



# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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## TCSD BOE 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

by Jack Bast, Hague town councilman

At the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) Board of Education (BoE) meeting on April 21, 2026, the BoE unanimously approved the proposed 2026-2027 Budget, on which we will vote **Tuesday, May 19th**. (Note: Because the amount of state aid is not yet official, there may be changes.)

The key factor is that, for the first time in seven years, the BoE is proposing a budget that exceeds the Tax Cap.

- A budget that meets the Tax Cap would result in a year-over-year increase in this year's school tax levy of **3.64%**.
- The proposed budget increase is **6.57%**.
- Since the proposed budget exceeds the Tax Cap, **a super majority of 60% will be required for it to pass.**
- There are eight defined items that constitute the **\$386,224/2.92% increase difference:**

Five are academically related totaling \$231,224: Music teacher, elective teacher, elementary AIS teacher (Academic Intervention Services — helps students having trouble, especially in reading and math), professional teacher development, and a summer literacy program. Three are athletic/social-related totaling \$55,000: soccer, cheerleading, and "Sweethearts & Heroes" (an intergrade mentoring program).

*(Continued on p. 2)*

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Jack Bast, chair

In case you missed it, the April issue of *The Hague Chronicle* highlighted the SAC's report of the latest 2024-2025 NYS Education Department statewide rankings based on NYSED's annually administered standard tests across schools for grades 3 through 12. When the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) is compared to twenty neighboring school districts in the North Country, the TCSD is ranked in the upper half for only *four out of twenty-two subjects*. The TCSD is ranked below the median of this cohort of North Country schools that face the same challenges as the TCSD does. Overall, in fact, in our North Country region, the *TCSD is ranked in the bottom quartile*. The article in the April issue of *The Hague Chronicle* has a detailed list of the TCSD's rankings in 22 subjects. And, a link to the complete analysis is available on the Town of Hague website under the SAC listing.

The SAC has submitted these rankings to *The Sun* newspaper, hoping to inform the entire TCSD community about the need for improvement in TCSD academic performance.

Also, as noted last month, on February 27th, the Town of Hague filed a formal application with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to address the apportionment of school taxes within the TCSD.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

## TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL

The Tentative Assessment Roll will be available for inspection after **May 1, 2026** at the Hague Community Center, **Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm**.

David Martucci, Sole Assessor, will be in attendance with the Tentative Assessment Roll on the following dates *by appointment only*: **Monday, May 4th, Monday, May 11th, and Monday, May 18th, from 10 am to 2 pm and Saturday, May 16th, from 4 to 8 pm**. Please call 518-543-6161 for an appointment.

The Board of Assessment Review will meet on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026** from **4 to 8 pm** at the Hague Community Center to hear complaints. Complaint forms (RP-524) are available at the community center or online [HERE](#).

## NEW EVENT PAVILION FOR THE TOWN PARK

The Town of Hague supervisor's office applied for and was awarded \$150,000 in Municipal Application Funding for the construction of a new event pavilion in our town park by the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

This exciting project responds directly to a clear need that was identified in our Hague Park Master Plan. The pavilion will create a vibrant, flexible gathering space, freeing up capacity at the Hague Visitor Center, enhancing the popular Music in the Park Series, and making even greater use of our beautiful waterfront park.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

## SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Mike Kowalsky



With summer fast approaching, the Hague Senior Club is preparing for another busy season. This month's meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 1:30 pm** in the Hague Community Center. Discussions will take place with regard to the Memorial Day Parade float and the Americade Café, which will be open from **May 25th through June 1st**. As always, all members are urged to attend the meeting and to put a little time aside to help during this very important week. As a reminder, there will be no White Elephant sale this year.

The March meeting featured a presentation by Jodi Gibbs introducing a "Senior Social" sponsored by the University of Vermont Health Network and Fidelis Care. The free event, including lunch, will be held on **Wednesday, May 6th at 11 am**, at the Knights of Columbus in Port Henry, NY. A variety of topics will address the many concerns senior residents might face, ranging from fraud prevention, exercise and wellness, to technology support (bring your cell phone, tablet or laptop).

Last month's outing to Ballston Spa for a day of antique shopping and lunch was an enjoyable trip down memory lane for several senior bargain hunters.

Two outings are on the schedule for this month for those who would like to get away for a day and have some fun. On **May 7th**, a trip to the Lake Placid Olympic Center will leave the Hague Community Center at **10 am**.

On **May 14th**, those feeling lucky will travel to the Saratoga Casino, also meeting at the community center at **10 am**. All seniors who would like to go on these trips must sign up with Pat Hintze in advance.

Let's all have a happy and healthy summer! ▣

## TCSD BOE 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET, CONT'D

The entire budget requires careful consideration by our Hague school tax payers. As I see it, there are pros and cons.

Some cons are:

- A 6.57% increase represents a **\$867,877 tax levy increase over last year**, an approximately \$490,500 increase in Hague's overall share.
- Exceeding the Tax Cap this year may have ongoing consequences in future years.
- In addition to the \$900,000 increase in taxes, the TCSD is scheduled to receive approximately \$200,000 from the Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILOT) projects, thus the total increase in revenues appears to be \$1.1 million. There is a large gap in the information currently available.

Some pros are:

- The \$386,224 difference afforded by the proposed budget potentially provides significant academic benefit that recent NYS rankings show is definitely needed. (See April issue of *The Hague Chronicle* on pages one and six.)
- This **2.92%** difference is relatively small in magnitude. For example, for a Hague property where the Tax Cap school tax would be \$3,000, the additional yearly cost **would be less than \$90**.

Town Supervisor Joshua Patchett and I urge Hague (and Ticonderoga and Putnam) residents to give serious consideration to voting in support of exceeding the Tax Cap. Hague has long been advocating for academic improvement for our children and we believe the TCSD leadership is putting forth a proposed plan for that purpose. Full substantiation of the financial information as presented in this budget, as well as measurement and accountability going forward in these improvements are required, of course. If these measures are successful, as expected, then the long-term generational effect for the region and entire TCSD community would be beneficial for a relatively small cost.

Think about it! Do your homework. Vote on **May 19th!** ▣

## HVFD

### HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



We responded to nine fire calls and three EMS assists, totaling 217 volunteer hours. Our EMS team handled five calls, with a combined 31 paid and volunteer hours.

We recently completed our annual Emergency Vehicle Operation Certification (EVOC). This included classroom instruction, which was followed by a hands-on driving course on Saturday, April 11, 2026, where we navigated obstacles designed to challenge and strengthen our driving skills. Everyone passed. This certification is required each year and we are especially pleased to have several new members who successfully completed the training and are now qualified to operate apparatus. Congratulations to all!

We would like to thank the town highway department for providing space for our driving course.

We are continuing our training with an upcoming Mayday Drill, which focuses on rescuing a downed firefighter and incorporating EMS patient care. This is an important multi-skill exercise that we will be practicing over the coming weeks.

As we head into the busy Memorial Day Weekend, we are preparing for our annual chicken dinner on **Saturday, May 23rd**, with serving beginning at **4 pm**. The cost is \$15. We are also getting ready for our Mother's Day Brunch and will soon be mailing our annual fundraising letter. Proceeds will support the purchase of a new ambulance.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining, stop by one of our **Tuesday** night drills at **6 pm** and see what we are all about. ▣

## HAIKU

by dl mattila

whistle-stop  
a flurry of feathers  
in the birdbath ▣

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE, CONT'D

The data submitted establishes a *profound fiscal inequity* in the TCSD. Hague is seeking the establishment of a special equalization rate to ensure that Hague taxpayers are not unfairly burdened by a disproportionate share of the school tax levy. This action is a formal administrative process authorized under New York State Real Property Tax Law and state regulations.

We have now obtained a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) response from the TCSD containing a Revenue Account Transactions Report for the years 2016–2025. The report provides additional definitive evidence that strongly supports our application. This additional evidence was submitted on April 15th to the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS), where our application is currently under review. We hope for a determination in time to affect our 2026 School Tax Levy in September.

May is 2026-2027 school budget voting and Board of Education (BoE) election month. The BoE has been invited to make a budget presentation in Hague, but we don't have a response as of press time.

On May 12th there is a Hague Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 School Budget. The Budget/BoE election **vote is on Tuesday, May 19th from noon to 8 pm** at the community center. There is a BoE meeting on **May 19th** at the high school cafeteria at **8:30 pm** to report the results. ❑

## TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

by Jack Bast

Here's an update on our Town of Hague Transfer Station:

- Until Memorial Day, the winter hours are **10 am until 2 pm** on **Wednesday and Saturday**
- After Memorial Day (**after May 25th**), the summer hours are **9 am until 3 pm** on **Wednesday and Saturday**
- Effective **May 6th**, the new rate for Bin 3, Construction and Demolition materials, will be **\$40 per cubic yard**

Reminder – we are now accepting electronics (tvs, monitors, computers, printers, etc.) for recycling and it is free to Hague residents. See <https://hagueny.gov/> for details.

Transfer Station Manager Peter Maltese and his staff are maintaining this important town facility in pristine condition — go take a look! We can be very proud of its exceptionally neat and orderly appearance. Know also that it is being run in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Thanks, Peter and Transfer Station Staff; we appreciate you all a lot! ❑



## BOAT INSPECTION PROGRAM

Lake George's mandatory boat inspection program plays a critical role in protecting the lake from invasive species, a major threat to water quality and recreation.

Thanks to strong participation from visitors and boaters, and program operation by the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC), this program continues to protect the lake's clarity and ecosystem, helping preserve lake experiences for generations to come.

Before you launch this season, make sure your boat is inspected. It's one of the most important steps you can take to protect Lake George. ❑

## NEW EVENT PAVILION FOR THE TOWN PARK, CONT'D

Planning is already underway: a design architect has been engaged, a town committee has been formed, and we warmly encourage community input and participation as the project moves forward.

We invite you to be part of this exciting initiative! Please contact the community center at 518-543-6161 to share your ideas and to get involved. ❑

## KEEP LAKE GEORGE CLEAN

Lake George welcomes everyone — except aquatic invasive species (AIS), which, if they enter our lake, threaten the water quality. And, that threatens our enjoyment of boating, fishing, and swimming.

While six AIS are currently in Lake George, the community has taken major steps to prevent more from entering. Since 2014, we've been successful.



Here are five ways you, as a boater or angler, can help us keep Lake George a favorite place to enjoy the water.

1. Visit a Mandatory Boat Inspection and Decontamination Station.
2. Clean, drain, and dry your boat before leaving home.
3. Inspect and clean all water-related recreational equipment.
4. Don't relocate fish. Do not transfer wild fish from one water body into another.
5. Use local or certified bait only.

Learn more about the AIS in Lake George: [Eurasian watermilfoil](#), [curly-leaf pondweed](#), [zebra mussels](#), [Asian clams](#), [Chinese mystery snail](#), [spiny water flea](#).

Donate HERE to support our work. ❑

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 3/19/2026

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch, Deputy Chairman Chris Richards, and Board Member Oliver Gourley. Absent were Chris Navitsky and Tina Barth-King. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Kirchberger and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

There were ZOOM attendees.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### **Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training, 87 Silver Bay Road**

*Zoning issues: Development within 100 feet of the shoreline, variance for 160-50 B (1) (b), development within 50 feet of the shoreline setback.*

The applicant proposed fabrication and installation of an ADA-accessible ramp to the waterfront over an existing steep gravel pathway and concrete slab. The requested railing width was 48 inches; 36 inches is required.

A motion was made and seconded to open the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition. The hearing was then closed.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Kirchberger read the Hague Planning Board's March 5, 2026 referral, which provided a positive advisory opinion with recommendations to maintain or replace native shoreline vegetation, add native plantings between the ramps and courts on the lake side, and grind down, rather than excavate, a large stump. The applicant agreed to all recommendations.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training, 87 Silver Bay Road**

*Zoning issues: Development within 100 feet of shoreline, variance for 160-50 B (1) (b), development within 50 feet of the shoreline setback.*

With no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the project, including the planning board's recommendations. The board reviewed the required criteria and found no undesirable change to the neighborhood, no feasible alternative, no substantial variance, and no adverse environmental impact. The difficulty was not self-created, as the project brings an existing pathway into ADA compliance.

The vote passed unanimously.

### OTHER BUSINESS

ZEO Kirchberger reported that the town board is seeking additional input from both the Hague Zoning Board of Appeals and the Hague Planning Board regarding proposed code amendments. Concerns raised included potential conflicts with the Town of Hague Comprehensive Plan, density, infrastructure limitations, and public opposition.

After discussion and review of a prior motion from November 20, 2025, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the

proposed code changes as written. The vote passed unanimously.

ZEO Kirchberger noted that the proposed changes are intended to be a temporary solution, with a more comprehensive code update expected in the future. He also announced that Adirondack Park Agency training opportunities will be shared with the board.

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

## PLANNING BOARD - 4/2/2026

Present were Chair Sandra Powell, Board Members Pamela Peterson, Alane Vogel, and Alternate Jami Jordan. Absent was Tom LaPointe. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello. Henry Friedman attended remotely by phone.

There were ZOOM attendees.

### SITE VISIT REVIEW

#### **Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training — Development within 100 feet of the shoreline, no variances required**

Board members reported on independent site visits to the Slim Point area, where improvements are proposed including a pavilion renovation, a new walkway, and native plantings. Observations noted wet and spongy ground conditions, shoreline erosion, and existing vegetation. The project remains under review pending Adirondack Park Agency (APA) determination regarding wetlands.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **Johnson, 216 Silver Bay Road — Development within 100 feet of the shoreline**

The applicant proposes rebuilding a damaged portion of the home and adding a second story within the existing footprint, along with a covered deck and a stoop. The project was initiated after a tree caused significant structural damage.

Discussion focused on septic capacity, with two additional bedrooms proposed. Verification of the septic system's adequacy will be required prior to approval. Stormwater management plans and water supply details will also be confirmed.

The planning board completed the environmental review and determined that the project would not result in significant adverse impacts. The vote passed unanimously.

The board then deemed the application complete and agreed that a public hearing was not necessary. A site visit will be conducted prior to final review.

## PLANNING BOARD, CONT'D

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training (Slim Point Project) – *Development within 100 feet of the shoreline, no variances required***

Updated plans were presented, including a reduced patio size, improved stormwater features, and relocation of certain elements to better meet Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) requirements. The project has received stormwater approval from the LGPC and is pending Adirondack Park Agency (APA) review.

The planning board issued a negative environmental determination, finding no significant adverse impacts. The vote passed unanimously.

The application was deemed complete, and conditional approval was granted for Phase 1 of the project, pending an APA non-jurisdictional ruling. An amendment was also approved to allow a positive referral if APA jurisdiction is established. Both votes passed unanimously.

#### **Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training (ADA Ramp) – *Development within 100 feet of the shoreline; variance for development within 50 feet of the shoreline***

The board approved the installation of an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible ramp to the waterfront, with conditions requiring preservation and replacement of native vegetation and additional plantings near the ramp. The vote passed unanimously.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The planning board approved a referral to the Hague Town Board regarding proposed code changes related to guest cottages, short-term rentals, and accessory structures. The vote passed unanimously.

The board also recommended that the town board place a temporary hold on approvals for guest cottages until the zoning code is clarified, particularly for non-conforming lots. The vote passed unanimously.

The next planning board meeting will be held **May 14, 2026**.

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



Photo courtesy of Sandy Powell, taken April 15, 2026

## SOUNDINGS

**DIED:** Peter Arthur Waite, 75, of Bristol, Vermont, on March 20, 2026. He died peacefully only six weeks after being diagnosed with lymphoma.

He was born in Ridgefield, Connecticut, to James B. and Beverly P. Waite.



Peter earned his bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Vermont in 1973 and later completed a master’s degree in education at UVM. He went on to earn a doctorate in educational leadership from Seattle University.

He devoted his life to public service, beginning as a VISTA volunteer with Winooski Youth Services and continuing through a 48-year career in adult literacy. He served as the National Director of Laubach Literacy, now ProLiteracy, where he supported literacy programs across the country and advocated for education as a fundamental human right. He also served as the North American Vice President of the International Community of Adult Education.

Peter had a strong connection to the Ticonderoga and Lake George region. He and his wife, Lauren, completed the Adirondack 46ers together and were married in Ticonderoga. He remained engaged in the region through support of educational initiatives, including the Fort Ticonderoga Seminar Teachers’ Scholarship Fund.

He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and for his lifelong commitment to helping others. He found joy in hiking, fly fishing, skiing, kayaking, biking, and travel. Known for his curiosity and enthusiasm, he created personal “quests,” including visiting hundreds of craft breweries, hiking state high points, and exploring Vermont’s 251 towns and nearly 200 lost ski areas.

He was predeceased by his sister, Mary W. Tumidjaski.

He is survived by his: wife, Lauren; children, Hillary Waite Condit (Brendan), Chris Waite (Kirsten), and Hannah Waite (Dan); grandchildren, Kai, Mae, Julia, Zoe, Olivia, Sadie, Hattie, and Wilson; brother, Tom Waite; and stepmother, Anne Waite.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Addison County River Watch Collaborative [HERE](#), the National Coalition for Literacy [HERE](#), or the Fort Ticonderoga Seminar Teachers’ Scholarship Fund [HERE](#). ▣

## HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXHIBIT

*by Ginger Henry Kuenzel, president*

The 2026 Hague Historical Society Museum exhibit about Hague Central School (1927-79) is coming together very nicely, with archival materials from our collection, as well as loans from former students. If you have something to lend us for the exhibit, please email us at [haguehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:haguehistorical@gmail.com). We plan to open the exhibit in June – or maybe even earlier. The museum, located in the Hague Community Center, is open during the normal business hours of **8 to 4, Monday through Friday**.



Whether you attended the school, had relatives who attended, or are just curious about what the school was like, you won’t want to miss this exhibit. In addition to photos, trophies, banners, sports uniforms, commencement programs and more, we also have a treasure trove of newspaper clippings that add flavor to what it was like to attend Hague Central School. For instance, shortly after the school was founded, the senior class traveled to Washington, DC, where they met with President Calvin Coolidge.

You’ll be able to view the many, many photos we have from throughout the school’s history on our newly purchased digital frame.

You also won’t want to miss our Hague Historical Society Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 7 pm**, featuring a fascinating presentation about the history of Hague Central School. The museum will also be open that evening, before and after the meeting.

The Hague Historical Society is always looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Do you love historical research? Or, perhaps you’d like to write articles about Hague’s history, based on information in our archives. We would love to have you join us to help with this fascinating work. Email us at [haguehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:haguehistorical@gmail.com).

Be sure to look for us in this year’s Hague Memorial Day Parade. Our board members are planning an exciting entry, which you won’t want to miss! ▣

## ICE OUT CALLED

The Lake George Association called “Ice In” on January 26th of this year. It announced on its Facebook page that April 2nd was the official “Ice Out” day for 2026.



By our count, then, the lake was frozen 65 days this year, or 11 days less than the yearly average of 76 days.

The fishermen are already out in boats in Hague Bay! ▣

## SILVER BAY HAPPENINGS

The following seasonal jobs are available at Silver Bay. [Click HERE.](#)

The following year-round jobs are available at Silver Bay. [Click HERE.](#)

Silver Camp enrollment for summer is open. Spots are limited and fill up quickly, so those interested should enroll now. [Click HERE.](#)



*Tyler Katz has been named associate vice president of programs.*

Enrollment is now open at the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center (TCELC). There is limited availability for summer session enrollments. To apply or learn more, please email [TCELC@silverbay.org](mailto:TCELC@silverbay.org).

To learn more about the TCELC, go [HERE.](#)

The Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center has been awarded a Stewart's Holiday Match Grant of \$1,000 to help with operational costs associated with the Teen Center.

The Teen Center is a free after-school drop-in program open five days a week during the school year for area youth aged 12 to 18 years that provides homework help, teaches life skills such as cooking, and provides a safe place for teens to socialize after school.

To learn more about Silver Bay YMCA or the Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center visit [SilverBay.org](http://SilverBay.org).

Silver Bay YMCA has announced a full schedule of spring events and programs open to the community.

A Grief Care Group, hosted by the Spiritual Life Team, will meet each **Tuesday** through the end of May from **6:30 to 7:30 pm** in the Fisher Gym Dance Studio.

The group will explore a range of topics and is free and open to all, with participants welcome to join at any time.

The Mountain View Grille will open for the season on **May 6, 2026**, with reservations available **Wednesday through Saturday from 5 to 9 pm**. Reservations can be made [HERE](#).

A Mother's Day Brunch will be served on **May 10th from 10 am to 1 pm** in the William Boyd Center Dining Room. Reservations are required. Additional details will be posted on the Breeze Live Feed.

Chapel Services will be held Sundays from **May 10th through October 11 from 10 to 11 am** in the Helen Hughes Memorial Chapel.

The Silver Bay Store on campus opens **May 22nd**, offering a gift shop and an ice cream counter from **11 am to 10 pm**, and a pizzeria and food menu from **11:30 am to 8:30 pm**. Menu items include beverages, ice cream specialties, pizza, calzones, burgers, and grab-and-go selections.

Memorial Day Weekend, **May 22nd through 25th**, will feature "Tidy Time" with the Silver Bay Council, offering volunteers an opportunity to support campus upkeep and connect with the community. More information is available [HERE](#).

Bites at the Bay returns **May 22nd through September 7th**, open daily from **11:30 am to 7:30 pm**. Orders can be placed online for pick up at the guest docks or at the store, and dockside delivery will be available.

A Memorial Day Community BBQ will be held **May 24th from 5:30 to 7 pm** in the William Boyd Center Dining Room and Patio. Meal tickets are required and may be purchased at the Silver Bay Inn front desk.

A fireworks display will be held on **May 24th at dusk**. The event is free and open to the community, with viewing available from Silver Bay Road, the Silver Bay Inn front porch, and the William Boyd Center patio. North Field will be closed from **8 to 10 pm**. ❑

## PERKIN WINS HENRY KNOX AWARD

Fort Ticonderoga awarded Robert S. Perkin and The Perkin Fund with the 2026 Henry Knox Award. The award was presented at the Ticonderoga Ball held in New York City at The Union League Club on March 20, 2026. The award was given in recognition of Mr. Perkin's and The Perkin Fund's generous support for nearly 30 years and their deep commitment to Fort Ticonderoga's mission of preservation and education.



Through the dedicated generous long-time support of The Perkin Fund and Mr. Perkin, Fort Ticonderoga has substantially advanced long-term plans, expanded educational programs, and implemented transformative restoration projects including the Pavilion, the North Demi-Lune, and the South Barracks. Mr. Perkin has been a member of Fort Ticonderoga's National Council since 2006.

The Henry Knox Award is presented to recipients for their herculean leadership and life-long contributions to the field of history and other related fields.

Henry Knox is best known for his role in hauling 60 tons of artillery from Ticonderoga to relieve the siege of Boston over the winter of 1775 to 1776. This feat was justly regarded as a model of fortitude and perseverance, key characteristics of monumental leadership and its enduring legacy.

The Ticonderoga Ball is an annual black-tie event held at The Union League Club of New York City that includes an elegant dinner, the presentation of "The Ticonderoga Award for a Continental Vision," entertainment and fundraising with auctioneer Harry Santa-Olalla, dancing with New York City's Lester Lanin Orchestra, and more. ❑

Dear LGA Community,

April 2, 2026

For 141 years, the Lake George Association has protected the Queen of American Lakes through science, solutions, community engagement, partnerships and advocacy, helping ensure Lake George remains one of the cleanest recreational lakes in the country.

Today, we're proud to share our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, [HERE](#), a clear and focused road map for how we will strengthen and scale this work in the years ahead.

This next chapter builds directly on our history of listening to the Lake through science, adapting with practical solutions and securing protections that stand the test of time.

Our plan clarifies our Continuous Cycle of Lake Protection, where science identifies threats, solutions reduce pollution at the source, partnerships expand impact, community engagement mobilizes informed support, and advocacy secures lasting protections through science-informed policy.

We're also increasing our budget from \$3.5 million to \$4.5 million dollars, with additional investments supporting LGA grants, community engagement and expanded advocacy efforts. These deepening investments will strengthen long-term protections and elevate Lake George's importance locally, regionally and statewide.

Together, we represent thousands of constituents as one unified voice speaking for Lake George water quality and clarity. Together, we are the Voice of Lake George.

Thank you for being part of this work. We could not do this without your support.

On behalf of our entire Board of Directors and staff,

Dr. Brendan Wiltse  
LGA President & CEO

Dr. John E. Kelly, III  
LGA Board Chair

## LGLC UPCOMING EVENTS

### Discovery Series Events

**Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 9 to 11 am:** Signs of Spring - Amphibians! (1.5 miles) at the Godwin Preserve, Bolton Landing. In the springtime, pools of water from melting snow host all sorts of life. Explore with a naturalist some of Godwin's vernal pools to search for some of the frogs and salamanders that make these pools a part of their life cycle. 1.5 miles total. Free.



**Monday, May 18th from 10 am to 1 pm:** Volunteer Work Day – Gardens and Grounds at Peggy's Point right here in Hague.



Help clear the lawn of debris, weed the Friendship Garden, and spruce up the trail paths in time for summer. Please bring gardening tools if you have them, otherwise LGLC will provide them. Free

More info and registrations [HERE](#).

## LGA STATE SALT SUMMIT IN OCTOBER

The Lake George Association (LGA) is expanding its annual Salt Summit from regional to statewide, with the Albany-based New York State Salt Summit in October 2026.

Over the past decade, the Adirondack Champlain Regional Salt Summit has brought together scientists, policy leaders, and industry professionals to advance smarter winter road management.

The 11th Annual Salt Summit will elevate collaboration, share proven solutions, and help accelerate statewide road salt reduction progress.

## LGLC ANNUAL REPORT

The Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) 2025 Annual Report is now available [HERE](#).

## LGPC SEEKS SUMMER EMPLOYEES

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) is hiring seasonal employees for the 2026 summer season, offering opportunities for those interested in working on Lake George while supporting environmental protection efforts.

Available positions include Vessel Inspection Technicians and Registration Sales Associates. These roles assist boaters in preparing for safe use of the lake while helping to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Full job descriptions and application information are available [HERE](#).

## LGA GALA

The 20th Lake George Association (LGA) Gala will be held on **Friday, July 10, 2026 at 6 pm** at the Sagamore Resort in Bolton Landing. The doors will open at **5:30 pm**.

The theme is "Boots and Bourbon" — think elevated country vibes, but still a gala. The gala will feature a champagne welcome, live music, a mouthwatering buffet, signature cocktails and bourbon tasting, a premium live auction featuring rare and local experiences, and meaningful connections with fellow supporters and leaders.

All proceeds support LGA's mission. Purchase tickets or a sponsorship [HERE](#).

## LOOKING BACK

by Hague Historical Society Board Members  
Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young



Hague Chronicle – July 1976

### Recreational Facility Survey

The Warren County Recreational Demand Survey of 1975 established that 50% of the Hague residents interviewed believed that tennis courts are the recreational facilities most needed in the town. Bicycle routes and picnic areas were second and third.

Only 37 replies were received to the Chronicle questionnaire: 20 from year-round residents and 17 from “summer” residents. Family members of the respondents totaled 127. While no sound conclusions can be drawn from such a small sampling, it is interesting to note that here, too, respondents favored tennis courts or other recreational facilities.

Here is the tabulation:

| Recreation<br>Activities | Respondents |        |       |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|
|                          | Year-round  | Summer | Total |
| Tennis                   | 15          | 12     | 27    |
| Movies                   | 10          | 10     | 20    |
| Picnic Areas             | 10          | 8      | 18    |
| Ice Skating              | 10          | 7      | 17    |
| Band Concerts            | 10          | 7      | 17    |
| Basketball               | 8           | 9      | 17    |
| Bicycle                  | 8           | 7      | 15    |
| Snowmobile               | 9           | 3      | 12    |
| Motorcycle               | 3           | 2      | 5     |

On the library/museum questions, the results were as follows:

|     | MUSEUM     |        |       |
|-----|------------|--------|-------|
|     | Year-round | Summer | Total |
| Yes | 10         | 5      | 15    |
| No  | 8          | 8      | 16    |

|     | LIBRARY    |        |       |
|-----|------------|--------|-------|
|     | Year-round | Summer | Total |
| Yes | 11         | 8      | 19    |
| No  | 7          | 6      | 13    |

As to how much should be spent to construct a library/museum, comments range all the way up to \$75,000 to “not one cent”. A number felt taxes were already too high and several suggested that the town should procure one of the properties which are now for sale and which could be used as a town hall, library, museum, etc. and that the grounds could be used for tennis courts, basketball courts, etc.

The questionnaires were mailed to 479 homes; 261 are “summer” residents and 218 are year-round residents. All are property owners and taxpayers. There were not enough replies to establish what a majority of the people want. If the survey proves anything, it is that most people don’t care.

### 50 years later

The Town of Hague conducted a new survey in 2025. The Community Survey Summary resulted in 248 responses. The conclusion at the end of the survey states: “Hague residents clearly value their community’s natural beauty, lakefront access, and small-town atmosphere. However, they see significant challenges in economic vitality, infrastructure, and tax equity that threatens long-term sustainability. The community appears ready for thoughtful, balanced development that preserves Hague’s character, while creating more opportunities for businesses, year-round residents, and diverse recreational activities.”

The Silver Bay Association now offers many of the recreational activities at low cost or free to Hague residents.

As for the museum, ours is an exceedingly small room with limited space and is not suitable for displaying all the wonderful history our town has to offer our own residents and those who come here to visit.

Clearly, the same goes for a library. Yes, one can travel to surrounding towns in search of other libraries, museums, concert venues, movie theaters, etc. By now, we could and should aspire to preserve our history and our town for those of us who live here and those who will find a new “home” here in the future.

This will be the last Looking Back column written by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young. The Hague Chronicle thanks them for all the work they did writing the column since May 2024. ■

## TOWN OF PUTNAM PLANNING BOARD

The Hague Chronicle is continuing to monitor developments in the Town of Putnam regarding the proposed plans to repeal the Putnam Site Plan Review Law and to abolish its planning board and to transfer its responsibilities to the town board.

At its meeting on March 12, 2026, the Town of Putnam Town Board

rescinded its February vote to abolish the Putnam Town Planning Board after Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky, PE, raised concerns about the decision’s compliance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

During the last two weeks in March and the first week of April, the Lake George community spoke out about the fact that the proposed changes in the Town of Putnam could affect

development oversight and water quality protections.

The Putnam Town Board held a significant meeting on April 9th, to discuss the proposed repeal of Putnam’s Site Plan Review Law and the potential abolition of Putnam’s Planning Board, following prior meetings in February and March 2026.

Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky, PE, attended the meeting in  
*(Continued on p. 10)*

## TICONDEROGA SCHOOL PLANETARIUM PROGRAM

by Linda Kasal Fusco

The Ticonderoga School Planetarium programs have been well attended, attracting community members of all ages and walks of life. A thank you to Joe Defayette, Ticonderoga Jr./Sr. High School Earth Science teacher, who volunteers his time to present the programs. This year's 2025-2026 programs focused on the celebration of revolution. The community has attended the following programs:

On Saturday October 18, 2025, *The Fall Sky Now and 250 Years Ago*, included celestial events as viewed from Fort Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War period. In celebration of the birth of our nation, the program was coordinated with the historic events taking place 250 years ago viewing the sky as Henry Knox, on December 5, 1775, moved cannon from Fort

Ticonderoga down Lake George. Knox had the advantage of light from the full moon that night.

Due to frigid weather, the program *Almanacs, Astronomy, & Astrology*, which was scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026, was rescheduled for March 1, 2026. The switch did not deter a full house attendance. The program focused on how astronomy, along with astrology, influenced the culture, mindset, and even some decision-making of the period more than many people realized. Thank you to Richard Strum, Fort Ticonderoga education specialist, and the Black Watch library for locating archived *January – March 1776 Almanacs* with specific astronomical and astrological events for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

### Future Program and Plans

On Sunday, **June 7, 2026, at 12 noon**, the community is invited to the Ticonderoga High School planetarium's presentation, *Space Revolution 2026*;

*Colonization of the Planets*, which will include the United States' plans to colonize the planets and their moons. In celebration of the revolution of our nation, there is also a revolution to colonize space. The program will focus on our eight solar system planets and celestial events appearing in the spring and summer Adirondack sky through **September 21, 2026**. The presentation will include sky chart handouts and a schedule of special viewing events.

Weather permitting, there will be a night sky field viewing planned for the evening of **June 7, 2026 (time and location TBD)**. Future plans include the construction of a mobile observatory that can be transported to specific sites.

Space is limited for the planetarium show. To register, send an email to [lindafuscophd@gmail.com](mailto:lindafuscophd@gmail.com) or call or text 914-380-2130. Please include the number of people you are planning on bringing, your email address, and your phone number. ❑

## TCELC RECEIVES GRANT

The Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center (TCELC) has been awarded a \$12,000 Generous Acts grant from the Adirondack Community Foundation. This grant provides bridge funding which enables Silver Bay YMCA to continue operating the TCELC, supporting 30 families with childcare until the New York State CCAP Childcare Subsidy is able to clear the waiting lists of Essex, Warren, and Washington County families.



*TCELC students build a tower out of magnetic tiles*

The TCELC was established to provide early learning opportunities in an area that is experiencing a severe childcare desert. Eighty percent of enrolled children at the TCELC come from low-income working families who qualify for state CCAP subsidy support for childcare. Ongoing delays and underfunding at the state level have disrupted reimbursements, placing

Silver Bay YMCA under increasing financial strain.

Silver Bay YMCA VP of Development and Government Relations Walt Lender explained, "We're excited to receive this grant for the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center. Quality childcare is essential to every community's economy and workforce. Silver Bay's youth development programs support our community and its children. This support from Generous Acts provides critical funding at a time when public funding is uncertain."

Childcare is not the only service the TCELC provides; it also supports working parents, which in return reduces employee turnover, improves attendance and productivity, and helps employers remain competitive in recruiting and retailing staff.

To learn more about the TCELC or to enroll your child, click [HERE](#) or call 518-585-7433. ❑

## TOWN OF PUTNAM PLANNING BOARD, CONT'D,

person and presented more than 160 public comments submitted through the Lake George Association's (LGA) recent Action Alert, [HERE](#), including over 50 from Town of Putnam residents.

Community participation at the meeting was strong. More than 20 individuals spoke, either in person or virtually, with nearly all expressing support for maintaining the Putnam Site Plan Review Law and Putnam Planning Board, while exploring thoughtful improvements.

Following discussion, the Putnam Town Board voted to table the proposal and continue the conversation at a meeting in May.

The LGA appreciates the town board's willingness to listen and consider public input and it recognizes the challenges the town faces. The LGA and the Lake George Waterkeeper remain committed to working collaboratively to support solutions that strengthen local processes while protecting the environment. ❑

## TI FESTIVAL GUILD

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild will host Bluegrass Jam on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6 pm** at the Knights of Columbus Pavilion. Bluegrass Jam presents two North Country duos: Tim Rodrigue and Norm Allen and Keanen Stark and Orion Kribs.

Admission is free; concessions will be available.

Tim Rodrigue and Norm Allen will play an eclectic array of country, soft rock and pop, all through the prism of bluegrass. They have performed at events and venues throughout the region, including Silver Bay's Mountain Music Festival, entertaining audiences with both their song selection and skills on guitar and mandolin.

Keanen Stark and Orion Kribs, known throughout the Adirondacks and the Capital Region, will perform traditional folk and bluegrass with a fun, lively presentation. Caffe Lena from Saratoga Springs has named them as "two of the finest young blues and bluegrass musicians in the capital region, with a throwback sound, charming stage dynamics and lightning-fast licks."

On April 17th, the Ti Festival Guild presented "Spring Sings" with the OK Chorale. Performing before a full house at the Ti Arts Gallery, the a cappella septet performed show tunes and throwback favorites.

For more information, go [HERE](#).



*OK Chorale septet, performing at the Ti Arts Gallery*

## TI ARTS

In May, Ti Arts will be hosting a show of the three prize winners from last year's Juried Art Show: Gary Larsen, Lynda Naske, and Jerry Wein. The show will run from now until **May 23, 2026. Gallery hours are from 10 to 4, Wednesday through Saturday.** The gallery is located at 119 Montcalm St. Ticonderoga, NY.



*Fog on Tupper Lake by Gary Larsen*

*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.*

**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](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org) by the 20th of the preceding month. Please send any comments to [publisher@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:publisher@thehaguechronicle.org) .

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**Layout Editor:** Chris Quinn  
**Secretary:** Pat McDonough

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

## LITTLE LEAGUE MARKS 75TH SEASON

The Ticonderoga Little League will open its 2026 season with a special celebration on **May 1, 2026 and May 2nd**, marking 75 years in the community. Events begin **Friday at 5 pm, with a 5:30 pm** game and continue **Saturday at 9 am** with a full day of activities and baseball.

Friday's opening ceremony will include remarks from Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Matthew Courtright and Little League President Daniel J. Woods, along with other local leaders. Highlights will include a ribbon cutting, the national anthem, a ceremonial first pitch, and the call to "Play Ball."

Family-friendly activities will be offered throughout the weekend including face painting, bounce houses, ice cream, giveaways, corn hole, and anniversary merchandise.

Woods noted the milestone celebrates generations of players, coaches, and volunteers, adding that with 253 players this season, the program remains a strong part of the community.

For more information, contact the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) at 518-585-6619 or visit [www.ticonderogany.com](http://www.ticonderogany.com).

## MASON/STAR DINNER

A public 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 **Friday, May 22, 2026, from 4:30 to 6 pm** at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be available at the door. Parking will be along Montcalm Street and in the Hancock House parking lot.

**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE**

PO Box 748

Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

**MAY 2026**

May 2026

|            |  |             |                |  |
|------------|--|-------------|----------------|--|
| 1          | May issue <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published | 18          | 10 am – 1 pm   | LGLC clean up at Peggy's Point                     |
| 1 and 2    | Ti Little League celebration                   |             | 10 am – 2 pm   | Martucci appts.                                    |
| 1 – May 23 | Ti Arts show                                   | 19          | 12 – 8 pm      | Election Day                                       |
| 4          | Martucci appts.                                |             | 1:30 pm        | Senior Club Mtg.                                   |
| 5          | CINCO DE MAYO                                  |             | 6:30 – 7:30    | Silver Bay Grief Care                              |
|            | 6:30 – 7:30 pm                                 |             | 8:30 pm        | BoE Election Results mtg.                          |
| 6          | 11 am  | 20          | 6 pm           | Deadline for June issue <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> |
|            | Silver Bay Mountain View Grill opens           | 21          | 6 pm           | Hague ZBA mtg.                                     |
| 7          | 10 am  | 22 – 25     |                | Tidy Time at Silver Bay                            |
| 10         | MOTHER'S DAY                                   | 22          | 4:30 – 6 pm    | Mason Star Dinner                                  |
| 11         | 10 am – 2 pm                                   | 23          | 4 pm           | HVFD Chicken Dinner                                |
| 12         | 6 pm   | 24          | 5:30 – 7 pm    | BBQ at Silver Bay                                  |
|            | 6 pm   | Dusk        |                | Fireworks at Silver Bay                            |
|            | 6:30 – 7:30 pm                                 | 25          |                | MEMORIAL DAY (Town offices closed)                 |
| 14         | 10 am  | 25 – June 1 |                | Americade Café                                     |
|            | 6 pm   | 26          | 6:30 – 7:30 pm | Silver Bay Grief Care                              |
| 16         | 9 – 11 am                                      | 27          | 6 pm           | Ti Festival Guild Bluegrass Jam                    |
|            | 4 – 8 pm                                       |             |                |  |

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS:** (Until Memorial Day) Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm  
(After Memorial Day) Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm