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ALERT: FIRST HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM FOUND IN LAKE GEORGE

What can we do?

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

As if we needed one more piece of bad news during the current global pandemic, on Saturday, November 7, a vigilant member of the Lake George Association (LGA) noticed algae in the water in the vicinity of Harris Bay at the southern end of Lake George and suspected that it could be a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). The individual, who is also a volunteer in New York's Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), contacted the LGA. Education Director Kristen Wilde immediately visited the site, taking samples for several days and sending them to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for testing. The FUND for Lake George also responded, sampling and analyzing the water through the Jefferson Project, a research collaboration with its partners IBM and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

That's the good news – that Lake George has not only citizens but also extremely proactive organizations who are constantly monitoring the water quality in our lake and working hard to protect it. As soon as the individual on Harris Bay made the call, it was all-hands-on-deck. By the end of the week (November 13), the DEC had confirmed that the sample indeed showed the presence of a HAB. Fortunately, the toxin level was below EPA's advisory level for drinking water.

However, this is by no means cause for celebration. Although the health

danger from drinking the water might not be acute at the moment, the fact that Lake George has its first HAB should be of tremendous concern to all of us. After all, let's not forget that the "H" in HAB stands for harmful. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), HABs can impact humans and animals not only when they drink the water, but also if they inhale aerosolized toxins or have direct skin contact with contaminated water when swimming or boating.

This is serious. The state and the local organizations will work together to identify the precise physical, biological and chemical factors responsible for this HAB so that efforts can be launched to prevent future HABs. But it is also up to every one of us to do our part. Failing septic systems and polluted stormwater are two of the biggest causes of nutrients entering the lake. And it is these nutrients that trigger the HABs. The Lake George Park Commission is currently revising its stormwater regulations, which are now open for public comment. That is one step in the right direction, though many feel that these regs don't go far enough. In addition, many residents -- including this writer -- are pushing hard for basin-wide septic regulations to ensure regular inspections and repairs or replacement when needed. After all, our health is at stake. But so, too, is the health of the lake. An unhealthy lake will affect property values and indeed the entire tourism-based economy of our region.

This HAB should be an alarm for all of us. But it's also an opportunity to



TOP: The harmful algal bloom that appeared on November 7. BOTTOM: Kristen Wilde, Director of Education for the LGA, takes a water sample of the active HAB. Photos courtesy of LGA

be one of the all-hands-on-deck in preventing future HABs. What can you – as one individual – do? Help keep nutrients out of the lake on your property through planting of shoreline buffers, regular septic inspections and avoiding fertilizers. Support the work of the LGA and The FUND for Lake George through your donations. Volunteer for the CSLAP program and learn how to keep an eye out for impending dangers to our lake. The problems that our lake faces won't fix themselves. We all need to work together to fix them.

Learn more about what HABs are [HERE](#). ▣

SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze

All Senior Club events have been cancelled until January 2021. We'll see what things look like then.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! ▣



GIVING THANKS

by Ginger Henry Kuenzel

Thanksgiving is approaching – the annual holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. Its origins date back to the time of the Pilgrims, who put on a huge feast to thank the Native Americans for their help in settling into 'their' new country. Apparently, it wasn't yet clear to those Native Americans that the arrival of the white settlers wasn't necessarily going to be all that advantageous for them.

Today the holiday has evolved into a time for extended families to travel great distances to get together with people that they wouldn't necessarily choose to have dinner with otherwise. It all starts off early Thursday morning when the turkey gets stuffed and put in the oven. Over the many years that I have been at Thanksgiving gatherings, I can tell you that nearly any disaster that can occur has occurred – from the power going out in the middle of roasting the turkey, to pies being dropped on the floor as they come out of the oven, to candles being knocked over and setting the tablecloth on fire. But let's not focus on the negative. Let's assume that everyone is getting along, thanks to lots of Bloody Marys, that the turkey isn't totally dried out, the vegetables didn't get burned and that Aunt Mary actually remembered to bring the mashed potatoes this year.

After everyone says – as they do every year – "I can't believe I ate so much," the next phase begins. This entails either moving into the den with copious amounts of beer to watch a football game OR making a mad dash to the stores for some major shopping. The choice, of course, is solely dependent on whether you are male or female.

(Continued on page 8)

HAGUE UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS 2020

These are the posted results at the Warren County Board of Elections as of October 30, 2020. For updates, see warrencountyny.gov/boe/.

President

Joe Biden (D).....166
Donald Trump (R).....196

21st Congressional District

Tedra Cobb (D).....155
Elise Stefanik (R)213

State Senator in 45th District

Kimberly Davis (D).....131
Daniel Stec (R).....219

Member of Assembly in 114th District

Claudia Braymer (D).....136
Matthew Simpson (R).....220

County Judge and Surrogate

Nikki Moreschi (D).....149
Robert Smith (R).....198



GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a day that encourages people to "do good." It has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. This year, it will be on December 1st.

The holiday shopping craze has created a socially-acceptable ingestion of consumerism. A great contrast to the shopping hysteries that have overshadowed the holiday season in the last decade, Giving Tuesday reintroduces the concept of philanthropy. Thanks to easily accessible social media websites, anyone can participate without leaving home.

Whether that's through donations to the organizations and values that are dear to one's heart, celebrating the incredible work of healthcare providers, helping neighbors and strangers with tasks or providing food, or simply making someone smile, generosity has been helping the world get through this global pandemic together.

There are many organizations in our area to which you might choose to donate on this Giving Tuesday.

As you are able, please consider giving a gift or service that makes you feel good.

A few of the organizations in Hague are the HVFD, the Beste Scholarship Fund, The Silver Bay YMCA, or The Memory Tree. You can find other area non-profits at:

<https://www.lakegeorge.com/local-community-services/nonprofits/>
or <https://business.ticonderogany.com/list/ql/family-community-civic-organizations-33>. ▣

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of November 15, 2020:

All NY residents need to wear a mask or face covering when in situations where they are unable to socially distance.

LOCATION	CASES	DEATHS
Worldwide	54,856,691	1,323,650
US	11,191,377	247,118
NYS	563,690	34,054
Warren County	507	30
Essex County	230	14

Sources:

— <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/26/covid-19-tracker>

— Additional source statistics can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Local resources during COVID-19:

Warren County Public Health –

518-761-6580

Mental Health Assistance –

518-792-7143

Domestic Violence Assistance –

518-793-9496

State COVID-19 Hotline –

1-888-364-3065 ▣



TOWN BOARD APPROVES 2021 BUDGET

During the budget hearings, the board decided that the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) could borrow a truck from the Highway Department for the few times a year that they need to tow sludge. The funds planned for the truck will be used toward a new generator.

After the required Public Hearing, the board approved the budget below with no tax being raised for general purposes. Income for town expenses comes primarily from county sales tax revenue. As has been the case in previous years, \$300,000 of the county sales tax revenue due the town will be left with Warren County to help reduce individual county taxes. ▣

SUMMARY OF FUNDS AND LEVY DETERMINATION FOR THE TOWN OF HAGUE FOR 2021

	APPROPRIATED EXPENSES	ESTIMATED INCOME	UNUSED BALANCE	TO BE RAISED TAXES
GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,039,839	\$ 659,679	\$ 380,160	\$ 0
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 1,170,120	\$ 1,115,831	\$ 54,289	\$ 0
OCCUPANCY TAX	\$ 50,400	\$ 30,004	\$ 20,396	\$ 0
CF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT	\$ 248,100	\$ 0	\$ 248,100	\$ 0
subtotals	\$ 2,508,459	\$ 1,805,514	\$ 702,945	\$ 0
STREET LIGHTS	\$ 9,100	\$ 2	\$ 400	\$ 8,698
FIRE/AMBULANCE	\$ 356,654	\$ 80,015	\$ 0	\$ 276,639
SEWER DISTRICT #1	\$ 232,791	\$ 232,791	\$ 0	\$ 0
SEWER DISTRICT #2	\$ 193,569	\$ 193,569	\$ 0	\$ 0
subtotals	\$ 792,114	\$ 506,377	\$ 400	\$ 285,337
TOTAL	\$ 3,300,573	\$ 2,311,891	\$ 703,345	\$ 285,337

2021 PROPOSED TAX RATE

	ASSESSED VALUE	2021 LEVY	PER 1000 2021 TAX RATE	2020 RATE	% CHANGE FROM 2020
TOWNWIDE	\$ 458,760,482	0	0		
STREET LIGHTS	\$ 41,883,660	\$ 8,698	0.20767	0.20659	0.52%
FIRE/AMBULANCE	\$ 464,011,713	\$ 276,639	0.59619	0.59926	- 0.51%
TOTAL			0.80386	0.80585	- 0.25%

To compare amounts to the 2020 budget, see *The Hague Chronicle*, November 2019, page 6.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 10/22/2020

Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board Members Maureen Cherubini, Jon Hanna, Linda Mury, and Ray Snyder were present.

MANSOUR (93.16-1-37) 44 Sabbath Day Point Road (TR1R)

The applicant is proposing an addition to a legal non-conforming principal structure. The proposal includes a second-story addition of 550 sq. ft. (44% increase to living space) to an existing single-story home. This application was preceded by a Wastewater Treatment Plan Variance, approved by the Local Board of Health. A public hearing was held at this meeting with no comments for or against. The board unanimously voted to grant the variance.

AUSTIN (93.16-1-15) 24 Frog Lane (TR1R)

The applicant proposes replacing a legal non-conforming principal structure on a .65-acre lot. TR-1R requires 1.1 acres per principal building. The proposal submitted maintains a three-bedroom occupancy, with an increased square footage of 108% to living space. Plans also include the continued use of an existing on-site wastewater system that was upgraded in 2010. A public hearing was held at this meeting with no comments for or against. The board unanimously voted to grant the variance. ■

PLANNING BOARD - 11/5/2020

Chairman Dick Frasier and Board Members Dan Belden, Judy Gourley, Meg Haskell, and Pam Peterson were present.

FENIMORE (25.3-1-9) 44 Mountain View Road (OCI)

The applicant is seeking to subdivide a sixty-five-acre parcel of land. The proposal submitted would create two new parcels; one lot of 59.6 acres and one lot of 5.4 acres. The division line of the proposed parcels is to follow the contour of Mountain View Road. A public hearing was held at this meeting with no comments for or against. The board unanimously approved with no conditions.

AUSTIN (93.16-1-15) 24 Frog Lane (TR1R)

The applicant is proposing to replace a legal non-conforming principal structure on a .65-acre lot. TR-1R requires 1.1-acres per principal building. The board unanimously approved with the condition that the septic tank be pumped prior to CO approval. ■

TOWN BOARD - 11/10/2020

Present were: Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Jack Bast, Joshua Patchett, and Steve Ramant. Martin Fitzgerald II was absent. A moment of silence was held for Betty Hubbard and Howard Ticknor.

Phillip Goetsch asked why the boat launch is closed after the season and there is no public lake access for Hague

taxpayers. He also asked if it would remain closed until spring. Ramant responded that the boat launch hours are posted at the site and online. Traditionally, the launch closes after Columbus Day and re-opens in May. Rogers Rock and Mossy Point are available for launching.

Public Hearing #1: Waste Water Variance, Locke, Tax Map # 76.16-1-25

Frasier read the Legal Notice of the Public Hearing. Frasier distributed input from Cedarwood Engineering reviewing the proposed waste water treatment upgrade for the property at 8151 Lakeshore Drive from Thomas Suozzo, P.E. Anthony DeFranco, PE Engineer, stated that he had discussed the recommendations with Mr. Suozzo and will make some modifications to the plan. DeFranco suggested that the board leave the public hearing open until the next regular town board meeting on December 8, 2020. The board agreed.

Public Hearing #2: Alternative Replacement WWTS, Joyce, Tax Map # 12.14-1-30

Frasier read the Legal Notice of the Public Hearing. Frasier distributed input from Cedarwood Engineering reviewing the proposed waste water treatment upgrade for the property at 9623 Lakeshore Drive from Thomas Suozzo, P.E. Supervisor Frasier clarified that after speaking with Cedarwood Engineering, it was determined that a variance is, in fact, needed for this project because the proposed BUSSE system would be located within the building.

Thomas Jarrett, of Jarrett Engineers, stated that he also had talked with Mr. Suozzo of Cedarwood. Jarrett said that the enhanced BUSSE system is a membrane bioreactor scaled down to a residential size. It is a self-contained unit with a high water shut-off. Ramant asked if there are any other BUSSE systems currently on the lake. Jarrett responded there are none yet, but a couple are scheduled to be installed soon in Bolton Landing.

Frasier is concerned that this type of system requires an annual engineering inspection. Cedarwood suggested the town conduct a site visit and Frasier recommended to leave this public hearing open until the next regular town board meeting on December 8, 2020 due to the suggestions from Cedarwood. The board agreed.

The proposed waste water replacement system for Martin Fitzgerald, Tax Map # 93.12-1-12, 7924 Lakeshore Drive was taken off the table because it was determined that a variance was not needed. ZEO Marcy will address the proposed plans with Fitzgerald directly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administrative: Frasier - Amanda Peterson, the new clerk to the Assessor, is doing well with her training.

Highway: Ramant/Bast - The department has been busy preparing for winter. The brine machine and tanks are functioning and the new truck has been put together. Deputy Highway Superintendent Matthew Coffin saved

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TOWN BOARD

(Continued from page 4)

the town nearly \$16,000 by putting the new truck together in-house for which the board is very appreciative. The Town of Luzerne Highway Department visited us last week and were very impressed with the Hague Highway Department staff's knowledge on the brining system.

Personnel: Bast/Fitzgerald - Chief Waste Water Treatment Operator Joe McDowell will retire December 31, 2020; John Sheehan will take over the position. He is ready, having been fully qualified and certified earlier this year. McDowell has agreed to be available on a consulting basis through 2021, which was included in the budget. Two more operators are now needed at the plant.

Planning/Zoning: Fitzgerald/Patchett - There were five land use permits, one wastewater permit, and one stop work order issued this month.

Town Park/Beautification: Ramant/Frasier - Work on the town park bathrooms is complete and they will be fully functional next season. Frasier said they look wonderful.

Sewer District #1 and #2: Bast/Frasier - There are no changes from last month. The ZEO will issue reminders this month to the five non-compliant properties that are under 04/23/2020 Second Notice order. Failure to respond in a satisfactory manner will lead to the issuance on or about January 1, 2021 of a Third Notice and final notice along with an Appearance Ticket to Town Court.

NEW BUSINESS:

One bid for Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades was duly received in a timely fashion from Mike Garber of MCJ Engineering, LLC. Four items were suggested for omission, discussed, and the contractor agreed to remove these items.

It was resolved to accept the bid and award the contract in the amount of \$253,500 to MCJ Construction, LLC.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Private Home Rentals

Ramant has talked with Michael Swan, Warren County Treasurer regarding private home rental bed tax collection regulations. Ramant suggests that the town create a local ordinance to monitor private rentals and make sure that the proper bed tax money is being paid to Warren County. He told the board what Warrensburg is doing to enforce the private rentals in their town. It was concluded that the planning board should look into it and give its recommendations to the town board.

2. Charitable Gaming

Ramant has talked to the NY State Gaming Commission. Many other towns have adopted a Local Law or Ordinance for Games of Chance. HVFD President Linda Mury stated that she believes that the Fire Department is exempt. She will look into it further and discuss it with Ramant.

3. Proposed EDU Schedule from the Finance Subcommittee of the Hague Sewer Advisory Committee

Phil Smith and Ginger Kuenzel were present to answer questions on the proposed changes to the EDU schedule from the board and from the public.

Rolly Allen stated that he thinks the current EDU schedule is unfair. However, he is firmly opposed to the proposed new schedule. He stated that he thinks the charges should be based on the number of people residing in a home rather than the number of bedrooms.

Phil Smith said the committee is trying to make the residential charges fairer. The proposed schedule is based on how many people *can* be in a home. There are many rentals in the Town of Hague. Mr. Smith pointed out that many residents are seasonal. The town dealt with these issues years ago when the sewer districts were first established. At that time, it was decided that the fairest way was to charge everyone the same. There is no easy way to keep track of how many people are in a home or how long they are there.

Ginger Kuenzel stated the Town of Hague does not have meters. If meters were installed, exact usage could be determined.

Cathy Clark said she is opposed to the proposed new schedule. She agrees the only fair solution would be meters. She inquired if meters are available for effluent. She also stated that there are currently zero representatives from Sewer District 1 on the Sewer Advisory Committee. Clark requested that the board hold a hearing for input from property owners at a time of year when they are in town before passing any changes.

Mary Lorensen feels the charges should be based on usage. She stated that meters are available that can be put on the pipe or on the grinder. She said if meters were installed, people would be more cautious with their usage.

Phil Smith stated that the committee could look into meters. He mentioned that one issue with meters is their maintenance. Kuenzel said metered services would also require more administrative work. The billing could be altered so that everyone in the districts had a flat base charge to cover operations plus a usage charge.

Ramant feels the topic needs more investigation before the board proceeds. Fitzgerald agreed that the town should look into meters as it is the fairest solution. Patchett stated that the town would need to consider who would be responsible for the installation and maintenance costs - the property owner or the town.

The Sewer Advisory Committee will take these recommendations into consideration. ▣

This is a brief summary of the meeting by Editor Bobbi Bryant Taylor. The full minutes of the meeting by Town Clerk Melissa Patchett are posted each month at <https://townofhague.org/boards/town-board/town-minutes/20/>.

SOUNDINGS

DIED: Mark C. Johnson, 73, of North Creek, NY on October 12, 2020, following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Mark attended the College of Wooster and spent his junior year abroad at the American University of Beirut. Following graduation, he returned to Lebanon and served alternative service as a conscientious objector to the War in Vietnam, teaching at Haigazian College. There he met and married his wife, Mary. They returned to the Middle East where they worked for the Lebanese YMCA and the University Christian Center and he started graduate study at the American University of Beirut.

He earned a Ph.D in Sociology at Columbia University. Twin daughters arrived in 1978. In 1980, they moved to Hague to become part of the summer staff at Silver Bay YMCA.

After four years as Program Director, plus part-time teaching at North Country Community College, Mark became General Secretary of the YMCA at the University of Illinois and moved his family, then including a third daughter, to Urbana, IL. Five years later, he returned to Silver Bay, this time as the Executive Director.

He became actively involved in preserving wild lands within the Adirondack Park, serving on the boards of the Fund for Lake George, the Lake George Land Conservancy, and the Adirondack Nature Conservatory. He volunteered as an EMT and as a member of HVFD. He served on the board of the Friends of the Johnsbury Library and was a Rotarian in several locations.

In 2001, he took a position as a liaison between the YMCA and many other institutions and organizations interested in youth and family well-being. He accepted a position on the staff of the YMCA of the USA and moved to Chicago, IL. Six years later, he became Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Nyack, America's oldest interfaith peace organization. He also helped create the Community of Living Traditions and ran the Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice, both at the Stony Point Center. In 2017,

he and Mary moved to Pilgrim Place, a retirement community in Claremont, CA.

His life-long fascination with ideas, history, language and people created networks that motivated and sustained him. He read voraciously and wrote poetry throughout his life, made excellent pies and enjoyed foraging, making jams and teas from his harvests, and loved hiking and kayaking in the Adirondacks.

Mark's lifelong commitment to nonviolence involved him with people and causes worldwide. He had a gift for calling others to join him. His recent passions included climate change and knowledge of the true history of the indigenous peoples of America, the latter effort made more personal when he learned only a few years ago that his own heritage included Akwesasne Mohawk ancestors. He became one of the founding members of Interfaith Moral Action on Climate (IMAC).

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Mary (Bell); an uncle, David Siegel; two brothers, Kirk (Sandy Spezzano) and Brian (Shay); daughters Allison (George) Ricciardella, Monica (Greg) Belvedere, and Anne (Paul) Rappoccio; six grandchildren; several cousins; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is planned for July 2021 at Silver Bay. The family asks that donations be made to the Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, interfaithmoralactiononclimate.org; the Fellowship of Reconciliation, forusa.org; or Silver Bay YMCA, silverbay.org.

DIED: Donald C. Sanborn, 84, peacefully, on October 22, 2020 in Smithtown, NY.

Don graduated from Colgate University and Syracuse Law School before beginning his business career as a stock broker in New York. He built a successful career as a broker and an individual investor.

Don coached the Little League baseball team in Summit, NJ and served on the Board of Trustees of the Silver Bay Association.

Don was a generous and giving person to everyone in his life.

He was predeceased by his wife, Anne Turner Sanborn, whom he married in 1959 in the Silver Bay Chapel.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Sami) Mitra; sons William (Mary Jo) Sanborn and Peter (Victoria) Sanborn; and grandchildren, Mallika and Leela Mitra, Benjamin and Owen Sanborn, and Audrey and Hawkins Sanborn.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Gladys Graser, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on December 1, 2020.

Gladdie was a long-time volunteer for *The Hague Chronicle* and is an active member of the Hague Senior Club. ▣

MEMORY TREE

It's time to send your donations in for the Hague Memory Tree, which will be put up in the community center. This tradition was started by Imogene Frasier in memory of her son, Dale, and benefits the Hague Volunteer Fire Department.

A donation of \$1 per person is requested for each name you would like to see on the tree. Checks should be made payable to the **HVFD Memory Tree**. Please either drop them off with Bertha Dunsmore or Diane Trudeau at the community center or mail them to: Memory Tree, Town of Hague, PO Box 509, Hague, NY, 12836. ▣

LGPC EXTENDS INSPECTIONS AT TWO LOCATIONS

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) inspection season traditionally ends on November 1st of each year. The LGPC has decided to leave the Million Dollar Beach and Mossy Point inspection stations and launches open through Thanksgiving.

Remember, it is incumbent on boaters to always ensure their vessels are cleaned, drained and dry. If a boat is found to have an invasive species at one of the inspection stations, it will not be allowed to launch into the lake after November 1st because no decontamination processes will be available. ▣

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

Fort Ticonderoga continues its 2020 *Digital Campaign* - a virtual experience featuring interactive programming, a lectures series, and at-home educational activities and resources.

Featured on our Upcoming Digital Campaign Event Calendar:

Wednesday, November 18 – Building Ticonderoga: Making Mortise & Tenon Joints, Facebook, 4pm

From layout to fitting, see the steps of cutting a mortise and tenon joint as Fort Ticonderoga staff structures a new period, timber-framed building.

Saturday, November 21 – 26th Regiment of Foot Cartridge Pouch Badge, Facebook, 1pm

Among the primary pieces of equipment that the British soldier carried was his cartridge pouch. Fort Ticonderoga's archaeological collections include a stunning badge from Ticonderoga's final British garrison, informing our portrayal of the eve of the Revolution.

Wednesday, November 25 – Collections Speed Dating: Robert and Sarah Knox, Facebook, 1pm

Learn about Robert and Sarah Knox and how this handsome pair, the work of one of America's finest artists, reflects the unique culture and history of our nation's first capital.

Thursday, November 26 – From the Ground Up: Cutlery, Facebook, 1pm

What kinds of utensils did soldiers and civilians at Fort Ticonderoga eat with? Explore archaeologically uncovered knives, forks, and spoons.

Saturday, November 28 – Tips from the Tailoring Trade: Drummers' Lace 2, Facebook, 1pm

Join Fort Ticonderoga Artificer Tailor, Gibb Zea, to look at finishing British drummers' coats with the final layers of lace that completes their distinct look.



PETERS NAMED VP OF COLLECTIONS AND DIGITAL PRODUCTION

Miranda Peters has been named Vice President of Collections and Digital Production at Fort Ticonderoga.



"I'm thrilled to be working in this digital leadership role," said Peters. "I've focused my career on finding the best ways for museums to document, preserve, and make accessible their collections. Over the past several years, we have explored new ways to make Ticonderoga's significant museum collections accessible virtually. Over time, this organically grew into numerous cross-departmental digital campaigns featured across the museum's social media platforms. In this new role, I will continue collaborating with various departments as we engage with local and global audiences in new and exciting ways. Together, we strive to provide rich, meaningful content, and provoke discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations."

Peters holds a Master of Arts in Decorative Arts, Design History and Material Culture from the Bard Graduate Center and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Prior to serving at Fort Ticonderoga, she was Collections Manager at the Preservation Society of Newport County, RI, where she co-founded Newportal—an online database consortium designed to enhance public and scholarly access to Newport-based collections. ■

FORT TICONDEROGA: NEW DIGITAL EXHIBITION

A Patriotic Service: Sarah Pell's Enduring Legacy

Fort Ticonderoga recently launched a new online digital exhibition entitled "A Patriotic Service: Sarah Pell's Enduring Legacy."

The digital exhibition is an exciting and important addition to the museum's Center for Digital History. The exhibit focuses on museum co-founder Sarah Gibbs Thompson Pell.

Using recently cataloged museum artifacts, integrated with the [Online Collections Database](#), visitors can explore Sarah's life and her work connecting Ticonderoga's historic legacy to the struggle to achieve equality.

This exhibit augments a physical installation that will be mounted in the entrance hall of the newly restored 1826 Pavilion, a national historic landmark, when it opens to the public in 2021. ■

WATER QUALITY MATTERS

by Mike Strutz

We are lucky. Not only do we have a gorgeous lake, we also have well-funded organizations dedicated to the protection of the lake's water quality. The FUND for Lake George is one of these leading organizations and has a stated mission: "Science-Guided Solutions for the Lasting Protection of Lake George."

Recently they held a virtual annual meeting; in case you missed it, here are a few key takeaways.

The FUND's "Science to Solutions" approach focuses on three key stressors to the lake: invasive species, water quality, and salt reduction.

In the area of water quality, the focus is on municipal wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, and stormwater, with the goal to reduce nutrient loading and prevent excessive algae growth or toxic Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

Donor financial support is a key to success and a reflection of the FUND's



Dedicated to
Protecting
the Water
Quality of
Lake George

highly-regarded programs. Operating income in 2019 was a little over \$2.8M and represents a 40% growth rate over 2018. Most of those dollars came from private contributions. Endowments have grown by 34% to a level of about \$6M. The goal is to raise \$10M for their "Forever Fund," which will provide administrative support for eternity. In 2019, \$1.4M was spent in direct support of the FUND's programs, with about 37% of that spent on water quality, 34% on guiding science, 19% on salt reduction, and 10% on invasive species control.

The FUND is one of three key organizations supporting the Jefferson Project, the groundbreaking real-time water quality monitoring and modeling effort. IBM and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute are the other two members of this "dream team." The results of this work so far could fill volumes, and ongoing work will be key in supplying the guiding science for future pollution remediation projects. It is predicted that, in the next four years, salt in the lake will be reduced to levels from two decades ago. Thanks to the Town of Hague for participating in this success story. To see more about the Jefferson Project's monitoring network, go to <https://jeffersonproject.live>.

Anyone who launches a boat knows about the inspection program, which focuses on stopping aquatic invasive species. The FUND is a major supporter of what is one of the most rigorous inspection programs in the country.

The FUND also supports several projects in the area of reducing nutrient loading in the lake. These include the woodchip bioreactor in the Town of Bolton and the sewage treatment plant upgrade in the Town of Lake George. Both of these projects will be discussed in future articles.

In addition, the FUND has been a leader in studying and addressing the problem of septic tank failures. All of these issues are supported by Lake George Waterkeeper and Hague resident Chris Navitsky.

For a full half-hour video of the FUND's annual meeting, follow this link: <https://annualmeeting.fundforlakegeorge.org/>. 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. 📧

GIVING THANKS *(Continued from page 2)*

In former times, the day after Thanksgiving was the year's biggest shopping day, known as Black Friday because the huge sales enabled businesses to climb out of the red and into the black. Today the sales already start on Thursday afternoon. Stores advertise computers, fridges, big screen tv sets and other big-ticket items at ridiculously low prices. There is no mention of the fact that they only have one of each in stock, but people are wise to this and thus get in line hours before the stores open. As the store opening hours grow earlier and earlier, some people now skip Thanksgiving dinner in order to get in line. And although this might be good for women who are shopping for clothing and want to squeeze into that smaller size, it's not that great for family-together time.

Very late in the evening, the women return home, their cars laden with stuff. It's of course either not the stuff they set out to buy – since that wasn't actually available – or it is that stuff, but not at the sale price. Meanwhile, hopefully the guys' team won the football game so they're in a good mood – because they are going to have to carry all that merchandise into the house. And the kids, who have been at home with the guys (how much supervision do you think they got?) and have a sugar high from all the desserts, are running wild. All those items that Mom

bought to put away for Christmas presents? The kids see them and start ripping open the boxes, demanding that Dad hook up the new TV, program the new Wii and load all the software onto the new computer – RIGHT NOW. After all that beer, Dad isn't really in shape to do any of the above. In fact, it's good if he can just get all those boxes into the house without dropping them.

Ah, it looks like the true meaning of Thanksgiving in today's world might be that we are thankful when it's all over and we can finally go to bed. 📺

THE HERMIT OF HAGUE

by A Friend of the Hermit

The Hermit of Hague was a writer,
A lover, not one bit a fighter.
His poems were gentle,
Occasionally mental,
But he tried to keep them all lighter.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

While things certainly have been different and challenging throughout 2020, it is imperative that the community continue to support Ticonderoga area businesses; the nationwide initiative known as Small Business Saturday is a perfect opportunity to do so.

The 11th annual Small Business Saturday, which will be on November 28, 2020, kicks off the 2020 Ticonderoga Area North Country Christmas Celebration.

Small Business Saturday is the day we all "shop small." It is dedicated to supporting small businesses across the country. Created by American Express in 2010, this day is celebrated each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Small Business Saturday is the busiest shopping day of the year for small businesses.

"Our local businesses have supported the community for so many years, so let's show them just how much we appreciate them!" stated President and CEO of the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce Matthew Courtright.

For a Ticonderoga Area business directory, additional information on Small Business Saturday, a copy of the specials and promotions/list of participating businesses, Small Business Saturday Passport information, calendar of events, or area information visit www.ticonderogany.com, call 518-585-6619 or visit TACC's Facebook page. Reminder to follow all guidelines, wear a mask, and, please be kind. ■



TACC President and CEO Matthew Courtright discussing plans for Small Business Saturday 2020 with TACC Member Service and Event Manager Erin Mullen

FESTIVAL OF TREES

After careful evaluation, the Ticonderoga Historical Society has decided to go ahead with plans for its annual Festival of Trees, which will take place at the Hancock House November 23 through December 31, 2020.

"This year more than ever, we need a little Christmas," says THS President Bill Dolback. "While we will not host the open house reception, we are confident that we can enforce COVID-19 guidelines and safe social distancing measures, while giving everyone a chance to enjoy the extensive holiday displays."

The theme for this year's event is "Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol" and organizations and individuals are invited to participate and compete for cash awards. Decorated trees, centerpieces, and other displays do not, however, have to follow the suggested theme.

Dolback noted that some organizations have already signed up to place trees within the four-story Georgian-revival house. "There has been great interest in this year's festival and we expect a record number of trees and displays for public viewing."

Trees can be any size, but fire regulations allow only artificial trees. Additionally, lighting must comply with UL approval codes. Decorated trees must be in place no later than November 22 and must be removed the week of January 2nd.

Trees will be judged by an anonymous panel of three individuals. Prizes will be awarded for best theme (\$100); most creative (\$100); best children's (under 18) (\$50); and best non-tree holiday display (\$50). A discretionary "President's Award" will also be presented.

A holiday train layout will return this year, courtesy of the Upstate Model Railroaders.

Group tours are available by reservation. To secure a space, or for questions, call 518-585-7868 or e-mail tihistory@bridgepoint1.com. ■

NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC), in coordination with area businesses and organizations, will host the 11th Annual Ticonderoga Area North Country Christmas Celebration from Saturday, November 28 through Sunday, December 6, 2020. While the celebration will certainly be different this year due to COVID-19, TACC has worked hard to bring a holiday celebration to the community. TACC reminds everyone to follow all COVID-19 guidelines including wearing a mask, social distancing, and not gathering. All information is subject to change.

2020 Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH

- **Small Business Saturday - Think Local:** Support local businesses and organizations
- **Pop-Up Shops at Punky Noodles** - 10 am - 2 pm
- **Christmas at Lillie Valley Farm** - 10 am - 4 pm. Shop for Christmas trees, wreaths, baked goods, and farm fresh meats. Enjoy games, treats, and have a family photo

(Continued on page 10)



TACC staff following the 2019 Tree Lighting event

NORTH COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

(Continued from page 9)

taken. Bring a letter with your return address to send to Santa. Santa will answer your letters. Bring a canned good to donate to a local food pantry.

- **Festival of Trees** – Hancock House – Wednesday, November 23rd to Sunday, December 31st from 10 am - 4 pm. Four floors of trees and decorations fill this historic house.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

- **Wreath Decorating** – Tromblee's Greenhouse and Gifts, 10:30 am - 12 pm. Participants will be given a wreath and decorations. Everyone will be shown how to create the perfect holiday bow. Cost: \$45. Must pre-register by calling 518-586-2986.
- **Rockin' Tree Lighting** – Ticonderoga Community Building, 5:30 pm. All kids will help count down to the tree lighting. There will be holiday music. Take and Make Cookie Decorating Kits will be available from the Silver Bay YMCA Teen Center. *This will be live-streamed on the TACC Facebook page.*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

- **Christmas Creation Make and Take** – The Country Florist and Gifts, 4 – 5 pm. Make your own Christmas bow. Price varies, depending on the ribbon chosen. Space is limited.
- **Live Children's Book Reading** – Fox and Fern – the Adirondack Mercantile 6:30 pm. Visit Fox and Fern at the Adirondack Mercantile's Facebook page for a live reading of "It's the Spirit of Christmas, Peaches!" by local children's book author and illustrator, Shaundra Bartlett Lerman. Grab copies of books from the Bartlettberry Briar series in preparation for the newest release, "Happy Birthday, Peaches!"

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

- **Takeout Tuesday** – Grab take-out from your favorite Ticonderoga Area restaurant and watch a holiday movie with your family! For a full list of restaurants go to the business directory at www.ticonderogany.com.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

- **Warm-Up Wednesday** – Snap a photo of yourself or your family in your favorite ugly holiday sweaters. Send it to the TACC Facebook through private messenger. All photos will be posted the following week in a Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest! Stay tuned for details.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

- **4th of July in December Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ** – See article on page 11.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

- **Holiday Shopping and Dining Night – Shop & Dine Local** Participating businesses will display a snowflake and will be open until 8 pm. Visit the TACC Facebook page for more info.
- **Holiday Farmers Market** Vendors will be set up inside the TACC from 5 - 8 pm, offering an array of local products. All COVID-19 regulations will be followed.

- **Parade of Lights** – Town of Ticonderoga from 6 - 7:30 pm. Businesses, organizations, and community members are encouraged to participate in vehicles, floats, etc. You must register with the Ticonderoga Fire Department by calling Mary at 518-586-6912, emailing mcunningham14@nycap.rr.com or by contacting TACC. All entries must be family friendly. All COVID-19 guidelines must be followed. Stay safe! Do not gather! View from your property, car, or the sidewalk. Route will be posted on the Ti Fire and TACC Facebook pages.

- **Ticonderoga Heritage Museum and Ti Arts Holiday Gift Shoppe** – At the Ticonderoga Arts Gallery, 10 am – 8 pm. Adirondack artists will offer gifts such as books, jewelry, pottery, wood products, and more. Also open Saturday, December 5th from 10 am – 2 pm.

- **Friends Comforting Friends Holiday Lights Display** – Travel around the Brookwood RV Resort to see dozens of holiday light displays. Donations will benefit Friends Comforting Friends. This event will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from December 4th to December 20th. Visit the Friends Comforting Friends Facebook group or the TACC Facebook page for details.

- **Tromblee's Greenhouse and Gift Shop Holiday Open House and Family Fun Event** – In Crown Point from 10 am - 8 pm; get a complimentary holiday-themed photo. There will be two door prizes: a free Christmas tree and a wreath. There will also be a Take and Make Kids' Craft. To-go treats will be provided by Sweet Cal's. This will also take place on December 5th and 6th from 10 am – 4 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

- **Selfie with Santa Contest** – Follow the TACC Facebook page for instructions on how to find their Wooden Soldier Santa. Take a selfie and private message it to the TACC Facebook page for a chance to win a number of prizes! Winners will be chosen at random. All photos will be posted on the TACC Facebook page.

TACC is also a Tiny Tim Program and Local Food Pantry Drop-off location until Friday, December 4, 2020. All donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 am and 3 pm. Details on a Holiday Home and Business Decorating Contest will be announced soon.

For detailed information, a printed schedule of events, or a list of participating businesses for the Small Business Saturday, Holiday Shopping & Dining Night, a Ticonderoga Area Business Directory, or calendar of events, visit 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. ■

BEST 4TH IN THE NORTH DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ

The annual Best 4th in the North Chicken BBQ on Thursday, December 3, 2020 is part of the 11th Annual Ticonderoga Area North Country Christmas Celebration. This fundraising event will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Downtown Ticonderoga starting at 4 pm. Cost is \$12 per dinner (includes one-half chicken, potato, coleslaw, roll, and a cookie). There will be a limited amount, so call 518-585-6520 to make a reservation.

All proceeds will benefit the Best 4th in the North Celebration, which will take place July 1 - 4, 2021 with fireworks, a parade, live music, food, vendors, rides, games and more (plans will be based on NYS COVID-19 regulations at that time).

"We invite all of you to attend this fundraising event in support of the 4th of July Celebration. Without the support of the Town of Ticonderoga, our area businesses, organizations, community members, and the vendors at the event, this celebration would not be possible. The celebration costs approximately \$30,000 each year. The biggest expenses for the celebration are the fireworks and the bands/entertainment. The Town of Ticonderoga provides some funding, which is greatly appreciated, but most of the needed money is raised by the committee. We encourage community members and visitors to stay up to date on the celebration as well as fundraisers by liking the Best 4th in the North on Facebook," stated Best 4th in the North Committee Chairperson Debbie Barber.

For more information, visit www.timainstreet.org or call 518-585-6619. ■

FALL/WINTER \$500 FRIDAYS

Every Friday in December, the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) will give away \$500. For a \$20 donation, you will receive a ticket for a chance to win. Tickets are available at the TACC office as well as from TACC Board Members, Ambassadors, and Volunteers.

Only 300 tickets will be sold. Drawing dates are: December 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th, 2020. Tickets will be hand-drawn at random. All proceeds will benefit the TACC programs and services and its efforts to serve, market, and promote the Ticonderoga area. All money will be given in the form of a TACC check.

For additional information contact TACC at 518-585-6619 or chamberinfo@ticonderogany.com. The TACC office is located at 94 Montcalm Street in historic Downtown Ticonderoga. ■

MASON/STAR PUBLIC DINNER

A public Baked Ham and Macaroni and Cheese Dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M. and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served on Friday, November 20, 2020 from 4:30 until all is gone. Friday, November 20, 2020, from 4:30 pm until all is gone. It will be *ON A TAKE-OUT BASIS* and will be at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street in Ticonderoga.

Tickets remain \$10 for adults and \$6 for children 12 years old and under, and will be sold at the door. Parking for pick-up will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House. ■

TI-ALLIANCE

For the past two years, Ti-Alliance has been focused on building a more robust and stable foundation for our local economy. With a clear picture of our markets and the challenges that have hindered our growth, it is now ready to begin connecting the dots.

Many people are making quality-of-life and career decisions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ti-Alliance hopes that some of these people will decide to live in this area. It is building "Opportunity Pages" for its website, which highlight entrepreneurial opportunities, professional jobs, and affordable housing in our area.

In 2021, it will be concentrating on four aspects of our economy:

1. Finding new owners for **existing businesses** as owners retire. It wants to be sure these businesses stay vibrant and pass onto ambitious new owners who see their potential.
2. Building **new year-round businesses** that are needed to support both residents and visitors.
3. Building **middle-income housing** because the area's largest employers report that more than 60% of the people who work in Ti live elsewhere, due largely to the lack of appropriate housing for young professionals.
4. Training a **skilled workforce**. We need skilled workers in construction, medicine, IT, restaurants, and more. Ti-Alliance hopes to get our young people excited about their opportunities and trained to be the best.

If you know persons who are considering a move – or a move back – to the Ticonderoga area, suggest they get in touch with Ti-Alliance so it can help them realize their dreams. Call Donna Wotton at 518-543-6782 or donna@ticonderoga-alliance.org. ■

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Please send all news items and Soundings by the deadline listed in the calendar, to editor@thehaguechronicle.org. Please send any questions to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org.

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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

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

November 2020

NOVEMBER

20	Mason/Star Ham and Macaroni and Cheese take-out dinner
23 - December 31	Festival of Trees at Hancock House
26	Thanksgiving/Town of Hague offices closed
28	Small Business Saturday
28 - December 6	North Country Christmas Celebration

TRANSFER STATION HOURS:

September 2 through June 30

Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday: CLOSED

DECEMBER

1	Giving Tuesday
3 7 pm	Planning Board
3	Chicken BBQ to benefit the Best 4th in the North
4	\$500 Friday
7	Deadline for the December issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
8 6 pm	Town Board
10 - 18	Hanukkah
11	\$500 Friday
17 7 pm	ZBA
18	Latest that the December issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> will be published
18	\$500 Friday
21	Winter Solstice
25	\$500 Friday
25	Christmas