



# THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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November 2019

## NO WAY TO LEAVE TOWN

by Kim Coffin

On Friday, November 1, 2019, I thought to myself, "What a good rainy day to stay home from work and get some chores done." Then, to my surprise, after my son said he had no way to leave town to get to work besides

traveling through Ticonderoga and Whitehall, and after hearing lots of chatter on the Internet, I decided to go explore for myself.

To my disbelief, there really was NO WAY to leave town! I traveled each main and back road and all I found was very upsetting scenery. Not only did each road contain sinkholes, flooding, or

downed trees, so did most of our neighbors' driveways and yards. It was a very sad sight, to say the least!

After a couple of hours of exploring, I returned home, only to find we still had no power. I reflected on my travels and the fact that there really was no way to leave town.

The one image I captured vividly in my mind was the people of our community coming together in our time of need. Town employees, town fire and ems, local businessmen and women, as well as the people who live here, all pulling together so we could find a way to leave town...only because we need to. That is one photo I wish I could share.



*Top, left to right: Hague Brook along Rt 8, looking west; Bridge on Rt. 8 out; Middle, left to right: Sink hole along Rt. 8; New Hague Road; Bottom, left to right: Swath of highway washed away; Sinkhole at Hague Brook; Photos courtesy of Sandy Powell, Kim and Matt Coffin and Tony DeFranco*



## TOWN OF HAGUE ELECTION RESULTS

**Town Supervisor:** Edna Fraser (incumbent, Republican) won over Josh Patchett (Independent and supported by Democrats). The vote count was 192-113.

**Town Clerk:** Melissa Patchett (running on both Republican and Democratic lines) ran unopposed and got 253 votes.

**Town Council:** Steve Ramant and Jack Bast, both Republicans, ran unopposed and won.

**Highway Superintendent:** Don Smith retained his position

## SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

We had a fun Halloween party with a 1950's theme, good music, and delicious food. Prizes went to: First - Barbara Smith and Michelle Holman; Second - Maddie Pelkey; and Third - Kathi Ramant.

Our regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19th because of Thanksgiving. We'll play bingo, so please bring a prize.

Then, on Thursday, November 21st, we'll head to the Christmas Tree Shop in Vermont.

The cost of this year's Senior Christmas Party will be \$10 per person; you must sign up and get your money to Gladys Graser no later than the 19th of November. The party will be on Tuesday, December 3rd at noon at the Hague Volunteer Fire Department. It will be a great way to start your holiday season!

On Saturday, December 7th, at 10 am, we'll be going to Lake George Village for the Christkindlmarkt. Sign-ups must be made at the meeting on November 19th. ❑



Seniors enjoying this year's Halloween party



## HVFD

by Meg Haskell

For October, we had 20 fire calls and ten EMS calls, using 192.5 volunteer hours. We continue to have drills every Tuesday night.

As the weather turns colder, we will be putting our fire boat up for the winter. We are expecting delivery of our new fire truck this week.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Election Day Luncheon and our Veterans Day Reception. Once again Katy and Linda served delicious meals! ❑



## OSTEOBUSTERS

The participants in the Osteobusters fitness program have reported improved health and a positive experience. With some of the folks away for the winter, there are openings in the program. Organizer Claire Best encourages new participants to join the group on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 - 11 am. There is no fee and everyone is welcome! ❑

## VETERANS DAY MEMORIAL

by Bob Whitaker

On Monday morning, November 11, 2019, with cold temperatures and impending snow, over 60 Hague residents gathered at Hague Veterans Park for a ceremony to celebrate all the veterans who had served in the Armed Forces and particularly those who had passed away since last Veterans Day. As this is the 75th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, we remembered, especially, the 12 million Americans who served in World War II.

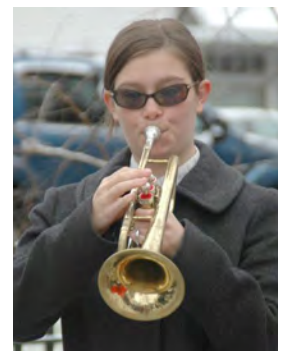
Hague resident Jim O'Toole, who has organized the event for many years, led the ceremony, which included participation from Steve Ramant, Bruce Tamlyn, Edna Frasier, the Girl Scout Troop 3240, and a moving playing of TAPS by Gayleen Tyler.

All those who had served and those with family members who are currently on active duty were recognized for their service. The ceremony also remembered those from Hague, full time or seasonal, who have passed away in the past year. This year, there were eight such individuals: Spear Johnson, Bill Pelkey, Jim Neal, John Barber, Jim McKee, Dick Mattison, Bill McFeely, and Betty McGuire.

Family members of those who have passed participated by joining Jim O'Toole in the laying of the memorial wreath.

The ceremony was a moving tribute to those who have protected our freedom.

Jim O'Toole's remarks were inspirational and on point. To read the entire text of his remarks, click [here](#). ❑



Hague veterans honored; Jim O'Toole, veteran, organizer, emcee, and speaker; Gayleen Tyler playing TAPS - Photos courtesy of Seddon Beaty and Bob Whitaker

## WELLS WINS ROTARY CANOE

Walt Wells of Hague won the Northern Lake George Rotary Hornbeck canoe raffle in the drawing at Bolton Landing's Oktoberfest Celebration.



*Walt Wells receiving canoe paddles from Rotary President Gil Engler*

The Rotary thanks all who bought raffle tickets and helped to support its community service. ▣

## HAGUE MEMORY TREE

It is time for donations to the Hague Memory Tree, which will be put up in the Community Center.

A memorial donation of \$1 per person is requested for those whose names you would like to see on the tree.

Checks should be made payable to the Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) and mailed to: Town of Hague Memory Tree, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836. Donations can also be given directly to Diane Trudeau or Bertha Dunsmore at the Community Center.

This tradition was started by Diane's mother, Imogene Frasier, in memory of her son, Dale, and benefits the HVFD. ▣

## LETTER FROM LAKE STEWARDSHIP GROUP OF CLEVERDALE

*by Al Rider*

The Lake Stewardship Group of Cleverdale has written a letter to Chairman Bruce Young and the Commissioners of the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) that I, as chairman of the Hague Water Quality Awareness Committee, feel is "spot on."

The Cleverdale letter emphasizes three areas of concern:

### **Pollution –**

To address pollution, they want lakewide septic inspections. Since the LGPC is chartered to "protect the waters of Lake George," the folks in Cleverdale believe it should be encouraged to do more than just boat and dock regulations.

### **Regulations and Safety –**

They would like to see the LGPC limit the size of boats on Lake George.

### **Invasives –**

They would like to see a recommendation for a lakewide task force to deal with invasives.

Please consider how important the water quality of our lake is. The time is now to take action if we are to stop the decline in water quality! "It's all about the lake." ▣

## HOLIDAY IN HAGUE

On Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 2 – 4 pm, folks in Hague will again celebrate Holiday in Hague. There will be a tree-decorating contest, to be judged at noon. If you wish to enter, call Katy Wells at 518-543-3020 now. The parade will begin at 2 pm at the Hague Town Park and will include floats, fire trucks, dressed-up doggies, and Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Community Christmas Party will be at the community center after the parade. There will be kids' games, face painting, and more. Awards for the tree decorating will be given out at the party.

For more information, call 518-543-3020 or 518-543-6059. ▣

## HVFD PUTS OUT TWO FIRES AT SAME ADDRESS

Just after 11 am on Sunday, October 14, 2019, the Hague Volunteer Fire Department was called to Trout Brook Boarding, which was formerly Meadowbrook Boarding & Grooming at 990 New Hague Road.

Linda Mury, president of the Hague Volunteer Fire Department, explained that an electrical problem sparked a fire in an upstairs bedroom. Power was turned off to the home and National Grid arrived to make electrical repairs. There were no injuries.

Around 9 pm, the residents smelled smoke, called 911, and the firefighters responded again. Mury said that this time there was another electrical problem with a generator that was being used to heat the kennels. Again, there were no injuries to people, dogs or horses.

The American Red Cross is providing financial assistance for shelter, food, and clothing to three people affected by the fire.

Gerrit and Olivia Van Wert are the current owners of Trout Brook Boarding. ▣

## FLAGS AND REFLECTORS FOR KAYAKS AND CANOES

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) has recently enacted a new regulation for the 2020 boating season.

It requires that canoes and kayaks rented from all marinas be equipped with commercially-available flags, with poles no shorter than 42 inches.

The Lake George Association (LGA) supports this safety measure and hopes that everyone will install these flags on their own kayaks, as well as add reflectors to their paddles.

The link to the resolution is here: <https://lgpc.ny.gov/.../docum.../2019/10/2019-49-kayak-flags.pdf> ▣

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - 10/23/2019**

A special meeting of the town board was held Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 3 pm with the following members present: Supervisor Edna Frasier, Council Members Jack Bast, Joshua Patchett, and Steve Ramant. Martin Fitzgerald II was absent.

Supervisor Frasier said ZEO Clark was invited to the meeting to help the board establish a time extension for sewer hook-ups. ZEO Clark discussed the statuses of the unconnected properties within the sewer districts.

The board discussed what would be a fair amount of time for the time extension. It was determined that all property owners who have begun the appeals process should continue through the completion of their appeal. All properties owners who have committed to hooking up this year should do so. It was decided that since an extension for compliance was already approved for Tax Map #26.18-1-4 to December 31, 2020, the board would set the same extension for the remaining properties that have not yet met compliance. ZEO Clark will contact the town attorney for advice on establishing a firmer commitment by accepting the extension past this year, without further notification from the town.

The board asked the committee, which met October 8, 2019, consisting of ZEO Clark, Town Attorney Silvestri, and Councilman Bast, to further define the board's process for sewer enforcement. Its report will be presented to the board in January 2020.

It was moved and approved unanimously that the compliance date for connections to Sewer Districts One and Two be extended from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

Supervisor Frasier asked that an amount be budgeted for a new part-time clerk to train under the confidential secretary to the supervisor. Discussion ensued regarding the creation of three new positions: a clerk in the supervisor's office, a clerk in the ZEO's office, and a new maintenance person.

Motions were made and approved to proceed with the budget as written with the amendment of a part-time clerk position and a deputy town clerk. ▣

**PLANNING BOARD - 11/7/2019**

Chairman Dick Frasier, Vice-Chair Pam Peterson, and Board Members Dan Belden, Martin Fitzgerald II, Judy Gourley, and Meg Haskell were all present. There is one vacancy.

**REGIMBALD (25.2-1-1-17) 9565 Graphite Mountain Road (OCI)**

The applicant would like to subdivide this 4.15-acre parcel. Lot one will consist of 1.63 acres and lot two

will consist of 2.52 acres. The Public Hearing was held with no discussions for or against. The board unanimously approved the subdivision, with the condition that any development on lot two would require obtaining a storm water permit. ▣

**TOWN BOARD - 11/12/2019**

The following were present: Supervisor Edna Frasier, Board Members Jack Bast, Martin Fitzgerald II, Joshua Patchett, and Steve Ramant.

A moment of silence was held for Katie Koenig, Don Marcy, and John Gladding.

Alice Patchett requested the Christmas lights be put up before Thanksgiving and left up through March. She also said the banners need to be changed. Frasier stated the town is waiting for Tom Dedrick to be available to change the banners. Ms. Patchett also requested the highway department reach out to NYS to remind them that the pot holes on Route 9N near Ruah have not been fixed. Deputy

Superintendent Matt Coffin stated they have contacted the state several times. Fitzgerald suggested writing a letter to the *Past Star* to encourage the state to follow through with the needed repairs.

Ms. Patchett discussed the damage to the sidewalk across from The Hague Market, which was caused by the heavy rain on October 31, 2019. Frasier stated it is the State of New York's responsibility to do the repairs. Ms. Patchett stated the Town of Hague's

Highway Department should rope off the area with red tape and safety cones. Coffin said the highway department has been inundated with the emergency situations. He stated he would put out cones and tape the following day.

**REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administrative:** Frasier – The Assessor's Report was submitted to the board.

**Highway:** Ramant/Bast – Ramant reported the highway department has been doing a good job. Coffin stated they are saving on salt by brining. Fitzgerald said the live-edge plows make a huge difference in road clean-up.

**Museum/Historian:** Patchett/Ramant – Patchett reported on a discussion he had with the Hague Historical Society. In years past, the budget was: \$1,000 for equipment, \$1,000 for contractual expenses, and \$1,000 for historical markers. For 2019, \$2,000 was put in the budget for historical



## TOWN BOARD - 11/12/2019

*(Continued from page 4)*

markers and no funds were allocated for the other two line items. The Hague Historical Society requested a resolution to re-appropriate the money for supplies and equipment in order to purchase a new chair and a new desk for the museum, two digital photo frames, photo paper for the Hague Central School Project, archival supplies, and boxes for archival storage. A motion was made to that effect and it passed unanimously. Supervisor Frasier said the purchases should be made before the end of the year. Patchett announced the Hague Historical Society's next meeting would be Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 10 am.

**Personnel:** Bast/Fitzgerald – Bast inquired about the process of setting up the new positions of an assistant to the Zoning Enforcement Officer, an assistant to the confidential secretary of the supervisor, and a full-time maintenance employee for 2020. Frasier stated the administrative office is working on job descriptions and will advertise the positions. She stated Bast would be included in the interview process as the chairman of personnel. Bast inquired if these positions would be posted on online search engines. Frasier stated the town has advertised positions in the local newspapers in the past, but online search engines could be considered.

**Town Park/Beautification:** Ramant/Frasier – The town park is closed for the season and the water has been turned off.

**Sewer District #1 and #2:** Bast/Frasier – Bast reported that the Sewer Advisory Committee met last week. He reminded the board that it should review the sewer rates schedule and the listing of the properties requiring septic inspection reports annually.

**Environmental Concerns:** Ramant/Patchett – Ramant suggested the board look at what other towns are doing regarding setting regulations and requiring permits for private home vacation rentals. He said the bed tax would be a revenue source to the town. He suggested limiting the number of vehicles that would be allowed at each rental site. Fitzgerald said rentals should be inspected.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A resolution was introduced and passed unanimously to approve the Town of Hague 2020 Final Budget.

Alice Patchett mentioned the poor condition of the "Welcome to Hague" wooden sign coming off of Tongue Mountain. Frasier stated that it should be replaced. Councilman Patchett will get quotes for a new sign.

Councilman Patchett stated he would look into quotes for the landfill. Councilman Ramant discussed visiting other landfill facilities in the area.

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Frasier reported the following about Warren County business:

- The Adirondack Christkindlmarkt will be held in Lake George Friday, December 6 – Sunday, December 8, 2019.
- The county is pursuing solar power development.
- The county is planning an 80 x 90-ft. structure to house building and grounds equipment.
- County meeting topics have included the County Preliminary Budget, Bail Reform, Lake George Partnership Meetings, and interviewing applicants for the position of director of employment. ❑

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

There was no Hague Zoning Board Meeting in October. ❑



*Fall at the Hague Town Park; photo courtesy of Stu Cartwright*

## PUBLIC HEARING ON THE HAGUE 2020 BUDGET

*by Judy Stock*

The Hague Town Board held a public hearing on November 9, 2019 regarding the 2020 budget of \$2,963,769. Supervisor Frasier and Board Members Bast, Patchett, and Ramant were present. Councilman Martin Fitzgerald II was absent.

A lively discussion was held with regard to the finances pertaining to the town transfer station. While the actual expenses and income for 2019 are not yet available, the budget showed the 2019 appropriation was \$79,210 and expenditures to date were about \$68,793, leaving a difference of about \$10,400 that can still be expended this year. For the 2020 preliminary budget (the one which was adopted), they estimate income of \$43,000 and expenditures of \$96,000, which would be a potential loss of \$53,000. This latter figure is much less than the \$90,000

*(Continued on page 6)*

**SOUNDINGS**

**2020 BUDGET**

*(Continued from page 5)*

**DIED:** James B. Neal, 85, of Saratoga Springs and formerly of Silver Bay, on October 7, 2019. He died peacefully with his wife and daughter at his side after battling heart disease and cancer.



He was born on June 8, 1934 in Ohio, but lived most of his early life on a family farm in Canajoharie, NY. Upon graduating high school, Jim entered the US Army in 1953 and served for two years at Fort Benning, GA during the Korean War. He graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in Business Administration in 1959.

Jim and his family vacationed in Silver Bay every summer since 1968. He and his wife, Sally Oehler Neal, retired full-time to their home on Sabbath Day Point Road in 1994. During his retirement, Jim served on the Board of Commissioners at the Lake George Park Commission from 1998-1999. Although Jim and Sally would eventually spend winters in Venice, FL, they returned to Silver Bay each summer.

Jim was a dedicated father and husband. He was predeceased by his son, Peter. He is survived by his wife, Sally; daughter Peggy; and grandchildren Emma, Sam, and Molly.

He was known for his quick wit, warm smile, and compassionate spirit and is missed by all. A celebration of life will be held at the Silver Bay YMCA on August 3, 2020.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Kerri Anne McDonough passed the NY State Bar Examination. Her proud parents are Kevin and Heather McDonough of Silver Bay and Manhattan; her grandparents are Pat and Dennis McDonough of Hague and North Creek, NY. Kerri is employed at a Manhattan law firm and is a resident of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. ▣

projected loss that was cited in a letter from the town to the residents before this year’s Town-wide Clean-up Day. The discrepancies in these figures point to a need for the town board to do a thorough examination of the income and expenses at the transfer station.

For 2020, as in recent years, there will be no town tax. The sales tax (\$1,075,000) from the county helps offset most of the expenditures, along with mortgage taxes (\$31,000), occupancy tax (\$52,000), and payment in lieu of taxes (\$25,000). This “in lieu payment” is the amount Silver Bay YMCA has agreed to pay since they do not pay any property taxes. This amount has not yet been paid for 2019. The total sales tax appropriated to the town is about \$1,375,000, so the town will leave \$300,000 with the county to help offset residents’ county tax.

The budget overview is shown in the table below. ▣

**SUMMARY OF FUNDS AND LEVY DETERMINATION FOR THE TOWN OF HAGUE FOR 2020**

	<b>APPROPRIATED EXPENSES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED INCOME</b>	<b>UNUSED BALANCE</b>	<b>TO BE RAISED TAXES</b>
GENERAL FUND	\$ 969,796	\$ 754,430	\$ 215,366	\$ 0
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 868,280	\$ 833,412	\$ 34,868	\$ 0
OCCUPANCY TAX	\$ 55,750	\$ 52,005	\$ 3,745	\$ 0
CF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT	\$ 281,626	\$ 0	\$ 281,626	\$ 0
<i>Subtotals</i>	\$ 2,175,452	\$ 1,639,847	\$ 535,605	\$ 0
STREET LIGHTS DISTRICTS	\$ 9,100	\$ 1	\$ 500	\$ 8,599
FIRE/AMBULANCE DISTRICTS	\$ 356,654	\$ 80,010	\$ 0	\$ 276,644
SEWER DISTRICT #1	\$ 229,031	\$ 229,031	\$ 0	\$ 0
SEWER DISTRICT #2	\$ 193,532	\$ 193,532	\$ 0	\$ 0
<i>Subtotals</i>	\$ 788,317	\$ 502,574	\$ 500	\$ 0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,963,769</b>	<b>\$ 2,142,421</b>	<b>\$ 536,105</b>	<b>\$ 285,243</b>

**2020 PROPOSED TAX RATE**

	<b>ASSESSED VALUE</b>	<b>2020 LEVY</b>	<b>PER 1000 2020 TAX RATE</b>	<b>2019 RATE</b>	<b>% CHANGE FROM 2019</b>
<b>TOWNWIDE</b>	\$ 455,822,898	0	0	0	
<b>STREETLIGHT</b>	\$ 41,623,274	\$ 8,599	0.20659	0.20502	0.76%
<b>FIRE/AMBULANCE</b>	\$ 461,641,281	\$ 276,644	0.59926	0.58695	2.10%
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>0.80585</b>	<b>0.79197</b>	<b>1.75%</b>

## WATER QUALITY MATTERS

by Mike Strutz

*There once were these compounds called CEC, That became of interest to the DEC. They're things that we know, In the lake they might show, You might even find them In your morning tea.*



“Dedicated to Protecting the Water Quality of Lake George”

CEC, or Chemicals of Emerging Concern, were the subject of a keynote presentation at this summer's LGA annual meeting. In a cooperative study with the Upstate Freshwater Institute, Syracuse University, and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, the LGA sent water samples from Lake George to be included in the analysis of 18 other lakes from around the state. The sampling location on Lake George is near Diamond Island about a half mile from the nearest shoreline.

Analytical techniques have improved dramatically and scientists are now able to measure concentrations of chemicals

in the parts per trillion range. I could use various analogies, but let's just say these levels are very, very low. In the study, 217 chemicals were screened in the samples. These covered classes of chemicals that can be grouped into general categories of pesticides, household chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. They can make their way into a lake through various means including: urban runoff and wastewater treatment systems, septic tank drainage, agricultural runoff, and industrial waste. We are lucky that we have neither of the last two sources on Lake George and yet these chemicals are still detectable.

The emerging concern is that very little is known about the overall effect on aquatic life and human health from low concentrations of these chemicals. They have the potential to affect all levels of the ecosystem. There could be effects as disrupting endocrine systems, creating antibiotic resistance, causing acute or chronic aquatic toxicity, negatively affecting reproductive success, altering behavior, causing poor development, or decreasing biodiversity. More research is needed.

What are these chemicals? I won't go

through all 217 but here are a few highlights. In the "pesticide category," Atrazine was the found with the highest frequency in about 90% of the lake samples. It's an herbicide or weed killer (banned near drinking water in Europe in the 1980s due to its link as a probable human carcinogen, but not banned in the USA).

In the "household chemical group," DEET, the main ingredient in insect repellent, was also found in 90% of the samples.

And in the "pharmaceuticals category," I gave you a hint in the opening limerick - caffeine. Somewhat of a surprise, but a little bit of our morning coffee or tea makes it into the lake. It was found in 53% of the samples around the lake.

For a look at the complete presentation, go to: [https://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LakeGeorgeAssociationMtg\\_Final.pdf](https://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/LakeGeorgeAssociationMtg_Final.pdf). For more information on how you can help, please visit the Hague Water Quality Awareness Committee on Facebook or contact one of our Steering Committee members: Al Rider (Chairman), Jim Beaty, Lance Clark, Ginger Kuenzel, Josh Patchett, Steve Ramant, or me. ▣

## NATURALLY SPEAKING

by Connie Smith

Most people experience comfort and pleasure when they sit in front of a flickering fire. The dancing yellow and orange flames quiet the soul and allow one's thoughts to wander where they will. "It's magic" is my answer to the question what makes a fire burn, but there's a much more factual reply.



When a match is lit and placed next to wads of newspaper and kindling, the atoms of the paper or wood begin to vibrate and eventually the atoms will break the bonds linking them together. These unbound atoms form a hot gas and bond with oxygen in the air.

Fires burn only when all those shuffling atoms release enough energy to keep the chain reaction going. This irreversible rearrangement of atoms and molecules called combustion means there is no going back. When

something burns, there is no unburning it. The fire triangle of oxygen/heat/fuel exists because all three ingredients are necessary. Fuel, such as wood, and oxygen do not produce fire. Heat and fuel with no oxygen present also do not produce a fire. Adequate amounts of all three are needed or there's no fire.

The colors of flames in a wood fire are due to different substances in the flames. The bright orange of most wood flames is due to the presence of sodium. The blue in wood flames comes from carbon and hydrogen, which emit in blue and violet.

The origins of fire according to Greek mythology is much more dramatic. The Greek gods took away fire from people, but Prometheus stole fire back for us. As punishment, the gods chained the heroic thief to a rock where an eagle fed on his liver. Every night Prometheus's



liver grew back, and each day the eagle returned. Obviously the Greek gods didn't favor forgiveness!

Science and mythology may seem far apart but there is magic in both. The imaginative power of myth may be rivaled by the magical interaction of miniscule particles that come alive when the surrounding conditions meet their requirements. I have never seen an atom so the scientific explanation seems like magic to me. ▣

### FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR FRIDAYS

Every Friday in December, the Ticonderoga Chamber of Commerce (TACC) will give away \$500 to a lucky ticket holder. Tickets cost \$20 and will be available at the TACC office from now until December 6, 2019. The winners will be drawn on December 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. ❑

### UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Ticonderoga Central School District will hold a regular board of education meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 in the high school cafeteria. The meeting will begin with an executive session from 5 – 6 pm; the regular meeting will begin at 6 pm.

There will also be a regular board of education meeting on Monday, December 16th at 6 pm.

The public is welcome to attend these meetings. ❑

### SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses across the country. Created by American Express in 2010, this day is celebrated every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

This year, it is on November 30, 2019. Anyone who has participated in the past will receive a call from the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC). Those who would like to register their businesses should call 518-585-6619 or email chamberinfo@ticonderogany.com.

"Shop Small Here" color flyers and a resource packet will be available at the TACC office for all participants. The first ten businesses to register will also get a package of goodies.

For more information, to register your business, or for additional marketing and resource materials, visit <https://www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/Shop-Small>.

Promotions and specials will be available to customers who have the TACC flyer or who mention "Small Business Saturday" while shopping. ❑

### FESTIVAL OF TREES

The Ticonderoga Historical Society is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its Festival of Trees at the Hancock House November 25 through December 29, 2019. There will also be a holiday train layout with educational material, courtesy of the Upstate Model Railroaders.

Organizations and individuals are invited to participate and compete for cash prizes. Trees can be any size; however, fire regulations allow only artificial trees. Lighting must comply with UL approval codes.

Because 30th anniversaries are "pearl" anniversaries, the planning committee chose "Pearls of History" as a theme for the festival. "Decorated trees, centerpieces, and other displays do not have to follow the suggested theme," said THS President Bill Dolback. "However, we will be handing out some cash prizes for themed trees, as well as other displays and décor."

An anonymous panel of three individuals will judge the trees. The following prizes will be awarded: \$100 for best theme tree, \$100 for most creative tree, \$50 for best children's (under 18) tree, and \$50 for best non-tree holiday display. Winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded at the free champagne reception on Sunday, December 1st from 1 until 3 pm.

Decorated trees must be in place no later than November 24th and must be removed the week of January 2nd.

Group tours for schools and other organizations, as well as a pre-arranged visit from Santa, are also available by reservation. To secure a space or for additional questions, contact the Hancock House at 518-585-7868 or via e-mail at: [tihistory@bridgepoint1.com](mailto:tihistory@bridgepoint1.com). ❑

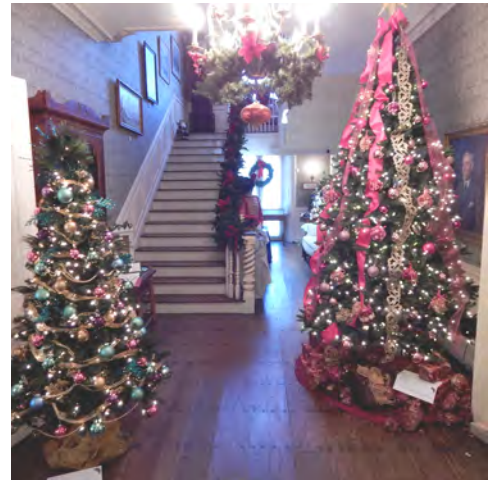
### NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), in coordination with area businesses and organizations, will host the 10th Annual Ticonderoga Area North Country Christmas Celebration from Saturday, November 30th through Sunday, December 8, 2019.

Small Business Saturday and events will include the Rockin' Tree Lighting, wagon rides, special events, Holiday Shopping & Dining Night, Holiday Farmers Market, Parade of Lights, and much more.

TACC is a Tiny Tim Program and Local Food Pantry Drop-Off location until Friday, December 6, 2019. All donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 am and 3 pm.

For detailed information, a printed schedule of events, or a list of participating businesses for the Shopping and Dining Night and Small Business Saturday, a Ticonderoga Area Business Directory, or a calendar of events, visit [www.ticonderogany.com](http://www.ticonderogany.com) or call 518-585-6619. You can also stay up-to-date on event details and announcements by visiting the TACC Facebook page. ❑



*Julia Wallace of Ticonderoga and the Wallace's older son with Santa*



## LOOKING BACK

### HISTORIC PINK CHINA

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel



The Island Harbor Hotel opened for business for the first time in 1883, and one of the names on that summer's ledger was James Buchanan Henry. A seasonal resident of Bolton until then, Henry had invested heavily in that town, purchasing Green Island (think today's Sagamore Resort) and large tracts in Northwest Bay. But perhaps Bolton had grown too crowded. Or maybe the state was trying to seize his Northwest Bay property through eminent domain. Whatever the reason, he decided to head north to the quieter end of the lake. Not that Hague was all that quiet at the time. Guests were arriving daily by steamboat for extended stays at one of the many hotels dotting Hague's shoreline.

From an autobiography by one of James Buchanan Henry's six sons, Sydney, we know that the family alternated their stays in the 1880s and early 1890s between the Rising House Hotel and the Island Harbor House, until 1894 when, "We shifted our allegiance to the Island Harbor House and never went back to the Rising House." Fortunately, James' son, Rob, (my grandfather) grew up loving Hague so much that he later bought the property known as Sentinel Pines, parts of which remain in the family still today.

But who was James Buchanan Henry? Orphaned at the age of six in 1839, he became a ward of his uncle and namesake, James Buchanan. Yes, that James Buchanan, the one who would later become president of the United States. J.B. Henry served as his uncle's private secretary and was also an heir. And that's where this story begins.

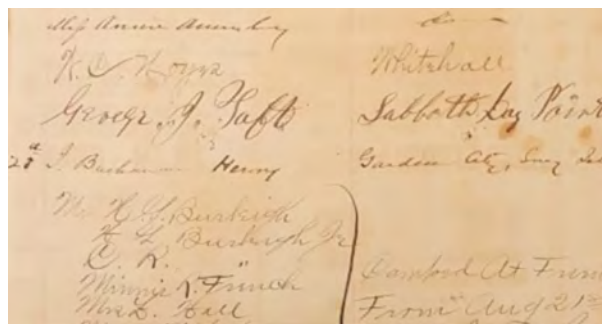
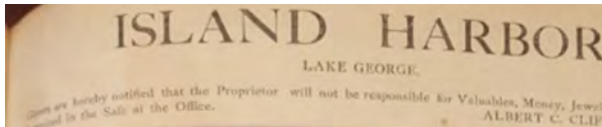
For years, in a box tucked away in a closet, I have had a secret stash of several plates and a gravy boat. It's not something I ever brought out for dinner parties. For one thing, its bright pink pattern with a gold rim just doesn't fit with my décor. And the plates are random sizes. So, each

person would have a different size plate, though we could all share the gravy boat. But mainly, I never brought it out because I was petrified that I might break one of the pieces. That would truly be a catastrophe since this china is not only a family heirloom, but was actually used in the White House by President James Buchanan.

My mother had always told me that the china was given to President Buchanan by the Prince of Wales during a state visit. She also told me that I should never tell people that I'm related to Buchanan, because he is considered to be one of our worst presidents. I checked on Wikipedia – she was right about that. But she wasn't right about everything. An antiques dealer informed me that this is French china, and it's highly unlikely that the heir apparent to the British throne would present the president with dishes made in France. I revised my story – which was always a great conversation starter – and began referring to my stash as presidential china that was a gift from the French ambassador.

But it turns out that this also wasn't exactly correct, as I learned earlier this year when I decided to donate the china to Wheatland, Buchanan's home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I spoke with the executive director, who happens to be a Buchanan scholar and who told me everything I wanted to know about my ancestors and the china. As he tells it, Buchanan bought the china at a yard sale in D.C. while he was serving as Secretary of State under President Polk. The French envoy was returning to Paris and didn't want to ship his 500-piece set of Parisian pink china back home, so Buchanan bought it from him. We have no record of what he paid. But we do know that it's all signed by the designer, who also hand-painted the scenes

on the plates. We also know that Buchanan brought the dishes with him to the White House and took them with him when he left. And now we also know that you just never know what you might find at a yard sale. Of course, you won't find these dishes at any yard sale in these parts, since the dishes are now safely at home at Wheatland, where they belong. ▣



## CHRISTMAS FAIR AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN TICONDEROGA

The Annual Christmas Fair at the First United Methodist Church at 1045 Wicker Street in Ticonderoga will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 from 9 am to 2 pm.



(From left to right) Margot Anello, Jane Bassett (co-chair), Lynn Sawyer (co-chair), Pam Thorne, and Bobbie Blaise

The Fellowship Hall will be decorated for the holidays. There will be homemade crafts, craft supplies, wreaths, table decorations, the Gifts Galore Shoppe, and ornaments for the tree. Fresh Balsam Wreaths with bows will be sold for \$22 each; they should be pre-ordered by November 20th by calling 518-585-7995 and will be available for pick up the day of the fair.

The Bake Shop will be overflowing with delectable goodies and preserves. A luncheon will be served from 11 am to 1 pm, featuring homemade soups, chili, sandwiches, and desserts.

There will be a silent auction with many tempting and unique items up for bid. The auction items can be seen on the church Facebook page. The Christmas Shoppe area will feature new and gently used items. The Thrift Shop will feature seasonal wear and other bargains.

For more information, call 518-585-7995, go to the church's Facebook page, or visit the church website at [www.tifumc.com](http://www.tifumc.com).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

Fort Ticonderoga is launching a new schedule of programs during its Winter Quarters season. From now through April, visitors will be immersed in living history events, engaging seminars, specialty programs, behind-the-scenes VIP Tours, and hands-on workshops.

Groups of 15 or more are welcome to schedule a visit to have the entire property to themselves and a dedicated historic interpreter for a group tour.

**Living History Event:** Dec. 7, 2019: 10 am – 4 pm. "The Noble Train Begins"– Visitors will witness the raw power of oxen and horses as these thousand-pound animals pull sleds of cannon tubes. Guests can also examine the science of gunnery, discover the fort's massive cannon collection, and stand in the very spot where Henry Knox began his Noble Train of Artillery.

**Behind-the-Scenes VIP Opportunities:** This provides a unique behind-the-scenes look at the fort's world-class collections. Highlights include clothing, weapons, and personal possessions of soldiers. Visitors will learn how objects tell amazing stories of the past and how the fort contextualizes its rich collection. This takes place in the Thompson Pell Research Center. In addition to the three-hour program, the cost includes the opportunity for guests to return the following day to take part in a Winter Quarters living history event. Advanced reservations are required; call 518-585-1023.

To learn more, visit [www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org) or call 518-585-2821



British Garrison as Part of Fort Ticonderoga Winter Quarters; photo credit and copyright Fort Ticonderoga

## MASON/STAR DINNER

A roast pork dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M. and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served Friday, November 22, 2019, from 4:30 - 6 pm in the downstairs dining hall of the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street. Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under and will be sold at the door. Parking will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House.

## TI HIGH SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

On December 14, 2019, the Ticonderoga High School freshmen class will be hosting "Shopping Extravaganza!" in the Ticonderoga High School Gymnasium/Cafeteria from 10 am – 3 pm.

This is an event that provides individuals with an opportunity to do all their holiday shopping at one location - like a mini-mall. There will be local merchants and vendors, including catalog sales and local craft makers. There will be a 50/50 drawing, face painting, basket raffles, a bake sale, and a concession stand.

There is a \$15 fee per table and a basket donation for a raffle.

For further information, contact Mrs. Jodi Drinkwine, freshmen class advisor, at 518-585-7400, ext. 1217 or by email at [jdrinkwine@ticonderogak12.org](mailto:jdrinkwine@ticonderogak12.org).

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## HOSPITAL ENTRANCE REOPENS

The Wicker Street entrance to The University of Vermont Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital's Ticonderoga campus has reopened. The entrance was temporarily closed to allow for construction of a new roadway, designed to improve the flow of traffic and create pedestrian - friendly access to campus facilities.

The next phase of the project, expected to begin in spring 2020, will include the installation of new sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping, as well as resurfacing of the parking lots. For updates, visit: <https://www.ech.org/About-Us/Ticonderoga-Campus-Construction>. ▣



*The shoreline at Hague in the fall; photo courtesy of Stu Cartwright*

### ONGOING EVENTS

**1st Monday:** HVFD, 7 pm

**Every Tues.:** Champlain Chorale, 7 pm

**3rd Tuesday:** Ti School Board, 7 pm

**3rd Tuesday:** Fish & Game Club, 7 pm

**1st and 3rd Weds.:** Ti'Coustics, 7 pm

**4th Wed.:** Extra Helpings Distrib., noon

**3rd Thurs.:** Carillon Garden Club, 10 am

**Every Tuesday:** Rotary Club, 7:30 am

**Every Thursday:** Kiwanis, 12 pm

**1st Fri.:** Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7:30 am

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT



*Fall view from the Tongue Mountain overlook; photo courtesy of Sandy Powell*



*Fall colors at the Hague Town Park; photo courtesy of Stu Cartwright*

*The Hague Chronicle* is happy to publish the important happenings in the lives of our readers. Please send announcements of births, marriages, graduations, awards, or deaths to [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org) and we'll publish them as space permits. Thank you.

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

from your *Hague Chronicle* staff

**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE**

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

**CALENDAR**

November 2019

**NOVEMBER**

- 19** 1:30 pm Senior Regular Meeting
- 20** 6 pm Board of Education - Ticonderoga High cafeteria
- 20** Latest that the November issue of *The Hague Chronicle* will be sent
- 21** 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 22** 4:30 – 6 pm Mason Star Dinner
- 23** 9 am – 2 pm Christmas Fair at First UMC in Ticonderoga
- 25 – December 29** Festival of Trees at Hancock House
- 28** Happy Thanksgiving/Hague town offices closed
- 30** Small Business Saturday
- 30 – December 8** North Country Christmas

**DECEMBER**

- 3** 12 noon Senior Christmas Party - HVFD
- 5** 7 pm Planning Board
- 6** Deadline to buy tickets for \$500 Fridays from TACC
- 7** 10 am Holiday in Hague
- 7** 10 am – 4 pm Living History Event at Fort Ticonderoga
- 9** Deadline for the December issue of *The Hague Chronicle*
- 10** 6 pm Town Board
- 14** 10 am – 3 pm Ticonderoga High Shopping Extravaganza
- 18** Latest that the December issue of *The Hague Chronicle* will be sent

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS:** September 2 through June 30  
 Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm | Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm | Sunday: CLOSED