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A MESSAGE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF HAGUE:

The Town Supervisor would like to inform all residents and property owners that the Hague Short-Term Rental (STR) Local Law No. 1 of 2024 is no longer in effect. The court has struck down the local law. Refunds will be issued in accordance with town attorney recommendations and concurrence of the Hague Town Board. Updated information will be posted on the town's website as it is received. ■

VOTERS APPROVE PROPOSAL ONE

Proposal One, a constitutional amendment ensuring state-managed Olympic facilities in the Adirondack Park remain in compliance with environmental protections, passed with approximately 46% support. North Country counties approved it by nearly two-to-one margins.

The amendment allows the Olympic Regional Development Authority to maintain existing trails and facilities at Mount Van Hoevenberg, while requiring the state to add at least 2,500 acres to the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

With voter approval, legislation signed by Governor Kathy Hochul can now be enacted, directing the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to purchase the required forest preserve lands. ■

TIMES UNION EDITORIAL URGES "TREAT LAKE GEORGE WITH CARE"

An Albany *Times Union* editorial published in October of this year, headlined "Treat Lake George with Care," commends the Lake George Association's (LGA) research on the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR and supports the LGA's call for greater caution, transparency, and science-based decision-making in the management of Lake George.

The editorial board wrote, in part: "This isn't about whether the test application of ProcellaCOR worked. It appears to have done what was expected as far as killing milfoil went. Now, the question is whether it's as safe as its manufacturer says and the commission hoped. This test was just that — a test. Now it's time to evaluate it." Click [HERE](#) to read the editorial. ■

TRUNK OR TREAT

On October 25, 2025, the Hague Fish & Game Club hosted its first annual "Trunk or Treat" on the field of Ryder's Range!

Members came together to serve the community. They invited the *Sun Community News*, members of the club, and members of the town highway department for some Halloween fun.

The movie "Casper" was shown. Free juice boxes, water bottles, veggie sticks, and pirates' booty pops were given out.

The club members, who had so much fun entertaining the kids, would like to thank the community. See you at future events! Follow our Facebook page to stay updated. ■



WINTER SAFETY IN THE ADIRONDACKS

As temperatures drop and conditions change across the Adirondacks, preparation is key to a safe and enjoyable outing. In the Lake George Association's (LGA's) newest Lake Protector Podcast episode, Forest Ranger Chelsea Geyer shares essential tips for staying safe and respecting the environment during outdoor adventures. To listen to the podcast, click [HERE](#). ■

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Judy Stock

At the October meeting, a delicious luncheon was served and a Halloween costume contest with a Western theme was held. The winners were:

- 1st: Kitty Zacharenko
- 2nd: Judy Szabo
- 3rd: Carol and Fred Villanova

At its November meeting, the members enjoyed a fast game of Bingo with prizes for everyone.



Senior Club Officers: Edna Frasier, Vice-President; Jean Yager, Secretary; Pat Hintze, President; and Maureen Cherubini, Treasurer

The treasurer's report listed a balance of \$9,261.38, from which the club portion of the holiday dinner will come. The dinner will be held at Frederick's in Bolton Landing on **Tuesday, December 2nd**. All reservations are in.

Because of the uncertain weather in December, the only other activity planned is Game Night at Maureen Cherubini's on **Thursday, December 4th at 6:30 pm**. ▣

SAVE OUR HEMLOCKS FROM HWA

Hemlocks are one of the Lake George watershed's most important assets and they're under threat. The Lake George Hemlock Coalition, led by the LGA and partners across the region, has launched an expanded effort to help the public identify and report signs of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Early detection is critical to protecting these trees, which play a vital role in stabilizing shorelines, reducing erosion, and supporting healthy streams that flow into the lake. For more information, click [HERE](#). ▣

FRIENDS POINT ROADS CLOSED

The Friends Point Roads will be closed for the 24-hour period of **12:01 am Thursday, January 1, 2026 to 12:01 am Friday, January 2, 2026**. ▣

HOLIDAY GIFT DONATIONS

The Town of Hague is collecting new, *unwrapped* Christmas gifts for children of all ages. Donations will be distributed at the Hague Volunteer Fire Department's Christmas Party on **Saturday, December 13, 2025**.

This year, we have 54 children in our community who will receive gifts:

- Infant to Pre-K: 12 children
- Kindergarten to 5th grade: 16 children
- 6th Grade to 12th grade: 26 children

To spread some holiday cheer, drop your gift donations off at the Hague Community Center during regular hours (**Monday – Friday, 8 am to 4 pm**).

Thank you for helping make the season brighter for our local kids! ▣

VOTE FOR THE LGA IN "2025 CAPITAL REGION GIVES!"

The Lake George Association (LGA) has been selected to participate in this year's "Big \$100K Giveaway" as part of the *Times Union's* Capital Region Gives Campaign. This annual community-voting contest is an opportunity for people to help their favorite nonprofits earn a share of \$100,000 in *Times Union* advertising grants.

Voting is open from now through **Friday, December 5, 2025**, with one vote per person, per device, per day allowed.

Click [HERE](#) to access the voting site. On the site, click *Vote Now* and select "Lake George Association." Winners will be announced on **Friday, December 12th**. ▣

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) ended the month of October with two fire calls and two EMS assists, totaling four fire responses and 26 volunteer hours.

EMS reported five calls of service with 12 volunteer and paid staff hours.

In October, we began our nominations for 2026 officers. Final voting will take place in December—good luck to all who are running!

Five members completed our annual Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training.

We joined the Ticonderoga Fire Department for Fire Prevention Day at the elementary school. Our firefighters look forward to this every year as we focus on fire safety awareness, stop-drop-and-roll, and having a home escape plan.

With leaves still falling and icy mornings upon us, we remind everyone to drive carefully and keep essential emergency items in your vehicle.

We are excited to be planning our Children's Christmas Party on **December 13th**. Come join us! Breakfast will be served from **9 to 11 am**, featuring North Pole French Toast, Lincoln Logs, Elves' Scrambled Eggs, and Rudolph's Favorite Fruit Mix. Santa will greet the children and present each one with a gift.

From **11 am to 12 pm**, we will hold a craft hour with Santa.

Thank you for your support. ▣

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The Hague Food Pantry continues to receive generous donations and to make deliveries to those in need throughout the community. It is grateful for the ongoing support and will continue assisting families through the holiday season.

If you or someone you know could use a little extra help, please reach out to the food pantry [HERE](#) at or call 518-543-6161. ▣

VETERANS DAY IN HAGUE

Ret. Army Brigadier General Jim O'Toole led the 45-minute ceremony, which was held in the community center due to the cold, snowy weather.



Photos courtesy of Bobbie Jean Fish

He began with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. Three veterans who recently passed away, John McDonald, Walter Peterson, Jr. and Jon Hanna, were remembered.

The veterans in the audience came forward and were recognized for their service. The audience gave them a standing ovation.

Chaplains Chris Coppernoll of Silver Bay, Reverend Bob Johnson, and Bill Fritz, Chaplain of the Hague Volunteer Fire Department, each gave remarks.

Hague Supervisor Joshua Patchett thanked the community for gathering to honor local veterans. He reflected on Veterans Day as a time to pause, give thanks, and to recognize the men and women who answered the call to serve. He emphasized the pride Hague feels for its many veterans — people who returned home to build families, support neighbors, and strengthen the community.

He also honored the families of veterans for their patience, faith, and sacrifices. He spoke about the peace and beauty made possible by veterans' service. He reminded everyone that gratitude should extend beyond November 11th by listening to veterans, supporting them when needed, and ensuring their stories are never forgotten. He closed by thanking all who served and those who are still serving for their courage, commitment, and devotion to protecting the nation.

John McDonald's widow, Ann, carried out the traditional laying of the wreath, which was followed by the playing of "Taps" by Ticonderoga High School senior Cameron Bennett.

The event was a moving tribute to the uniformed men and women who have served and are serving our country.

After the ceremony, about 40 people had lunch at the Hague Volunteer Fire Department. Homemade baked ziti with rolls, chicken primavera, appetizers that included ham sliders and pigs in a blanket, and some amazing desserts were served. ▣

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is inviting community members to take part in its annual Christmas Bird Count on **Sunday, December 14, 2025**. This long-running event is part of the nation-wide Audubon Christmas Bird Count, a winter census that has engaged volunteers in community science for more than a century.

Locally, the count covers a 15-mile circle extending from Amy's Park in Bolton south to Pilot Knob Preserve in Fort Ann and from the Schroon River in Warrensburg east to Sleeping Beauty and Black Mountain in Dresden. This broad survey area helps scientists track winter bird populations across diverse habitats throughout the Lake George region.

Volunteers can survey designated routes by foot, car, or boat, or they may observe birds visiting feeders at their own homes. All participants are asked to submit their bird counts — along with weather conditions and time spent observing — to the LGLC.

The LGLC will compile the data and forward it to the Audubon Society, where the information becomes part of a continent-wide effort to monitor bird species and long-term environmental trends.

For more information or to register, click [HERE](#). ▣



WILTSE ON PODCAST

Dr. Brendan Wiltse, executive director of the Lake George Association (LGA), was recently featured on the award-winning *Outdoor Minimalist* podcast, which was hosted by journalist and author Meg Carney. (Note: No relation to the *Carneys of Hague*.)

This show spotlights leaders and organizations working to make outdoor recreation more sustainable.

Dr. Wiltse's episode dives deep into one of the most urgent environmental challenges facing our region and beyond: the threat of road salt pollution. Click [HERE](#) to listen. ▣



First snow of the season, posted on November 11th on LGLC's Facebook.

PLANNING BOARD - 11/6/2025

Present were Chairperson Sandra Powell, Deputy Chairperson Pamela Peterson, Board Members Alane Vogel and Henry Friedman, and Alternate Jami Jordan. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, applicants Ken Parlin and Linda Fusco, and representatives Garrett Lee of New Leaf Solar, E. George Badcock of Hackercraft Boat Company, and Trevor Flynn, RA-CPHD.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PARLIN – SUB 01-25 – Rearrangement of four lots into four conforming lots (TR1R)

The applicants sought to reconfigure four existing lots on Dot and Jack Lane and on Pudding Lane into four conforming lots. Powell noted that no structural or perimeter changes are proposed. Wetlands on site made this an APA Class A Regional Project. The Planning Board had issued a positive referral earlier in the year. The APA has since approved the proposal.

No comments were received during the hearing, which closed unanimously.

SUBDIVISIONS

PARLIN –SUB 01-25 – Rearrangement of four lots into four conforming lots (TR1R)

Friedman reviewed subdivision criteria, confirming that the SEQR was previously completed and that the project poses no environmental, traffic, or public-service impacts. The subdivision is consistent with the Town Land Use Plan and will result in conforming lots.

A motion to approve passed unanimously. Powell confirmed the correct survey map (Van Dusen and Steves, DWG S-2 Rev 8, March 27, 2025) and planned to sign the mylar that evening.

SKETCH PLAN REVIEW

FUSCO – Lot Line Change – Conveyance of 0.03 acre to a neighbor (TR1R)

Fusco proposed a small lot line adjustment that would reduce shoreline frontage from one hundred seventy-eight to one hundred fifty-eight feet and result in a 1.1-acre conforming lot. Powell and Kirchberger advised that missing code information must be added and that a formal survey is required for both parcels. The board will later decide whether a public hearing is needed. Mylar copies must be submitted ten days before the next meeting.

SANDS DEV 41-25 – Rooftop solar panels within 100 feet of lake (TR1R) Zoning Issue: Development within 100 ft. of the lake – §160-160(C)(g)

Lee of New Leaf Solar presented photos and described the proposed rooftop solar installation. Jordan asked about battery placement; Lee reported it will be in the basement. Vogel asked about glare and Lee stated the panels will be black with anti-reflective coating.

A motion to deem the application complete, pending input from the Arcady Bay Homeowners Association and neighbors, passed unanimously. Powell reviewed the §160-39-B-3 criteria and found no stormwater, safety, or service impacts.

A motion to approve passed unanimously with conditions:

1. ZEO verification that the system meets §160-62-E-1
2. Confirmation of application completeness
3. Receipt of a positive letter from the homeowner's association

ROMA – HP Type 1 Review – Proposed snack and beverage shop with alcohol service (Hamlet Commercial)

Roma presented early plans for a small walk-up/sit-in shop at 9077 Lakeshore Drive, a pre-existing nonconforming lot with a 700 sq. ft. building and two closed DEC spill sites. Powell reported that any excavation revealing contamination would require professional removal. The APA has no jurisdiction, but the Liquor Authority will require proof of town approval.

Board concerns included traffic near Route 9N, sewer connection requiring excavation, trash management, alcohol regulations, and structural conditions noted in earlier reports. Powell advised the applicant to obtain a septic plan and file an APA Jurisdictional Inquiry Form. A public hearing will be required.

JACKSON/FLYNN – Sketch Plan Review– Redevelopment of mixed-use waterfront property (TR1)

Flynn presented early concepts for redevelopment of 8 Delaware Avenue, including marina improvements, boat storage, a sixteen-unit hotel, and a restaurant. Existing buildings are pre-existing nonconforming structures. Goals include reducing impervious surfaces, increasing green space, and incorporating the existing LGPC-approved boat launch.

Board questions concerned septic capacity, parking, definitions of principal versus accessory buildings, setbacks, and whether the project would serve year-round residents. Powell encouraged continued coordination with the APA and other agencies and suggested a future joint Planning Board–ZBA sketch session.

OTHER BUSINESS

After discussion of an appeal filed by Vogel, the board voted unanimously to support the appeal, *if* legal counsel later determines she has standing.

The board also discussed long-standing concerns over guest cottages. Peterson opposed allowing them due to density and enforcement issues. Powell will prepare a proposal for a town code amendment.

The board unanimously agreed to request that the town board seek advisory input from both the planning board

PLANNING BOARD CONT'D

and the ZBA when considering changes to Chapters 150 or 160.

Peterson announced that she will step down as Deputy Chairperson effective January 1, 2026, but will continue as a board member.

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

TOWN BOARD - 11/12/2025

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett, and Board Members Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, Edna Frasier, and Lara Smith. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Kirchberger, Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, Hague Historical Society President Ginger Kuenzel, and numerous community members.

A moment of silence was held for Dave May and Charlie Richards.

Public Comments

Tim Fiallo requested clarification regarding voting procedures at the October 16th Special Town Board meeting.

Tracey Clothier provided an informational update on the Comprehensive Plan 2025. After questions from board members and the community, a motion was made and seconded to schedule a public hearing on December 9, 2025; the vote passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds (Frasier):

A recommendation was made to place the donated memory bench beneath the large maple tree facing north. Several declining trees near the beach wall were identified for removal.

Highway (Frasier):

Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee reported significant rodent issues in the highway garage and in department equipment. A motion to hire a pest control service at a cost not to exceed \$2,200 passed unanimously.

Museum and Historian:

Hague Historical Society (HHS) President Ginger Kuenzel thanked the town for its continued support and reviewed the placement of historical markers throughout Hague. She noted a reenactment poster featuring Derek Ross and the HHS's wish to purchase a plaque for the display, which the town board approved. Residents were encouraged to visit haguehistorical.com.

Personnel (Bast):

SmartHome ADK, owned by Hague resident Ken Romano, provided audio/visual support for the meeting. The town

continues to seek applicants for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate position. Brandy-Lynn Frasier was thanked for covering November cleaning duties in addition to her work at the transfer station.

Sewer Districts No. 1 and No. 2 (Smith):

The department has ordered a new truck.

School Advisory Committee (Bast):

The SAC reported that the NYS Education Department acknowledged receipt of its October 3rd request regarding Ticonderoga Central School District's (TCSD's) academic performance. Further communication is expected. SAC continues to attend Board of Education meetings and encourages community participation at the November 18th meeting. SAC has one open seat and meets monthly.

Communications

Supervisor Patchett thanked all who attended the Veterans Day ceremony and recognized the Hague Volunteer Fire Department for providing lunch.

The Hague Food Pantry continues to accept Thanksgiving meal box orders through November 14th, with pickup on November 26th. The Glens Falls Foundation awarded a \$5,000 emergency grant to support area pantries, including Hague's.

New, unwrapped children's Christmas gifts may be dropped off at the community center for distribution at the HVFD Christmas Party on December 13th.

The 2026 Music in the Park program is fully booked, including new local performers Hodgepodge, the Jabez Pond Boys, and the Loose Monkeys.

The town's 2026 Final Budget was adopted on November 3rd and is available on the town website.

Residents were informed that Short-Term Rental Local Law No. 1 of 2024 is no longer in effect following a court ruling. Refund procedures are being coordinated with legal counsel.

New Business

A motion to support Warren County's application to the Grow Pro-Housing Communities Grant Program passed unanimously.

A motion approving Supplemental Agreement No. 4 with NYSDOT to adjust estimated snow and ice expenditures for the 2025–2026 season passed unanimously.

A motion stating that EDU changes not submitted to the Town Clerk by March 1st each year will not take effect the following calendar year passed unanimously.

A motion to approve SmartHome ADK's audio/visual contract for meeting support passed (4-1) (Smith).

SOUNDINGS

CORRECTION

In an obituary in our November issue, we stated that "Two Buck" Denno was the oldest of 15 children. That should have read, "Denno was the oldest *son* of 15 children." ❏

DIED: Marianne Burhans, 90, of Silver Bay and Ticonderoga, at Elderwood in Ticonderoga, on September 14, 2025, peacefully in her sleep.



Marianne first came to Silver Bay in 1949 to attend The Lutheran Gathering at the YMCA on Lake George. In the early 1970s, she and her husband, Buzz, together with their four children — Eric, Vanessa, Ramona, and David — attended The Lutheran Conference at Silver Bay, beginning a lifelong family connection to the community.

In 1978, Marianne and Buzz began working as summer employees ("EMPS") at the YMCA Conference Center. Over the years, they both served in many roles and were valued employees known for their commitment, warmth, and dedication to the Silver Bay mission. Marianne's longest-tenured role was as the International EMPS coordinator, where she welcomed and supported students from around the world. She introduced them to the communities of Hague and Ticonderoga and was known for the kindness and hospitality she extended on the Silver Bay campus.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Buzz, in 2004.

She is survived by her children: Eric; Vanessa; Ramona; and David.

Marianne's funeral will be held at The United States Military Academy Cemetery at West Point in April 2026, where she will be interred beside Buzz. A celebration of her life will be held in August 2026 at the historic Silver Bay Boathouse.

Donations may be made in her memory to Silver Bay's Annual Fund [HERE](#). ❏

16TH ANNUAL NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), together with local businesses and community partners, invites the public to enjoy the 16th Annual Ticonderoga Area North Country Christmas Celebration, running from now through **Sunday, December 7, 2025**.

On **Wednesday, December 3rd**, there will be the "4th of July in December Spaghetti Dinner" at the Knights of Columbus, featuring a spaghetti meal and live music by the Barkeater Band (see page 9).

On **Thursday, December 4th**, the Crown Point Community Tree Lighting will brighten Veterans Memorial Park, followed by the Ticonderoga High School Holiday Coffee House, offering an evening of student performances.

Friday, December 5th will feature the Holiday Shopping and Dining Night, complete with extended business hours, live music, a Holiday Farmers Market, cookie decorating, *IlluminArt* displays, a meet-and-greet with "Inky" the Elf, and the festive Parade of Lights, followed by photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The evening will conclude with a dazzling 250th Celebration Holiday Fireworks Show over Percy Thompson Bicentennial Park.

On **Saturday, December 6th**, families can enjoy Breakfast with Santa at Burleigh's Luncheonette, historical programs at Fort Ticonderoga, and the annual Christmas Open House at Tromblee's.

The celebration wraps up **Sunday, December 7th** with "The Noble Train" to Lake George reenactment and the Festival of Trees Open House at the Hancock House. ❏

HAIKU

by *dl mattila*

boxed ornament
holding a memory
in my hand ❏

TOWN BOARD, CONT'D

Following Zoning Enforcement Officer recommendations, a motion to schedule a public hearing on December 9, 2025 passed unanimously. A separate motion to seek input from Planning Board and Zoning Board members also passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Several community members expressed concern about increased vendor fees for non-local sellers during the 2026 Music in the Park season and suggested recruiting additional new bands.

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



HAGUE FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

Grade 2: High Honors – Charleigh McLaughlina

Grade 3: Honors – Frankie Rowe

Grade 4: Honors – Anniyah May

Grade 5: Honors – Jackson Porter

Grade 6: Honors – Traeh Andersen

Grade 7: First Honors – Noah Mydlarz and Maddison Smith

Second Honors – Colton Andersen

Grade 8: Second Honors – Marcelo Maltese

Grade 9: First Honors – Elena DeFranco

Grade 10: First Honors – Wyatt Barnes and James DeFranco

Grade 11: First Honors – Zebulon Denno, Brady Mydlarz, and Kaiden Smith

Second Honors – Breyten Andersen and Miya Savage

FORT COMMEMORATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE “NOBLE TRAIN OF ARTILLERY”

Fort Ticonderoga will mark the 250th anniversary of Henry Knox’s legendary “Noble Train of Artillery” with a three-day series of special programs and reenactments from **Friday, December 5 through Sunday, December 7, 2025**. The celebration will honor Henry Knox’s daring 300-mile transport of nearly sixty tons of artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to General George Washington’s army outside Boston — an achievement that helped drive the British from the city in 1776.

The weekend begins on **Friday, December 5th at 2 pm** with *Ticonderoga’s Treasures: Knox Edition*, an exclusive program that showcases rare books, archival documents, prints, and artifacts connected to Knox’s 1775 mission. *Limited in-person and virtual tickets are available.*

The signature event, “**Noble Train Begins**,” takes place on **Saturday, December 6th from 10 am to 4 pm**. Visitors will see re-enactors inspect, select, and “proof” captured artillery using 18th-century techniques, including the dramatic gunpowder blast used to clean cannon. Throughout the day, demonstrations will highlight artillery science, the origins of the guns Knox transported, and how Washington equipped Knox to undertake the mission. Fort Ticonderoga will assemble the largest group of oxen- and horse-drawn period vehicles seen since 1775.

On **Sunday, December 7th at 11 am**, the public can witness the re-enactment of the expedition’s first crucial leg. Beginning at Montcalm Street and Champlain Avenue in Ticonderoga, teams of horses and oxen will haul replica cannon to the shores of Lake George, following the path Knox once traveled on his way to Boston.

“Noble Train Begins” is part of *REAL TIME REVOLUTION®*, Fort Ticonderoga’s multi-year initiative bringing 1775–1777 to life during the nation’s 250th anniversary. Complete schedules and ticket information are available [HERE](#). ▣

FORT FEATURED IN KEN BURNS’ “THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION”

The visual grandeur of Fort Ticonderoga was showcased to millions of viewers nationwide when Ken Burns’ highly anticipated series *The American Revolution* was shown on PBS November 16 – 21, 2025.

Fort Ticonderoga’s nationally recognized interpretive program and its 2,000-acre preserved site served as major filming locations, providing hours of original footage.

Directed by Ken Burns with Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt and written by Geoffrey Ward, the six-part, 12-hour series explores the nation’s struggle against the British monarchy and its eight-year war for independence.

The film presents the conflict as both a global war and a “war within,” highlighting complex realities and pivotal moments, including those tied to Ticonderoga.

“We were fortunate to work with the fantastic team at Fort Ticonderoga,” Burns said. “There was simply no way we could have told the story of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold’s crossing of Lake Champlain or Henry Knox’s ‘noble train of

artillery’ without the staff, interpreters, and resources at the fort.”

“Fort Ticonderoga was honored to serve as a central filming location,” said Beth L. Hill, president and CEO of the fort. “Our preserved site, interpretive program, and meticulously reproduced clothing, weapons, redoubts, and boats offered the film an unmatched opportunity to tell the story of the revolution.”

The series coincides with the 250th anniversary of the revolution’s beginnings, when the Continental Army achieved its first victory at Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775. ▣

TCELC AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT

Silver Bay YMCA announced that its childcare center, the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center (TCELC), has received a \$25,000 grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation to support accessible early learning in the region.

“We are thrilled to receive this support,” said Silver Bay YMCA Vice President of Development and Government Relations Walt Lender.

Interim Silver Bay YMCA CEO Lucas Callahan noted that the grant will help TCELC continue providing nurturing, high-quality childcare.

The center, opened in September 2024, was created to address severe shortages in the Ticonderoga area, where fewer than 25 licensed childcare slots remain, despite more than 600 children under age six in the surrounding towns.

“This funding will strengthen our programs and support our staff,” said Education Director Jackie Palandrani. She emphasized that the region faces a “child-care desert,” with far more children than available slots. “Investments like this support families, our workforce, and the region’s economic health.”

For more information, visit silverbay.org or call 518-585-7433. ▣



LOOKING BACK

by Hague Historical Society Board Members
Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young



For this issue, we decided to look back at various fun facts and Christmas traditions.

Americans have shown a preference in the past for girthy, round Christmas trees, the bulkier the better. The 1st Christmas tree "lot" opened in 1851 by New York woodsman Mark Carr.

Partner and friend to Thomas Edison, E.H. Johnson first came up with the idea to string bulbs around a tree in New York in 1882. Christmas tree lights were being mass produced by 1914.

Lametta, a type of tinsel manufactured in Germany was made of lead alloy foil with tin bonded on the top. Other tinsel was ultra-flammable paper-covered aluminum. (Beware children and pets)

Yule Logs were part of ancient winter solstice celebrations.

Around 1920 scotch tape had not yet been invented. Gift wrappers had to make do with decorative, lickem adhesive seals.

America's Christmas flower, the Poinsettia, is native to Central America and was brought to the US in the 1820's by J.R. Poinsett. (hence the name)

Although wreaths have been around since Greek and Roman times, the evergreen Christmas wreath, decorated with boughs of holly, is most often seen as a secular winter tradition.

The first official Christmas card debuted in 1843 in England. This greeting caught on in the US with the "Kansas City based Hall Brothers" (now Hallmark) creating a card with envelopes in 1915.

Candy Canes date back to 1670 in Germany. They arrived stateside in 1847 when a German-Swedish immigrant in Wooster, Ohio placed them on a tree.

While leaving treats for Santa and his reindeer dates to ancient Norse mythology, Americans used the tradition as a sign of showing gratitude during a time of struggle during the Great Depression in the 1930's.

Although the yuletide cocktail, Spiked Eggnog, stems from "possit", a drink made with hot, curdled milk and ale or wine, American Colonists made it popular by adding rum.

The Germans lay claim to starting the Gingerbread House tradition when German Brothers Grimm wrote "Hansel and Gretel".

The iconic dance troupe, The Radio City Music Hall Rocketts, were first known as The Missouri Rockets in 1925.

The Nutcracker Ballet first premiered in 1892 in Russia. It was first performed in the US in 1944 by the San Francisco Ballet.

Poet Clement Moore of New York wrote the classic The Night Before Christmas on Christmas Eve in 1822 and was inspired by his sleighride home.

It's a Wonderful Life, the classic Christmas film, debuted in 1946 starring Jimmy Stewart.

The actual song, The 12 Days of Christmas, is Christian and refers to a timeline from December 25 to January 6 and was published in 1780. In 2019 the PNC Christmas Price Index showed a bill of \$38,993.59 would cover everything from the partridge in a pear tree to twelve drummers drumming.

In 1891, San Francisco Army Captain Joseph McFee wanted to raise money to offer free Christmas dinners to 1000 of the city's most destitute. He set up a kettle to hold coins tossed in by people to help the poor. Thus, the Salvation Army Bell Ringers was started.

A Charlie Brown Christmas aired in 1965. "I never thought it was such a bad little tree", Linus says in the special. "It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love".

Christmas, Friday, December 25, 1925, was week 52, day 359 of that year. It was approximately 36,483 days (about 100 years) ago!

As this holiday season descends upon us, let us remember those we have lost, be thankful for those we still share this world with, remember the best gifts are friendship, sharing, and love and continue to hope for a future that allows our loved ones and us to have health and happiness. Happy Holidays! ▣

HAGUE CHRONICLE SOUNDINGS NEWS:

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

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

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

HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

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

FORT RECEIVES TWO GRANTS

Fort Ticonderoga has received a 2025 Collections Grant and a 2025 Conservation Grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership to support conservation efforts and to enhance the museum's exhibition experience.

The Collections Grant funded the creation of a new exhibit, *The Archaeology of Independence*, which immerses visitors in the Revolutionary War story at Ticonderoga through original artifacts recovered on-site between 1775 and 1777. Using these authentic objects, the exhibit adds depth to the fort's daily historical interpretation and provides meaningful context to the broader American Revolution. Fort Ticonderoga collaborated with Vermont State University's Innovation Lab to incorporate 3-D printed models of select artifacts into the display.

The Conservation Grant supported the preservation of an 18th-century portrait of Margaret Schoolcraft-Brush-Wall, a woman whose life during the Revolutionary era offers valuable insight into the complex experiences of loyalists and women of the period. Her conserved portrait will be featured in the 2026 exhibition *A Revolutionary Anthology: Revolutionary Possibilities*, part of Fort Ticonderoga's multi-year commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Revolution.

"Fort Ticonderoga is exceedingly grateful to the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership for their support in preserving and sharing the extraordinary collections that define this historic landscape," said Fort Ticonderoga President & CEO Beth L. Hill. ■



Photos: "The Archaeology of Independence" exhibit at the fort and the portrait of Margaret Schoolcraft-Brush-Wall

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
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BEST 4TH IN THE NORTH FUNDRAISER SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Ticonderoga Montcalm Street Partnership and the Best 4th in the North Committee will host a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**, beginning at **4 pm** until sold out at the Knights of Columbus in Ticonderoga. The event supports the 2026 Best 4th in the North Celebration.

Dinners include spaghetti, salad, a roll, and a cookie for \$15, with dine-in or take-out available. To reserve meals, call the Knights of Columbus at 518-585-6520. A cash bar and 50/50 raffle will be offered, and the Barkeater Band will perform live from **5 to 7 pm**. ■

TI ARTS

Ti Arts is hosting its annual Small Works show from now through **Saturday, January 3, 2026**. No piece of art can be larger than 12" x 12" x 12".



On **Saturday, December 13th, from 10 am through 2:30 pm**, Fred Holman will teach a painting class he calls "Splash and Dash." He invites participants to come and play with paint. Have fun, experiment, paint a scene, scrape it off, paint a flower, scrape it off, or just push the paint around. Each person will be given two 2' x 2' panels (to take home or not), paint, tools, brushes, and encouragement. ■

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

December 2025

DECEMBER

1		December issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published	12		Winner of the \$100K Giveaway Announced
2		Seniors Holiday Dinner	13	9 – 11 am	HVFD Christmas Party breakfast
3	4 pm	Spaghetti Dinner at Knights of Columbus		11 am – 12 pm	Santa’s Craft Hour
	5 – 7 pm	Barkeater Band	13 – January 3, 2026		Ti Arts Small Works Show
4		Voting ends for LGA		10 am – 2:30 pm	Fred Holman painting class
		Tree Lighting and Coffee House	14		Christmas Bird Count
		Holiday Shopping and Dining	18	6 pm	Hague Zoning Board of Appeals Mtg.
	6 pm	Hague Planning Board Mtg.	20	6 pm	Deadline for the January issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
	6:30 pm	Seniors Game Night	24		CHRISTMAS EVE – town offices closed
5 – 7		Fort Commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the “Noble Train of Artillery”	25		CHRISTMAS DAY – town offices closed
9	6 pm	Hague Town Board Mtg.	31		NEW YEAR’S EVE

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