



Published Monthly Since 1972
Volume 54 Number 02

www.thehaguechronicle.org

Hague, New York 12836
February 2025

FISH & GAME'S BIG BUCK DINNER

by Bobbie-Jean Fish

On January 11, 2025, the Hague Fish & Game Club hosted its third annual Big Buck Dinner and it was a success!

There were over 100 participants and some amazing sponsorships. We would like to thank the Hague Market, Belden Property Services, Barber Cooke Agency, Ti Automotive, Bain's Sunoco, Champlain Valley Heating and Plumbing, Sun Community News, Pat Armstrong Inc., and the Hot Biscuit Diner. If it weren't for your support, we couldn't have started this adventure.

This year's winners are:

1st place: Jimmer Sherman

2nd place: Colby Hurlburt

3rd place: Caleb Winters

Women Power: Vicki Frasier and Lara Smith-Ryder

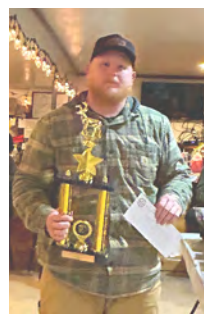
Biggest Bear: Alvin Frasier

Junior Deer: Maysen LaPointe

Smallest Deer: Ty Denno

Shout out to Ted Condit for donating the gun safe that brought in \$750 in the bidding war in the auction.

We look forward to seeing you all next year. If you're interested in helping at this event, come to our meetings, which are on the third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. ▣



TOP: Todd Fish and Board Member Lindsey Smith;
MIDDLE, L to R: Jimmer Sherman, Caleb Winters;
BOTTOM: Vickie Frasier and Lara Smith Ryder



ATTENTION SHORT-TERM RENTAL OWNERS

by Bobbi Bryant Taylor

This article is as of January 24, 2024 – Short-Term Rental (STR) policies and regulations are fluid at this point in time. More rules and regulations that may apply to STRs, especially from New York State, may be forthcoming, so please check the town, county, and state websites often for updates.

Warren County Bed/Occupancy Tax

The Warren County Short-Term Rental (STR) Law stipulates that municipalities (like the Town of Hague) cannot process local STR registrations without proof of county registration first. So, Hague cannot issue any STR paperwork without proof of Warren County STR registration, which consists of a Certificate of Authorization and an STR filing number. (Continued on p. 7)

TOWN OF HAGUE SURVEY

The Town of Hague sent the following letter out with tax bills in late December. If you haven't already responded, please do.



Dear Hague Resident:

The Town of Hague is working with the community to update the 2017 Comprehensive Plan.

The Town is pleased to invite you to participate in our community's planning process by expressing your opinions regarding the future of the community in a Community Preference Survey.

The survey is presented through Survey Monkey, an online survey software company.

The direct hyperlink to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3ZZ2TYX>.

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please limit your responses to one survey per household. To make sure all residents have access to the survey, a paper version was sent out in the mail in tax bills to all property owners at the end of December.

Paper surveys should be mailed to: Supervisor Patchett, Town of Hague, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836. You may also drop them off at the Community Center at 9793 Graphite Mt. Rd.

Please return the survey by February 28, 2025.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. Your participation and input will be a valuable resource for our community!

— Comprehensive Plan Update Advisory Committee ▣

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

Many of our members have recently been sick, so we got off to a slow start in January.



At the meeting on January 28, 2025, we installed the new board, consisting of President Patricia Hintze, Vice President Edna Frasier, Secretary Jean Yeager, Treasurer Maureen Cherubini, and Trustees Diane Snyder and Linda Carpinello.

Thank you to Annette Lamanna-Wells for serving as vice president. She will still be helping to set up some trips. Thanks to Karen Lucas for years of help, for being a trustee this past year, and for being part of our set-up crew. We wish Karen and Leo the best of happiness and health as they step into the next chapter of their lives. God bless you both; you will be sorely missed.

If the weather cooperates, on February 1st, we'll be going to see the Saranac Ice Castle and the fireworks. Game night will be February 6th at 6:30 pm at my house, so come on out and have a few laughs and snacks. Our meeting will be

SENIOR CLUB, CONT.

at the Hague Volunteer Fire Department on February 25th at 1:30 pm. Bring your favorite soup or sandwich to share. ▣

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT

by Bobbie-Jean Fish

The Hague Fish & Game Club will hold its annual ice fishing tournament on February 23 and 24, 2025, so think ice!

Preregistration will be at the following businesses two weeks before the event:

- Hague Fish & Game Club
- Silver Bay General Store
- Norm's Bait & Tackle in Crown Point
- Fish307 in Lake George
- FMB Bait & Tackle Shop in Port Henry
- The Crossroads Country Store in Chestertown

The categories will be: lake trout, perch, salmon, and pike. The weigh station will be at the Hague Fish & Game Clubhouse at 488 West Hague Road on Saturday from 8 am – 3 pm and on Sunday from 8 am – 3 pm sharp. Awards will be given out at 4 pm. ▣

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) had seven fire calls and four training drills for a total of 169 fire volunteer hours. There were seven EMS assistance calls and two standbys for mutual aid response. EMS had 14 calls for EMS service and training drills for a total of 86 volunteer and paid hours.

When the road conditions are unfavorable, be cautious! Remember, no ice is safe ice!

The first survival tip in cold weather is to be prepared! If you go out on the lake, make sure you're dressed for the cold. Your warm clothes may weigh you down, though, so be sure to also wear a personal flotation device (pfd). Try not to go out alone. Be safe! ▣

HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS: Please send all news items to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Committee Chair Jack Bast

Parents

The Committee is reaching out to Hague parents with children currently or recently enrolled in the Ticonderoga Central School District (CSD) to get a measure of how they rate their children's education there. Parents are strongly urged to promptly contact me at jackbast@nycap.rr.com to help SAC in its endeavors to accurately understand the situation and where it can be improved.

Members

The Committee has openings for three new members. Candidates interested in improving Ticonderoga CSD education and advocating for a fairer and more equitable school tax system are urged to promptly contact me at jackbast@nycap.rr.com. Together we can make a much-needed difference.

Board of Education (BoE)

Hague needs additional representation on the BoE besides our faithful Donna Wotton. Candidates for the elections of the three open positions in May must submit their intent and their qualifications to the Ticonderoga CSD promptly. Who from Hague will step up so we can support them?

The BoE meets monthly at 6 pm in the high school cafeteria in Ticonderoga. Check the school website calendar for specific dates [HERE](#). The SAC believes that until the BoE begins to stream their meetings, Hague in-person attendance is critical to demonstrate that we really are interested. BE THERE!

PILOT Agreements and Their Impact on Hague Taxpayers

The Town of Ticonderoga and the Ticonderoga CSD BoE recently finalized seven Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements for seven energy projects. Despite the fact that these agreements affect school taxes, the Town of Hague,

which is responsible for over 56% of the school tax levy, was excluded from the negotiations. Documented efforts by Hague to participate in future PILOT discussions have largely been dismissed by both Ticonderoga and the Ticonderoga CSD BoE.

Future involvement is important because the SAC investigation into the seven existing PILOTS identified very unfavorable negotiated terms for Hague and for Ticonderoga taxpayers. The BoE, in fact, missed opportunities to secure very significant additional annual school revenues from these energy projects. As a result, taxpayers are left to cover the shortfall instead of the energy projects contributing their fair share. Detailed findings are outlined in a draft White Paper currently under review by the Hague Town Board. A copy is available by emailing me at jackbast@nycap.rr.com.

While the existing PILOT agreements cannot be renegotiated, the CSD BoE has

(Continued on p. 3)

2025 HAGUE MEMORY TREE

Hague's Memory Tree was launched in 1988 in memory of Dale W. Frasier, who passed away on Fathers' Day 1987. The goals of the Memory Tree were to keep Dale's spirit alive and to support the Hague Ambulance Squad.

In the past 35 years, the event has raised thousands of dollars through one-dollar (or higher) donations.

Due to a transition in bookkeeping this year, the names of additional donors will be listed in our March issue.

Thank you to everyone who has donated!

Alkema, Peggy	Denno, Ralph H.	Hunter, Lura Bennett	Pomponio, Camille Santaniello
Backus, Shelby	Denno, James R.	James, Tom	Rathbun, Alyce Bennett
Barnaby, Andrew N., Jr. & Marge	Denno, Nicholas (baby)	Jordon, "Mam" & "Pap"	Robbins, Bertha Spaulding
Barnaby Family, Andrew N., Sr.	Densmore, Floyd & Betty	Kihss, Peter & Alice	Robbins, Benajah M.
Beadnell, Mary	Dunsmore, Jack	Kihss, Wendy	Robbins, Ernest
Beaty, James	Dunsmore, Sue	Kuebler, Richard	Rockwell, Korinna
Bennett, Della Robbins	Dykstra, Dick	Kuebler, Kay	Rypkema, Judy Hoffay
Bennett, Letha & LeRoy, Sr.	Emery, Josie	Kuebler, Timothy	Santaniello, Sal
Bennett, Jean	Fish, Helena	Lambert, Florence "Topsy"	Santaniello, Ted & Lucy
Bennett, John E.	Fitzgerald, Jane	Lambert, Beach	Santaniello, Sierra Rose
Bernard, Alfreda Gautreau	Foote, Charlie	Lambert, Alice	Santaniello, Silvio
Bolton, Dick & Penny	Foote, Mary (Maggie)	Lambert, Harold	Santaniello, Jasper
Braisted, Jody Lambert	Frasier, Clifford & Mary	Lambert, Betty	Santaniello, Ally
Braisted, John & Betty	Frasier, Mitchel & Imogene	Lambert, John	Schoolcraft, Phillip T.
Breen, Father	Frasier, Dale	Lindquist, Evert & Georgina	Scripture, Dale
Breitenbach, John, Sr.	Frasier, Mark	Lyon, Marge	Scott, LeRoy
Brennan, Patricia & Dr. William	Frasier, Christopher Lee	Marcy, Don (Duck)	Scott, Sarah
Brink Family	Frasier, Harold (Hoppy)	McCoy, Beatrice Denno	Shattuck, Virginia
Broderick, Father Rich	Frasier, Beatrice Robbins	McCumber, Lucille Bennett	Shaw, Elliott
Broderick, James & Margaret	Frasier, Lee & Alice Family	Megow, Linda Fish	Skahan, Donald R.
Bryant, Bob & Shirley	Frazier, Valeda	Megow, Lu & Linda	Skahan, Elizabeth C.
Burleigh, Gordon	Frazier, William	Middleton, Aaron	Smith, Janice
Butler, Edna Middleton	Fricke, Laura Robbins	Middleton, Alvin	Smith, Uncle Jim
Calden, Irene Arsenault	Galarneau, Thomasina	Middleton, Beatrice "Midge"	Snow, Barbara
Cassidy, Edward F.	Gautreau, Theresa M.	Denno	Snyder, Ray
Cornell, Pat	Gautreau, Erene T.	Middleton, Scotty	Steitz, Daniel "SeeMore"
Costello, John "B good"	Gautreau, Evelyn M.	Middleton, Julia	Stratton, Leona Robbins
Cronan, Cory	Girard, James	Middleton, Linda	Strum, Lois
Cunningham, Catherine (baby)	Goodrich, Dee	Mielewski, Gary	Stull, Catherine
Darrin, Peggy	Greene, T.J.	Mikita, Joyce	Stull, Fred
Davis, Kathy Palone	Griggs, Donald & Cynthia	Morin, Mary Hoffay	Tilton, Edna Robbins
Decker, Clifford & Betty	Hanley, Thomas	Mosca, Nicholas A. (baby)	Trudeau, Clifford
Denno, Bernard "Buck" &	Hardy, Betty Bennett	Mosca, George	Trudeau, Family Clifford
Anna Robbins	Hill, Pauline Robbins	Murphy, Dee	Ursell, Betty
Denno, Joseph J.	Hitchcock, Theresa	Mury, Linda	Valenti, Tom
Denno, Marie (Murray)	Hoffay, Janet	Nestor, Juanita Robbins	Vradenburg, Billie Jo
Denno, Barbara (Tyler)	Hogan, Father	Novotny, Louis, Jr.	Vrendenburg, Cody
Denno, Peter B.	Hostig, Greg	Patchett, Lynn & Bob	WAZ
Denno, Robert A.	Hudak, Beverly	Pandarvis, Makeisha Hoffay	Wilson, Burke
Denno, Mabel Rock	Huestis, Ruth	Perkins, Jackie	Yanklowitz, Joseph

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CONT.

legal authority to include the Full Market Values of the energy projects—estimated at over \$150 million—in the school tax levy apportionment. This adjustment would reduce Hague's 56% share of

the levy. However, the BoE has definitively denied Hague's documented requests to make this change, both for the 2024 levy and even in future calculations.

Advocacy for reversing this policy is essential to ensure a fairer tax burden for Hague residents. ▣

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

Please send information and photos to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 12/19/2024

Present: Chairman Robert Goetsch, Jon Hanna, Chris Navitsky, and Tina Barth-King
Absent: Linda Mury (recently deceased)
Also present: Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Kirchberger and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LaPointe (9126 Graphite Mountain Road, VAR 17-24):

The applicant seeks to add a covered porch and attached garage, requiring a variance for a sideline setback. Discussion arose about merging the applicant's adjacent lot to eliminate the need for a variance. The applicant opted to proceed with the variance process.

Stoohs (1 Burdick Lane, VAR 18-24): The applicant seeks to add a 6' x 30' addition and a 23' x 25' covered deck. The addition requires a variance for a front yard setback. No public comments were made.

Cunningham (4 Silver Bay Road, VAR 14-24): The applicants appealed a stop-work order for living in an accessory structure and failing to remove plumbing as required by the Hague Planning Board. Neighbors and their attorney supported upholding the stop-work order.

OLD BUSINESS

LaPointe (VAR 17-24): Action was tabled for the applicant to consult the Hague Town Assessor regarding a lot merger.

Stoohs (VAR 18-24): The board approved the 6' x 30' addition with these conditions: the garage must remain a garage and stormwater management must be implemented.

Cunningham (VAR 14-24): The board upheld the ZEO's stop-work order and denied the appeal.

NEW BUSINESS

Bosco (28 Friends Point South, DEV 40-24): The application for a lakeside stone patio was deemed incomplete pending additional details.

OTHER BUSINESS: The ZEO reported upcoming training on January 16, 2024.

He also announced the passing of Linda Mury. ▣

TOWN BOARD ORG. MTG. - 1/2/2025

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett and Board Members Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, Edna Frasier, and Lara Smith. Also present were ZOOM Coordinator Tim Fiallo and two community members. The ZOOM equipment was not working.

AUDIT OF BOOKS

The board agreed to conduct a thorough examination of the fiscal records for the Hague Town Clerk, Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO), Judge, and Supervisor. This audit is scheduled to be completed by January 20, 2025, for the year ending 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Patchett was authorized to sign an agreement with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

The board approved a one-year contract with Cedarwood Engineering. The contract runs from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, with an option for quarterly renewal by mutual agreement.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

- **Regular Meetings:** The board's regular meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm at the Hague Community Center.
- **Claims:** All claims will be verified using the purchase order system.
- **Official Depository:** Community Bank, N.A. was designated as the official depository for town funds.
- **Official Newspaper:** *The Sun Community News* was designated as the official newspaper for legal notifications.
- **Mileage Rate:** The mileage reimbursement rate was set at 67 cents per mile. Individuals must submit travel vouchers monthly for reimbursement.
- **Petty Cash Funds:** The board approved petty cash funds for the town park, justice's office, supervisor's office, town clerk, and transfer station.

CONTRACTS FOR 2025

These are most of the contracts the board authorized to support town operations and community activities:

- **Hudson Headwaters Health Network** to provide vaccinations for employees
- **Mountain Medical** for testing services
- **Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD)** for fire protection and ambulance services
- **Hague Senior Citizens** for activities
- **Hague Sno-goers** for the maintenance of cross-country ski trails
- **HVFD** for the Polar Plunge
- **Memorial Day Parade Committee** for parade expenses
- **Green Leaf Racing** for the Lake George Open Water Swim
- **Black Watch Library** to support library services in Ticonderoga
- **Hague Fish and Game** for the Ice Fishing Contest and Winter Weekend events

APPOINTMENTS

These key appointments for 2025 were confirmed:

- **Budget Officer:** Joshua Patchett
- **Deputy Supervisor and Town Historian:** Sally DeLarm Rypkema
- **Attorney:** John Silvestri
- **Deputy Highway Superintendent and Audio-Visual Technician:** Tim Fiallo
- **Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Records Management Officer, Supervisor to the Appeals Officer, and Registrar of Vital Statistics:** Kim Coffin

TOWN BOARD ORG. MTG., CONT.

- **First Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, Webmaster, Deputy Tax Collector, and Care Program Officer for the Food Pantry:**
Amanda Peterson
- **Second Deputy Town Clerk:** Alicia Coon
- **Health Officer:** Hague Town Board
- **Safety Officer:** Desiree Diskin
- **Dog/Animal Control Officer:** TBD
- **Town Naturalist:** David DeFranco
- **Community Center Coordinator:** Donna Clark
- **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chairman:**
Robert Goetsch
- **Planning Board (PB) Chairman:** Sandy Powell
- **ZBA Deputy Chairman:** Jon Hanna
- **PB Deputy Chairman:** Pam Peterson
- **PB Member:** Tina Barth-King (term to expire December 31, 2029)

Supervisor Patchett appointed the following town board committees:

- **Administrative:** Supervisor Patchett
- **Buildings and Ground:** Frasier/Patchett
- **Highway:** Frasier/Smith
- **Museum & Historian:** Bast/Smith
- **Personnel:** Bast/Cherubini
- **Planning/Zoning/Storm:** Cherubini/Frasier
- **Recreation & Promotion & Youth:** Smith/Patchett
- **Sewer 1 & 2:** Smith/Patchett
- **Town Park & Beautification:** Cherubini/Frasier
- **Environmental Concerns:** Cherubini/Bast
- **Technology and Communications:** Patchett/Bast

SALARIES FOR 2025

The board approved salary adjustments for town employees to reflect increased responsibilities and to align with cost-of-living changes. Notable changes include:

- Increases were made to the supervisor's and the zoning enforcement officer's salaries.
- Hourly rates for clerks, maintenance staff, and lifeguards were adjusted upward to remain competitive.

- Part-time and seasonal employees received raises to support retention and to acknowledge their contributions.

POLICIES

The board adopted updates to these key policies:

Procurement Policy

The procurement policy establishes guidelines for purchasing goods and services. Purchases under \$500 may be authorized by town officials, while higher amounts require competitive quotes or bids, depending on the cost.

Investment Policy

The town's investment policy prioritizes the safety, liquidity, and yield of public funds. The policy authorizes the use of reputable financial institutions for investments and ensures proper collateralization for amounts exceeding federal deposit insurance limits.

Meeting Policy

Agendas for regular meetings will be distributed by the Friday preceding the meeting. Special meeting agendas will be available the day before. Committees composed of town board members will continue to gather information and make recommendations, while citizen committees will provide advisory input.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Patchett reported that three grant applications for the Visitor/Welcome Center were denied.

OTHER BUSINESS

The board discussed upcoming events and initiatives, including preparations for winter activities. Maintenance of roads and public spaces remains a priority, especially during the snowy months. ▣

TOWN BOARD - 1/14/2025

We will report on this meeting in our March issue. ▣



Photo from January 8, 2025, courtesy of Sandy Powell

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Daniel Scott Steitz, 60, of Hague, on November 20, 2024, at his home.

Born in Mt. Holly, NJ, he was the son of Arthur and Joan

(Fenimore) Steitz. Dan's family relocated to Hague when he was a teenager. He was known by many as "SeeMore."



Dan was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and antique snowmobiles. During deer season, you could always find him sitting in his deer blind. In the evenings he loved to be on the couch with his cats.

He looked forward to an annual trip to Seaside, NJ, with his wife, Connie, and his family.

Dan worked for the Hague Highway Department for over 20 years. He was also the Hague Animal Control Officer for many years.

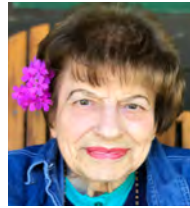
Dan was predeceased by his: grandparents, Russell and Nora Fenimore and Albert and Ruth Steitz; and his sister-in-law, Carol Steitz.

Dan is survived by his: wife, Connie (Swinton) Steitz; children Megan Steitz (Bruce Masse), Daniel Steitz (Rachel), and Nate Swinton (Macie Peer); parents, Arthur and Joan Steitz; two brothers, Mark Steitz and David Steitz (Susan); and his grandchildren, Kaisen, Melody, Dylan, Ryder, Landon, Chase, and Colsen. He also had many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service and celebration of life were held in November 2024. ▣

DIED: Kay Martucci, 98, of Hague, on January 11, 2025, at her home.

Kay was born in Manhattan to parents Dora and Michael Janes. In 1946, she married her beloved husband, Robert Martucci, after his return from World War II. Together, they owned and operated a precision machining company in Queens before welcoming their twin sons, David and Mark.



In 1969, Kay and Robert purchased what is now the Northern Lake George Resort in Silver Bay. For over 45 years, they dedicated themselves to renovating and operating the resort and restaurant. Kay's love of cooking and hosting blossomed during this time, with her favorite dishes being inspired by her Greek and Ukrainian heritage.

She also made history as the first female banquet manager for the restaurants at LaGuardia Airport in the 1970s.

Kay enjoyed roller skating as a young woman and sewing in her later years.

She was predeceased by her: husband, Robert; son, Mark; and sisters and brothers-in-law, Helen (Tony) and Mary (Byron).

She is survived by her: son, David; daughters-in-law, Kim and Bonnie; grandchildren, Cassie (Vladimir) and Tony; and her great-granddaughter, Teodora.

Friends and family will be welcome at a memorial service and celebration of life in the spring. ▣

WINTER WEEKEND AT THE HAGUE FISH & GAME CLUB

by Bobbie-Jean Fish

The Hague Fish & Game Club will hold its annual Winter Weekend on February 15, 2025. **Here is the schedule:**

12-4 pm: Free face painting provided by the Art Bucket, a bonfire, hot cocoa, and food being sold. There will also be two tables of Jenga set up for all to play, a coloring table for the kids, and sledding (so think snow!)

1-3 pm: Phil Singer will do free caricature drawings.

1 pm: The Winter Axe Toss for adults. Each contestant will get one practice toss and then two tosses for points. The person with the most points will win a prize.

2 pm: The Frying Pan Toss in divisions for women, men, and children. The last player standing in each division takes the prize.

3 pm: The Chainsaw Competition (for adults only). Competitors should bring their own stock saws. At the sound of the whistle, each contestant will make three slices and the fastest will move on. The last person standing takes the trophy.

3:30 pm: The Take-Out Chicken BBQ will start. Our guest cook will be Marty Fitzgerald cooking on his portable chicken cooker. There will be 125 dinners sold for \$15 each.

6-9 pm: Rich Ortiz will provide live music. There will be free snacks. We'll end the night with a small fireworks display. ▣

WALK ON WATER TO DOME ISLAND

The Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC's) annual trek to Dome Island is scheduled for February 14 and 15, 2025, if ice conditions allow.

This is a one-mile walk/snowshoe/ski across the frozen lake to visit the island John Apperson donated to The Nature Conservancy for permanent protection. Spots are limited and fill up VERY quickly. The \$10 per person fee is non-refundable. Click [HERE](#) for more information. ▣

ICE-EATERS

Here is an important tip from the the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) regarding ice-eaters: Turn your de-icing device(s) off before the ice starts to melt. By doing this, you will allow a thin sheet of ice to form between your dock and the rest of the ice on the lake. This thin ice sheet will not harm your dock; it will help stabilize the ice cake and it will keep your dock safe as the ice on the lake breaks up.

If you keep your de-icer running as the ice breaks up, and thus have open water around your dock, you will be a sitting duck for thick ice sheets to blow across the open water and crash into your dock. Click [HERE](#) for more information. ▣

ATTENTION SHORT-TERM RENTAL OWNERS, CONT.

So, I'll begin this article by discussing registration of an STR in Warren County.

Since 2004 (for hotels) and 2018 (for private homes), STR owners have been required to collect a 4% bed/occupancy tax and to remit it to Warren County. *But, not everyone has complied with that requirement.* According to Warren County Attorney Larry Elmen, "If people fail to register their properties and fail to pay the tax, they are committing tax evasion, which is subject to criminal action."

Warren County Treasurer Christine Norton explained to *The Hague Chronicle* that, while the Local Occupancy Tax Law stipulates fines up to \$1,000 and/or jail time for not registering STRs, these fines have never been enforced. Warren County is considering making that penalty \$5,000 because it wants folks to understand how serious this will be going forward.

Those trying to "fly under the radar" need to understand that Warren County has access to a third-party provider named Granicus that scours/data mines internet bookings via Airbnb, Expedia, VRBO, etc. The information the county sees on this site proves which properties are being rented. By using Granicus, the county has found 125 non-registered properties to date, with another 100 being confirmed. The owners of these properties are now registering and paying – current and prior year – occupancy tax due based on validated rental history. These past due occupancy taxes are subject to a 5% penalty and a 1%/month (12%/annum) interest charge. These fines and penalties add up to significant dollars!

For folks who rent out homes, hotels, or cabins that are "generational rentals" (where owners don't advertise and renters don't use booking platforms): these are often reported by concerned citizens or neighbors who think it's unfair that they pay an occupancy tax while their neighbors do not.

Norton's "2025 Amnesty Program"

Because Warren County is not looking to be punitive and just wants folks to "do the right thing," Norton's office has decided to offer "amnesty" (a pardon) without penalties or retroactive charges throughout 2025 for non-compliant STR

owners who were not found through the county's data mining efforts on the internet IF they will register and pay occupancy tax going forward.

However, Norton emphasized, "Starting in 2026, fines WILL BE enforced annually and retroactively, *without exception*, for non-compliance."

Steps for Occupancy Tax Compliance:

1. Register at Warren County Bed Tax Registration, via this FORM.
2. File occupancy tax returns (monthly, quarterly, or annually) via this FORM.
3. Remit the tax collected from occupants to the county on or before the required due dates.

Hague Town STR

Once STR owners have their Certificates of Authorization and STR filing numbers from Warren County, they can go through the steps for local Town of Hague STR compliance.

Some background here: In early 2024, the Town of Hague formed a committee to develop a Short-Term Rental (STR) Law. After extensive discussions, STR Local Law #1 was initially defeated on March 12th but was passed on June 13th after three changes were made.

This local STR law will be enforced by Hague Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger.

Steps for Local STR Compliance:

1. Homeowners planning to rent their properties should read the details and complete the necessary **forms** found [HERE](#). Then, they must submit those completed forms and a **\$300 fee** to the ZEO's office.
2. **Fire Inspection:** Next, contact Warren County Fire Inspector Charles Wallace at 518-761-7671 to obtain and submit a form. Then, set up an appointment for an inspection. (Seasonal owners should wait to request an inspection until close to when they will arrive as Wallace must get inside the property.) Because his office wants to only make one visit, they will tell folks how to prepare so they can hand the owners the appropriate paperwork when they finish the inspection. He will check for violations, electrical hazards, and safety measures like smoke/carbon monoxide detectors,

handrails, etc.

3.

ZEO Inspection: After the county fire inspection, Hague ZEO Kirchberger will conduct his own inspection. Based on the information he gathers, a permit will be issued or denied. The ZEO will set the allowable occupancy for each rental and post it on the permit. Once each application is approved, the ZEO will notify the applicant so he can begin advertising the rental even before he picks up the physical permit. The permit will then be issued and made available for pick up in the zoning office at the Hague Community Center.

This permit must be issued before owners may advertise on platforms like Airbnb or VRBO!

Kirshberger stated to *The Hague Chronicle*, "I know who the people are in Hague who have been renting STRs and they need to come forward now to register. My goal is compliance and I want to help protect people. If they do not come forward, I have severe tools at my disposal to enforce the law."

Properties cannot be rented until both the town and the county permits are obtained.

New York State Sales Tax

Although the registry of STRs will be with the counties (and also with the towns that have STR laws) and not with NYS itself, beginning in March 2025, NYS will require that STRs pay a 7% state sales tax. This is because of the Short-Term Rental Registry Law that Governor Hochul recently approved.

This levels the playing field with hotels and motels and is expected to generate substantial revenue, with Warren County estimating a \$1.2 million lift annually, according to Norton.

Platforms like Airbnb and VRBO will be required to report STR data to NYS quarterly, including locations and taxes collected. They must also collect and remit occupancy tax to the county.

STR owners who rent privately must navigate these updated regulations carefully. With new inspection requirements, county occupancy taxes, and state sales taxes, compliance is *essential* to avoid fines and legal action. Both the 4% occupancy tax and 7% sales tax should be collected from tenants and are the owner's responsibility to remit.



HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

The Hague Historical Society is busy researching and planning our 2025 museum exhibit and events. Our focus this year will be on the site across from the Hague Town Park, which was the location of many important lodging, eating, and drinking establishments. In 1810, Revolutionary War soldier Nathan Garfield opened a hotel and tavern as one of the earliest stopping places on Lake George. And who could forget the Beachside Hotel with its iconic Cave bar, which operated in the mid-to-late 1900s? If you have Cave photos, stories or artifacts to share, send us an email at haguehistorical@gmail.com.



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 7 pm, Show & Tell:** Do you have an interesting object in your home, perhaps with a fascinating story? Or perhaps you have always wondered what this thing is and want to learn more. At a similar event held last year, people showed up with a wide variety of items including photos, a painting, an interesting letter, items from a now-defunct Hague restaurant, garden dwarfs, and a few objects that kept us all guessing. By the end of the evening, we had learned a lot and even figured out what all of the mystery objects were – with a little help from the Google Lens app. This is the perfect antidote for cabin fever.
- **Wednesday, June 25th at 7 pm, Annual Meeting and Presentation:** Join us for a presentation about the museum exhibit and the history of the Cave site.

Be sure to check out our newly-designed and updated website [HERE](http://www.haguehistorical.com) at www.haguehistorical.com and follow us on Facebook. ▣

SILVER BAY HAPPENINGS

Yoga classes for all ages are returning to Silver Bay in the dance studio at Fisher Gymnasium from 4 to 5 pm every Wednesday through June 26, 2025.

Silver Bay is now offering private and group swim lessons for youth ages 5 - 12 at the Moriah Central High School, 39 Viking Lane, Port Henry. Lessons will be taught by Silver Bay's Aquatics Director Caleb Cutting.



The Learn-to-Swim Program focuses on building skills one step at a time. By giving youth the opportunity to master one element before moving on to the next, these swim lessons make it easy to build confidence in the water.

The swim lessons started on January 25th with a free open class. Regular sessions will start February 1st and go through May 10th. Sessions are held from 10-10:30 am and 10:30-11 am.

Click [HERE](#) to register for swim lessons. ▣

OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PROTECT LAKE GEORGE

The Lake George Association (LGA) is looking for one or two volunteers to help it gather data through the Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Volunteers will take shallow and deep-water samples eight times throughout the summer season (every two weeks). Samples will be submitted to the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) for assessment. This effort will help the LGA to obtain consistent data throughout the season. Volunteers must have access to a boat.

For more information, please reach out to Lindsey Kenna [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) for other opportunities to volunteer for the LGA and help protect Lake George. ▣

LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) recently issued its 2024 Annual Report, which provides a wealth of facts, figures, and other information about the agency's activities in 2024. The report includes updates on a wide variety of issues, including the septic inspection program, partnerships with other organizations, and addressing upland threats.

The report also covers the agency's Eurasian water milfoil management efforts, which include hand harvesting and treatment with the herbicide ProcellaCOR. Additionally, it discusses how it is keeping other invasive species out of Lake George, presents a report on the marine patrol, and describes regulatory and permitting activities.

Visit the Lake George Park Commission website [HERE](#) for more information or view just the report [HERE](#). ▣

FEBRUARY HAIKU

by dl mattila

small talk
we exchange
candy hearts ▣

SNOWSHOEING WITH THE LGLC

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is hosting two guided snowshoe adventures in Bolton in February:

- **February 20, 2025, 9-11:30 am:** Explore Amy's Park with a naturalist to discover animal tracks and learn how Adirondack wildlife and plants adapt to winter. The 1.2-mile trail is rated easy to moderate.
- **February 21st, 9-11:30 am:** Hike the Bradley's Lookout Trail at the Pinnacle Preserve to search for tracks and study winter adaptations of local flora and fauna. This 1.5-mile trail is rated moderate.

Bring snowshoes or register to borrow a pair. Click [HERE](#) for details. 📌

LGA PODCAST ON ROAD SALT

As previously reported, the Lake George Association (LGA) has launched a podcast channel, presenting information about preserving Lake George's legendary water quality.

In the most recent podcast – the fifth in the series – Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky talks about road salt and the impact it has on water quality. While road salt is necessary for safety, excessive use of it leads to environmental problems, including chloride accumulation in water, which disrupts lake turnover, harms aquatic life like zooplankton, and affects local infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) for more information. 📌

PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT LGLC

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is accepting applications for a paid summer internship position for 2025.

This position will support the work of the Education and Outreach Program and the Conservation Program. The intern will work alongside staff to learn about land management and will help coordinate various summer events designed to educate the public and to raise funds.

Applications are due by March 1, 2025. Click [HERE](#) for more information. 📌

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ATTENDS 2024 RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE *by Linda Fusco*

Beth Barton-Navitsky and I represented the Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) at the Rural Schools Association (RSA) of New York State (NYS) 2024 Winter Conference. It was called "Building A Bridge Over Troubled Water" and was held December 4-5, 2024, at the Excelsior Springs Event Center in Saratoga.

RSA brings school educators together to address issues affecting students in rural schools, such as how the Foundation Fund Aid Formula (based on school enrollment) does not distinguish between urban, suburban, or rural New York State school districts. This leaves districts such as ours, which has experienced experienced declining enrollment since 2008, at a disadvantage.

Attending the conference provided us the opportunity to connect with state education officials. We met Dr. Roger Catania, the NYS Regent for Rural Schools, who lives in Saranac Lake. A former superintendent of schools, he spoke about the impact of proposed state policies on rural education, which included last summer's 2024 public hearings on the Rockefeller Institute's study on state aid. The SAC plans to invite Catania to support initiatives to improve our school system's poor math and ELA ratings on state exams.

Dr. Betty Rosa, NYS Commissioner of Education and RSA Leader of the Year, presented information on the changes in graduation requirements, graduation pathways, regionalism, staffing shortages, and other issues facing all NY school districts this year. She thanked her team for enlightening her on the rural issues, as most of her time has been spent on issues faced by city and suburban school districts.

Robert Megna, Rockefeller Institute president and former state budget director, along with Dr. Brian Backstrom, Rockefeller Institute education policy director, presented the findings and recommendations contained in their 314-page "Report to the Governor and Legislature on Foundation Aid Reform," which can be found [HERE](#). Currently, the Foundation Aid uses a two-decades-old algorithm to calculate district state aid. The report summarized a series of public hearings, including ones in rural districts, which used feedback from school communities to update and revise the granting of Foundation Aid to address more current district issues.

The report itself has no impact on revising state aid, which is solely contingent on the NYS legislature voting on policy changes. RSA updates us on the voting on legislative policies and on Governor Hochul's latest education updates, such as evidence that many homes lack access to age-appropriate books and reading materials, and that children from low-income family backgrounds may be exposed to only 25 hours of one-on-one picture-book reading compared to 1,000+ hours for children from middle-class homes prior to kindergarten.

Finally, the RSA presented its Appreciation Award to Mike Ford. Ford has over 40 years of experience as a rural school educator. He remarked that not one rural district in NYS could produce a national science award winner. Only urban and suburban districts had the programs to support student national achievement. He strongly recommended that rural schools provide stellar academic environments that would foster reading and mathematics achievement.

For further information contact me [HERE](#) or by phone/text at 914-380-2130. 📌

TICONDEROGA END OF WINTER CARNIVAL

The Ticonderoga End of Winter Carnival will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, in coordination with the Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership, the Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center, the Town of Ticonderoga, the Ticonderoga Festival Guild, and other businesses and organizations.

Details will be posted on the website [HERE](#). 📌

LOOKING BACK

by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 1975 — 50 YEARS AGO

Calista L. Streeter

Mrs. Calista L. Streeter died at her home on Streeter Hill Road on January 13. She was 79 years old.

Survivors include seven daughters and four sons: Mrs. Marjorie S. Noyes and Mrs. Helen Fairlee of Albany; Mrs. Marion Bailey of Loudonville; Mrs. Elenore Sinkle, Mrs. Lillian Murray, and Mrs. Calista Murray of Diamond Point; Elmer E. of Schenectady; Gordon J. of Scotia; Robert S. of Ticonderoga; and Mrs. Ruth Robbins and Joseph F. Streeter of Hague. Mrs. Streeter is also survived by 24 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two sisters, Mrs. Hattie Holman of Hague and Mrs. Jennie Sturtevant of Ticonderoga.

Services were held at the Wesleyan Church in Hague with the Rev. Edward Elliot officiating. Memories may be made in the form of contributions to the Wesleyan Church.

FEBRUARY 2025 — UPDATE

It is believed that all of Calista's children attended Hague Central School. Sadly, most of them have passed away. The following members of Calista's family remained in Hague and contributed much to the town and its people:



TOP: Joe Streeter; BOTTOM: Ruth Streeter Robbins

Joseph F. Streeter was born in Hague and was a graduate of Hague Central School. Joe was a kind, gentle man with a contagious smile. He was involved in the Town of Hague in many ways. He raised his family here; was a fifth-grade teacher at Hague Central School; was an elected member of the Hague Town Board; was

a Hague police officer; and was a patrol officer on our beautiful Lake George. He passed away on August 24, 2007 at the age of 71. According to his obituary, he was also a psychiatric assistant and taught at Teen Challenge.

Mrs. Ruth (Streeter) Robbins was born in Hague, was a lifelong resident of Hague, and was a graduate of Hague Central School. She exhibited the same kind gentleness as her brother, Joe, and she had a silly laugh that brought a smile to everyone's lips. Ruth was employed for many years at Hague Central School as the secretary to the principal. She was also a secretary for the Hague Chamber of Commerce, and a member and treasurer of the Hague Wesleyan Church. She passed away on June 14, 2010 at the age of 85.

For those of us fortunate enough to have been one of those fifth-grade students or to have known this family and its relatives, whether through their company, friendship, or even a passing hello accompanied by a smile, the memories are warm and genuine. ▣

"EMBRACE THE VASE" OPENS AT TI ARTS

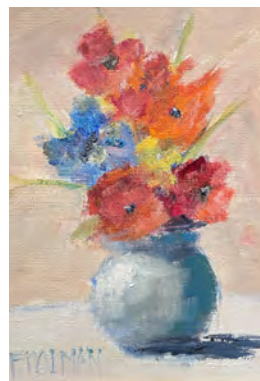
Ti Arts will host "Embrace the Vase," an open-entry show, beginning February 6, 2025. The opening reception will be held on Friday, February 7th.

The show will feature vases in any form, including 3-D and 2-D works, crafted from glass, ceramic, or wood, or through painting mediums such as oil, pastels, and watercolor.

The show will remain open until March 1st. Gallery hours are 10 am – 4 pm, Thursday through Saturday.

Check out the Ti Arts website for details [HERE](#).

The Ti Arts Downtown Gallery is located at 119 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga. ▣



L to R: painting by Fred Holman of Brant Lake; glass vase by Bruce Cutler of Worcester, MA; ceramic vase by Laurie Sapakoff of Silver Bay

Programming at Ti Arts is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and Essex County Arts Council.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

Thanks to the support of Americana Corner, Fort Ticonderoga is recreating two American artillery pieces, complete with carriages, inert ammunition, and tools used by Continental Army artillerymen. These reproductions, based on artifacts in the fort's collection, will allow visitors hands-on exploration of items central to Ticonderoga's pivotal Revolutionary War moments.

The project is part of the fort's multi-year initiative, REAL TIME REVOLUTION™, an immersive experience capturing the events and people leading to American independence from 1774 to 1777.

"Artillery played a critical role in Ticonderoga's history, from inspiring its 1775 capture to thwarting British invasion in 1776," said Vice President of Public History Stuart Lilie. "Cannons connect visitors to the Revolutionary War's physical and logistical challenges, vividly illustrating feats like Henry Knox's delivery of Ticonderoga's guns to the siege of Boston."

Fort Ticonderoga President and CEO Beth L. Hill added, "These artillery pieces will go beyond spectacle, connecting visitors to the science and strategy of artillery. Hands-on experiences will engage young visitors with math, geography, and history, while live demonstrations will evoke the uncertainty of freedom's struggle."

Funded through Americana Corner's Preserving America Partners program, the project will expand Fort Ticonderoga's storytelling and inspire new generations. REAL TIME REVOLUTION™ will bring this history to life through 2027 and beyond.



Photo: Credit and copyright Fort Ticonderoga.

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 24, 2025, from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will also be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be available at the door. Parking will be along Montcalm Street and in the Hancock House parking lot. ■

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

TI SCHOOL PLANETARIUM PROGRAM

by Linda Fusco

On Saturday January 4, 2025, at 3 pm, a full house of 30 community residents attended the Ticonderoga School Planetarium program called "The Winter Sky." Celestially it was "perihelion," a special day, which occurs each year when the earth is closest to the sun.

Joe Defayette, the Ticonderoga Jr./Sr. High School earth science teacher, demonstrated which constellations, planets, meteor showers, and special celestial events participants could view over the next three months. In the first part of the program, he introduced the types of telescopes used to view the sky.

Attendees received an information packet that included a sky chart that displayed the common winter constellations (e.g., Orion, Taurus, Gemini), stars (e.g., Polaris and the North Star), and planets (e.g., Mars and Venus). The



Constellation Taurus

packet included a calendar of events such as the January 4-11, 2025, Quadrantids Meteor Showers and the January 13th rare occultation of Mars by the moon, which were all visible to the naked eye.

Participants were encouraged to download the SkyView® Lite app – a free way to view the skies on smartphones and iPads, and *Astronomy for Mere Mortals*, a free textbook from the website **HERE**.

There were requests from the participants to arrange for viewings in the field using the Ticonderoga portable telescope and to create a special planetarium program for elementary-age children. The program scheduled for March 2025 will focus on the spring sky.

For further information and copies of the "The Winter Sky" program information, please contact me **HERE** or by phone/text at 914-380-2130. ■

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748
Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

February 2025

FEBRUARY

1	February issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published	20	9-11:30 am	Snowshoeing with the LGLC - Amy's Park
6 – March 1	Ti Arts "Embrace the Vase"	21	9-11:30 am	Snowshoeing with the LGLC on the Bradley's Lookout Trail
6	6 pm			
7	5 – 7 pm			
11	2 pm	23 and 24		Hague Fish & Game Ice Fishing Tourney
	6 pm			
14	VALENTINE'S DAY	24	4:30-6 pm	Mason Star turkey dinner
14 and 15	Walks to Dome Island	25	1:30 pm	Seniors Meeting
15	Hague Fish & Game Club Winter Weekend	27	6 pm	Hague Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
17	PRESIDENT'S DAY — TOWN OFFICES CLOSED	28		Deadline to return the Hague Community Preference Survey

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