

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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DEAR RESIDENTS OF HAGUE,



I am humbled and honored to be the next supervisor of the Town of Hague. I would like to thank the members of our community for their votes of confidence and support.

One of my goals is to be in close contact with our community. So, please feel free to reach out to me with any of your concerns. The world we live in is changing rapidly. As a community, I think it is vitally important to pay close attention to the events going on around us. I think that it is important to develop a vision and a plan for where we are going.

Some of my concerns are Environmental Protection, Affordable Housing, Cost of Living, and Taxation Increases, many of which we seem to have little or no control over. I plan to touch base with business owners to ask how our town can better support them. Naturally, like all things in life, balance is the key. I love Lake George from the bottom of my soul; however, I love our mountain views just as much.

We need to be good stewards of Lake George; it is our responsibility. Lake George is the giant economic engine that literally drives the entire region.

I was recently reminded that every person we meet in life is our superior in some way since we can learn something from everyone. Let's walk forward together with one common goal.

Sincerely,
Joshua Patchett

ZEO SHAPPY RESIGNED

On December 8, 2023 the Town of Hague accepted the resignation of Tristan Shappy as Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO). For the time being, former ZEO Cathy Clark will resume the full position of ZEO. Thank you, Cathy! ▣

HAGUE FISH & GAME CLUB

by *Bobbie Jean Fish*

As the year comes to an end, we would like to thank all who continue to support our local Hague Fish & Game Club. As time changes, so do we. We have become very community driven, with open events such as a Halloween Party and Breakfast with Santa. We couldn't do these events without our members who continue to support us with donations to ensure all community children can partake in these events.



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FRASIER IS SENIOR OF THE YEAR

by *Pat Hintze*

Edna Frasier has been picked as the Senior of the Year. First, I would like to congratulate her, as she was a person well deserving to be chosen.



Edna grew up in Hague and has been dedicated to the community. She married Dick Frasier and she chose to live here and raise their family as part of the community she loved.

Edna and Dick ran the Lakeshore Garage in Hague for 51 years and, in so doing, helped out many people. When her children were involved in sports or other activities, she supported them and was always willing to help out.

Edna was on our town board for six years and then served as Supervisor of the Town of Hague for the past 12 years. She has always had the best interests of the community in her heart and mind. Whatever event was going on in town, she supported it.

So, Edna, thank you for your many years of service. We appreciate all you have done and will continue to do however you choose.

May God continue to bless you and all your efforts. ▣

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze



Fifty of us kicked off the Christmas season with our annual Seniors Club Christmas Party on December 5, 2023 at Frederick's in Bolton Landing.

Karen and Leo Lucas won the big prize, which was the Money Tree. The next prizes went to:

First - Ray Snyder - a throw blanket

Second - Annette and Bill Wells - a Ticonderoga cutting board

Third - Linda Carpinella - a Lake George cutting board

Then, every couple and every single person received a gift.

Edna Frasier was recognized as the Senior of the Year for her many years of service to the Town of Hague. Carol Barnwell was recognized for seven years as the Seniors Club board secretary. Last, but not least, Maureen Cherubini was recognized for the numerous years she dedicated to the Hague Memorial Day Parade.

The parade has always been a wonderful event for the families of Hague and the surrounding towns. After 20 years, it is with a heavy heart that I say, unless someone (or a group of people) step up to chair it, there will be no more Memorial Day Parade in Hague. Anyone interested in picking up the parade, should contact the town board at 518-543-6161.



On December 7th, we had Game Night at my home. We had a full house with snacks and many laughs.



This was the last event for 2023, so I would like to say thank you to the club for another great year.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2024 with fun trips. January 11th at 4:30 pm will be our annual International Dinner at the community center, so please bring your favorite dish to share. Come on out so we can kick off the first event of 2024.

On January 23rd at noon, we will have our regular meeting to install the new officers and to enjoy some soup, sandwiches, and desserts. Please contact me with what you plan to bring. Thank you!

We, the Seniors Club, would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy, and Blessed New Year! ❏

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



For the period from November 20 to December 20, 2024, Hague Fire had four calls, two drills, and one stand-by and EMS had three calls for a total of 15.5 volunteer hours.

We would like to congratulate Adam DeBuque for passing the 24-hour Pump Operator's Class.

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) had a successful Craft Fair and Bake Sale. We want to thank everyone for coming out and making it a great day.

We have drills on Tuesdays and we have been inviting other departments to drill alongside our firefighters. We had an educational and physical drill with the Ticonderoga Fire Department. We continue to train in both EMS and Fire Drills to keep our skills sharpened.

We would like to emphasize safety. Check your fire safety and escape plan in case of an emergency. Watch your step on icy surfaces. Make sure you have these items in your vehicle: a flashlight, a blanket, bottled water, and a first aid kit.

We have had our annual HVFD elections. We want to thank those who have served and those who are continuing to serve the HVFD and the community for their dedication.

We want to welcome our newly-elected officers, who will take over on January 1st.

Chief of Department: *David Snow*

1st Assistant: *James Belden*

2nd Assistant: *Nate Swinton*

Captain: *Patrick Scoville, Jr.*

1st Lieutenant: *Bill Wells*

2nd Lieutenant: *Adam DeBuque*

Safety Officer: *Macie Peer*

EMS Captain: *Donna Trudeau*

Assistant Captain: *Terrie Davis*

Med Lieutenant: *Connie Steitz*

President: *Maureen Cherubini*

Vice President: *Bill Fritzky*

Treasurer: *Steven Fleischhacker*

Secretary: *Terrie Davis*

Sergeant-at-Arms: *Walt Peterson III*

Chaplin: *Bill Fritzky* ❏

FESTIVAL OF TREES

The 34th Annual Festival of Trees was held at the Hancock House in Ticonderoga November 24 – December 31, 2024 from 10 am – 3 pm on Wednesdays through Saturdays.

This year, they had the highest number of entries ever, with 55 trees and displays. ❏

Photo left – The center foyer of the Hancock House

bedecked with trees. Photo right – Bobbi Steen's "All-American Christmas" tree.



HVFD SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) is holding a Spaghetti Dinner/Basket Raffle on January 6, 2024 from 5 – 7 pm at the firehouse at 4 West Hague Road in Hague.

All proceeds will be donated to the University of Vermont Children’s Network in honor of Liam Scoville. (See the article about Liam in the December issue of *The Hague Chronicle*, page 9, column 1.)

The HVFD is seeking donations and or items for the basket raffle. To donate, contact Donna Trudeau at 518-543-6059. ❑

HAGUE SNO-GOERS

by Tom Haskell, president

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

We have been busy even though there has been little snow.

Our groomer needed some minor repairs and is now ready. We have some trail work to do - mostly signage and clearing debris from recent storms.

We have signs and equipment at Rogers Rock for cross country skiing.

We ask that anyone cross country skiing off of Route 8 by Fly Brook not park blocking the brook or the old mill road. It creates a hazard for groomers and snowmobilers and for any vehicles traveling Route 8.

Hopefully Ole Man Winter wakes up and dumps some fresh powder!

Anyone interested in joining our club should go to <https://www.haguesno-goers.com> HERE and click on “Application.”

Thank you and we hope to see you on the trails soon! Remember, safety first! ❑

2024 SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

All articles must be submitted by 6 pm the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org .

TOWN OF HAGUE OPEN POSITIONS

As of the end of December, the Town of Hague had four open positions for which applicants were being sought:

- **Zoning Enforcement Officer** – Tristan Shappy resigned from this position in December. This is currently a full-time, Civil Service position with specific prerequisite requirements.
- **Receptionist/Clerk** – Bertha Dunsmore retired from this position in December after more than 40 years of faithful, dedicated, and competent service. This is currently a full-time Civil Service position.
- **Planning Board Member** – Dick Frasier retired from this position after decades of important and very effective service to Hague in this capacity. This is a per-diem position with monthly meetings.
- **Machinery Equipment Operator (MEO)** – This position in the Hague Highway Department opened in December. A commercial driver’s license (CDL) is a requirement.

Interested applicants should pay close attention to the Town of Hague website for details on these four important positions.

Specifics were not available when we went to press and are subject to change. The town will move forward with all possible haste in January.

Candidates for the open position on the town board were considered in December. The successful candidate is expected to be appointed in early January. ❑

BRIDGE OVER NORTHWAY COMPLETE

The Bolton Landing-Riverbank Road Bridge over the Adirondack Northway near Exit 24 has been completed. This means that Hague residents won’t have to take the detour around it anymore.

Replacing the bridge was a \$4.1 million project. It now has wider shoulders and a higher vertical clearance of 16 feet, 6 inches. ❑

HAGUE FISH & GAME, CONTINUED



This year we were lucky enough to have some amazing donors. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Maltese sponsored the Halloween Party and Mr. and Mrs. Josh Patchett made a donation which covered over half the cost of our Christmas event. The Town of Hague purchased McDonald’s gift cards to go in the gift bags from Santa. It is all about community and we love that our members continue to give and serve our community. It’s amazing! THANK YOU!

Now, don’t think we forgot about being part of a rod and reel club, because we haven’t. We have the upcoming Hague Annual Ice Fishing Tournament on February 24 and 25, 2024, so mark your calendars and think ICE!

We will also be doing more work on the rifle range for members and signed-in guests. Last year, the range was dedicated to Korinna Spath, with a beautiful sign naming it “Ryder’s Range,” where all can skeet and target shoot.

This coming year, we will focus on updating our pistol range.

Follow us on Facebook for updates. ❑

HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

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

PLANNING BOARD - 11/2 AND 11/3/2023

Present were Deputy Chairman Pam Peterson, Sandra Powell (via ZOOM), Judy Gourley, and Margaret Haskell. Absent was Chairman Richard Frasier. Also present were Acting Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathy Clark, Zoning Enforcement Officer Tristan Shappy, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, and Rich Kimble.

REFERRAL TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):

KIMBLE (26.17-2-42.122) 9112 Lakeshore Drive (Hamlet) VAR 15-23

The applicants would like to remove an existing 100-sq. ft. shed and construct a 200-sq. ft. gazebo 30 feet from the mean high-water mark (MHW).

Zoning issues:160-50 B (b) (3)

Kimble wants to remove a 100-sq. ft. shed and replace it with a 200 sq. ft. gazebo. Town code allows for two separate 100-sq. ft. sheds on a property with one dock. When the property was subdivided, two separate 100 sq. ft. sheds were approved, but only one was built. Clark explained that there is a 25-ft. easement with this property and the gazebo would come within the easement, but because Kimble also owns the adjacent property, he can narrow the easement so this will not be an issue. Kimble agreed to do that.

The ZBA will conduct a site visit on Friday, November 3rd at 3 pm. Clark recommended that the PB keep the meeting open, join the ZBA site visit the next day, and then make its recommendation. Discussion ensued regarding the dimensions of the gazebo, the percentage of land for landscaping, and whether a fireplace is planned.

NEW BUSINESS:

SMITH (26.10-1-19) 72 Forest Bay Road South (TR-1R) SP 06-23

Phil Smith proposes the addition of a new foundation with a crawl space under an existing 1,300-sq. ft. cottage. In addition, he wants to rebuild and expand the existing decks, utility room, and front porch. Also planned are the demolition and reconstruction of the fireplace in the living room and the building of a new chimney.

Zoning Issue: 160-24 C (1) (a)

The board members (except Powell) will visit the site on Friday, November 3rd at about 3:30 pm after the Kimble site visit. Smith gave Clark and Powell permission to visit the site whenever it is convenient for them.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be left open and that it reconvene the following day, November 3rd.

PLANNING BOARD (PB) - (RECONVENED) 11-3-2023

Present were Deputy Chairman Pam Peterson, Margaret Haskell, and Sandra Powell (via FaceTime). Absent were Chairman Richard Frasier and Judy Gourley. Also present were Acting Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Cathy Clark, ZEO Tristan Shappy, and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

REFERRAL TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):

1. KIMBLE (26.17-2-42.122) 9112 LAKESHORE DRIVE (HAMLET) VAR 15-23

See notes from 11-2-2023 meeting.

Zoning Issues: 160-50 B (b) (3)

The shed will be removed. The gazebo will be 12 ft. x 12 ft., including a 1-ft. overhang. The 25-ft. easement will be reduced so that no part of the project will be within the easement. The gazebo will have an open design, thus having minimal impact. There will be a fireplace within its footprint.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed that the PB make a positive recommendation to the ZBA, with the conditions that the fireplace remain within the footprint and overhang of the gazebo and that the gazebo is not within the easement.

2. SMITH (26.10-1-19) 72 FOREST BAY ROAD SOUTH (TR-1R) SP 06-23

See notes from 11-2-2023 meeting.

Zoning Issue: 160-24 C (1) (a)

The site visit was completed. Powell will visit it later.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 11/16/2023

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch, Ray Snyder, Chris Navitsky, Linda Mury, and Jon Hanna. Also present were Acting Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathy Clark, Zoning Enforcement Officer Tristan Shappy, and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

PUBLIC HEARING:

KIMBLE (26.17-2-42.122) 9112 Lakeshore Drive (Hamlet) VAR 15-23

No one spoke in favor of or against the project. Clark read letters from nearby property owners with questions or concerns. One property owner thought the gazebo would be a "welcome improvement to our adjacent shoreline properties." The PB had carried out a site visit and had made a positive recommendation, with conditions. The motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. JESBERGER (43.13-1-29) 7 Bayberry Lane (TR-1) VAR 08-23, VAR 09-23, VAR 10-23

The applicant is applying for three variances for an addition to a nonconforming structure. The home is in the sewer district and the project has received approval from the Cape Cod Association.

Zoning Issue: 160-65 (A)(1) More than a 25% increase to a nonconforming structure.

Two of the variance requests have been eliminated, leaving only Variance 08-23, Zoning Issue 160-65 (A)(1), more than a 25% increase to a nonconforming structure. Motion made, seconded, and vote unanimously in favor of approval.

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ZONING BOARD, CONTINUED

2. KIMBLE (26.17-2-42.122) 9112 Lakeshore Drive (Hamlet) VAR 15-23

The applicants would like to remove an existing 100 sq. ft. shed and construct a 200 sq. ft. gazebo 30' from the mean high-water mark (MHW).

Zoning Issues: 160-50 B (b) (3)

There was discussion about the right-of-way/easement situation. Kimble will reduce the easement width to 10 or 15 ft. and will put the structure as far back from the lake as he can. He wants to retain the easement for pedestrian access to the lake. He has no plans to put lights in the structure. Motion made to approve. Discussion. Navitsky suggested two conditions: 1. The easement be ten feet. 2. No permanent lights. Discussion. The motion was seconded including only condition number one. It was unanimously passed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

At 7:20 pm, the board went into Executive Session to discuss possible litigations. A motion was made and seconded to close the session. Motion carried, 4-1-0 (Goetsch recused). ❑

PLANNING BOARD - 12/7/2023

Present were Chairman Pam Peterson, Sandra Powell, Judy Gourley, and Margaret Haskell, who joined via ZOOM.

Also present were Acting Zoning Enforcement Officer Cathy Clark, Zoning Enforcement Officer Tristan Shappy, and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SMITH (26.10-1-19) 72 Forest Bay Road South (TR-1R) SP 06-23

The Smiths propose adding a new foundation with a crawl space under an existing 1,300 sq.-ft. cottage, rebuilding the existing decks, and enlarging the utility room and front porch. Demolition and reconstruction of a fireplace with a new chimney are also planned.

Zoning Issue: 160-24 C (1) (a)

A site visit was done on 11-3-2023. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor of deeming the application complete. A motion was made, seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor of approving the application.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. RICHARDS (12.18-1-16) 9568 Lakeshore Drive (TR-1) SP 12-15

The applicant requests a two-year extension for the construction of a three-bedroom house. The septic, well, and cottage have been completed.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor of an extension, from 1-7-24 to 1-7-26.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Starting at 7:11 pm the board went into executive session to discuss pending litigations. The executive session was closed at 7:30 pm. ❑

TOWN BOARD - 12/12/2023

Present were Supervisor Edna Frasier, Councilmembers Steve Ramant (via ZOOM), Joshua Patchett, Jack Bast, and Maureen Cherubini. Also present were Deputy Highway Superintendent and ZOOM Coordinator Tim Fiallo, Chris Richards, Linda Mury, Karen and Leo Lucas, Chad Dunklee, Pat Hintze, Mary Lou Doulin, Ken Parlin, Alice Patchett, Luann and Bill Fritzky, David Martucci, Donnie and Lindsey Smith, and Erik Sandblom of SRA Engineers. Approximately six people attended via ZOOM.

WELCOME GUESTS/ PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Via ZOOM, Kuenzel thanked Frasier, the town board, and the town staff for their leadership of the town throughout the year and encouraged more people of the community to participate in next year's town board meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING

Presentation by Sandblom of SRA re: Larter's (Sec. 93.8 Block 1 Lot 23) Waste Water Variances Requests

Frasier read the legal notice of a public hearing. Sandblom stated that the Larters think it is necessary to upgrade their septic system. Sandblom reviewed the details of the FugiClean unit which has been recommended and the details of the complete septic upgrade. He also explained the need for the requested variances.

Cedarwood Engineering has reviewed the plans as they were submitted to the town and has made its recommendations to the town board and SRA engineers.

Sandblom confirmed that this system must be inspected annually and that the reports will be submitted to the Town of Hague Zoning Department.

A motion was made and seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor of approving the Larter application and variances, with the condition that SRA continue to work with Cedarwood to meet the conditions.

Presentation by SRA Engineers on Hitzrot Septic Variances (Tax map #Sec.76.12. Block 1 Lot 14)

Sandblom stated that the Hitzrots think it is necessary to upgrade their septic system. Sandblom reviewed the property layout and the need to keep the parking area for the home during the process. The new system will be the FugiClean unit with a bottomless sand filter, which is used when there is a shallow water table. The Hitzrots require this system.

A motion was made and seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor or setting the Hitzrot public hearing for January 9, 2024 at 6:15 pm.

The town's bills were paid by unanimous vote.

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REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative/Assessor/Justice: The Assessor’s Office is sending out exception mailings at the end of the month.

Buildings & Grounds: The handicap ramp at the community center needs to be fixed.

Highway: The highway department has had ten winter weather-related call-ins by NY State so far this season. It is currently preparing the brine system and equipment. It has made temporary needed repairs to the beach truck. Fiallo thanked Alice Patchett for notifying the department that the sander on the back of one of the trucks was malfunctioning.

Museum/Historian: The Historical Society had a meeting to review its by-laws and administration.

Personnel: Tristan Shappy has resigned. Bertha Dunsmore will be retiring at the end of 2023; her job opening will be posted as well as an open position on the planning board. The opening for a town council member has been posted; interviews will be conducted at the December 28th town board meeting.

Town Park/Beautification: This year’s Polar Bear Plunge will be held at the Hague Beach on January 1, 2024 at 1 pm.

Sewer District #1 & #2: The Sewer Department has decided to postpone the placement of an emergency generator at Cape Cod Village until January 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Short-Term Rentals (STR) will be on the January 2024 agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Report on the School Tax Advisory Committee (STAC): Chairman Bast reported that it is continuing to work with the Ticonderoga Central District School Board of Education, is attending their meetings, and is continuing efforts to move forward. STAC is establishing a close working relationship with the Rural Schools

Association of New York (RSANY). STAC member Dr. Linda Fusco attended the RSANY Winter Conference in Saratoga Springs November 30th – December 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to grant permission for Josh Patchett to attend the Newly-Elected Officials School in Albany from January 17-19, 2024.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the town clerk to appoint a second deputy clerk to begin Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the rate of \$17 per hour. The motion passed 3-2 (Frasier and Ramant).

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the resignation of ZEO Tristan Shappy.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the resignation of Bertha Dunsmore as receptionist and clerk.

Throughout the meeting, the board members and the people in attendance thanked Frasier and Dunsmore for their years of service to the community and stated that they will be greatly missed. ❑

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 12/14/2023

Due to a lack of applications, the December 14th Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting was canceled. ❑

PLANNING BOARD - 1/4/2023

The Planning Board meeting scheduled for January 4, 2024 has been canceled due to lack of applications. ❑

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Arthur Carpenter Hatfield, 89, of Hague, on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at his home, after a courageous battle with cancer, with his wife, Chattie, and his son, Bruce, by his side.



Arthur and his twin brother, Sanford (Sam), were born in Utica. They attended the Sauquoit Valley School until the age of 12 when they went to the Manlius Military Academy in Manlius, NY. At Manlius, they joined the ROTC program and

both attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

Upon graduation, Art and Sam joined the United States Army and trained at Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer. Upon completion, both were stationed in the Panama Canal Zone for the duration of the Korean War. Upon discharge from the army, Art obtained a degree in Business Management from Nichols College in Dudley, MA.

In 1958, Art married Elizabeth (Toby) Ellen Flanders of Rome, NY and they raised three sons in the Schenectady area.

In 1960, Art became employed by General Motors Acceptance Corp (GMAC) in Albany, starting as a Field Rep and, after relocations and

promotions, retired in 1996 as Manager of the NYC Sales Branch.

Art and Toby then made their year-round home in Hague. He was an active member of Northern Lake George Yacht Club for over 50 years, serving as purser for ten years and is the only member to have served twice as commodore. He was an active member of Kiwanis for over 25 years, serving a term as president, as vice-president of the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund, as well as assisting with the Backpack Program, golf tournaments and other club activities. Art also served on the Hague Zoning Board of Appeals, the Streetfest Committee, and was the president of the Pine Cove Beach Association for many years.

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SOUNDINGS, CONTINUED

He was an Elder of the Greater Consistory of the First Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in Schenectady prior to joining the Catholic Church and becoming a communicant of St. Mary's Parish in Ticonderoga. He faithfully attended the Men's Prayer Breakfast at Silver Bay led by the Rev. Bruce Tamlyn.

Known as "Mr. Hatfield," "Arthur," "Art," "Artie," "Pops," "Padre," "Grand Pops," and "Pop Pop," he enjoyed the Friends of Pot Luck Dinners, Wednesday Morning Coffee, Morning Yoga, and being the "patriarch" of Pine Cove.

He was an avid skier until the age of 80, enjoying weekly trips to Bromley with the "Innkeepers." He loved helping people and could often be found building, repairing, or refinishing furniture and toys.

He was especially moved by the privilege and opportunity to go on a North Country Honor Flight to

Washington, DC with his veteran son, Brian.

After Toby's death, Art met and married Chattie Bennett Van Wert, who also had recently lost her spouse, Jeff.

He was predeceased by his: first wife, Toby; older siblings, Robert and Mary Frances; twin brother Sanford; and beloved dogs, Samantha and Ruby.

Art is survived by his: wife, Chattie; three sons, Kent (Norma), Brian (Kate), and Bruce; granddaughter, Emily; and two great-grandchildren, Everly and Abel. He is also survived by Chattie's sons: Ben (Hannah) and Gerrit (Olivia); their children, Everett and Madison; and his puppy, Sasha.

Donations in Art's memory may be sent to the Ticonderoga Kiwanis Scholarship Fund Inc. at PO Box 71, Ticonderoga, NY 12883 or the NLGYC Junior Sailing Endowment Trust at PO Box 710, Hague, NY 12836 (or by clicking [HERE](#)). ▣

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

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

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

CREATING AND LEARNING FROM THE WORLD'S SMARTEST LAKE

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

Thomas Jefferson famously said after a visit to Lake George, "... without comparison, the most beautiful water I ever saw." It's probably safe to say that nearly anyone who has lived on or even visited Lake George would agree with Jefferson's opinion. But how do we ensure that Lake George remains the pristine, crystal-clear body of water that we know and love today so that we can leave it that way to future generations?

There's a lot we, as individual property owners, can do. We've written about that in past issues of *The Hague Chronicle*.

But, we also want to let you know about the many scientists, engineers, and technologists who are collecting and analyzing massive amounts of data about Lake George as part of the aptly named Jefferson Project. This collaborative project of IBM,

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and the Lake George Association (LGA) was formed ten years ago with a vision of creating the world's smartest lake. A recently-released report documents what the Jefferson Project has learned since its founding and how that data benefits and helps protect Lake George and other bodies of fresh water around the world.

More than 500 sensors around the lake and its watershed transmit data 24 x 7, 12 months a year. The Jefferson Project's 60 researchers use that data to create detailed computer models that can, for instance, forecast weather, show how run-off moves through the Lake George watershed, and estimate how much salt is entering the lake and its tributaries. Additional models track water circulation within the lake and predict dynamics within the food web – from phytoplankton to fish.

The Jefferson Project is using the information it collects to understand and develop solutions to the problems now threatening Lake George,

including harmful algal blooms (HABs), invasive species, and road salt. The insights from the data help determine the most effective and safest solutions to safeguard the lake. It's a science-to-solutions approach. To read the Jefferson Project's ten-year report, click [HERE](#).

You can also view live and historical data from the Jefferson Project [HERE](#) at [JeffersonProject.Live](#). There you'll find current data that is streaming from the smart sensors as well as highly localized Lake George weather forecasting from IBM's world-leading targeted forecasting technology, Deep Thunder™. The site also provides 37 years of key water-quality data related to lake chemistry, clarity, and algae, based on sampling at 14 deep-water sites around the lake.

The researchers are hard at work throughout the year, collecting data and developing solutions. Parallel to that, each of us can do our part on our own property to help protect the lake. Click [HERE](#) to learn about actions you can take. ▣

PROGRAM ON HOME HEALTH CARE IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

There will be a program on the status of home health care (HHC) across New York State (NYS) on Friday February 2, 2024 from 1 - 3 pm held in the Miller Auditorium in Dearlove Hall at the State University of New York (SUNY) – Adirondack in Queensbury.

The program is entitled *Are You or a Loved One Prepared to Age in Place at Home?* The keynote will be *Health Care Workforce Needs for Aging in Place: Home Health Care in the North Country Compared with New York State* by Robert Martiniano, Dr. P.H., M.P.A., who is the Senior Program Manager for the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) at the School of Public Health at the University at Albany, SUNY.

There will also be a session by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) entitled *Perspectives from Home Health Care Administrators and Caregiver Focus Groups on North Country Caregiving*. The presenters will be AAUW Adirondack Chapter members and retired researchers Linda Fusco, PhD, of Hague, and D. Lee Alekel, PhD.

The purpose of this program will be to inform the AAUW Adirondack Branch members and the wider community about the overall HHC planning issues for North Country residents who want to age in place in their own homes.

Participants will learn key results from surveys conducted by the Center for Health Workforce Studies (CHWS) and by AAUW members that identify the needs and insights from HHC agency administrators and caregiver focus groups. Participants will also learn how to develop home health care plans for their families, specifically for aging adults in North Country rural areas who need care to remain in their homes.

There will be a networking reception following the program. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with program participants and representatives from HHC agencies. Attendees will be given planning packets containing contact information for local HHC agencies/organizations to learn how to develop HHC plan(s) for their families.

After that, the AAUW will partner with stakeholders who are currently working in this space to promote senior caregiving issues in order to urge the NYS legislators to provide sufficient funding for caregivers.

For further information, contact Linda Fusco (lindafusco@dmail.com) or Lee Alekel (leealekel@gmail.com).

This workshop is free of charge and open to the public, but they request registration [HERE](#).

WALK ON WATER TO DOME ISLAND



The 2024 Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC's) walks to Dome Island will take place on February 16th and 17th. The fee is \$10 per person.

Registration is only online and opens on January 8, 2024 at 10 am. The walks are expected to fill up quickly. Click [HERE](#) to register.

LGLC OPEN HOUSE

There will be an open house on January 18, 2024 from 2 – 4 pm at the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) office at 4905 Lake Shore Drive in Bolton Landing.

Guests can stop in and say hello, meet the staff, enjoy some tasty refreshments, and learn about conservation projects coming in 2024.

No RSVP is required.

RECAP OF 2023 SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

In 2023, in the first year of its mandatory septic inspection program, the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) inspected 371 septic systems around Lake George. Of those, 45.6% passed, 23.2% failed, and the other 31.2% were found to be substandard in size or in need of minor repairs. The fact that fewer than half of the inspected systems passed

demonstrates that the move to implement mandatory inspections was the right one.

As of May 2023, all septic systems situated within 500 feet of Lake George or 100 feet of a tributary must be inspected every five years.

Dave Wick, executive director of the LGPC, said that he is very pleased by the response from the public. "The property owners are generally onsite for the inspection and see directly what the status of their system is," he said.

"When a system is broken or failing, the owner is fully aware and involved in understanding the situation and the need for any corrections. Most of the repairs identified will extend the life of their systems and save them money over time."

The second year of the program will begin in May of 2024, with about 500 inspections planned for the upcoming year. Letters go out to those property owners in late March or early April. For questions regarding the program, contact the LGPC at 518-668-9347.

LAKE GEORGE WINTER'S DREAM

It was a cold, calm, and wintry night on December 8, 2023, when Lake George Winter's Dream, a brand-new immersive multimedia experience located in the courtyard and on the bastions of the Fort William Henry historic fortress, opened for the season.

Visitors have been experiencing the magic of winter like never before as they explore a series of installations along a free-flow pathway where lights, sounds, original music, and video content bring the sensations of the season to life in a new way. Guests are playing and participating in the experience through a mix of cutting-edge interactive technology and old-fashioned fun.

During the month that it's been open, thousands of people have visited the experience, and ticket sales span the continents, with the farthest ticket sale from Africa.

It is suitable for all ages, with special care taken to ensure it is ADA compliant. Adults and children have marveled at the colors and excitement of the multimedia experience. Concessions, including pizza, snacks, hot cocoa, and more, are offered inside.

One child exclaimed, "Come on, let's go!" as she gleefully ran through the Frozen Lake installation. The lights coordinated with the original music and sounds of a frozen lake to create a dreamlike atmosphere.

"The wonder you see in a child's eyes going through this is truly magical. This immerses you in a dreamscape that brings the season to life," said Amanda Metzger of Glens Falls, who attended with her husband and toddler.

Tickets are available online at [HERE](#). It will be open through March 2024. Tickets also include a discount passport. 🗒



TICONDEROGA COMMUNITY CHILDCARE PRE-REGISTRATION OPENS

Pre-registration for the Ticonderoga Community Childcare Center is now open for all families throughout the region. The center is scheduled to open in the spring of 2024. It will be serving children from six weeks to five years of age. Final childcare slots will be offered to families with priority given to those pre-registered based on the date forms are received.

Pre-registration is important to help the provider create a final configuration of rooms to accommodate as many children as possible. Knowing the ages of children and the days and hours of care required will enable optimum use of space and staff. Pre-registration will not be a commitment from the family and no money is required to secure a slot, but it is expected that the center will have a registration waiting list. Families are encouraged to submit their forms as soon as possible to establish priority.

The cost of childcare and subsidies are based on family income. During final enrollment this spring, the provider will be helping all families complete the paperwork so that they will receive the maximum-allowed childcare subsidies. In some cases, the subsidies will cover the full cost of tuition, while in other cases, it may be partial coverage. Once registered, there is no additional paperwork required by the families. At this time, families should enroll with the expectation that appropriate subsidies and scholarships will be provided.

To pre-register, visit www.ticonderoga-alliance.org/building-childcare. [HERE](#) and click the pink pre-registration link at the top of the page. 🗒

TI-ARTS RECEIVES GRANT

Ticonderoga Arts, Inc. (Ti-Arts) has been awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Grantees are selected based on community service, creativity, and managerial and financial criteria. This grant will provide flexible general operating and programming funding.

Ticonderoga Arts' Co-Presidents Seddon Beaty and Laurie Sapakoff said, "Ticonderoga Arts is proud to have been selected for funding for 2024 and would like to thank Governor Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and NYSCA for recognizing the importance of arts and culture and for their generous support of organizations and artists statewide. We look forward to continuing our exhibit and education programs with new resources to support expanded curricula, artist opportunities, and community outreach."

Ticonderoga Arts, Inc. is a non-profit arts organization providing art exhibits and education to the Ticonderoga community and surrounding region, while empowering local artists with opportunities to collaborate, exhibit, teach, and learn. The organization was founded in 2008 and has operated from its current Downtown Gallery location year-round since 2013. In addition to exhibiting the beautiful artwork created by its membership, Ti-Arts provides the community with an opportunity to explore different art mediums, attend classes and lectures, and to participate in the various themed open exhibits that are scheduled throughout the year. Gallery admission is always free. In 2022, Ti-Arts hosted 127 artists, 14 exhibits, and approximately 2,200 visitors.

(Continued on p. 11)



What a difference a few days make! TOP: Hague Bay on December 12th. BOTTOM: Hague Brook December 18th. Photos courtesy of Sandy Powell.

TI-ARTS RECEIVES GRANT, CONTINUED

Ti-Arts collaborates with many organizations and businesses in the community. Its gallery is spacious and well located and it welcomes use of its space by other groups engaged in community service. Ti-Arts works with area schools and teachers to assist with student art projects, provides students an opportunity to show their work at the gallery, sponsors field trips to museums, and awards a scholarship annually.

For more information about Ti-Arts, visit ticonderogaarts.org and go on [Facebook](#). 📌

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

LIVING HISTORY EVENT - January 13, 2024 -1774 His Majesty's Garrison of Ticonderoga

Guests will see Fort Ticonderoga on the eve of the American Revolution and how British soldiers and their families made a comfortable life in this peacetime fort on the frontier.

Visitors will get a hands-on perspective on what was it like to be a British soldier, a soldier's wife, or a child at the fort.



VIRTUAL AUTHOR SERIES - January 14, 2024 from 2 - 3 pm ET

The Fort Ticonderoga *Virtual Author Series* features presentations by authors of books related to colonial and revolutionary war history. Visit the website [HERE](#) for full descriptions of each presentation. All programs require pre-registration and begin at 2 pm ET. Register by clicking [HERE](#). 📌

SWEDE MOUNTAIN TRAIL REOPENED

The Swede Mountain Hiking Trail, which was closed for hunting season, is now open once again. It's an easy 1.8-mile round-trip hike up to the mountain's 1,904-foot summit, where hikers are rewarded with spectacular 360-degree views of the surrounding landscape.

The trailhead is accessible from a parking lot by the trailhead next to North Pond on Route 8. 📌

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!

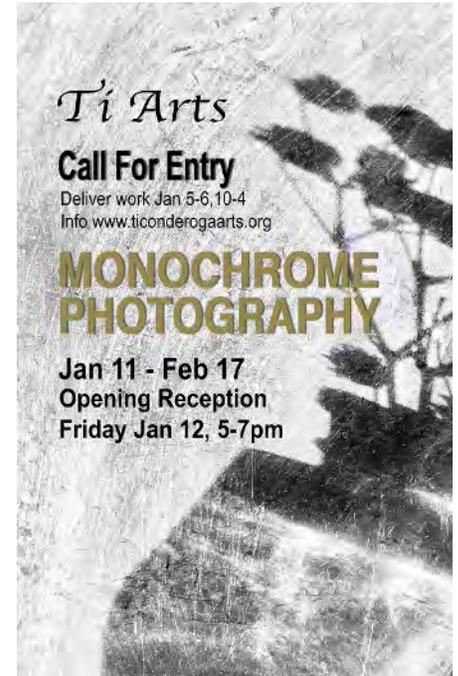
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Publisher: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Editor: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Assistant Editors: Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Jodee Keller
Layout Editor: Chris Quinn

Treasurer: Charlene Schaffer
Staff: Claire Best, Tina King, Pat McDonough, and Sandy Powell
Publisher Emerita: Judy Stock

UPCOMING TI-ARTS SHOW

There will be a Monochrome Photography Show from January 11 – February 17, 2024 at the Ticonderoga Arts Gallery, which is located at 119 Montcalm Street in Ticonderoga.



Artists should deliver their work on January 5th and 6th from 10 am - 4 pm. The Opening Reception will be held on Friday, January 12th from 5 – 7 pm. The show is free and the public is invited to attend. 📌

MASON STAR DINNER

A public ham and homemade macaroni and cheese dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M., and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served on Monday, January 22, 2024, from 4:30 – 6 pm at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Takeouts will also be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be sold at the door. Parking will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House parking lot. 📌

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748

Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

January 2024

JANUARY

1		January issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published	14	2 - 3 pm	Virtual Author Series Fort Ticonderoga
		NEW YEAR'S DAY / TOWN OFFICES CLOSED	15		MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
4	7 pm	Hague Planning Board meeting - canceled	18	2 - 4 pm	LGLC Open House, LGLC office, Bolton Landing
6	5 - 7 pm	HVFD Spaghetti Dinner	20	6 pm	Deadline for the February issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
9	6 pm	Hague Town Board Meeting	22	4:30 - 6 pm	Mason Star Dinner - Masonic Temple, Ticonderoga
12	5 - 7 pm	Monochrome Photography - Ti-Arts Gallery Opening Reception	23	1:30 pm	Seniors Club Meeting
13		<i>His Majesty's Garrison of Ticonderoga</i> - Fort Ticonderoga	25	7 pm	Hague Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

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