

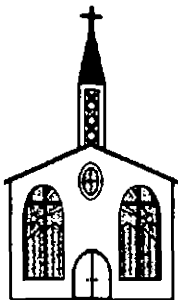
VOLUME 32 NO 12  
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HAGUE, N.Y. 12836  
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DECEMBER 2002  
Tel. 543-6633

### CHRISTMAS AT THE HAGUE CHURCHES

The Hague Baptist Church will be holding its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the church on December 24 at 7PM. All are welcome to attend



The Church of the Blessed Sacrament will hold a special service on December 22 at 9AM when recently ordained seminarian, Rev. Thomas Babiuch will celebrate the Mass. He will be joined by two fellow seminarians, Matthew Frisoni and Paul Catena. All three have spent time as seminarians at the Hague church.

Following the service the church will be decorated and a Christmas brunch will be served. Everyone is welcome.

On Christmas Eve, parishioners will gather at the Parish Center and will proceed to the church together for mass, beginning at approximately 6:15PM.

### PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTIONS

David Martucci, Sole Assessor, urges all primary residence homeowners to contact the office (543-6161) to see if they are eligible for the following exemptions:

Senior Citizens' exemption: over age 65 with household income less than \$17,725. This exemption must be renewed each year. Renewal forms will be sent in early January to those who had this exemption last year.

Enhanced STAR exemption: over age 65 with household income less than \$62,100. This exemption must be renewed each year. Renewal forms will be sent in early January to those who had this exemption last year.

Basic STAR exemption: all primary residence homeowners. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year, once the first application is approved.

Veterans' exemption: military service during wartime periods. This exemption does not have to be renewed each year.

Details and applications are available Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm. The filing deadline is March 1, 2003.

### FESTIVAL OF TREES AT HANCOCK HOUSE



The 12th Annual Festival of Trees opened to a capacity crowd on Friday, December 13 at the Hancock House. There were 23 trees on display, each one decorated by a group of individuals, who were donating the proceeds to a charity. The total amount raised for charity that evening was \$3,837.69. The first prize, which was matched with up to \$500.00 from I.P. was won by Heritage Commons Activity Fund, which consisted of two trees. They earned \$1,357.00 which made a total of \$1,857.00 for their activity fund.

The second prize, up to \$300 matching funds by The Trout House Resort, Eddie's Restaurant and William Brennan DDS & Staff was decorated by PRIDE. They earned \$255.00 with another \$255.00, making \$510.00.

Third prize, up to \$200, provided by Christopher Chevrolet and Adirondack Dental Health, was won by the Black Watch Children's Program, trees done by the Key Club and Cheryl O'Connor. They netted a total of \$402.54.

Fourth prize, up to \$100, provided by Ticonderoga Paint went to the Elks Club, tree done by Sue Slattery. It netted the club a total of \$273.00.

Fifth prize (2), up to \$75 provided by Graphite Mt. Stoneworks, Lakeshore Garage, Hague Creek Antiques & Gifts, Alison V. Craig, Kathe Allen, Wicker Ford was won by the VFW Building Fund. The tree which was decorated by the Historical Society for its wallpaper fund took in \$140.00 + \$75.00, total of \$215. The second fifth prize winner was decorated by the Adirondack Dental Health and Ticonderoga Health Center for the benefit of the VFW Building Fund. It took in \$129.25 + \$75.00 for a total of \$204.25.

The trees were all gorgeous, the refreshments were wonderful, entertainment by the Spirit of Sound and the Intermediate School Girls' Chorus superb, making the evening a sheer magical delight

### SAFETY TIP

*The Hague Volunteer Fire Department says, "We don't have crazy glue or surgeons on our ambulances, so...PLEASE keep your hands out of Running Snowblowers!"*

### TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY FESTIVITIES

Master of Ceremonies, Sal Santaniello presented the Hague Chamber of Commerce Senior Citizen of the Year Award to Gerry Boyd during the festivities at the Town Christmas Party. Sal cited Gerry's prominent presence around town and years of volunteer activities.



Gerry Boyd

Hague Senior  
Citizen of the Year  
2002

Entertainment was provided by duet flutists, Kaley Manning, and Taylor Denno, and soloist Kacheena Trudeau and by guitarists Doug Zeyak and Bruce Tamlyn. Cathie and Stan Burdick again organized the volunteer cookie makers and with help from Anita and Wes Masten and Kay Santaniello set out delicious refreshments. Santa made an appearance and gifts were handed out to the children in attendance.



### FOOD PANTRY

Special Christmas food distribution to those eligible will be held at the Community Center on Monday, December 23 from 1-3PM. Hams will be added to the baskets, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Northern Lake George.

### HOLIDAY IN HAGUE DOOR PRIZES

The Hague Specialty Shops thank everyone who contributed to making the Second Annual Holiday in Hague another festive success including the Champlain Valley Chorale, Nelson Shapiro and the Ti Hi Spirit of Sound. The winners of the door prizes were Shirl Vickerson for Serdinsky Taxidermy and Gifts, Jackie Fort for Old Glory Antiques and Gifts, Lani Fenimore for Hague Creek Antiques and Gifts, Betty Heintzelman for Graphite Mountain Stoneworks, Debbie Hudler for Carriage Barn Antiques and Edie Berthelsen for The Red Garage Antiques.

### MOSES LUDINGTON HOSPITAL JANUARY CLINICS

We are very fortunate in this area to have some of the finest doctors available coming to the Moses-Ludington Hospital for scheduled clinics. For more information on these clinics, please call 585-2831 X137

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1/3 Dr. David Thompson                              | Gen'l Surgery                      |
| 1/6 Dr. Roger Biss                                  | Oncology                           |
| 1/6 Dr. Paul Danielson                              | Oral Surgery                       |
| 1/6 Dr. Rup Tandan                                  | Neurology                          |
| 1/8 Dr. Jamie Alpert                                | Dermatology                        |
| 1/9 Dr. Surendra K. Nevatia                         | Pulmonary/Sleep Apnea              |
| 1/17 Dr. David Thompson                             | Gen'l Surgery                      |
| 1/20 Dr. Paul Boerman                               | Oral Surgery                       |
| 1/20 Dr. Roger Biss                                 | Oncology                           |
| 1/21 Dr. Arthur Levy                                | Cardiology                         |
| 1/31 Dr. Bruce Herold                               | Podiatry                           |
| By Appointment                                      |                                    |
| Dr. Bradbury Fuller                                 | Gen'l Surgery                      |
| Dr. Ronald Malseptic                                | Nephrology                         |
| Dr. Harold Kirkpatrick                              | Plastic surgery, hand surgery, ENT |
| Tuesdays Dr. Douglas Kirkpatrick                    | Orthopedic                         |
| Fridays Lisa Riley, P.A.                            | Orthopedic                         |
| Wednesdays  |                                    |
| Dr. Raymond Maddocks, Stafford Center - for Urology |                                    |
| Appointments, call 585-6708                         |                                    |
| Wednesday Blood Pressure                            | 1-2PM                              |
| By appointment Bone Density & Mammograms            |                                    |

### HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The HVFD had one call using 2 1/2 man hours and the ambulance had five runs with 56 1/2 man hours expended.

Elections took place at the recent meeting of the Fire Dept. They are as follows:

President, Sal Santaniello; Vice-President, John Barber; Secretary, Joanne Trudeau; Treasurer, Jennifer Behr; One new member of the Board of Directors, Craig LaCourse; Food Chairperson, Renee Swinton, Co-chair, Michele Chase; Fire Chief, Chris Swinton, Asst. Chief, Mark Rutkowski; Captain, James Belden; Lieutenant, Paul Belden, Jr.; Foreman, Ernie Trudeau; Hague Property Man, Ray Mury; Hague Asst. Property Man, Charles Antonetti; Hague Custodian, Jason Laundree; Silver Bay Property Man, Charles Chase; Silver Bay Asst. Property Man, Joel Wright; Silver Bay custodian John Brown, Jr.; Ambulance Captain, Lu Megow; Co-captain Gerry Boyd. . . . Joanne Trudeau

*Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind.*

*. . . Mary Ellen Chase 12/02*

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 12/10/02

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held for: Florence Smith, Barbara Fitzgerald, and Judge Guy Graves

Public Comments:

Pat Carney and Frank Carney representing the Bloomer Valley Hunting Club expressed an interest in purchasing the gravel pit property from the town. Bids will be put out in the Spring.

Sandy Rust thanked the town for supporting the Holiday in Hague event sponsored by the Hague Specialty Shops.

Mary Jo Keeler, Acting Clerk for the meeting read the information on fuel bids. The Board voted to accept the bid from Agway in Plattsburg for 90.9 cents on #2 fuel oil and 81.9 cents on propane.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire - Councilman Meola noted that there have been some comments about the \$175,000 subsidy that the Fire Department will receive for next year. The Town does receive the Fire Department budget and feels that the Fire and Ambulance services are well worth it to the town. He asked for audience comments. "It is great." "Fire Dept does other things for the community, too." "Good response time." "Budget has increased substantially each year. Just need to keep track," were some of the comments from the audience.

Personnel - At the end of this month there will be openings on the planning and zoning boards. The planning board member, whose term expires, wants to be reappointed. Interested residents should submit an application.

Recreation/Promotion/Beautification -

Thanks and commendations were extended to the Senior Citizens for their beautiful luncheon attended by Councilmen Meola and Megow and Supervisor Belden and to all who helped with the town greens decorations (organized by Kay Barton and Dottie Henry) Thanks also to Mike Manning and his elves who did a superb job of decorating the center and the town trees.

Building & Grounds - The boiler is still acting up and will need an additional part. Councilman Hourigan said that the public should be aware that the homeowners water association, which includes the community center, is on a boiled water order so as a matter of public safety use only the bottled water for drinking.

Highway - Bill Bothe mentioned an incident at the highway garage regarding the use of sand and salt. The Town Board reiterated that as per their resolution of October 1998 residents may use sand for their private use only and that no salt was to be used by any resident or business. The Highway Department is continuing discussions with Wicker Ford about problems with the trucks.

Museum & Historian - Some clarification was given about the Cartoon Museum. The Board did not refuse a 3 year lease. They approved a one year lease pending

plans for the building. The Town has a contract with the Chamber of Commerce for \$1 rent. (see related article p. 5.)

Sewer District #1 - Supervisor Belden noted that one contractor has pulled out because the ground is frozen and will be back to do some more work. (Ed note: The Town has recently received copies of letters written to A. P. Reale & Sons, Inc. from both Elizabeth Barton and G. Gilbert Engler relative to work that needs to be completed on their property on Abenakis Road. They, along with several other residents, are waiting to have their properties put back in "as good or in better condition" than before torn up for sewer line installation.)

Councilman Meola noted that there are holes on both sides of Route 9N that need to be fixed and Supervisor Belden said that he would call DOT. (Ed note: One resident recently broke her ankle in a fall at one of these spots so our 9N walkers need to be very careful until this is fixed.)

There was discussion about the "plume" (petroleum contaminated area) which spans properties belonging to NYS, Lakeshore Garage and Maggiolo. (See related article on page 8.)

The Board toured the waste treatment plant which Councilman Hourigan described as "sophisticated and a good move forward for the Town of Hague."

Transfer and Recycling - The receipts for November were \$2882.50. A well is supposed to be put in before the end of the year. Refrigerators and air conditioners are unacceptable waste for scrap dealers and we are at risk for having contaminants released at the transfer station. The Board approved a motion that "Effective Monday, December 16th, the transfer station will no longer accept refrigerators, air-conditioners or dehumidifiers unless they are drained and certified." The process to recycle freon at an individual home costs about \$35. Many dealers who sell these items will pick up the old ones when they deliver the new ones. Notices of these new regulations will be posted around town immediately.

Unfinished business

Councilman Meola stated that there is nothing in the current Hague Town Code which can be enforced relative to junk cars. The Board has looked at proposals by Councilmen Meola and Hourigan. They could look at the new local laws from Ticonderoga. At the end of the year meeting on December 30th at 4:30 pm they will begin again by looking at the Ti laws.

Bill Bothe, who had been interim zoning administrator, introduced Tim Costello who is the new Hague Town Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO). Mr. Bothe also summarized the issues he had been working on and which he has discussed with Mr. Costello. New files, cabinets and code books are needed and the filing system needs upgrading. Mr. Bothe was thanked for all his efforts, especially helping to rectify issues before the new administrator took over.

(Cont. from page 3 - TOWN BOARD)

Councilman Meola spent a significant amount of time going over the history of the sewer issue on a Friends Point property. He wanted it clarified that the permits were issued by the Town of Hague and not by the LGPC which John Silvestri, Town Attorney, finally agreed to verify in a letter to Dominick Viscardi, attorney for the property owner, dated 11/22/02. Motion to accept the clarification was approved.

Mr. Silvestri has written to the NYS Attorney General's office for a ruling on the issue of permits for drilling a well in the Town of Hague. Since no one in Hague has had to get a permit for drilling a well, Councilman Meola moved that "Mr. Silvestri cease and desist any further pursuance of the matter." The other Board members want to "at least wait to see what the attorney general's office has to say." Motion failed 1-4.

The service contract on the boiler for \$1,350 to Stevenson was approved. Since it did not include air conditioning, bids will go out for that. After much discussion on the boiler issue (it never had an "eye" from day one), it was referred to the Building and Grounds Committee for further investigation and to report back.

The DOT response on a request by a resident to lower the speed limit in the Indian Kettles area was summarized. There will be no change although there does seem to be more police presence in the area.

Councilman Meola was appointed to conduct a training session for employees under the "Right to Know" law concerning hazardous materials. The Town had not conducted this workshop last year as required by law.

New Business:

The Town has received a proposal from Casella to manage the landfill. They have met with them to review it but no decision has yet been made.

Approved \$5000 to install a new siren at the Community Center for emergencies. The old one at the former firehouse will be removed.

Approved an agreement with Convenient Medical Care for drug testing.

Approved a resolution needed for HUD on the sewer grant for an intermunicipal agreement between Warren County and the Town of Hague.

Approved a resolution to participate in a Warren County Housing Survey.

Approved an ice and snow contract with DOT.

Supervisor Belden noted that the proposal for a bed tax for Warren County had come out of committee and is a possibility to be approved. . . js



*HAVE A HAPPY HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
MERRY MERRY NEW YEAR.*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

The views in this letter are those of a town resident whose property has been included in the proposed water district.

The concept of a public water system for the Town of Hague, not just the hamlet, is a sound one and needs to be considered seriously.

I have been opposed to what is being proposed from the beginning. The process is flawed and needs to be revisited. It emanated from the response by the Hague Homeowners Water Association (HHWA) to an order by the NYS Dept of Health to bring their system into compliance. This private water system serves approximately 20 homes.

The HHWA hired Adirondack Engineering Associates to do a report for improvements to their water system. Somewhere along the way the Town of Hague took over ownership of the process. The Town of Hague became a surrogate for the HHWA and its advocate. The Town ignored all other residents. They were not consulted. No needs assessment was done nor was input sought from those residents who were to be included in the proposed water district. The Town Board commissioned a series of reports which eventually will cost the Town of Hague \$25,000.

The application to the NYS Drinking Water Revolving Fund which resulted in a potential award of \$2 million was based on 195 properties (EDU's). In reality there are no more than approximately 130 EDU's. It would seem to me that this erroneous data would invalidate the application. In its Nov. 2002 report to the Town of Hague, Adirondack Engineering Associates shows 200.5 EDU's and an annual cost per EDU of \$480. Based on the more accurate number of 130 EDU's, the annual cost will be about \$750 per year. These figures are based on all homeowners hooking up. However, homeowners who do not hook up will be charged only for the capital cost and not for the expenses of running the system. Therefore the annual cost can only go higher than the \$750 per year per EDU.

I am proposing abandoning the present proposal, go back to square one and develop a plan for a public water system which will include as much of the Town of Hague as possible. Rudy Meola, Hague



There's more, much more to Christmas  
Than candlelight and cheer;  
It's the spirit of sweet friendship  
That brightens all the year,  
It's thoughtfulness and kindness,  
It's hope reborn again  
For peace, for understanding  
And for goodwill to men! . . . .

. . . . anonymous

HAGUE CARTOON MUSEUM

Stan Burdick, owner of the collection of cartoons that are displayed in the Hague Cartoon Museum, is looking to relocate the collection. For the past 50 years Stan has been collecting and framing the over 700 pieces of valuable cartoon art that are the attraction in the Cartoon Museum. The Museum, currently located in the old Hague Town Hall on Route 8 next to the Baptist Church, is leased for a nominal fee by the Hague Chamber of Commerce and Stan serves as the volunteer director. The Town has been investigating alternate uses of the building and extended the lease only through 2003. Stan planned to continue as director past 2003 if the Museum remained in a Hague location. With this venue in doubt, he is now considering selling the entire collection and would act only as an advisor. Both Corinth and Glens Falls have indicated interest in having this cartoon collection as a tourist attraction. Stan has voluntarily created this tourist destination in Hague for the past five years and has greeted about 2500 visitors. Is the continuation of the Hague Cartoon Museum valuable to Hague and, if so, what is being done about it?

MOBILE HOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM SURVEY

The Warren County Planning Dept. is now preparing a grant proposal to submit to the State of New York for a Mobile Home Replacement Program. Your participation in this survey will be used to document the need for these housing services.

This grant proposal will target households owning land with a mobile home and who wish to replace their mobile home with a stick-built one or a modular home.

Please call 761-6410 for an application. You may also request an application from the Warren County Planning Dept., 1340 State Rt. 9, Lake George, NY 128345-9803 or E-Mail to [planning@co.warren.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.warren.ny.us)

MOVEMENT FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

CHI KUNG TAI CHI

(Chinese exercises for quieting the mind and strengthening the body))

Location: Hague Community Building  
Time: Thursday Evenings, 6:30-7:30PM  
Starting: January 16, 2003 for ten weeks.

Cost: \$9.00 per class or \$80.00 for 10 weeks  
Senior Citizens: \$7.00 per class or \$60.00 for 10 weeks

For further information and to register call:  
Mae Pagan at 543-6605

WATERKEEPER NAVITSKY ADDRESSES ROTARY

Chris Navitsky, the Lake George Waterkeeper, spoke about his position to the Northern Lake George Rotary at its December 3rd breakfast meeting. Navitsky, an engineer, works as an educator and lobbyist in his role as a Waterkeeper which is part of a national advocacy and watch-dog group. His areas of concern include the environment (clean air, clean water), endangered species and fishing, and the aesthetics of the natural surroundings.

Sponsored by the Lake George Fund, Chris attends town, zoning and planning meetings in the eight towns of the Lake George watershed. He has studied watershed issues and has written and reviewed ordinances. Chris is a central resource for legal, engineering and organizational information to check on Lake issues such as stormwater runoff, soil erosion and uplands protection.

Chris has attended many meetings in Hague and has been encouraging the use of the proper procedures by the Planning and Zoning Boards. He has been a conduit of information between the Town and other local organizations such as the LGPC, the LGA and the Lake George Watershed conference.

A current focus on uplands protection includes the promotion of limiting clearing, driveway guidelines and grading requirements to help reduce the velocity of runoff in order to capture sediment before it reaches the deltas. This issue not only has an environmental impact but also an economic one as can be seen in Hague when dredging becomes necessary.

Chris also has concerns about Personal Water Craft (PWC) and the implementation of regulations on them. He promotes the use of 4 stroke engines.

Chris is a caring, knowledgeable and energetic individual who is serving as an excellent advocate for Lake George. We are fortunate that the Lake George Fund found him and that we have someone to turn for questions and suggestions about keeping our Lake and its surrounding area in a quality condition.

Chris can be contacted at 664-KEEP (5337) or [lgkeeper@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lgkeeper@nycap.rr.com).  
...js

12/02

Chris Navitsky

Lake George Waterkeeper



HAGUE PLANNING BOARD - 12/5/02

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Swanson at 7 PM. He welcomed new personnel - Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Tim Costello, board member Rolly Allen and secretary-Charlie Patch. Also present were members Dick Gladu, Ralph Denno and Pete Foster while John Brown and Nancy Harrigan were absent.

The first discussion was concerning lakeside property owned by Bill Morgan across from the former restaurant (Hearth/Ody's) on Lakeshore Drive. Mr. Morgan has torn down storage sheds and plans to build a home on the area. Questions were raised about docks on the property but Mr. Morgan said he already had permission from the LGPC and Chairman Swanson said that the Planning Board did not have jurisdiction on the water. Mr. Morgan had already made plans for a contractor to begin work and told the Planning Board that he needed to have site plan approval immediately. While suggesting that urgency was not a requirement which should be made of them, the Board did agree to conduct a site review the next morning.

The next item concerned a request by Stull Realty to put up signage on Route 8 for their new location where Mt. Zion Gift Shop used to be located. There was some question about whether the previous business had been approved or whether it was necessary. The Planning Board agreed to a site review of the location and noted that they should be "part of the loop" for anyone considering opening a business in the town.

Cris Ginn appeared before the Board with a current update of the plans that he and Sheri have for turning the old firehouse into a restaurant. They will not have onsite parking. A motion was approved 5-0 for a restaurant use for the entire building with a right to have one apartment on the second floor and with the Planning Board reserving later comment on outside aesthetics.

Alice Patchett appeared to clarify her plans for construction on property on New Hague Road in response to questions from neighbors. ZEO Costello has said that it needs filing for sight plan review including possible subdivision. ...js

TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PROPOSED WATER DISTRICT

On December 9th the Town Board held yet another public hearing for information and comments about the proposed Hague Water District #1. A representative from Adirondack Engineering Associates, John Cheslik, discussed the latest information from his firm which had been asked to get more exact figures that could be presented to the public before voting on the proposed district. He noted that the best alternative is to use Lake George water with filtration and chlorination in a \$3.6 million dollar project.

Cheslik further stated the cost per edu (equivalent

dwelling unit) would be approximately \$480 per year of which \$40 is operation and maintenance.

When questioned by residents Emily Cobb and Cathy Clark, whose research into this water district seem to have made them more knowledgeable than the paid experts, Cheslik acknowledged that these figures were still the numbers that had been used in the grant application. In their independent research Emily and Cathy have repeatedly suggested that the number of actual edu's is closer to 132 than the 200.5 that Adirondack Engineering is using. In addition not all those edu's represent people who actually plan to sign on to the water district which would make the cost to the actual users much higher. Emily suggested that the figure could easily go above \$800 per year. Under NYS guidelines, if the average estimated cost for water use fees exceeds \$597 it will need to be reviewed for approval by the state comptroller's office.

Cathy and Emily have made several requests that the Town Board officially state that only those using the water system, if it were established, would be charged user fees. Councilman Meola made the motion and the Town Board approved unanimously that user fees (operation & maintenance) will only be charged to those that are using the water although everyone pays capital cost.

Councilman Meola further indicated that he had no faith in the latest report prepared by Adirondack Engineering Associates and did not feel that the information was accurate enough for the voters to make a decision on the proposed water district.

Ursula Montbriand questioned whether the Hague Homeowners might put in wells and then the state might demand a municipal water system. Mr. Cheslik said that the federal government will require it because they consider Lake George an open body of water that must be filtered if it is used by more than 5 users on a system. Councilman Hourigan noted that currently the Hague Homeowners Association, which includes the Town Community Center, is under an order to boil water before using it for drinking.

Councilman Meola suggested that the Board should seriously consider whether they want to pursue this project since the economics don't make the project worthwhile pursuing. He felt that the Town should continue to pursue ways to help all homeowners have adequate water systems. Cathy Clark said, "From the beginning I have been saying that this is a bandaid. I asked in June why didn't it get bigger? From the beginning we were only looking at a small number of properties." And Frank Montbriand added, "As we curtail the district it becomes economically unfeasible. Other towns with sewer systems also have water systems. Down the road Hague will need a town water district and we shouldn't be shortsighted."

Supervisor Belden asked Adirondack Engineering Associates to clarify some of the issues and present more accurate data to the Board...js 12/02

## SOUNDINGS

**DIED:** Edith May Waters Niles, 88, on Oct. 23, 2002 in Sayre, PA. Mrs Niles was a long time resident of Hague, having graduated from Hague High School. Mrs. Niles leaves 2 sons, Nelson and Matthew, and 2 daughters, Janice and Judy and 4 sisters.

**DIED:** Guy A. Graves, 85, NYS Supreme Court Judge for many years, in Vero Beach, FL on November 19, 2002. The Graves have been summer residents of Sabbath Day Point since the late 1950's. He is survived by his wife, Betsy, three sons, Tony, John and Stephen.

**DIED:** Florence Emma (Balcom) Smith, 100, formerly of Overbrook Drive, Hague on November 21, 2002 at Hallmark Nursing Center, Granville. She is survived by two nieces, Iola McCullough and Lenore Smith. Florence was a member of the Hague Board of Elections for 50 years. She was also a member of the Board of Assessment Review, an organist at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament and was honored as Senior Citizen of the Year of 1999. Florence was the oldest living resident of Hague at the time of her death.

**DIED:** Barbara G. Fitzgerald, 59, Overbrook Drive, Hague, on November 24, 1001 at Glens Falls Hospital. Mrs. Fitzgerald was a teacher's assistant for many years at Ticonderoga Central School. Survivors include her husband, Michael G., two sons, David A. and Gregory S., two brothers and one sister.

**DIED:** Mary Ellen (Napp) Armes, 79, in Hudsonville, MI. on December 8, 2002. Mrs Armes was a long-time summer resident of Silver Bay. She is survived by a son, and three daughters, one sister. She was a sister-in-law to Lolly Armes and Kay Holliday of Hague.

### TICONDEROGA MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### ACHIEVEMENT ROLL:

Grade 8: Janine Best, John Breitenbach, Casondra Collins, Brittney Haran, Kelly McCoy, Kacheena Trudeau

Grade 7: Samantha Abare, Connor Kubricky, Daniel Steitz

Grade 6: Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn, Shane King, Amanda McCoy,

#### MERIT ROLL:

Grade 8: Stephanie Nast

Grade 7: Benajah Denno, Hunter Denno, Samantha Fish, Jordon Fuller, Henry Girard, Aaron Palait, Eric Robinson, Ryan Ryder  
Grade 6: Shane Graser, Mara Haskell, Aaron Lawrence

## SCHOLAR/ATHLETES

Athletic Director Jim Wells has announced the Ticonderoga High School students who achieved Scholar-Athlete status at the end of the first marking period. 49 student/athletes in grades 9-12 earned first honors and 28 earned second honors. Ti athletes participated in cheer leading, football, cross-country, soccer and gymnastics during the fall season of 2002.

Grade 9: First Honors - Andrew Trombley  
Second Honors - Michelle Coffin, Bryce Gurney, Jacob Lawrence.

Grade 10: Second Honors - Danielle Connors, Joshua Patchett

Grade 11: Second Honors - Matt Frasier, Tom Haskell

Grade 12: First Honors - Kelly Frasier

### ABARE NOMINATED FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Ashley Abare, daughter of Bernadette Denno and Josh Michalak, Hague and Mike Abare, Milton, VT, has been nominated for this year's St. Lawrence Univ. Augsbury/North Country Scholarship Program. Students nominated for this scholarship program who apply and successfully enroll at St. Lawrence Univ. will receive \$7,500 per year for four years. The selected candidates for the scholarship will receive \$15,000 annually, renewable for four years.

Ashley has been an active member of her class, participating in National Honor Society, Drama, Junior Miss runner-up and Basketball. She has also taken karate and has been a softball coach for the Ti Youth Commission for six years. Ashley plans to study Business and Communications at college.

*Christmas is for children. But it is for grown-ups too. Even if it is a headache, a chore, and nightmare, it is a period of necessary defrosting of chill and hide-bound hearts.*

*... Lenora M. Weber*

### MOSES-LUDINGTON HOSPITAL - EST. 1908

Staffed with caring professionals, this 15-bed critical access hospital with a 24-hour Emergency Room and helicopter transport capability offers cutting edge technology, a newly expanded computer system, new telmedicine capabilities and CT scanning. Services that have been greatly improved under the recent \$13 million renovation and expansion project include:

Outpatient Surgical Services, 24-hour Emergency Room Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, Radiology & Diagnostic Services, Early Prevention Center, Women's Imaging, Laboratory Services, Outpatient Clinics, Medical Supply Center, Family Dental Care.



CONTAMINATION UNCOVERED DURING SEWER CONSTRUCTION

WEATHER NOTES by Mary Lou Doulin

According to a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) memo, the DEC has been investigating contamination issues in the hamlet of Hague since the first UST (underground storage tank) was encountered and removed from a parcel south of the Lakeshore Garage on the Maggiolo property in 91-92. Subsequently the Lakeshore Garage removed and closed 5 UST's.

Following that they excavated a large volume of contaminated soil and they installed a series of monitoring wells to assess ground water impact. Soil excavation was limited in 3 directions resulting in some contamination being left in place.

In October 2002, contractors discovered a UST on the Maggiolo property during trenching activities. They discovered an inground tank leaking petroleum products which when exposed emitted a very pungent odor that residents even up on Overlook Hill smelled. The property owner took responsibility to close the tank and have it decontaminated with the assistance of a professional firm. The tank has been cleaned but is still on site waiting for transport for scrap metal.

The sewer laterals and pipes have been installed on the property and pollutants can travel by capillary action along these pipes toward the Lake. While the DEC has indicated that it intends to continue monitoring the area no environmental impacts are anticipated beyond the two involved properties.

The contaminant plume covers an area on Lakeshore Garage property, the Maggiolo property and on the State right of way. ...js

The latest prediction from the National Weather Bureau is that El Nino (not La Nino, as previously reported,) is the major factor in our weather. It seems to push the jet stream farther south. Therefore, more violent storms and wet conditions are going to occur in the southeastern U.S. For our own region, drier, warmer conditions for the next few months should exist.

That is in sharp contrast to the very cold and wet November we just experienced. It was the third coldest November on record. Thanksgiving we had snow on the ground and lots of sunshine. The coldest day so far was December 10 when it was 1 degree at 5:30AM at lakeside.

Navigating the yards and the driveways has been difficult as they have been extremely icy due to the mixed precipitation. Often the snow falls have begun with rain, sleet and freezing rain. The Canada geese (about 100) have been languishing in the hamlet. Lake Champlain is frozen so Lake George is the main open water for them.

Speaking of Canada geese and weather predictions, in folk lore it is believed you can save the breast bone of a goose and dry it. It can be an indicator of future weather conditions. Watch the color. If the bone turns blue, a hard wild winter is in store. If it stays white, a mild winter will occur.

Temperatures are currently back to the high 30s and low 40s. Maybe this will be a warming trend.

TOWN OF HAGUE 2003 BUDGET

The Town Board approved the 2003 budget at the November 6th meeting. The highlights of the budget are below. Copies of the complete budget are available at the Community Center. The tentative county rate is 3.808 per thousand of assessed valuation which is up from a rate of 3.25 last year.

Fund	Budget	Less Estimated Revenue	Less unexpended Balance	To Raise by Tax
General	\$623,070	\$503,010	\$116,000	\$4,060
Highway	\$437,900	\$213,600	\$30,000	\$194,300
Street Light	\$7,000	\$100	\$1,500	\$5,400
Fire/Ambulance	\$175,000	\$300	\$500	\$174,200
Sewer	\$96,700	\$96,700	\$0	\$0
Capital fund		\$100		
Totals	\$1,339,670	\$813,810	\$148,000	\$377,960

	Assessed Value	2003 Tax Levy	2003 Tax Rate	2002 Levy	% change from 2002
Townwide	\$275,405,524	\$198,360	0.721	0.813	-11.32
Streetlight District	\$23,123,325	\$5,400	0.234	0.308	-24.10
Fire and Ambulance District	\$279,100,325	\$174,200	0.625	0.591	5.72





## MEMORY TREE

The following names have been placed on the Memory Tree in the Hague Community Center:

Jamie Achey, Barbara Allen, Pauline Allison, Jo Arata, Anna Balcom, Ralph Balcom, Howard Barnett, Ruth Barnett, Joseph Barnett Family, Doris Speer Barth, Mary Beadnell, Barbara Hoffay Beaver, Esther Belden, James Belden, Maud Belden, Joe Belden, Herb & Nell Belknap, Karla Berube, M.C. Beste, Charles Billing, Mary Billing, Tish H. Bingham, Winifred Blair, William Blair, James N. Bly, Mame Bolton, Pauline Bolton, Richard J. Bolton, George Boyd, Josephine Lambert Braisted, Herb Brigham, Muriel Brigham, Catherine Brock, Louis Brock, James Broderick, Margaret Broderick, Charlie Burgey, George Byrnes;

also Nettie Cappiello, Michael Cappiello, Will and Laura Carpenter, Mason W. Carpenter & sons, Thomas M. Carpenter, David A. Carpenter, Sr. & Jr., George Carter, Ruth Carter, Roland Carter, Edsal Case, William Case Family, Lanny Chesky, Louis Chesky, Gregory Chesky, Sadie Chesky, Bernard Clifton, Fran Clifton (honor of), Fotios Costidis, Irene Coveney, Alison & Bruce Craig (honor of), Edward Hubley Crabbs, Elisa H. Crabbs, Edward Hamilton Crabbs, Bertha Reiff Crabbs, David Dent Crabbs, John David Crabbs, Steve & Colette Davis (honor of), Deck Decker, Joseph A. DeFelice, Marion Denno, Eugene Denno, Gray & Susan Densmore (honor of), Linda Dolbeck, Bertha Dunsmore (honor of), Frederick S. Dickson III, Val and Craig Dickson (honor of), Aileen Dwyer, Richard Dwyer, Sam Eannace, Mildred Eddy, Earl Elethorpe, Gladys Elethorpe, Hem Fish, Charlie Fish, Floyd Fish, Jay Fortino (honor of), William Foster, Roland Forgette, Olawia Fortier, Marilyn Frank, Alice Frasier, Clifton (Slip) Frasier, Geraldine Frasier., Dale W. Frasier, Lee Frasier, Mitchell Frasier, Samuel L.R. Frasier, Hazel Frasier, S. Richard Frasier, Carl William Frasier, Yeril Mary Fish Frasier, Stanley Carl Frasier, Donald Lee Frasier, Clifford (Jake) Frasier, Mary A. Frasier;

also Elaine Gallo, Denis Glennon, Anna Gustafson, Hague Central School Faculty, Gene Halleran, Edna Halleran, Helene Halleran, Charles Henderson, Sara G. Henderson, Charles Henderson Jr., Virginia K. Henderson, James W. Henderson, Donald Henderson, Robert Henderson, Dorothy Henry (honor of), Henry Grandchildren (honor of), Jack Henry, Johnny & Ivelisse Henry (honor of), Edwin & Peggy Hinck, Ada Hoyt, Bob Hoyt, George Huestis, Dr. Bob & Elizabeth Hume, Anita Insley, Stuart Insley, Curt Jordon, Margaret Jordon, Gloria Karmazin, Henry H. Karmazin, Ludwig Kasal, Jack Kennedy, Irene Knickerbocker, Elizabeth Kostides, Fred LaPann, Madeleine & Henry Leach, Cliff Lund, Rose Lungstrass, Otto Lungstrass;

also Edna Malloy, Joseph Malloy, Hope Manning, Eber Masten, Bessie Masten, Gladys Meeker, Roy Meeker, Pauline Meeker, Norma Rose Megow, A. Irene Megow, Ludolf J. Megow, Elizabeth Meismeyer, Fred Meismeyer, Madeline Minnow, Michael Minnow, Ursula Montbriand, (honor of), Mary Hoffay Moran, Doris Morse, Joseph B. Morse, Herb Offerman, Alfred Ostrander, Bob Palandri family (honor of), Grace Patchett, Nelson Patchett, Francis Pelkey, Mary Peria, Janet Urice Perreault, Bob Eugene Peters, Claire Piantadosi, Andy Powvorznik, Louise A. Prentiss, Stewart Price, Grace Grimm Price, Katherine Mills Price, Brian and Tracy Price (honor of), Connie Ramagli, Lucio Ramagli, Mitzi Rappaport, Sy Rappaport, Francis Rich, Gary Rich, Hilda Rich, Wesley Ross, Leroy Ryder, Judith Hoffay Rypkema, James E. Schaeffer Sr., Mabel B. Smith, Edith Smith, Thomas G. Smith, David Soliday, Jr., Fred Spreeman, Richard Stormer, Sr., Fred & Catherine Stull, Nancy Stull, Gladys Steurer, Bruce Steurer, Kenneth Steurer, Ernst Steurer, Charles Steurer, Charlotte Steurer, Christine L. Sweeney, Katherine E. Sweeney, Daniel J. Sweeney, Sr., Mildred Tuminsky, Nick Turano, Michael Tyburski, Jay A. Urice, Sr., Marguerite N. Urice, George N. Urice, Jeane A. Urice, Sharon Waters, Walt Waters, Clifton West, Bob & Betty Wotton (honor of), Harriet R. Wotton, Robert L. Wotton, Gabriel Wright, Doug & Sharon Zeyak (honor of).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2002 AND JANUARY 2003

December

- 20 Blood Pressure clinic
- 23 thru 31 - School holiday
- 24-25 - All town offices closed
- 26 ZBA - 7:00PM
- 27 Town Board end of year meeting - 4:30PM

January

- 2 Planning Board 7PM
- 3 Town Board Organizational meeting -6:30PPM
- 6 Hague Crafters ( Home Bureau) - 10AM
- 6 Fire Dept. meeting - 7:30PM - Firehouse
- 12 The Hague Chronicle Deadline
- 13 Senior Bus to Glens Falls
- 14 Town Board meeting - 6:30PM
- 15 Blood Pressure Clinic
- 16 Carillon Garden Club - 11AM - Com. Ctr.

TRANSFER STATION IS OPEN TUESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, FROM 9AM TO 5PM. (Closed Dec. 24 & 25).  
CHRISTMAS WEEK - OPEN MON. FRI., SAT.

Remember to remove the labels from aluminum and tin cans before you take them for recycling at the transfer station.

*Holidays are a time when many people give and receive gifts. However, often we fail to realize that the most precious gifts are not the material ones at all. Which of these gifts will we give and receive this year?*

*Acceptance*  
of the rights and needs of others

*Listening*  
without judging or interrupting

*PEACE*

*Forgiveness*  
when we feel we have been wronged

*Faith*  
in God, others and ourselves

*ON*

*Encouragement*  
when someone is frightened or unsure

*Time*  
to reach out to those in need

*EARTH*

*Recognition*  
of the qualities and accomplishments of others

*Love*  
for one another

*Patience*  
when people or times are difficult

And don't forget that a smile or hug can do wonders!  
... Nancy Steed

MAY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE YEAR AHEAD BE ABUNDANT IN THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF THESE GIFTS.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is published on or about the 20th of each month by volunteers and supported by contributions from its readers. Send news items to Publisher/Editor DOROTHY HENRY, 151 New Hague Road, Hague, NY 12836-2605 by the 12th of each month. Send yearly tax deductible contributions to THE HAGUE CHRONICLE, P. O. BOX 748, Hague, NY 12836-0748.

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**Happy Holidays**

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT