The HHS has created a new page on its website for its 2025 program, "The Cave and Other Spirits of the Past." On this page, you'll find a virtual tour of the 2025 museum exhibit, the narrated PowerPoint presentation about the history of the iconic bar and other eating and drinking establishments on the site, stories from former bartenders and patrons, and a photo gallery. Click [HERE](#) to visit the page. □



HAGUE Historical Society

HOME ▪ MEMBERSHIP ▪ PRESENTATIONS ▪ HOTELS ▪ ARCHIVES ▪ SIGNS/MARKERS ▪ NEWSLETTERS

The Cave and Other Spirits of the Past

Museum Exhibit **Presentation** **Stories from The Cave** **In the News**

Our 2025 mission: world focused on the learning, dining, and lodging establishments located on live pedestrianization from the Town Hotel to the former Hague Hotel.

Learn more about this historic site in our narrated PowerPoint presentation that covers the history of the site, way back to pre-Revolutionary times.

There are many interesting stories about The Cave – from bartenders like patrons alike.

TAKE A TOUR OF THE EXHIBIT **WATCH THE PRESENTATION** **READ THE STORIES** **READ THE ARTICLE IN THE SUN**

TOP: Hague Central School student group
BOTTOM: HHS website

HHS MARKS HENRY KNOX'S "NOBLE ARTILLERY TRAIN"

In 2026, the US is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and Warren County kicked off the festivities in a big way at the end of 2025 by commemorating Henry Knox's "Noble Artillery Train." You can learn more about this astounding feat in Ken Burns' recently released documentary about the American Revolution.

Knox and his team transported 59 cannon, along with a barrel of flints and 23 one-hundred-pound boxes of lead for musket balls, from Ticonderoga to Boston in December of 1775, delivering them to General George Washington. This involved moving the huge load down the entire length of Lake George and is considered one of the most incredible accomplishments of the Revolution.

In December of 2025, Supervisor Josh Patchett and Historian Sally Rypkema joined county officials for a ceremony at the monument in Sabbath Day Point, which is one of many marking the trail that Knox followed 250 years ago. □



SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Jack Bast, chair

On December 23, 2025, Josh Patchett and I had a 40-minute ZOOM session with Angelique Johnson-Dingle, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Deputy Commissioner of P12 Instruction. This was in response to the joint Town of Hague/SAC October 3rd request for NYSED support in addressing our concerns about the Ticonderoga Central School District's (TCSD's) poor academic ratings.

Ms. Johnson-Dingle informed us that she has determined there are no grounds for direct NYSED intervention at this time as "there is nothing wrong with the academic performance of TCSD." Her conclusion is based on her discussions with Dr. Mark Davey, Superintendent of the Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES) Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), Mr. Scott Nephew, Superintendent of the TCSD, and her other personal reviews of the TCSD.

Ms. Johnson-Dingle also stated that, for a multitude of reasons, she does not consider the regional rankings based on the test scores that we cite to be a meaningful metric for comparative academic performance. In that regard, she asserted that "TCSD is not in the lowest 10%." In response to our question as to where it does fall, she stated that she would determine that and would inform us of her finding.

Ms. Johnson-Dingle acknowledged that there is a disconnect between the Town of Hague and its School Advisory Committee (SAC) and the TCSD and its Board of Education (BoE). She suggested that we try to cooperate more and better in our shared goals of an excellent education for all the students of the TCSD. We told her we would try to do so. [Just to be clear, however, know that SAC does not consider the TCSD's academic performance to be acceptable and we will persist in our efforts to improve it.]

The Hague Town Board and the SAC continue to address concerns regarding school tax apportionment. We're currently looking into associated equalization rate(s) and assessed values,

(Continued on p. 5)

TOWN BOARD - 1/13/2026

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett and Board Members Maureen Cherubini, Edna Fraiser, Lara Smith, and Jack Bast. Also present were Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Peterson and Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Kirchberger. Town Clerk Kim Coffin was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED ZONING CODE

AMENDMENTS:

A public hearing was opened regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 160 of the Town of Hague Town Code, as recommended by Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger. The proposed changes addressed guest cottages, accessory structures, and the inclusion of short-term rentals in the zoning code.

Public comments were largely opposed to the proposed amendments. Concerns raised included potential environmental impacts, increased density, and septic system capacity and infrastructure limitations. Several speakers recommended forming a committee to review the proposals and noted that members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals did not support the amendments. Requests were also made that both boards be given the opportunity to review zoning changes before town board consideration.

ZEO Kirchberger reviewed portions of the proposed amendments, including revised definitions for guest cottages, accessory structures, and short-term rentals:

Guest Cottage – A structure which is accessory to a primary single-family dwelling and which adheres to the following limitations:

1. Is used only on an occasional basis;
2. Is used only by guests of the resident(s) of the primary single-family dwelling;
3. Is not for rent or lease separately from the primary single-family dwelling;
4. Is not greater in size than one-half the enclosed floor space of the primary single-family dwelling;
5. Is not greater in size than 2,000 square feet of floor space; and
6. Is the only such guest cottage per lot.

Accessory Structure – Any structure, or a portion of a main structure, customarily incidental and subordinate to and does not change the character of a principal land use or development. Except in the case of a "Guest Cottage" as defined above, living accommodations and associated plumbing shall not be allowed in an accessory structure.

Short-Term Rental – The renting for habitation of a structure for less than thirty (30) consecutive days during any calendar year.

The town board agreed to keep the public hearing open and continue it at the February Town Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building and Grounds: (Frasier/Patchett)

Frasier reported an issue with flooring inside the Hague Visitor Center.

Highway (Frasier/Cherubini):

The Highway Department purchased a new truck and has been actively maintaining roads during winter weather. The board expressed appreciation for the crew's efforts.

Museum (Bast/Smith):

The Hague Historical Society (HHS) met earlier in the day. Concerns were raised about the lack of a sprinkler system in the community center, which houses historical artifacts and records. Installing a sprinkler system and adding a push-button ADA door opener at the front entrance were recommended. The Cave Exhibit has been taken down and preparations are underway for an exhibit on Hague Central School.

Personnel (Bast/Cherubini):

Bookkeeper Oum Hilliard will be leaving her position at the end of January 2026. Jonathan Jankoski has been training since December 22, 2025 and the transition has been progressing well. Payroll administration has been outsourced to Insight Payroll Solutions, Inc., effective this month, while maintaining a working relationship with RDA Financial Network.

Open positions include a Planning Board Member and a Zoning Board of Appeals alternate.

School Advisory Committee (SAC) (Bast):

Enrollment data obtained through FOIL requests showed 30 Hague students currently enrolled in the Ticonderoga Central School District, representing 4.4 percent of the district's student population.

A December 23, 2025 ZOOM meeting with the New York State Education Department resulted in a determination that there are no grounds for direct state intervention in TCSD at this time. While the state encouraged improved collaboration, the SAC indicated it will continue advocating for academic improvement. Two new members were announced for the committee: Bruce MacPherson and Kathleen Coffman. (See SAC Update on page 3.)

Technology (Patchett):

Thanks were extended to Ken Romano for providing audio-visual support and for managing ZOOM.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Town of Hague was awarded a \$90,000 grant through the Consolidated Funding Application Program to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The project requires a \$22,500 local match and will move forward upon receipt of a contract from the New York State Department of State in the spring.

The town announced that on-site notary services are now available at the community center during regular business hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made and seconded to grant a two-year sewer compliance extension for the property of Sheri DeLarm and Cris Ginn at 8979 Lake Shore Drive. The vote passed 4-0-1 (Smith abstained).

TOWN BOARD, CONTINUED

The board approved the Highway Department's purchase of a Fisher poly-caster spreader for \$2,000 and a Western V-blade snow plow for \$9,340. Both motions passed unanimously.

The board approved retaining The Vinclette Law Firm at \$300 per hour to seek relief related to school tax equalization rates affecting Hague taxpayers. The vote passed 4-0-1 (Smith abstained).

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

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE, CONT'D

which appear to contain discrepancies that may adversely affect the taxpayers of the Town of Hague.

SAC is excited to announce we have two new members: Bruce MacPherson and Kathleen Coffman.

Bruce retired from an international business law background and moved full time to Silver Bay, where he and his wife have owned property since 2006. He is on the board of the Property Owners of Silver Bay. Kathleen is a resident of Putnam who has a senior student in the TCSD. She is the Executive Director and the Chairperson of the Board of the Northern Lake George Foundation. Welcome, Bruce and Kathleen!

The **February** BoE meeting is on **Tuesday the 24th** in the high school cafeteria at **6 pm**. SAC encourages all Hague residents to attend! □

LGLC HIKE TO BRADLEY'S LOOKOUT

Snowshoers are invited to join a naturalist for a Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) winter walk to Bradley's Lookout at the Pinnacle Preserve on **Friday, February 20, 2026**.

Along the way, the group will search for animal tracks in the snow and observe other winter phenomena while learning how Adirondack flora and fauna adapt

WARREN COUNTY WASTE HAULING SAVING MONEY

A new Warren County Trash and Recycling Hauling Program saved towns across the county between \$175,000 and \$200,000 in its first year, reducing costs for taxpayers.

Beginning in January 2025, Warren County took over hauling solid waste and recyclables from town transfer stations, replacing private haulers with county-owned trucks and drivers. Solid Waste and Recycling Compliance Coordinator Scott Royael said the county charges about half the previous hauling rates.

The savings have been substantial for Hague. In 2024, the town paid more than \$700 per trip to haul trash from its transfer station; under the new 2025 program, the average cost dropped to about \$300 per trip.

The program was developed in 2024 by the Warren County Department of Public Works and Board of Supervisors and later received a \$450,000 grant from New York State. □



LGLC SNOWSHOE HIKE

A guided winter snowshoe hike will be offered by the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) on **February 19 from 9 am to 11 am** as part of its Discovery Series, inviting participants to explore the frozen wetlands at Amy's Park with a naturalist.

During the hike, participants will snowshoe along the Yellow Trail, while searching for animal tracks in the snow and observing other signs of winter life. The program will focus on how Adirondack plants and animals have adapted to survive the cold months, offering an up-close look at winter ecology.

The out-and-back hike covers a total distance of 1.2 miles and is rated easy to moderate, with one short, but steep, section along the route. Because of the distance and terrain, the hike is best suited for ages seven and up.

Participants should come prepared with snowshoes, sturdy winter boots, warm layers, and any snacks or water they may need. Snowshoes can be borrowed with advance notice. Registration is required [HERE](#). □



to survive the colder months. The hike will conclude with sweeping views across the frozen lake.

The outing will follow the Blue Trail as an out-and-back hike totaling 1.5 miles. The route is rated moderate and is best suited for hikers ages seven and up.

Participants should come prepared with snowshoes, or contact the organizers in advance if a pair is needed. Sturdy winter boots, warm layers, and any



desired snacks or water are recommended. To register, click [HERE](#). □

WINTER WEEKEND AT SILVER BAY YMCA

Winter Weekend at Silver Bay YMCA returns **February 13 – 16, 2026** with a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities designed for all ages, blending recreation, creativity, and winter exploration across the campus.

The weekend begins on **Friday, February 13th** with Trivia Night from **7:30 to 8:30 pm** in Gullen Lounge. Teams can test their knowledge and compete for prizes in a relaxed, social setting.

A full schedule follows on **Saturday, February 14th**, starting in the morning with Broomball from **10 to 11:30 am** on the outdoor basketball court, with the West Gymnasium serving as an alternate location, if needed. At the same time, families can drop in for Arts and Crafts from **10 am to noon** in the Fiber Arts Room at Squire Studio, creating winter-themed projects. Open Round Robin Pickleball will also be offered from **10 am to noon** in the East Gymnasium.

Afternoon activities include Sledding and Sled Bowling from **1 to 2 pm** on the South Field near Fisher Gymnasium, followed by an Animal ID Walk where participants will look for signs of winter wildlife, from **1 to 3 pm**, departing from the inn porch. Cookie Decorating takes place from **2 to 3 pm** in the Gullen Lounge, and an Adult Paint and Sip session is scheduled from **3:30 to 5:30 pm** at Squire Studio for participants ages 21 and older. Evening events include another Broomball session from **4 to 5 pm** at Fisher Gym and a Pajama Movie Night from **7 to 9 pm** in the Gullen Lounge.

On **Sunday, February 15th**, the day begins with Rock Wall Vertical Climbing from **10 to 11:30 am** at the Fisher Gym climbing wall, alongside Open Round Robin Pickleball from **10 am to noon**. Afternoon offerings include Sledding and Snowball Battleship from **1 to 2 pm**, Climbing Wall Open Hours from **1 to 3 pm**, and a Family Paint and Snack session from **2:30 to 4:30 pm** at Squire Studio. Sled Bowling returns from **4 to 5 pm**, and the day concludes with a Constellation and Stargazing Walk from **7:30 to 8:30 pm**, beginning in the Gullen Lounge.

Activities continue on **Monday, February 16th**, with Squire Studio Open from **10 am to noon**, Ryan's Ridge Trek and Track ID from **10 am to noon**, and Open Round Robin Pickleball during the same morning hours. The weekend wraps up with Climbing Wall Open Hours from **1 to 3 pm** and additional open studio time at Squire Studio from **1 to 4 pm**.

Winter Weekend offers multiple opportunities for families, adults, and visitors to enjoy the season through recreation, art, and outdoor discovery.

Hague residents are reminded to renew their free community fitness memberships. ■

DINNER FROM AROUND THE WORLD AT SILVER BAY

February brings a change of pace to the winter dining calendar at Silver Bay YMCA, where the Mountain View Grille will continue its Dinner from Around the World series.

The program features a rotating menu inspired by different countries, with weekly selections prepared by the Mountain View Grille's culinary staff. Diners are also offered take-home recipes connected to each theme, extending the experience beyond the table.

February Schedule:

- **February 4 and 5:** France
- **February 11 and 12:** Thailand
- **February 18 and 19:** Greece
- **February 25 and 26:** China

Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. Reservations from 4:30 to 8 pm may be made [HERE](#). ■

SILVER BAY YMCA SURPASSES FUNDRAISING GOAL

Silver Bay YMCA has surpassed its 2025 Annual Fundraising goal, raising more than \$2.1 million over the course of the year. The achievement reflects strong community support for the organization's mission and provides momentum heading into 2026.

In 2025, 543 donors contributed to the Annual Fund, including 186 first-time donors. These donations support the ongoing operations of Silver Bay YMCA and help sustain its programs, staff, and facilities.

"Surpassing our 2025 Annual Fund goal is a powerful affirmation of what's possible when our community believes in our mission," said Walt Lender, vice president of development and government relations.

The successful campaign strengthens Silver Bay YMCA's ability to meet growing demand, as more individuals and families seek opportunities for connection, enrichment, and support.

"Exceeding our Annual Fund goal strengthens our ability to serve, but it also reinforces our obligation to steward resources wisely," said Interim CEO Lucas Callahan. "Sustained impact comes from planning ahead, remaining adaptable, and staying grounded in our mission."

While celebrating the success of 2025, Silver Bay YMCA emphasized that the work is ongoing and invited supporters to continue investing in its mission in the year ahead.

More information is available [HERE](#). ■

SYLVAMO GRANT TO LGLC

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGCL) has been awarded a grant from Sylvamo that will allow the LGCL to expand its educational programming in 2026.

The funding will support three new opportunities in the 2026 Discovery Series, giving participants additional chances to explore and learn about the Lake George watershed. The grant will also make possible several new birding outings during the year.

Additional programs will be added in the coming months.

Check the LGCL Events Calendar [HERE](#) for updates and new listings. ■

LGLC PURCHASES 26 ACRES IN BOLTON

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) recently purchased 26 acres in the town of Bolton, including about 500 feet of stream corridor and one acre of wetlands, that are critical to protecting water quality. The stream and wetland flow into Trout Lake, which drains into Lake George via Huddle Brook.

The undeveloped forested property adjoins the 215-acre Trout Lake Uplands property, which LGLC acquired and permanently protected in 2019. This new acquisition is also near the 2,765-acre Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve, now owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC).

In addition to protecting water quality, this purchase provides a greater expanse of contiguous habitat necessary for native terrestrial and aquatic wildlife to thrive. Land connectivity is important for ecosystem health and vitality, allowing forests, streams, and other freshwater resources to interact uninterrupted for maximum water quality and habitat benefits. ■



Photo: Trout Lake (in the foreground) and its surrounding lands in Bolton are further protected by the LGLC's recent purchase and conservation of 26 acres. Credit: Carl Heilman, II/Wild Visions, Inc.

LGPC RELEASES 2025 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT

Recreational boating is the main way aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread, prompting the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) to launch a Mandatory Boat Inspection Program in 2014. Funded entirely by state and local partners at no cost to boaters, the program has conducted nearly 400,000 inspections over 12 years and has prevented any new AIS from establishing in Lake George. More than 1,400 contaminated boats have been intercepted and decontaminated before launch.

In 2025, an extended inspection season (April 15 – November 29) included 35,544 inspections across five stations, with checks at entry, retrieval, and for sealed vessels. Ninety-two boats carried visible invasives — slightly below the long-term average — suggesting improved boater compliance.

Common finds included Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and water chestnut; detections of quagga mussels and hydrilla were especially concerning, but were successfully prevented from entering the lake. The results underscore the program's effectiveness and the importance of continued partner support.

To view the entire report, click [HERE](#). ■

POPULAR SCIENCE MAGAZINE SPOTLIGHTS LGA'S WORK ON SALT REDUCTION

The decade-long efforts of the Lake George Association (LGA) to reduce the use of salt on roads and walkways and thus protect the waters of Lake George, were spotlighted in the

December 29, 2025 issue of the national magazine *Popular Science*.

The article reports on how the LGA's locally led, data-driven efforts in the Lake George watershed are informing best practices across the country. It also highlights tools like the LGA's Road Salt Reduction StoryMap, which tells the story of a decade of science, municipal partnerships, training, and

LGA SEEKING DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Lake George Association (LGA) is seeking a full-time Director of Government Relations, a newly created position designed to expand the organization's advocacy efforts and strengthen science-based policy solutions that protect Lake George and freshwater resources across New York State.

The position will serve as a leading voice for freshwater protection, with a strong emphasis on Albany-based advocacy. Working closely with LGA leadership and Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky, the Director of Government Relations will translate scientific research into effective public policy, build trusted relationships with decision-makers, and champion long-term solutions to protect Lake George for future generations.

Throughout its more than 140-year history, the LGA has played a central role in shaping policies that safeguard Lake George. The creation of this role reflects a strategic investment in expanding that legacy through coordinated, science-driven government relations at both the local and state levels.

"This role represents a significant investment in the future of Lake George," said Navitsky. "We are looking for a proven leader who can help translate science into effective policy, build strong relationships with decision-makers, and help move proven solutions forward, particularly through advocacy in Albany."

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to apply. ■

measurable progress across the watershed. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

The Town of Hague and its highway department are a shining example of a strong municipal partnership. With the support of the LGA, the town has been able to reduce the amount of salt used on our roads by more than half of what it used to be, while keeping those roads just as safe.

(Continued on p. 9)

LOOKING BACK

by Hague Historical Society Board Members
Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

The Hague Chronicle June 1976 – 50 years ago

HAGUE HIRES SUMMER POLICEWOMAN

The summer policemen's job will be activated over the Memorial Day weekend and continuously through June 15 to Labor Day. Provision has also been made for a back-up policeman who will be available over the same period, particularly on weekends.

At a special meeting of the Town Board on May 10, applications for the positions were reviewed and four candidates were interviewed. Following considerable discussion, Janice M. Frasier was appointed policewoman and Frederick A. Sharpe backup policeman.

Miss Frasier is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Frasier of Hollow Road. She is a lifetime resident of Hague and recently celebrated her 21st birthday. She graduated from Adirondack Community College with an AAS Degree in Police Science last month. While attending school, she was active in Police Cadets, an organization which assists the police force in Glens Falls in such areas as traffic control, teletype operations and street patrol. She worked as a security guard for several telethons at the Queensbury Hotel. She appears to be eminently qualified for the job.

Frederick Sharpe served in the US Navy from 1954 until his retirement in 1974. He has had considerable duty as a military police patrolman and was chief master-at-arms for five years. The latter is similar to chief of police in a civilian community. Following his retirement, he returned to Hague where, during the past fourteen months, he has been employed as a security guard at the town shed. As the back-up policeman, he will be on duty on weekends and on days when the regular policeman is off-duty.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe and their two sons live in West Hague.



50 years later:

Janice Frasier was born in 1955. She graduated from Hague Central School in 1974. She moved temporarily to Connecticut and took a temporary job with the New Britain police department. She then worked at the New Britain General Hospital, moved back to New York, worked at Albany Med, Glens Falls Hospital, Ironton Family Practice, Hudson Headwaters, the Silver Bay Post Office, and as the Hague Police Officer, until she retired.

She was a straightforward person, who laughed and listened with her whole heart and whose passion was cooking and providing for others. Janice passed away in 2013 and she is dearly missed by family and friends alike.

Frederick Sharpe, born in 1934, graduated from Hague Central School in 1952, which is when he registered for the US Navy. Besides the jobs mentioned in the 1976 article, Fred also worked for the New York State Conservation Department, drove a bus for Hague Central School, was a property caretaker, and a committee member for Hague Boy Scouts Troop 21. (The list may be longer upon further investigation.)

When talking to a past student who rode the school bus Fred drove, we learned that Fred would present each child on his bus with a small envelope that held a silver dollar on the last day of school before Christmas vacation. This sure showed a fondness for children that spoke well of his character. He passed away in 1997.

In the past, Hague would generally have a police officer (or two) in the summer months only. Years ago, they were called "constables" and the local laws were not very stringently followed.

Hague does not presently employ police. Residents and visitors can always call 911 for help from the New York State Police and/or a Warren County Sheriff.

Let's hope Hague will continue to be a "friendly, honesty-based" town! □



The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths in Soundings. We can also include a high quality photo.

Our submission deadline for Soundings, and all other articles, is 6 pm the 20th of each month, for inclusion in the following month's issue. Please send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

POPULAR SCIENCE MAGAZINE SPOTLIGHTS LGA'S WORK ON SALT REDUCTION, CONT'D

This is a win not only for the environment, but also for Hague's taxpayers, as the town is spending far less on purchasing salt. *The Hague Chronicle* has reported extensively on these efforts and their successes over the past years.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how the LGA is working to reduce road salt use, why salt is bad for Lake George, and how you can use less salt on your own property.

Click [HERE](#) to read the *Popular Science* article. □

"LOVE SONGS AND SWEETS" AT TICONDEROGA ARTS GALLERY

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild is sponsoring a Valentine's evening of love songs called "Love Songs and Sweets" at the Ti Arts Downtown Gallery on **Friday, February 13, 2026 at 7 pm.**

The Dons will serenade both lovers and the broken hearted with an eclectic mix of love songs and breakup tunes.

Admission is free and complimentary champagne, wine, soft drinks, and a selection of sweets will be provided. Space is limited, so preregistration is required.

The Dons is an acoustic duo comprising local musicians Steve Donat and Don Mathews.

The duo has performed at several locations in the North Country, offering songs from a variety of genres such as country, folk and the classics, as well as Adirondack-inspired original music. Musical selections for the "Love Songs and Sweets" concert will include songs by John Prine, John Gorka, Brandi Carlile, Gordon Lightfoot, and others.

To preregister, click [HERE](#). For information on other performances in Ticonderoga Festival Guild's Cold Bloom Series, visit [HERE](#). □



Photo: The Dons (Steve Donat and Don Mathews)

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. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, McDonough, Schaffer, (see below) and Paul Budd.

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

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

Treasurer: Charlene Schaffer
Staff: Claire Best, Carolyn Hoeschele, and Maureen Iannuzzi

THE WILD CENTER NOMINATED FOR BEST SCIENCE MUSEUM IN THE US

The Wild Center has been nominated for the fourth time as the *Best Science Museum in USA TODAY's 2026 Ten Best Readers' Choice Awards*.

The nomination places The Wild Center among twenty science museums *nationwide* selected by travel experts for its engaging science and natural history experiences.

Public voting is open now through **February 9, 2026** at wildcenter.org/vote, with one online vote allowed per person per day. Winners will be announced on **February 18th**.

Located in Tupper Lake and only about a two-hour drive from Hague, The Wild



Center offers science-based exhibits and outdoor experiences across its 115-acre campus, including the Wild Walk, which encourages visitors to explore the relationship between people and nature. □

MASON/STAR DINNER

A roast turkey breast 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 open to the public on **Monday, February 23, 2026, from 4:30 to 6 pm** at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House).

Take-outs will 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 along Montcalm Street and in the Hancock House parking lot. □



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748

Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

February 2026

FEBRUARY

1		February's <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published
4 - 5	4:30 - 8 pm	French dinner at Silver Bay
5	6 pm	Hague Planning Board Mtg.
10	2 pm	HHS Mtg.
	6 pm	Hague Town Board Mtg.
11 - 12	4:30 - 8 pm	Thai dinner at Silver Bay
13 - 16		Winter Weekend at Silver Bay
13	7 pm	Ti Festival Guild's Valentine's evening
14		VALENTINE'S DAY
15	1:30 pm	Polar Plunge
16		PRESIDENT'S DAY (Town offices closed)

18 - 19	4:30 - 8 pm	Greek dinner at Silver Bay
19	9 - 11 am	LGLC Snowshoe Hike to Amy's Park
	6 pm	Hague ZBA Mtg.
20	9 - 11	LGLC Snowshoe Hike to the Pinnacle
	6 pm	Deadline, March issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
21 - 22		Hague Fish & Game Club Fishing Tourney
23	4:30 - 6 pm	Mason Star Dinner
24	1:30 pm	Seniors Mtg.
25 - 26	4:30 - 8 pm	Chinese dinner at Silver Bay

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