

Published Monthly Since 1972 Volume 54 Number 04 www.thehaguechronicle.org

Hague, New York 12836 April 2025

ICE-OUT 2025

by Bobbi Bryant Taylor

On March 23, 2025, Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky told *The Hague Chronicle* that ice-out for 2025 had occurred on **Friday, March 21st.**

So, this year, the lake was frozen from February 5th through March 21st. By

my count, that is 45 days. When the lake does freeze, it is frozen solid for an average of 76 days, so this was 31 days less than the



Photo by Chris Navitsky

average number of days.

Although not an official definition, Navitsky defines "ice-out" as: "When there is no more ice on the lake to prevent boating on the entire lake and if there is no more concern about dock damage."

SHORT-TERM RENTAL UPDATE

by Bobbi Bryant Taylor

In our February issue, I outlined how to comply with the Warren County and Town of Hague Short-Term Rental (STR) laws. My main point was that residents who are renting their properties on a short-term basis MUST now register with Warren County and the Town of Hague or face stiff penalties.

New York State (NYS) has now passed a law requiring all STRs to start paying sales tax as of **March 1, 2025.**

(Continued on p. 3)

NO PROCELLACOR THIS YEAR

According to a recent report in *The Adirondack Explorer*, Dave Wick, executive director of the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC), said he does not plan to pursue another application of the herbicide ProcellaCOR in Lake George this year.

The LGPC plans to work with the Lake George Association (LGA) on an invasive species management plan. The LGA will continue to monitor the ecosystem of the two bays in Lake George's north basin where the LGPC applied ProcellaCOR last June.

STATE OF THE TOWN

by Supervisor Joshua Patchett

The foundation for Hague's success was, is and will always be, dependent on protecting Lake George. Water quality and land conservation need to be at the heart of our focus indefinitely. Protecting the integrity of our community, while simultaneously preserving our affordable housing stock, I also view as non-negotiable priority items for the town. The town is changing and evolving at an alarming rate, with a lot of moving pieces involved that require a delicate balanced approach to achieve our goals. I ask myself often what a successful administration looks like. The answer is subjective, however, there are certain things we must do with excellence, including fiscal responsibility, staff development, and maintaining strong infrastructure.

(Continued on p. 6)

SAC UPDATE

by Jack Bast, Hague SAC Committee Chair

At the Hague Town Hall on March 13, 2025, the Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) provided an update on its activities since its formation in May 2023. Over 75 residents attended, including several from Ticonderoga.

SAC reported key findings in two critical areas: Academic Performance and PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)
Agreements related to energy projects in Ticonderoga.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE CONCERNS:

- The Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) academic performance is not up to expectations.
- Grades three through eight proficiency lags behind New York State (NYS) and some neighboring districts.
- The low high school graduation rate is troubling.

PILOT AGREEMENT ISSUES:

- The TCSD Board of Education (BoE)
 has forfeited up to \$1M annually for
 30 years by missing PILOT
 opportunities.
- Excluding energy project Full Market Values (FMVs) from tax calculations increases Hague's tax burden.

Full details from the meeting are available in these ways:

- Two White Papers and the complete presentation are available on the SAC page of the Hague website HERE.
- Hard copy handouts are available at the Hague Community Center front desk.
- A recording of the meeting is on YouTube HERE (fast forward to 1:55).

(Continued on p. 8)

— 2 — April 2025

SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

We had our first Game Night on March 6, 2025 and it was a good time with a lot of laughs.

Our annual St. Patty's Day Luncheon was on March 13th; it was a smaller group than usual, but we had a good time.









On **April 3rd at 6:30 pm**, we'll have Game Night at my house. Come join in the fun and snacks!

We'll be headed to Chestertown on **April 17th** to Fill-Er-Up Collectibles and then to the ice cream parlor.

Our regular meeting will be on **April 22nd at I:30 pm** to talk about the Memorial Day Parade and setting up tents for the White Elephant Sale and Americade.

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau

The Hague Volunteer Fire
Department (HVFD) ended
the month of February with
four fire calls, four drills, one standby
for Ticonderoga, and four EMS assists
for a total of 86 volunteer hours.

EMS ended the month of February with seven calls and one standby for a total of 45.5 paid and volunteer hours.

We want to thank everyone who made our Polar Plunge and Chili Cook-off successes. The total we gave to the UVM Children's Miracle Network was \$1,220. Thanks to the Trout House Village Resort, Paradox Crafts, Stewart's, Michael Begnoche, Daniel Whitford, and the Town of Hague community for all the support. A special thanks goes to Amie Vradenburg.

There will be an important meeting at the Hague Community Center on **April 2, 2025, at 5:30 pm** to explain some changes that are occurring regarding billing for local ambulance services.

In 2023, a federal law was passed that said that fire departments *could* bill patients for emergency services. NY State did not put the law into effect at that time, but now it has. Due to the law and an increase in call volumes,

changes in protocols, and need for equipment, we have made the decision to go to a system of billing patients for ambulance services. This will help us sustain our ambulance service.

The HVFD is still working out the details, but it is expected that bills for ambulance services will be submitted to the patients' insurance companies and the amount that the insurance companies pay will be all that is required. The money that is collected will only be used for ambulance service recovery costs. Patients should not have to pay anything out of pocket.

We believe that this will shift the burden of payment from taxpayers to insurance companies and that it should reduce the need for taxes on the general public to increase.

In addition to holding the meeting on April 2nd, we will send a letter to each resident of Hague explaining this.

We're excited to announce that we'll be holding our first *Fireman's Chili Cook-off Challenge* on **Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 12 to 5 pm.** We're inviting each department in every fire station to enter. There will be a basket raffle, a 50/50, and a door prize. Please RSVP to 518-543-6059 by April 15th. The entrance fee is by donation and the proceeds will go for new turnout gear for the department.

HAGUE FISH & GAME CLUB EASTER EGG HUNT

The Hague Fish & Game Club will hold an Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 1 pm** at the Hague Volunteer Firehouse. There will be light snacks and juice and opportunities for fun and photos.

✓

LGLC SPRING CLEAN-UP AT PEGGY'S POINT

Community members are encouraged to join the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) for Spring Clean-Up Day at Peggy's Point, 9080 Lake Shore Drive, Hague on **April 8, 2025, from 10 am to 1 pm.**

This beloved two-acre grassy park, donated by the Darrin family and named after Peggy Darrin, has extensive accessible trails and beautiful garden beds. Volunteers are needed to help clear the lawn of debris, weed the gardens, and spruce up the trail paths.

HVFD TOWN SEEK BOAT SLIP

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) and the Town of Hague are looking for a boat slip to house the Hague Fire and EMS boat this season, as water depth has become an issue at its current location.

They hope to find a centrally located slip near the Town of Hague Beach, either for rent or by donation.

Anyone with an available slip is encouraged to contact the HVFD at 518-543-6059 or Town Supervisor Joshua Patchett at 518-543-6161, ext. 12.

— 3 — April 2025

SHORT TERM RENTAL, CONT'D

So, property owners are looking at triple fines and penalties if they do not register NOW.

In a conversation with Hague ZEO Ed Kirchberger on March 20th, he said that he has received very few applications since my February article and that he knows of many people who are, in fact, renting out their homes. His message was clear: "You need to register your STRs. We will find and issue tickets to all who are violating the local law. The procedure is simple; just go on our website, follow directions and be sure not to rent or even advertise available rental dates until you have been issued a permit. Renting without a permit will make you ineligible to rent your STR in the future and advertising available dates without a permit will result in a ticket." He is getting ready to send out a long list of penalties to people who have not yet registered, but are showing available rental dates.

Warren County Treasurer Christine Norton is still offering 2025 as a "Year of Amnesty." If property owners who have been "flying under the radar" and, who have NOT been identified by the county, will come forward now and complete the registration process for Warren County, there will be no fines, penalties, or other consequences. She told me, "If they continue to ignore the law, it will just be a matter of time before their unregistered STR is identified and, starting in 2026, all fines, penalties and other consequences will be applied."

So, I urge property owners to comply with all STR procedures. Yes, it takes a bit of time to complete all the paperwork and it will cost \$300 for three years plus the county and state taxes each year. But, it's the law, you could face severe consequences if you don't, and it's the right thing to do.

Here is the step-by-step process:

- Complete and submit the *Warren County Occupancy Tax Registration Form* found HERE.
- Complete and submit the Warren County Occupancy Tax Return Form found HERE.

- The Warren County Treasurer's Office will then send you three documents:
 - a. Your Certificate of Authorization ("Bed Tax Certificate") with your unique four-digit number.
 - b. A letter explaining the process.
 - c. A blank *Tax Return Form* for you to complete based on when and how you rent your property. Complete and submit it.
- Go HERE and read the information.
 Complete the two-page form and the one-page site layout drawing HERE.
- Send these forms, a check in the amount of \$300 made out to "Town of Hague Zoning Enforcement Office," and the paperwork you received from Warren County to: Hague ZEO Kirchberger, Hague Community Center, 9793 Graphite Mountain Road, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836.
- Call 518-761-6542 between 8 and 10 am M-F to set up an appointment for Warren County Fire Inspector Charles Wallace or his associate, Brian, to inspect your home. You must be present at the inspection.
- After that inspection, call ZEO
 Kirchberger at 518-543-6161 to set
 up an appointment for him to come
 to your property to do a final
 inspection. You must also be present
 at the inspection. He will confirm
 everything you have stated on your
 paperwork and will inform you of
 how many guests may stay in your
 STR property.
- When you are notified that it is ready, pick up your Town of Hague Zoning Compliance Certificate at the Hague Community Center. ONLY THEN MAY YOU ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY FOR RENT OR CONTRACT WITH ANYONE TO RENT IT!
- · According to Kirchberger:
- a. If you advertise available booking dates for your property for rent before you have your permit, you will be fined not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for the first offense; \$500 to \$1,000 for the second offense; and, if you commit a third offense, you will have your STR

permit revoked PERMANENTLY. (You *may* state that you have a property that is "coming available soon.")

- b. If you rent out your property without a permit, you will PERMANENTLY lose the opportunity to rent it, plus, you will be fined.
- If you rent your property privately, when the tenants sign their contracts and pay your fee, you must also collect a 4% Warren County tax and a 7.25% NYS tax.
- Your Occupancy Tax should be mailed to: The Warren County Treasurer, 1340 State Rt. 9 Lake George NY, 12845.
- You can find exact details on how to remit your *NYS Sales Tax* HERE.
- If you rent through a booking platform like AirBnb or VRBO, it will notify the county that you are using its platform and it will collect both the Warren County Occupancy Tax and the NYS Sales Tax (on GROSS revenues) directly from your renters and submit them to the respective agencies.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP AT SILVER BAY

The Spiritual Life Center at Silver Bay YMCA continues to offer GriefShare, a support group that provides a safe and



GriefShare

compassionate space for those navigating the difficult journey of grief. The group is meeting **every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 pm through May 20, 2025,** at the Dance Studio in Fisher Gymnasium.

For additional information, call 518-543-8575. To register, go HERE.

BEST 4TH IN THE NORTH FUNDRAISER

A fundraiser will be held at Maddens Pub on **Saturday**, **April 12**, **2025**, **from 6 to 9 pm**, featuring guest bartenders. All tips will support the Best 4th in the North celebration. Limited food will be available until 8 pm.

— 4 — April 2025

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 2/27/2025

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board Members Chris Richards, Jon Hanna, and Tina Barth-King. Absent was Board Member Chris Navitsky. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, and Tony DeFranco.

PUBLIC HEARING - ZONING ISSUES: BOSCO - 28 FRIENDS POINT SOUTH - VARIANCE REQUEST

The applicant, represented by Tony DeFranco, seeks to construct a new lakeside stone patio and replace timber steps with stone steps. The expanded patio will be permeable. The Planning Board gave a positive recommendation, with notes that native plants should be installed by the stone wall and stairs to strengthen the shoreline buffer, and that the wall must not exceed four feet in height unless another variance is granted.

Zoning issues include:

- Section 160-23 C (1) (g): Development within 100 feet of the lake
- Section 160-50 B (1) (b): Shoreline setback
- Section 160-52 A (1): Wall within 50 feet of the high-water mark

The issue of the wall arose because the plans list it as a "retaining wall," though the proposed structure is a tiered arrangement of boulders with plantings between, serving stormwater and soil retention purposes.

Barth-King questioned the patio size. Bosco said the current patio is too small for a dining table and they're expanding it while replacing the steps. DeFranco confirmed the square footage includes the wall and that native plantings will be added near the wall, stairs, and lakeshore.

A motion was made and seconded to close the public hearing. The vote was passed unanimously. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the application. The motion passed 3-1 (Barth-King).

OTHER BUSINESS

Zoning Enforcement Officer Kirchberger thanked members who attended recent training sessions and announced additional training opportunities coming up. He shared that the Zoning Department has a new email address: zoning@townofhague.gov.

This article was written by Bobbi Bryant Taylor, editor/publisher of The Hague Chronicle, from draft notes written by Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

PLANNING BOARD - 3/6/2025

Present were Chairman Sandra Powell and Board Members Pamela Peterson, Judy Gourley, Alane Vogel, and Henry Friedman. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, and Tim and Karen Costello.

ZONING ISSUES: COSTELLO – 264 SUMMIT DRIVE – SUBDIVISION

Tim and Karen Costello appeared before the board with an application to subdivide their property at 264 Summit Drive (tax map 10-1-3.5), which spans OCII and RC zoning. The proposal is to separate the land into two parcels: Lot A with eight acres containing the residence and barn, and Lot B with sixty-seven acres to be gifted to their son. They explained that the residence will be placed in their son's name with a life lease for themselves.

Board members asked for clarification about survey maps and access to the lots. Tim Costello shared a larger version of the survey and discussed current and potential future access routes. The board confirmed the properties are not on a town sewer, have their own water sources, have established rights of way, and contain no designated wetlands.

A motion was made and seconded to deem the application complete. The vote was passed unanimously.

The board then completed all three parts of the Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) with the applicant and signed the form. In lieu of a site visit, members were advised to use the satellite view on the town's website. A public hearing was scheduled for April 3rd.

OTHER BUSINESS

Board members were reminded to complete four hours of training in 2025, with several recommended sessions available through the New York State Department of State. ZEO Kirchberger distributed updated materials on subdivisions and reported that the zoning reference books will soon be reprinted. Powell emphasized the importance of referencing the town's comprehensive plan and shared that one planning board member is required to serve on the Hague Comprehensive Plan Committee.

The Adirondack Planning Forum will take place on May 8th at the Hotel Saranac. Powell and Vogel plan to attend, pending town board approval of the registration fee.

Powell shared key takeaways from a recent NY Department of State training, including the importance of completing State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) forms and clearly documenting motions and decisions. Going forward, motions will be reviewed at meetings for accuracy.

ZEO Kirchberger outlined a procedure for timely draft and final minutes. Powell reminded the board that site visits are not open meetings and should not involve discussion of applications. She will distribute a land use flow chart and site plan checklist and encouraged board members to consider assisting with SEQR reviews and subdivision applications in the future.

This article was written by Bobbi Bryant Taylor, editor/publisher of The Hague Chronicle, from draft notes written by Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

— 5 — April 2025

TOWN BOARD - 3/11/2025

Present were Board Members Maureen Cherubini, Edna Frasier, Lara Smith, Jack Bast, and Supervisor Josh Patchett. Also present were Erick Sandblom, Bob Holmes, and Deputy Supervisor Sally Rypkema.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

- A Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2025, at 6 pm in the community center.
- A Community and Visitor Center Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025, at 10:30 am in the community center.
- New Employee Announcement: Jessica Tuthill has been contracted as a temporary receptionist at the community center, effective March 7, 2025. She was hired through the Park Temp Agency to fill the temporary front desk position. Her hourly rate and insurance will be paid directly through the temporary agency.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (All are scheduled for April 8th at 6 pm.)

- Cole: 9681 Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map #12.14-1-11
- Voss (tabled from 2-11-25): 9665 Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map #12.14-1-17, Wastewater Variance
- Brady: 9678 Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map #12.14-1-12, Wastewater Variance
- Kornhoff: 9673 Lakeshore Drive, Tax Map #12.14-1-14, Wastewater Variance
- Smith: 17 Oneida Drive, Tax Map #59.20-1-16

REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds/Community

Center/Enhancement: Josh Patchett thanked Sally Rypkema for the redesign and reorganization of the front entryway to the community center.

Highway: Edna Frasier reported that Chad and Tim are replacing parts of the highway building to maintain it, as a new building is not in the budget.

Personnel: The town has contracted with temporary front desk clerk Jessica Tuthill, effective March 7, 2025. Marcelo Maltese has been hired for Saturdays at the Transfer Station.

Planning: Edna Frasier received a report from the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Recreation, Promotion, and Youth: Desiree LaPointe can no longer lead the Memorial Day Parade Committee. The town is seeking a replacement to ensure that the parade happens. Desiree attended a Warren County Youth Meeting.

Technology and Communications: Town offices are transitioning emails to @HagueNY.gov and migrating to Microsoft 365.

School Advisory Committee: A town hall meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2025, at 6 pm to inform and engage the community. Handouts, including White Papers,

will be available. The town is seeking a candidate to run for a position on the Ticonderoga School Board of Education.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motions were made, seconded, and approved to:

- Hire Marcelo Maltese to work Saturdays at the Transfer Center, effective March 8, 2025, at a rate of \$18 per hour.
- Appoint Peter Maltese as Transfer Center Manager, effective April 1, 2025.
- Approve the Hague Senior Citizen Club's use of the Hague Visitor Center for storage from April 16th through May 24th, for their annual fundraiser. (Cherubini abstained.)
- Approve the Hague Senior Citizen Club's use of the Hague Visitor Center from May 25th through June 2nd for the Senior View Café fundraiser. (Cherubini abstained.)
- Approve that Lakeside Regional Church hold an Easter Egg Hunt at the community center on April 20th.
- Approve that Kim Coffin and Amanda Peterson attend the Town Clerk Association Conference.
- Approve that Animal Control Officer Brad May attend mandatory training.

RESOLUTIONS:

Motions were made, seconded, and approved:

- To amend vacant lot fees for Sewer Districts 1 and 2.
- For adjustments to Sewer Districts 1 and 2 Warrant.
- For the collection of Sewer Districts 1 and 2 user fees, capital cost, and interest fees for 2025.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

- Josh Patchett highlighted the need for a boat slip for the fireboat, either rented or donated. Those interested should contact the community center.
- Amanda Peterson announced the Clothing Swap at the community center on Saturday, June 7th. Community members can donate gently used clothing for the event. Participation does not require a donation and everyone is invited to pick out clothes and socialize.
- Pat Hintze raised concerns about dredging a settlement pond on West Hague Road. Lara Smith noted that the county or state is aware of the issue but has postponed the project.

The next Hague Town Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 8th, at 6 pm.**

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.

— 6 — April 2025

STATE OF THE TOWN, CONT'D

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

In January of 2024, when I took office as your town supervisor, I also became the Chief Fiscal Officer for the town. One of my first actions was to develop an investment strategy, as I realized that we were missing out on approximately \$200,000 in interest annually, based on interest rates at the time for our \$5,000,000 of investable funds. I set up a meeting with our bank and was able to negotiate a \$55,000 retroactive interest credit. Although this was a small amount relative to what we had missed out on, it was a step in the right direction. I then put almost all our investable funds into high-yield MMDA (money market deposit accounts), and we are now actively depositing funds in CDs. Our annual yield now is around \$200,000 based on current rates. I have consulted with qualified financial advisors to ensure our strategy is sound.

ZERO TOWN TAX COMMITMENT

Maintaining our long-standing tradition of no town tax requires strategic fund management. My budget analysis confirms that continued creative investment of our fund balance is essential. I encourage residents to hold me and future supervisors accountable for maintaining sound fiscal policies to sustain this commitment.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Restructured staff responsibilities and hired skilled personnel.
- Implemented a cost-saving health

insurance plan benefiting employees and the town.

- Passed a short-term rental law to protect affordable housing and community character.
- Secured \$40,000 in grant funding.
- Earned the designation of a certified pro-housing community, enhancing future grant opportunities.
- Revamped the town food pantry with generous community support.
- Partnered with the Lake George Association to address sediment issues in the Hague Brook delta.
- Engaged the Warren County Planning Department to assist in securing funding for a new salt shed.
- Initiated updates to the Hague Comprehensive Plan and planning for the new Community/Visitors Center, with a spring presentation scheduled.

GRANTS: SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PURSUITS

While we secured \$40,000 in grants, three applications were unsuccessful. We are actively refining our approach to increase future success rates.

SCHOOL ADVOCACY

I actively support the Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) and its mission to advocate for quality education in Hague, Ticonderoga, and Putnam. I believe the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) Board of Education (BoE) should live-stream meetings for accessibility and hold periodic sessions in Hague, given our 56% financial contribution to the district. Additionally, the superintendent should present the annual budget in Hague, and the BoE must ensure fair school tax apportionment, where they have both the discretion and authority to make limited adjustments.

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMS

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) and EMS face financial and membership challenges. My analysis confirms that the HVFD is underfunded compared to similar towns. Some municipalities offer volunteer incentives like the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) to aid recruitment and retention. I encourage residents to attend the HVFD-hosted meeting that will be on **April 2**, at 5:30 pm at the community center to learn more.

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

The Hague Town Board must ensure financial responsibility while addressing infrastructure needs, including:

- Highway Department Building: Upgrades needed as a priority.
- Community/Visitors Center:
 Necessary improvements must be planned with funding considerations.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Our progress is only possible through teamwork. I appreciate my fellow board members, town employees, and the many dedicated residents of Hague. The key to success is not just the task itself — it is working together effectively and building lasting, respectful relationships.

Sincerely,
Town of Hague Supervisor
Joshua Patchett



Photo courtesy of Chris Navitsky

— 7 — April 2025

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Joan T. Jacoby, 94, of Silver Bay and Penney Farms, FL.

Born in Manchester, NH, Joan met her future husband, Walter, at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference Center when she was 15. They married in 1952.



She received her BA in Sociology from Drew University and then worked as a hospital social worker. They raised four children while Walt's YMCA career led them to NY, NJ, OH, WV, and Beirut, Lebanon.

Joan and Walter lived at Silver Bay from 1979 – 1985, when he was the director of Silver Bay YMCA.

Joan lived a life of service. For 65 years, she was a loving and dedicated wife and partner in her husband's career. She was a Girl Scout leader for several years. While in Lebanon, she frequently hosted YMCA volunteers, providing them with a home and support.

When they moved back to the states, Joan worked to support unwed pregnant teens as a house mother, a driver, and an informal counselor.

She also volunteered for Planned Parenthood for many years. She was an EMT when she lived in NY. She was the consummate hostess, always welcoming whomever her husband or children invited home.

Joan and Walt joined Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, FL in 1999. Joan became a "super volunteer," serving meals to assisted-living residents, painting hand-operated carts with Mobility Worldwide (PET), helping others with their taxes, serving as the chairperson for the annual CROP walk, and serving as a volunteer coordinator at the Fitness Center.

When Walt died in 2017, Joan missed one week of volunteering and then was right back to her regular activities. Joan was well known for hosting social hours for friends and newcomers.

Family was very important to Joan. She was an amazing, supportive mother and grandmother. She and Walt enjoyed camping, bicycling, sailing, and traveling with family and long-term friends. They also had a lifelong love of playing games, especially bridge.

Joan and Walt had a passion for traveling and learning about other cultures. They traveled to over 30 countries on five continents, often with family and friends. They organized and led YMCA cultural exchange trips to China.

Friends and family described Joan as very social, caring, and determined, noting that she was always reaching out to others and always welcomed friends and family into her home.

Joan was predeceased by her husband, her parents, and her sister, Carol.

She is survived by her: four children, Susan Jacoby (Susan Baumgardner), Gail Orser (Dave), Nancy Aman (James), and Russell Jacoby (Barbara Buchanan); five grandchildren, Christopher Jacoby (Zoelle Egner), Matthew Jacoby, Joshua Aman, Timothy Aman, Beth Aman (Mikael Ellingson); great-granddaughter, Anieve Jacoby; brothers, Norman and Donald; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held at Penney Farms in February. Interment will be in New York this summer.

In lieu of flowers please consider remembering Joan by donating to Mobility Worldwide (PET) HERE or the Penney Farms CROP Hunger Walk HERE.

SILVER BAY HAPPENINGS

Here are a few upcoming events at Silver Bay YMCA:



- April 4, 2025, 8 to 9:30 am:
 Prayer Breakfast in the William
 Boyd Center Dining Room
- April 5th and April 12th, 9 am to 4 pm: Printmaking Workshop
- April 11th, 7 to 9 pm: Paint and Sip
- April 25th, 7 to 9 pm: Ceramic Paint and Sip
- April 19th and 26th, 9 am to 4 pm: Stained Glass Workshop (for beginners)

SILVER BAY AWARDED GRANT

The Charles R. Wood Foundation has selected Silver Bay YMCA as a recipient for a \$5,000 grant for its Ticonderoga Teen Center program.

Silver Bay YMCA Education Director Jackie Palandrani explained, "The Silver Bay YMCA Ticonderoga Teen Center plays a vital role in our community by offering teens a fun and secure space to connect each day. Here, they receive homework support, learn valuable life skills like cooking,



Photo by Silver Bay YMCA; Teen center participants cooking enchiladas with Silver Bay Food and Beverage Director Anthony Basile

and have the opportunity to meet new people, all while growing in a safe and welcoming environment."

To learn more, visit silverbay.org HERE or follow the Teen Center on Facebook at Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center − Ticonderoga.

☐

— 8 — April 2025

SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATES

by Bobbi Bryant Taylor

The final phase of Brianna's Law requires that ALL motorized boat operators in New York State, *regardless of age*, must have a safe boating certificate in the boat with them. The certificate can be earned in face-to-face or online courses. Click HERE to locate the best option for you.

There are 11 different online courses offered. Detailed descriptions of each are on the above website. I chose **Aceboater.** Even though I have been boating on Lake George since I was nine years old, I found the information in this course to be interesting and important. Some of it was new to me; some of it was a review from when I took *Make Sure, Make Shore* when I was in my teens. (Maybe you took that too?)

I found **Aceboater** to be generally easy to understand, although there were a few diagrams and questions I found to be somewhat ambiguous.

Most of these courses say they can be completed in "about three hours." Don't you believe it! I spent more than four times that on it. But, then, my dad's mantra was "If you're gonna do it, do it right!" So, I did.

I also did not want to have to retake the whole course if I failed it!

TICONDEROGA CENTRAL SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

The following calendar has been approved by the Ticonderoga Central School District Board of Ed.

First Day for Students — Sept. 4 Last Day for Students — June 26 Parent/Teacher Conferences — Nov. 24 and 25 (Students no school)

School will NOT be in session:

October 13

November 11, 26 - 28

December 22 - 31

January 1 - 2, 19

February 16 - 20

April 6 - 10

May 25

June 19, 29 - 30

SAC UPDATE, CONT'D

The SAC urged parents, community members, and business leaders to engage in and to **demand accountability** from the BoE and so

accountability from the BoE and school leadership. Hague seeks inclusion in future PILOT agreements and proper tax apportionment calculations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 18, 2025 BOE MEETING:

- An early-stage 2025-2026 Budget was briefly discussed.
- Public comments were restricted to two minutes and immediate answers might not be provided.
- Despite prior awareness, the BoE did not directly address the SAC's March 13th findings.
- Peter Carney's PILOT concerns and Sandra Smith's questions went unanswered, but responses were promised in the future.

 Josh Patchett invited the BoE to Hague in May for a budget presentation, as has been done in the past.

See the Sun Community News article by Shaundra Bartlett Yaw published on March 26th HERE.

KEY DATES:

- April 15th: Next BoE meeting Final budget adoption. Hague needs strong attendance!
- April 21st: BoE candidate petitions due – Hague needs representation!
- May 20th: Budget vote and BoE election

Let's stay engaged and advocate for our schools and community!

REMINDER: All Hague parents with children in TCSD are strongly urged to promptly return the Parent Survey they received from the SAC!

BESTE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2025

This year, we have five students who will receive our Beste Scholarship Awards:

Nicholas Fitzgerald: Nicholas is in his final year at Johns Hopkins University in the Museum Studies Master's Program, after receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire. He is the son of Martin and Heidi Fitzgerald.

Quentin Gargan: Quentin is in his second year at the University at Buffalo, majoring in Management/ Accounting. He is the son of Thomas Gargan.

Madalynn Hubbard: Madalynn is a third-year student at SUNY Cortland. She is majoring in Fitness Development. She is the daughter of Ellen Hubbard.

Sofie Hubbard: Sofie is a first-year student at Bryant University. She is majoring in Business/Marketing. She is also the daughter of Ellen Hubbard.

Nevaeh Trudeau: Nevaeh is in her third year at SUNY Adirondack. She is majoring

in Business Administration. She is the daughter of Lindsey Smith.

We congratulate all of our award recipients on their continuing achievements. Best of luck from the Hague community as you go forward!

Many thanks also to those who have continued to support the scholarship fund with donations over the years. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to: "Beste Scholarship Fund" and send to Kathy Santaniello, 14 Braisted Hill Road, Silver Bay, NY 12874.













— 9 **—** April 2025

NOTICE CONCERNING THE EXAMINATION OF ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND VALUATION DATA

(Pursuant to section 501 of the real property tax law)

Notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data is the information which will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel which will appear on the Tentative Assessment Roll for the Town of Hague, which will be filed on or before May 1, 2025.

The information may be reviewed, by appointment, in the Assessor's Office at the Hague Community Center on April 2nd, 7th and 9th, 2025, between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm.

An appointment to review the assessment information may be made by telephoning the assessor at 518-543-6161.

Dated the first day of April, 2025.

David Martucci Sole Assessor, Town of Hague

NOTE: Sole Assessor Martucci can do telephone appointments. If you're interested in this option, send the documents you would like for Martucci to review to the Assessor's Clerk, Amanda Peterson, at Assessor@HagueNY.gov. She will set up the time for your telephone appointment.

HAGUE FISH & GAME CLUB ICE FISHING DERBY

by Bobbie Jean Fish

What a weekend we had! We want to thank all who came and supported our ice fishing derby!

Here are the winners:

Salmon: (only one caught) Burke Collins/3.1 lbs.

Northern Pike:

1st: Dave Woodward/12.4 lbs. 2nd:Jeff Houes/8.7 lbs. 3rd: Pat Collins/8.0 lbs.

Lake Trout:

1st: Brendon Rounds/9.3 lbs. 2nd: Nick Geleta/7.5 lbs. (The tie went to the longer one.) 3rd: Connor Cleveland/7.5 lbs.





(He donated his winnings to the club! Thank you!)

Perch:

1st: Allen Moore/1 lb. 4.5 oz. 2nd: Eugene Barnaby/1 lb. 1.5 oz.

3rd: Tyler Trombley /1 lb.

This is an especially wonderful experience for the junior fishermen as they learn a new skill and benefit from our generous sponsors.

Until next time, friends!

LGA LAKE PROTECTOR **SUMMIT ON MAY 15**

The Lake George Association (LGA) will hold its annual Lake Protector Summit on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 1 to **4 pm** at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lake George Village. The event is free and open to the public. It will be an afternoon of learning about the LGA's Science-to-Solutions approach to lake protection and how you can have a direct impact on the health of Lake George.

Dr. Kevin Rose, acting director of the Darrin Fresh Water Institute and director of the lefferson Project, will provide an update on the Jefferson Project, followed by LGA's Executive Director Dr. Brendan Wiltse, who will discuss ways that you, as an individual, can take action to protect Lake George.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be networking and an open bar immediately following the event.

LATEST LGA PODCAST **COVERS INVASIVE SPECIES**

In its latest podcast, the Lake George Association (LGA) welcomes Tammara Van Ryn, recently retired Director of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and an expert in invasive species management in the Adirondacks.

Tammara shares her passion for protecting the region's natural landscapes and discusses the challenges posed by invasive species, particularly the notorious hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).

Click HERE for the entire series of LGA podcasts, which are on a wide variety of topics.

Don't forget to subscribe and leave a review!

HAIKU

by dl mattila

the dawn chorus grows louder and louder lengthening days

— 10 — April 2025

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel, president of the Hague Historical Society

The Hague Historical Society's spring 2025 newsletter, which was published in mid-March, contains articles about ice harvesting before the days of refrigeration, ice harness racing in the early 20th century, and how tourists traveled to Hague before there was a road over Tongue Mountain.

In addition, Shelly Denno Gautreau shares her fun and fascinating memories of growing up in Hague in the 50s and 60s.

To subscribe, simply send an email to haguehistorical@gmail.com with your

request. Include your name, email address, and mailing address. By subscribing, you'll not only learn about Hague's history, but will also be kept informed about upcoming events.

One of those is this year's blockbuster museum exhibit and presentation, which will cover the bars and hotels located on the site across from today's town park in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Charles and Marg Burgey, proprietors of the Beachside Hotel (location of The Cave) from the 1940s -1979.

The most legendary of these was, without a doubt, the iconic Cave, a bar located below the Beachside Hotel. We have collected numerous stories from those who remember many a fine evening spent within those walls. We also have artifacts and photos, as well as a timeline of the inns and taverns that occupied the site throughout history.

In addition, we are putting together a list of bartenders across the years. If you or someone you know tended bar in the Cave, be sure to let us know by sending an email



Photo of historical marker by Mary Behr

(<u>haguehistorical@gmail.com</u>). That's also the address to use if you have stories to share from those glory days. Discretion is guaranteed!

Our 2025 museum exhibit in the Hague Community Center will open in June. And be sure to mark your calendar for our annual meeting to be held in the community center on **Wednesday**, **June 25**, **2025**, **at 7 pm**. We'll be relating the history of the various establishments on this site and sharing stories from more recent times. We anticipate that some of those in the audience will be inspired to relate their own tales from the Cave. You'll want to be sure to attend. After all, you may need to offer corrections or enhancements to the tales being told. This will be an interactive event that will surely be the talk of the town for years to come!

LGLC HIKE-A-THON

The Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) 13th annual Hike-A-Thon will be held on **Saturday**, **July 5**, **2025**. This event showcases LGLC's parks and preserves as free public resources.

Hikes range from short, easy adventures to more challenging ones. About half of the hikes have already filled up, but there are still available slots in the other ones.

This is a great way to show your appreciation for the outdoors and help protect the land that protects the lake. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information and to register.

LGLC PROTECTS 27 ACRES IN HAGUE

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has permanently protected a 27-acre property in Hague that stretches one mile along NYS Route 9N from Forest Bay to the south end of Friends Point.

Dubbed the Forest Friends Mile, the roadside land provides a healthy-forested buffer between the road and the adjoining timberland, protecting water quality and the scenic beauty of the area. The property also connects to a 288-acre property protected by a conservation easement held by the LGLC, extending the benefits of interconnected areas of natural habitat.

This protection project was completed thanks to generous members of the Forest Bay and Friends Point communities who responded to a matching donation offered by a neighbor.

"This project is a great example of neighbors partnering with the LGLC to protect land that protects the future of Lake George," said LGLC Executive Director Mike Horn. "We are grateful for their foresight and commitment to protecting the forested character of the community for future generations."

Because of its proximity to Route 9N and lack of parking, this land will not be open to the public for recreation or hunting.

— 11 — April 2025

LOOKING BACK

by Hague Historical Society Board Members Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

EXCERPTS FROM THE HAGUE CHRONICLE FROM APRIL 1975 (50 YEARS AGO):

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. West was in charge of the program. It was built around the first minute books of the Town of Hague and covered official acts of the town from April 6, 1807 when the Town of Rochester was created by an act of the state legislature, until 1820. Previously the area had been a part of the Town of Bolton. On April 6, 1808 the name of the town was changed to Hague for reasons no one seems to know.

William Cook appears to be the first supervisor, with Uriah Balcom, Town Clerk, with Issac Balcom and Noah Woodward, assessors. Others who appear to have been leaders of the community were Samuel Patchin, John Holman and Elijah Bailey. Seventeen townsmen were listed as competent to serve as jurors. Some of the more interesting positions which the Board filled were "poormasters" who were assigned to look after the poor in the town; a "poundmaster" appointed to impound horses and other animals which may have strayed; and "fenceviewers" appointed to see that fences along roadways were adequate and built according to law.

The first act of the Town made it unlawful for hogs, horses and sheep, but not cattle, to run at large. In these early days it was the responsibility of persons whose property abutted on roadways to keep them in repair and the Board established "beats" and assigned them to specific persons to keep them in repair. At the town meeting in 1808 a motion to raise \$30 for town expenses for the year was carried.

In the 1808 minutes an agreement is reproduced wherein the Overseers of the Poor, Nathan Taylor and Caleb Balcom, by and with the consent of the justices of the peace, Reuben Smith and James Eare, have "put and placed Harvey Gray, a poor child of the age of one" as apprentice to John Holman until he "shall accomplish his full age of twenty-one years". During this time, Holman will "instruct the apprentice in the art and trade of agriculture" and shall "provide him with sufficient meat, drink, and apparel and lodging and shall also teach him to read and write". At the expiration of the term he was required to give him a Bible and was also "to

see that he did not become a charge on the town". (Harvey Gray seems to have done it all right. He is listed in the 1855 census as the owner of a 250 acre farm with 20 cows and 2 working oxen.)

In 1909 (1809, correction by S.G.) it was decided that \$20 was enough to raise for poor money. A bounty of \$5 was placed on wolves "until there are three wolves killed and no bounty on any more". One cent was required to be paid on each sheep and six cents on each swine that was found on the common or highway. Four years later these fines were raised to 6 cents for each sheep and 12 ½ cents for each swine.

The relationship between the town and the school is not entirely clear. However, in 1813 the sum of \$30 was voted for the support of common schools and John Holman, John Hayford and William Cook were elected school commissioners. In 1819 the amount raised for schools was \$60. At the annual meeting in 1820 it was agreed that the same sum be raised for support of common schools "as shall be received from the school fund the ensuing year". This looks like the beginning of revenue sharing or matching grants.

There is much more material on Hague's early days and from time to time we will relate parts of it to you.

50 YEARS LATER:

Within *The History of Warren County* (edited by H.P. Smith) is a section containing the "1885 History of the Town of Hague." Page 562 has this notation by H.P. Smith: "The town records of Hague up to 1822 have unhappily been lost".

However, the records were recovered on October 10, 2021 under a pile of stuff in an old shed/barn. They were turned in to the NYS Library and then transferred to the NYS Archives. After that, they were turned over to Town of Hague Clerk Debbie Manning and a receipt was signed by her. There are microfilmed pages of those minutes.

Mr. West had full knowledge of those minutes in 1975 when he gave his lengthy presentation. How did he possess that information? Were the records discovered in his barn?

This is a mystery that we, at the Hague Historical Society, would love to answer. Anyone who has information to share with us about this, please do so. Thank you!

SPRING JOB AND CAREER FAIR

On **Wednesday, April 9, 2025, from 4 to 7 pm,** the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) and North Country Community College (NCCC) will sponsor the Spring Job and Career Fair at the NCCC Ticonderoga campus. It is open to the public and there will be door prizes as well as complimentary refreshments.

Attendees will be able to:

- Visit with Ticonderoga area employers.
- Schedule interviews (possibly onsite).

- Learn about area job and career opportunities.
- Check out the virtual reality learning and career exploration headsets provided by the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL).
- Participate in a speed interview session at 5 pm. (Pre-registration is required (email HERE or call Megan at 518-585-6619.)
- Take advantage of local and regional resources.
- Explore degree program options at NCCC.

— 12 — April 2025

TI NATURAL FOODS CO-OP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Ti Natural Foods Co-op is expanding with a \$376,000 grant from New York State (NYS), but must raise an additional \$253,000 to access the funds. Early supporters have contributed nearly \$150,317, bringing the campaign to more than half its goal.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Downtown Ticonderoga: Renovations will attract shoppers and boost the local economy.
- Regional Farmers and Producers:
 Over half of the inventory is locally sourced, supporting a stronger food system.
- Community Health: A commercial kitchen will expand healthy, prepared food options.
- Environmental Benefits: New energy-efficient equipment will lower the co-op's carbon footprint, and expanded bulk offerings will reduce plastic waste.

HOW FUNDS WILL HELP:

- · A welcoming storefront
- · Expanded cafe seating
- A commercial kitchen for fresh meals
- New refrigeration for energy savings
- Improved access from the back parking lot
- Competitive wages and benefits for staff

CO-OP IMPACT:

- Store-prepared healthy foods sell out quickly.
- A growing, trained staff supports operations.

• SNAP recipients benefit from the Double Up Food Bucks Program.

- Local favorites like Crown Point
 Farm and Dairy cheese curds and
 Trigo Bakery breads expand product selection.
- Cooking classes bring the community together.
- The Register Round Up Program supports local partners.

HOW TO HELP:

Visit our website's capital campaign page <u>HERE</u> for details.

Contact the co-op at 518-558-1414 or Board President Dawn Karlson at 860-874-6325.

LARCH PRESENTATION ON THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Lower Adirondack Regional Center for History (LARCH) is in the midst of presenting "The American Revolution," a series of free lunchtime learning programs about how the American nation was made.

The programs are on Wednesdays, from 1 to 2 pm; the last one will be on April 30, 2025.

Attendees can come to all or some of the programs. The programs will be held in the lower-level program room of the Hancock House Museum.

Participants should bring a brown bag lunch.

These programs are a Teaching Company Survey of the American Revolution from Lexington and Concord in April 1775 to the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The presenter is Professor Allen C. Guelzo of Gettysburg College.

SUPPORTING *THE HAGUE CHRONICLE*: You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time **HERE**. Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, McDonough, Schaffer, (see below) and Paul Budd.

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

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

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

The following topics will be discussed:

- What were the military forces of the revolution like?
- What were the major campaigns of the revolution?
- Who were the leaders of the revolution?

For more information, call 518-585-7868.

TI ARTS DOWNTOWN GALLERY

The Ti Arts Downtown Gallery will display the work of Ticonderoga Middle and High School students from **April 3 to April 26, 2025,** on Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. The opening reception will be on **Thursday, April 3rd, from 4 to 6 pm**. The art gallery is located at <u>119 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga</u>.

Britney Shaw, the art teacher, shared, "The student's art showcases a variety of art styles and concepts that have been covered over the course of the year in class. Students are given a lot of freedom in my classes to foster their creativity. This independence allows students to develop their own personal styles and interests as they work. Everyone worked hard all year and they are so excited to put their art on display for the community to see. I am proud of them and the level of work they have achieved this year."

MASON STAR DINNER

A public pork loin dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A. M., and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be open to the public on Monday, April 28, 2025, 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.

- 13 - April 2025

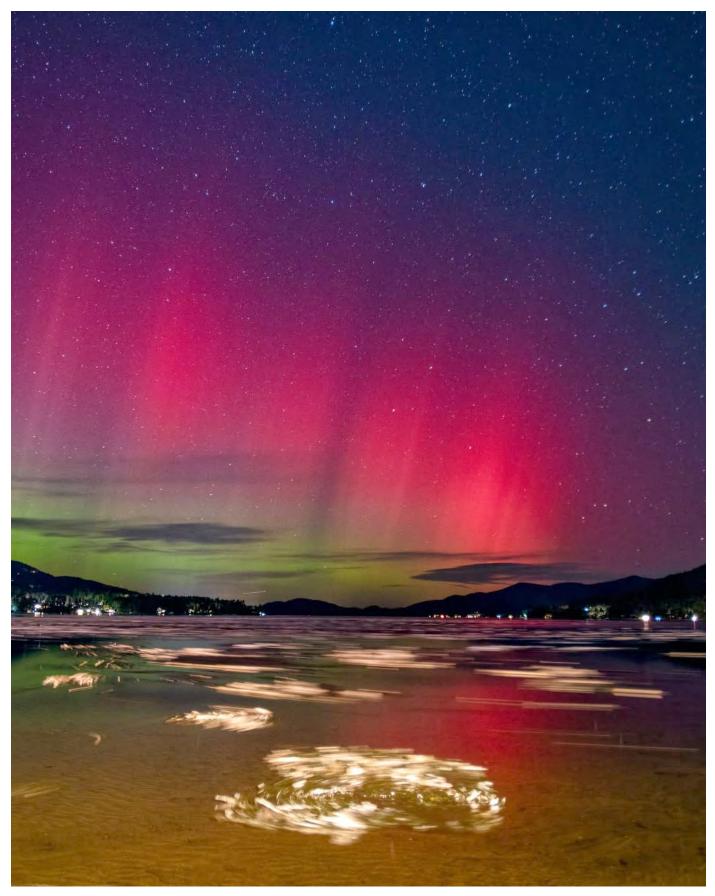


Photo courtesy of Luke Dow Photography, taken from the Lake George Village area on March 21, 2025.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748

Hague, New York 12836-0748





ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

APRIL 2025 CALENDAR

1		April <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published APRIL FOOL'S DAY	15	6 – 9 pm	Best 4th fundraiser TCSD BoE Meeting
	6:30 – 8 pm	GriefShare		6:30 – 8 pm	GriefShare
2	10 am – 2 pm	Assessor's office hours	16	1 – 2 pm	LARCH presentation
	1 – 2 pm	LARCH presentation	19	9am – 4 pm	Stained Glass
	5:30 pm	HVFD town hall meeting	20		EASTER SUNDAY
3	4 – 6 pm	Opening Reception at Ti Arts (show runs		6 pm	Deadline: May issue of The Hague Chronicle
		April 3rd - 26th)	21		EASTER MONDAY
	6 pm	Hague Planning Board Meeting			TCSD BoE Candidate Petitions due
5	9 am – 4 pm	Printmaking	22	1:30 pm	Seniors Meeting
7	10 am – 2 pm	Assessor's office hours		6:30 – 8 pm	GriefShare
8	10 am – 1 pm	Peggy's Point Clean-up	23	1 – 2 pm	LARCH presentation
	6 pm	Hague Town Board Meeting	24	6 pm	Hague Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
	6:30 – 8 pm	GriefShare	25	7 – 9 pm	Ceramic Paint and Sip
9	10 am – 2 pm	Assessor's office hours	26	9 am – 4 pm	Stained Glass
	1 – 2 pm	LARCH presentation		12 – 5 pm	Firemen's Chili Cook-off Challenge
	4 – 7 pm	Spring Job and Career Fair	28	4:30 – 6 pm	Mason Star Pork Dinner
11	7 – 9 pm	Paint and Sip	29	6:30 – 8 pm	GriefShare
12	9 am – 4 pm	Printmaking	30	1 – 2 pm	LARCH presentation
	1 pm	Hague Fish & Game Easter Egg Hunt			

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