



VOLUME 30 NO 12
Fax (518)543-6633

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836
Email: hchague@capital.net

DECEMBER 2001
Tel. (518) 543-6633

Season's Greetings

CHRISTMAS IN HAGUE

On Christmas Eve, the Hague Baptist Church and the Hague Wesleyan Church will hold a service at the Baptist Church at 7PM. Both churches will be participating in the service with special music and carol singing by the congregation. Following the service refreshments will be served in the annex, including a birthday cake for the Baby Jesus. The community is cordially invited to attend this service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Church of the Blessed Sacrament has scheduled a Vigil Mass at 7PM on Christmas Eve. From 5-7PM there will be a gathering, with refreshments, in the parish center prior to the service and also immediately following the service. All are welcome.

EDITORIAL

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and he has already been to the town of Hague. After the wonderful display of autumn and Halloween done by the merchants of Hague, the Enhancement Committee took over and exchanged the mums in the hanging baskets for greens and red bows. With greens supplied by Rudy Meola from his beautiful trees and labor by Kay Barton, Dottie Henry, Rudy Meola and Mike Manning, the baskets were hung and the boxes on the bridge replenished the week after Thanksgiving. At the same time Bertha Dunsmore, Debbie Manning, Mike Manning, Rick Myers, Diane Trudeau, and Joanne Trudeau were busy playing Santa inside and outside the Community Center and were aided by Imogene Brasier, who wrapped all the packages. The information center booth and tree in the park and along the brook were also decorated. Individual homes and businesses are all decked out for the season.



The Hague Specialty Shops did themselves proud by sponsoring a "Holiday in Hague" shopping tour on December 1. It was a huge success and really well

attended. We congratulate these proprietors on their organization and cooperative spirit and are looking forward to their next project!

TOWN TRUCK FOR SALE

The Town of Hague will sell a 1992, 150 pick up truck by sealed bid. Bids must be in by January 7, 2002 at 4PM. If you are interested, you can check out the truck, which is parked at the Hague Community Ctr.

PARTIAL PROPERTY 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 \$60,000. 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, 2002.

Position of Historian for Town of Hague is open. Applications should be in by Dec. 28. Call 543-6161 for information.

This Christmas take some time to count your blessings. . . You will find they're more abundant than you thought. . . Leon Hanson (Thanks to the Craigs for sharing this)

TWELFTH NIGHT - JANUARY 6, 2002

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild is sponsoring a celebration of music performed by area church choirs on Sunday, January 6 at 7PM at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga. This has been a tradition for the past several years and has always been well received by local residents. The concert will be followed by a social time with refreshments.

ELECTION RESULTS

After the absentee ballots have been counted, the elections results are as follows:

Supervisor - Dan Belden	<u>352</u>
Skip Hourigan	82
Town Clerk Debbie Manning	<u>409</u>
Highway Supt. - Bill Bothe	<u>325</u>
Councilmen Rudy Meola	<u>257</u>
Lu Megow	<u>243</u>
Martin Fitzgerald	239
Town Justice Heather Knott	203
Charles Antonetti	122
Bill Tausinger	46

There was a total of 470 voters including the absentees, divided as follows: Republican Party - 289; Democratic Party - 97; Blanks - 73; Independence Party - 6; Conservative Party - 3 and Libertarian - 2

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

There was one false alarm and one service call during the past month.

Ambulance #740 travelled 740 miles and #741 travelled 193 miles. 65 1/2 man hours were expended.

These included 7 runs: 3 transports, 1 spinal injury, 1 respiratory, 1 medical alert and 1 cancellation.

MOHICAN CRAFTERS CLUB

As of January 2002 a craft and social group will form in Hague. It will be known as the Mohican Crafters Club. Dues will be six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6.25) per year with an additional \$.25 collected at each meeting attended which will help defray the cost of materials.

Leaders will be Trudy Karmazin (543-8838), Claire Best (543-6765) and Jackie Ambra (543-6604). Meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month, weather permitting, in the Hague Community Center at 10AM.

Anyone interested in crafts should come and share ideas with us at our first meeting on January 15, 2002. Call the Hague Community Center 543-6161 for more information.



Sal Santaneillo presents Norma and Lu Megow with 2001 Hague Senior Citizens of the Year Award.

The Hague Town Christmas party held on December 1 was a huge success. A large number of adults, with children in tow, enjoyed the evening. Gifts were given to each child by Santa Claus who appeared in all his finery. Bruce Tamlyn was certainly an added attraction for the children when he led in singing of old favorites. Everyone had lots of fun.

Thanks to Cathie Burdick of the Chamber of Commerce who with lots of help from the cookie bakers had a wonderful array of goodies for all.

The big moment of the evening was the presentation of the Senior Citizen Award of the Year. This year for the first time it was awarded to a couple, both of whom have been very active in the community. Lu and Norma Megow have been residents of Hague since 1973, first as summer residents and then retiring here in 1985. Both of them have been active members of the fire department for many years. Lu has served as town councilman since 1994 and has just won reelection for his third term. HATS OFF to our newly chosen seniors of the year!!

FROM YOUR EDITOR

We have initiated something new with this issue of *The Hague Chronicle*. We have printed our FIRST photograph, thanks to the newest member of our staff, Judy Stock.

Judy came to Hague as a child and graduated from Hague High School. She has been teaching in White Plains, NY until her recent retirement when she moved back to the family home in Hague. We are certainly grateful for her help and expertise. We are looking forward to a long and beneficial association!!

OPEN HEARING ON WATER DISTRICT - 11/28/01

John Cheslik and Bill Rucker of Adirondack Engineering Associates, together with Bruce Goodale of Northeastern New York RCAP, gave an overview of what is involved in establishing a municipal water district. They also gave an update of the steps already taken in this process. An ad-hoc committee, appointed by Supervisor Belden, has established boundaries for the proposed Water District #1.

The Town of Hague is submitting a hardship application for funding from the New York State Drinking Water Revolving Fund. Hague should be eligible for the most grant money available which is 2 million dollars (\$ 2,000,000) or 75% of the project cost whichever is lower. Using an estimated cost of 3.7 million dollars (\$ 3,700,000), Hague would be eligible for 2 million dollars (\$ 2,000,000) leaving a balance to be raised from additional grants or town monies of 1.7 million dollars (\$ 1,700,000). If this application is approved for \$2 million then the estimated cost to every household in the proposed Water District #1 would be \$334. One half of this figure would cover the capital cost and the other half the maintenance and operation of the system once in use. Residents in the water district who are non-users of the system would pay the yearly capital expense only. For new homes built, or non-users who wanted to connect to the system, there would be a connection fee and the annual fee. These figures are just estimates. The exact amounts would depend on the cost of the water system and the collection method. The engineers noted that the town could, for example, impose a metering system since there are businesses within the water district. A future business such as a restaurant could be assessed according to seating capacity.

Supervisor Belden stated that the issue of whether or not a water district is formed would depend on the funding available and a vote of persons in the proposed district. The project would proceed only if it can be funded in its entirety.

Councilman-elect Rudy Meola noted that the Town Board has only approved a resolution to spend \$7000 to date for the initial study (phase 1) by the engineers. The full report by the engineers would cost \$25,000 with phase 2 costing \$10,000 and phase 3 costing \$8,000. He noted that this additional \$18,000 will be paid for by all the taxpayers in the Town, not just those in the proposed water district.

The engineers noted that the planning funds could be recovered in the grant funding. Their advice was that the Town file all the preeligibility applications for funding that it can in order to see if the project is affordable including the USDA World Development fund and the Small Cities grants. The final funding applications would be submitted after the Town forms the water district. The funding commitments are not expected until next summer.

Bruce Goodale, working for a non-profit organization, did a yearly income survey of people in the proj-

ect area. For the survey to be statistically valid a response of 80% was needed but the responses were only about 65% of the surveys sent out. As a result it was decided that the Town could still be eligible for funds if it could be shown that 75% of the EDU's (equivalent dwelling unit) in the proposed water district are for year-round residents. Some audience members disputed the accuracy of the 75% figure. This figure was arrived at since empty lots were counted as "1/2 an EDU if less than 1 acre" and hotel/motel units in the area were considered a partial EDU but year-round.

The figures used by the engineers were:

EDU's	seasonal units	yr-round units	total units
area #1	29	71.5	100.5
area #2	5.5	76	81.5
area #3	15.5	2	17.5
totals	50	149.5	199.5

yr-round to total is 75% to nearest percent.

The Hague Homeowners Water Association is a non-profit group of water users whose only officer is Lynn Patchett, Treasurer. Lee Keeler has volunteered his time to contact homeowners and alert them to the directive by

the DOH (Department of Health) to bring the present water system into compliance with DOH regulations. A feasibility study done by the current water-using homeowners found that it would need \$115,000 to bring the system "up to snuff" so they turned to the Town for help. The Water Association is currently under a court order to comply or face fines. If the Town indicates that it is willing to proceed with the water district, then Karen Skalar of the DOH will recommend to the judicial tribunal that these fines be waived.

A question was asked about cost overruns such as questionable soil content. Supervisor Belden said that "bore samples" have been taken and that "the contractor will know what is in the soil". The contractor would be bonded.

A motion was made by Art Steitz and seconded by Martin Fitzgerald that the Town of Hague submit the necessary application to the NY State Water Quality Revolving Fund and asked Adirondack Engineering Associates to prepare funding applications from other sources at no cost to the Town.

Mr. Steitz and Mr. Fitzgerald both indicated that they would like to see a commitment to the water district before any further town funds were committed. Mr. Hourigan indicated he did not wish to spend additional funds now. "Yes" votes from Steitz, Fitzgerald, Megow and Belden. "No" from Hourigan. Motion passed 4-1.

A motion was made by Martin Fitzgerald and seconded by Art Steitz to authorize the Supervisor to write a letter of good faith to the DOH. This letter would support the efforts of the Homeowners so that the judge would not impose fines. Unanimously approved.

... js and rm

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 12/11/01

The Hague Town Board held its regular meeting on December 11, 2001. Councilman Hourigan was absent. A moment of silence was observed for Robert Vietor, Dorothy Traver, Tyler Dennett and Stan Jewell's daughter.



During the public participation of the meeting Rudy Meola announced tht he is organizing a community salute to Dottiei Henry for next summer. "Dottie's contributions to our town need to be recognized," he said.

Payment of bills was approved and minutes of past meetings were accepted without comments.

Bids for fuel oil and propane gas for the town facilities were awarded to the lowest bidder, Mountain Petroleum.

Committee reports were presented including: that the assessor is proceeding with the assessment updating: a light pole has been placed at the Community Center parking lot for better illumination of the area. Goetsch General Contracting submitted the only bid for work to the highway garage; the Board approved his bid for \$41,142.00. The Board asked the Highway Superintendent to prepare a plan for the removal of snow in the downtown area and the clearing of sidewalks. With the growth of businesses in the post office area, snow removal needs to be addressed. Art Steitz reported that the ZBA is reviewing a request for a subdivision on Hollow Road and that it granted a variance to the Johnsons to double the size of their small house in Silver Bay. Supervisor Belden reported that he has been appointed the Hague Brook Project Review chairperson and that he is looking to appoint a project manager. A meeting on this project has been scheduled for 1/8/02 at 10AM at the Lake George Town Center.

Supervisor Belden and Sal Santaniello, representing the Chamber of Commerce, expressed their pleasure over the success of the town Christmas party. They thanked Mike and Debbie Manning, Diane Trudeau, Bertha Dunsmore and the many volunteers who helped. The Winter Weekend will be held on 2/16 and 2/17/2002. Breakfast both days at the firehouse. Dinner will be at the Silver Bay Assoc. on Sat. The foot race held on Saturday will be named the Fred LaPann Memorial Race in honor of Fred LaPann, who died on August 14, 2001. Mr. LaPann was an organizer and participant in this race for many years.

Councilman Megow reported that the transfer station collected \$2,895 for the past month.

Supervisor Belden is preparing a resolution for the town board to act at its meeting on 12/26/01 at 4:30PM. That resolution will be presented to the Warren County Board of Supervisors and is necessary in order to complete an audit of a HUD grant the town received sever-

al years ago. This will close out the project. He also reported that a meeting has been scheduled for 12/19/01 at 1:00 PM at the W.C.Municipal Center on the landfill closure and there will be a meeting with the Hague Historical Society on 12/14/01 at 4PM.

The town accepted a proposal from Warren County Community Action to transport Hague seniors to Glens Falls for the 2002 calendar year (12 trips) at a cost of \$1980. It also approved a contract with the Ticonderoga Youth Commission for the year 2002 at a cost of \$1,000.

The Town Board presented a resolution of appreciation to Art Hatfield for his service to ZBA and to Martin Fitzgerald for his service to the Town Board and to the community over a long period of time.

Robert Patchett inquired as to the status of the Comprehensive Plan and when it will come before the Board for action. He was informed that it was still being reviewed by the Planning Board. Supervisor Belden will write the chairman of the Board urging him to move the process along.

The subject of Warren County imposing a bed tax and increasing the sales tax was discussed. Both issues will be voted upon by the Board of Supervisors within the next few months. Supervisor Belden is asking for input from taxpayers on their views. His vote will reflect the sentiments of the majority. **CALL OR WRITE HIM AND LET HIM KNOW WHERE YOU STAND ON THIS ISSUE.**

In response to an inquiry from the floor, Supervisor Belden stated that he had not as yet received an answer from School Superintendent John McDonald to his letter of September 6, 2001 asking when or if the former Hague School bus parking lot would be transferred to the town of Hague.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM. . . rm

PLANNING BOARD - 12/6/01

Subdivision on Wilson property (Hollow Rd. & Frasier Lane). The Wilsons are requesting the subdivision of a 17.92 ac. parcel into two conforming parcels, one of 3.38 ac. and the other remaining parcel of 14.54ac. The intent is to sell the smaller parcel to the Wilsons for a view. John Breitenbach presented the Short Environmental Assessment Form on this subdivision, which the Planning Board completed. The board voted to accept the form. With a vote of 4:1 the subdivision was approved.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Will be closed on Tuesday, the 25th and Thursday, the 27th, BUT will be open on Wednesday, the 26th.

Will also be closed on Jan. 1 but will be open on Wed, Fri, and Sat., (tentatively) until Mar. 31.

12/01

NATURE NEWS
by Laura Meade

A page in a recent issue of "The Conservationist" (a DEC publication) announced that a youth who prepares a DEC Nature Journal can receive an Environmental Conservation Junior Naturalist badge from N.Y. State. This year's badge features the recent designation of the ladybug as the official N.Y. State insect. Every state already has a state bird and a state flower, but this is the first time that an insect has been officially designated.



What is special about a ladybug? Peterson's "First Guide to Insects" says that ladybugs (also known as ladybirds) are popular because they are among the most helpful of all the insects. They devour large amounts of agricultural pests, such as aphids. Often ladybugs are released by the thousands in crop fields and orchards. Both adults and larvae are predators. The name "ladybug" or "lady bird beetles" originated in the Middle Ages when these red and black beetles were associated with the Virgin Mary.

Another source, the "Reader's Digest of North American Wildlife" tells that there are more than 100,000 insect species in North America. Often small in size, insects are not easy prey because their defenses range from near perfect camouflage to the stink of stink bugs. And keep in mind the fascinating relationship between insects and flowers, especially the role that insects play in pollination and perpetuation of flowering plants. Most insects have four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. An insect body has three divisions: the head, thorax and abdomen. Most have two pairs of wings as adults and a single pair of antennae. A ladybug beetle usually as black contrasting spots on the red abdomen and head. Their habitats are forest, brushy areas, meadows and yards near homes.

In the Town of Hague many congregated recently along the Hollow Road near June and Janice Frasier's. A coded map reveals that they may be found in the 48 continental states of the U.S.A.

In some D.E.C. campgrounds resident naturalists offer nature programs for youth who spend time at a campground. A naturalist is hired to be on duty so young people can prepare an Environmental Conservation Junior Naturalist Badge. This year's badge features a ladybug.

According to Barbara Snow, a staff person at Rogers Rock Campground, no official naturalist has been present there. However, many DEC campgrounds have one. Perhaps a suggestion for such an expert to teach youths at Rogers Rock would result in hiring a naturalist. My observation has been that the many birds, wild flowers, rocks and other nature phenomena would provide an excellent source of study for all ages.

HAGUE ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Hague Enhancement Committee is organizing its plans for the hanging baskets for the summer season. Last year's response to our "Adopt-a-Basket" program was overwhelming. We received more requests than could be filled. We are therefore increasing the number of hanging baskets this year. We need to know if last year's subscribers wish to renew their dedications. As you recall we put a small brass plaque on each basket and flower boxes on the bridge

Catch
The
Christmas
Spirit!

The cost of each basket is \$25.00. This includes the summer flowers and mums in the fall. They will be placed in the same locations as last year, plus some extra baskets on Rt. 9N. The deadline for your reservation with your money is January 16, 2002. If you didn't get in on the program last year, you now have another chance! Please enclose with your check the name of the person you wish to have honored. Make check payable to The Hague Enhancement Committee, and send to The Hague Community Center, Graphite Mt. Road, Hague, NY 12836.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Mary Laundree, R.N., formerly of Hague, has been coming to Hague for several years on the third Wednesday of each month from 1-2 pm to hold a blood pressure clinic. It was well attended for a while but now has dropped off in attendance. This is a great service for Hague residents and Mary is graciously donating her time and expertise. Please be sure to come to the community center each month (third Wednesday from 1-3PM) to take advantage of this free service. Next clinic is January 16.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Northrn Lake George which is generously contributing hams to the Food Pantry for our Christmas baskets. Thanks also for the donation of turkeys for Thanksgiving, which everyone said were absolutely delicious!

Incidentally, if there is anyone who meets the income requirements to receive food, please contact G. Lindquist any time at 543-6095 or check the bulletin board at the post office or the community center for the next distribution date. . . gl



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Saturday's Hague Specialty Shops Christmas Walk was spectacular! We thank the merchants for all of their efforts to promote, beautify and bring business to Hague. We also should thank everyone who supported their efforts. We know they had a great time shopping and it was fun to see friends as they walked in and out of the shops.

It doesn't take a government grant or a fancy plan to revitalize the village. All it takes are people with good ideas, lot of energy and faith in our town. We will continue to support any other great promotions.

Thanks for ushering in the holiday season. Merry Christmas to all. John and Ann Barber

Dear Hague Voters:

I would like to take this time to thank the voters of Hague who have overwhelmingly reelected me to another term as Supervisor.

I am honored to serve you another two years and look forward to doing so. Your faith in me is greatly appreciated. Thanks /s/ Dan

Dear Hague Voters:

Thank you for your continued support as your Town Clerk. Wishing you all a wonderful Holiday Season. Sincerely, /s/Debbie Manning

Dear Hague Voters:

I would like to thank all of the Hague voters who have supported me over the last 17 years. Good luck to the newly elected members. I'm sure they will strive to continue to institute good quality for the Town of Hague. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday!

Sincerely, /s/ Martin Fitzgerald

began to become popular in areas around Germany and France. In the following centuries, the tree slowly became more popular throughout Germany, yet it was not until the 19th century that the Christmas tree became a widespread German custom.

From Germany it was taken up by the Slavic peoples in eastern Europe. It was introduced into America around 1700 by German immigrants, but did not generally come into use here until the middle of the 19th century.

The Christmas Tree, or Tannenbaum, is now and probably for a long time to come will be, the most popular plant used to celebrate the Christmas season.

F. Y. I.

• Heather Knott, Town Justice, reports that she applied for a grant from New York State and was informed in November that the court was successful in being awarded a new Dell Pentium computer. This will replace the current computer that is 8 years old and is incapable of interfacing with most of today's peripheral equipment and applications.

• From the Dec. 9, 2001 NY Times comes the following: "Members of the New York Philharmonic have been giving a series of free chamber music performances in public places at midday to lift the spirits of people in Lower Manhattan."

• Town offices will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 21 and will be closed until Wed., Dec. 26.

• Transfer Station will be closed Tuesday and Thursday during Christmas week, but will be open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. It will be closed on New Year's Day. Tentative schedule for Jan 1- Mar 31 will be Wed., Fri., and Sat. from 9AM - 5PM.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



CHRISTMAS TREE . . A wide-eyed child gazing up unbelievably at his first Christmas tree is far removed from a lusty Roman or dark Druid shouting incantations to his decorated trees. Yet it is from these two sources that the custom of the tree at Christmas originates.

During their midwinter Saturnalia, the Romans decorated trees with bits of metal and replicas of their god Bacchus. At times they placed 12 candles on a tree in honor of their sun god.

After these pagans accepted Christianity, they continued their winter rites but changed them to honor Christ.

By the middle of the 16th century, the standing tree

THE FOUR ELEMENTS WILDLIFE NEED TO SURVIVE



1. FOOD. Provide as much vegetation as possible including shrubs trees and other plants that produce foods such as acorns, nuts, berries and other seeds..
2. WATER. Wildlife need water for drinking and bathing. Make water available with a bird-bath, small pond or shallow dish.
3. COVER. Wildlife need cover for protection against the elements and predators. Densely planted shrubs, hollow logs, rock piles and brush piles are easy ways to provide the needed cover in your back yard.
4. PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG. Build birdhouses and nesting shelves attached to posts, trees or to a building to provide places for wildlife to raise their young. . *National Wildlife Federation*

BORN: A boy, Carl William, on Nov. 16, 2001 to Anne Hank Feibusch of Lutherville, MO. Proud grandparents are Jean and Dick Feibusch of Hague.

BORN: A girl, Kayleigh Moon Ketcham to Ben Ketcham and Euphoria Gibbons, Seattle WA on Nov. 16, 2001. Grandparents are Ralph and Julia Ketcham, Silver Bay.

BORN: A girl, Phoebe Morse Paul, to Sharon Turner and Mark Paul, Brooklyn, NY and W. Overlook Drive, Hague. Proud grandparents are Tony and Carol (Clifton) Turner.

DIED: Robert Viotor, 84, Plainfield, NJ, on November 17, 2001. Mr. Viotor was a teacher in the Wardlow Hartridge School for most of his life, still teaching there until a few months ago. He was a life-long summer resident of Hague and later Ticonderoga, where he vacationed with his sister, Jane Parmley, who survives him.

DIED: Dorothy A. Traver, 87, Ticonderoga, on Nov. 19, 2001 at Glens Falls Hospital. She and her husband George were married for 64 years and were summer residents of Sabbath Day Point from 1960 to 1974 when they became permanent residents. Besides her husband, Mrs. Traver is survived by a son, George M. Traver Jr., a daughter Sara Jean Vandersea of Brunswick, ME, two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

DIED: Tyler E. Dennett, 86, on December 10, 2001 in Florida. He was the son of Dr. Tyler and Maybelle Dennett, formerly of Hague. He is survived by three sons, three grandchildren, a sister, Audrey O'Brien of Hague and seven nieces and a nephew.

TI MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following Hague students in the Ticonderoga Middle School have been listed on the ACHIEVEMENT ROLL for the First Quarter:

8th Grade: Nicole Belden, Sarah Bissell, Marissa Coffin, Andrew Trombley. Grade 7: Janine Best, John Breitenbach, Kelly McCoy, Kacheena Trudeau. Grade 6: Justin Frasier.

MERIT ROLL - 8th Grade: Katherine Clark, Michelle Coffin, Bryce Gurney, Jacob Lawrence. Grade 7: Shawn Brunet, Jaimie Connors, Benajah Denno, Jordon Fuller, Brittney Haran, Stephanie Nast, Daniel Steitz.

TI HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following Hague students have been listed on the High School Honor Roll for the First Quarter:

Grade 12: First Honors: Nicole Belden, Lucas Frasier, Heather Hassett, Angela Mascarelli, Joee Plass, Alison Rutkowski. Second Honors: Peter Mack, Becky Ryder, Theodore Santaniello, Brandon Trudeau, Tyler Wells.

Grade 11: Second Honors: Katie Belden, Jennifer Clark, Kelly Frasier, Andrew Patchett. Grade 10: First Honors: Matthew Frasier, Monica Sitts. Second Honors: Thomas Haskell. Grade 9: First Honors: Joshua Frasier, Lindsay Mascarelli. Second Honors: Danielle Connors, Richard Zacharenko.

LOCAL AUTHOR WRITES KNITTING BOOK

Sharon Turner, Brooklyn, NY and Hague, has announced publication and release of her new book, "Monkeysuits: Sweaters & More to Knit for Kids" As founder and owner of Monkeysuits.com, Sharon sells her own line of patterns and kits to knitting wholesalers and retailers throughout the U.S. and Canada. She and her husband are the parents of three daughters ages 6, 2 and one month.

WEATHER NOTES

By Mary Lou Doulin

Five days before the winter solstice and snow, sleet and freezing rain have set upon us. Prior to that, Nov. and Dec. have been unusually warm with temperatures sometimes in the 40's but mostly in the 50's and 60's. In fact Dec. 6 was the second warmest in recorded history for that date. Nov. and Dec. usually are dreary and cloudy but that was not the case this year. Bright sunshine prevailed. It was wonderful to have the lingering mild fall conditions stay with us so long.

Spectators raved about the Nov. 17 and 18 display of Leonid meteor showers. Visibility was superb as atmospheric conditions were clear and the new moon was not visible. This kind of display only happens once in a lifetime, if you're lucky.

I saw an interesting article by Ken Chang in the Dec. 12 N.Y. Times. It was about the predicted drastic shifts in the world climate being likely, with warmer, wetter weather predicted. Modern civilization's reshaping of the environment by destruction of the rain forests, urbanization and chemicals added to the atmosphere could tip the scales that could accelerate natural climate changes. The pattern that tends to blow warm air currents from the Atlantic into Europe could be upset and possibly throw Europe into another ice age. It's still an open-ended situation but these experts' ideas were worthy of a column in the New York Times.

Not too late to send your contribution to Hague's Memory Tree. Make checks payable to Hague Chamber of Commerce and mail to Hague Community Center, Hague, NY 12836. Be sure to include name of person(s) you want honored. List of names will be published in January issue of *The Hague Chronicle*.

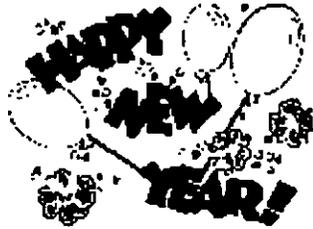
12/01

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Dec.
 21 - 1/2 day - Town Offices Closed Open Wed. Dec. 26 (p6)
 24 Christmas Eve services at churches in Hague (p1)
 26 End of year Town Board meeting - 4:30PM

Jan.
 3 Organizational meeting of Town Board 6:30PM
 3 Planning Board - 7:00PM

6 Twelfth Night at St. Mary's Church (p2)
 8 Meet. on Hague Brook Proj. 10AM in L.G.(p4)
 12 Hague Chronicle deadline
 15 Mohican Crafters Club first meeting (p2)
 16 Blood Pressure clinic - 1-2PM (p1)
 16 Deadline to reserve hanging basket (p5)



THE NORTHERN CARDINAL - OUR CHRISTMAS BIRD

One Christmas season, while wrapping presents, a bright red patch outdoors on the cedar hedge caught my eye. At first, I thought some errant gift paper had become entangled in the branches. Peering more closely, I realized that the object rather than being artificial was, in fact, the scarlet plumage of a male cardinal, fluoresced by the low winter sun. The incident made a lasting impression on me for several reasons.

As humans, preoccupied with our limited realm, we tend to forget that intensity of experience can embrace the non-human. The breathtaking color of a bird can overwhelm us as much as the force of any human event. But in our culture, we lack words for these feelings. The misleading restrictions of our language, lulls us to believe that such occurrences are not as important as our spouse's news of the day, or our children's report cards.

There is a legend that at midnight on Christmas Eve, the animals can speak. What language do they choose, I wonder? Or is it we who become open to theirs? Actually, the miracle of communication exists among us every day of the year. Our dogs and cats have successfully taught us rudimentary commands. We have no trouble comprehending demands for the door to be opened or an empty food dish to be filled. If we understand our mammalian pets, why not wild birds? Chickadees tell us when the feeder is empty; crows inform us of the presence of owls. On a more subtle level, wild birds have been known to pantomime pleas for help. Like Lassie, they are intelligent enough to use a universal language to engage our assistance.

Amongst the detritus of our guilt over species gone extinct and land made toxic, Cardinals are one of the few species that have actually benefited from our occupancy. We create wonderful edges between shrubs and open areas, supply well-stacked feeders and provide high singing perches -- all the things that Cardinals need. In summer they forage in the apple blossoms and help keep insect populations down. They stay the winter and bring us cheer as they search shrubby fields for seeds high in fat and protein. We admire their beauty, revel in their song and are enchanted by the reflected, rosy glow of their breasts as they feed in the snow.

But is there more to these observations than surface delight? When my breath was taken by the discovery that my gift paper was alive, more than a visual image overcame me. That such a creature could have honed itself over millions of years, to be so outrageously beautiful and to be comfortably living in my back yard seemed miraculous. That I would become oblivious to such beauty, by virtue of repetitive exposure, seemed even more miraculous. But that seems the nature of life, and for for such moments of transcendent seeing, I am more than grateful. If I can truly see this vermilion miracle, even for a moment, I am able to ponder another question. How mysterious and radiant must be the source? **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

Thanks to Martha Soliday for sharing the above with us.

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 tax deductible contributions to MITZI FIL-LARE, BOX 748 Hague, NY 12836-0748.

BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 3
 HAGUE, NY 12836

WARM WISHES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

HAPPY NEW YEAR