



VOLUME 30 NO. 5

HAGUE, N.Y.

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GET READY FOR ONE OF HAGUE'S BIGGEST AND BEST EVENTS EVER

Yes, it is true! Our very own Hague monster is coming back for a summer visit to its home waters. George (the monster) was created by Harry Watrous, a renowned Hague artist, in 1904 and was put in the lake opposite his home (now Ruah, owned by the Fosters) to scare his friend Col. William Mann who resided on Waltonian Island. The hoax was so successful that he used it to frighten tourists until the local hotel owners objected. The monster, since affectionately known as George, was discovered around 1920 by Realtor Louis Spelman when a property was sold in town. He took it home with him and later experimented with the pulley system mechanism to see if it still worked in the lake. It caused such a stir that it was reported that passengers on an excursion boat all rushed to one side nearly causing a disaster.

Mr. Spelman determined it was too dangerous and retired George to his basement. In 1961 Walt Grishkot discovered George and stories resurfaced in the papers. An offer (the amount unknown) was made to Spelman and he sold it to a Times Union reporter who gave it to her cousin, a Lake George vacationer. It ultimately was taken to her home on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

While in St. Thomas George participated in a number of parades and carnivals, achieving fame, if not fortune, throughout the island. Eventually Bailey decided that George really belonged on the shores of Lake George and Grishkot and his wife agreed to bring him back.

Since at that time Hague did not have a museum suitable for George, The Lake George Historical Association offered him a place to rest his weary fins, and he was placed on loan there. **AND FINALLY - -**

The Lake George Museum board sent an e-mail to us a couple months ago stating that George had decided that he would like to take a trip to his birthplace and vacation here. **AND SO - -**

The Hague, Lake George and the Bolton Historical Societies are all joining forces to make this a **GRAND** occasion. **- - SO GET PREPARED**

On Saturday, July 7 the monster will arrive by boat at the boat slip in the town park. Festivities for the day

will be many and lots and lots of fun. We don't want to clue you in on too much at this time, but you can bet we plan to have fun. We would like to make this an historical day in the town of Hague. Our history goes back a long way and we are proud of it!

The committee is planning a parade - the first in probably at least 30-40 years. We urge community members to participate in any way they see fit. Dressing in period costume would be wonderful for any and all that can. Any ideas you have to add to our parade will be more than welcome. **KIDS** - how about decorating your bicycles, and ride with us. Those without bicycles - join the marchers. We will be parading from the town park to the community building, where a reception for George will be held. A special VIP will be named at a later date to serve as grand marshal. We want to make this the event of the year no - the decade, or even the century!!! We are extremely fortunate to have the Fort Ticonderoga Corps of Drums performing at the park and in the parade.

There will be activities in the park during the morning up until parade time. An auction will be held by the Rotary Club and our own Richie Belden, strongest man in the world (and son of our supervisor!) will be on hand to demonstrate his skills by pulling a fire truck!

Next month we should have our schedule pretty much confirmed. In the meantime, get your thinking caps on and see what you can do to add to the festivities - particularly the parade. One added note: the Hague Hoax Committee, in order to make this a day to be remembered, will be publishing a program. Any of you who would like to be a "friend of the monster", is invited to have your name published in the program with a minimum donation of \$5.00. You may send your check payable to The Hague Hoax Fest and mail to Judy Foster, treasurer, 9221 Lakeshore Drive, Hague, NY 12836-2023. A Hague Hoax Fest decal will be sent to you for your donation. Monster T-shirts and caps will be on sale the day of the fest. We thank you in advance for your spirit of cooperation. . . djh

BURNING BAN IN EFFECT THROUGHOUT NEW YORK STATE. INCLUDES BURN BARRELS, CAMPFIRES, ETC. HEAVY PENALTIES FOR DISOBEYING BAN.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY CHORALE CONCERT

-2-

The Champlain Valley Chorale will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a concert on Sunday, May 20, 2001 at 4:00PM at the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga.

The group's first concert was presented on July 14, 1976, at the Crown Point State Park for the bicentennial celebration. Approximately 20 members sang at this concert under the direction of its founder, James Conley, AAGO. There are approximately 50 members now. Since his resignation in 1980, the chorale was directed by Nelson Shapiro, Rachel Batchelder, Patricia Cornell, Phil Henry and the late Linda Azer, all of whom will be honored.

There is no admission fee for this concert but a good will offering will be appreciated. Valerie Dixon is the music director and Katie Putzke, the accompanist.

The program includes both religious and secular numbers. James Conley, first director, will sing with the group and direct one of the numbers. The public is cordially invited to attend.

PLANT SALE TO BE HELD

A plant sale will be held in the TOPS Market parking lot on May 26 from 10AM - 4PM. Barbara Connor, coordinator of the event, announced it as a fund raiser for the Putnam United Presbyterian Church.

Residents and visitors who are opening their homes for the summer on this holiday weekend are invited to browse and purchase. Annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs will be available at reasonable prices. All danger of frost should be gone and seedlings may be planted after the sale.

The TOPS Market is at the site of the former Grand Union at the junction of Routes 22 and 74 in Ticonderoga.

TEA COTTAGE OPENS FOR SEASON

The Tea Cottage and Gifts Plus, located on Tarbell Hill Road, Moriah, NY will open June 1 and remain open throughout Sept. To accommodate leaf peepers, the Tea Cottage will be open throughout Oct. for groups of six or more. Traditional English Country lunches and cream teas are served Thursdays through Mondays, lunch from 11:30AM to 1:30PM and tea from 2PM - 5PM.

An illustrated lecture about roses followed by a rose tea (most of the sandwiches, scones and other delicacies will include rose water, rose syrup, rose marmalade and fresh or dried roses.) Each guest will be given a take home rose, and yes, guests may snip some herbs to take home also. Other special events are planned. Don't forget the gift shop - wonderful!

For a menu and further directions, call 546-3513. E-mail is: musolacy@cptelco.net

A trip to the Tea Cottage is an experience!! djh

ATTENTION: Members of the Hague Volunteer Fire Department

The By-Laws of the Fire Department are being amended. The current By-Laws stipulate that they may be amended "by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided one month's notice is given of such intent."

If you did not attend the last Fire Dept. meeting on Monday, May 6, you did not learn of the intent to amend the By-Laws. Copies of the amended By-Laws are available at the Community Center. Check with Bertha.

The amended By-Laws will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting of the Fire Dept. on Monday, June 4 at 7:30PM in the new firehouse. . . jb

HAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

April was the driest on record, and May seems to be following the example of its predecessor. There is a state-wide ban on burning. This includes your back yard burn barrels, campfires, field, etc.. So stack up your trash papers and put them in Hague bags and take them to the recycling center.

The HVFD has responded to 8 fire calls for a total of 56 1/2 man hours..

There were two ambulance runs with 17 man hours expended.

On Saturday, May 26, Silver Bay Association will host an Italian buffet for the benefit of the Fire Dept. The price of the meal will be \$8.50 for adults and \$6.00 for children.

On Sunday, May 27 there will be a coin drop at the intersection in Hague. Please be generous.

We'd like to remind everyone that there will be an open house at the HVFD's new home at the intersection of Rt. 8 and the West Hague Rd. This will take place on July 14 (hours to be announced). Everyone is invited to come and inspect the present quarters, of which we are justifiably proud! . . ewa

HAGUE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The regular monthly meeting of the Hague Senior Citizens Club will take place on Tuesday, May 22 at 1:30PM. Please bring ideas for a trip in June. We will be taking the North Creek to Riparius train ride in late September, but we still need your input for a June expedition. . . ewa

VANDALS BEWARE!!! A vandal deterrent system is in use in Hague. It will catch vandals in the act!!



COMING JULY 7

5/01

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE - 4/9/01

Present were: David Darrin, Chr., Richard Frasier, Paul Barone, Alison Craig, Rudy Meola, Nelson Waters, Michele Gautreau, David Swanson, Bob Patchett

Absent: Art Steitz, Tom LaPointe

Also present were Stuart Messinger of the Chazen Co. and Joyce Serdinsky, Secretary

Open for discussion was the tourist accommodations. The Comprehensive Plan needs to make a policy recommendation concerning tourist accommodation density. Some definitions were given as follows:

Minimum lot size is the minimum size lot on which one can build. Density is how many units can be built on a lot. Lot coverage is how much of a lot development may cover. A dwelling unit is "a building or portion thereof providing complete housekeeping (kitchen) facilities for one family".

A tourist accommodation is "any hotel, motel, bed-and-breakfast, resort or tourist cabin designed to house the general public (not including a travel trailer, travel vehicles or motor homes)".

The minimum lot size in the primary and secondary hamlet is 10,000 square feet for each dwelling unit of a tourist accommodation where there is off-site sewer: 20,000 square feet where there is not. Lot coverage for a dwelling unit is 50% in the Hamlet. The reason a revision is needed is that the 300 square foot unit is not a marketable item.

S. Messinger stated that we might need to do some redefining of the density issue. Some of the other concerns are visual impact (30 foot height limit), water, sewer (not an issue if the sewer is constructed), parking.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 4/26/01

Variance - Preliminary

Warren Co., DPW, with the permission of the O'Toole's (35-1-25), Dodd Hill and Lakeshore Drive, would like to subdivide a 2.02ac. lot into two lots of .25 ac. and 1.77 ac. The smaller lot is non conforming. Planning Board has already approved the site review of the building to be used as a pumping station for the sewer system (on the smaller lot). The pump station will resemble a single family Adirondack style home. (25' x 42', 1200. The driveway will be off Dodd Hill Rd., about 100 ft. from Rt. 9N. There will be a screen between the O'Toole's and the Pumping Station. Public hearing scheduled for May 24 at 7PM prior to regular meeting.

This subdivision would be contingent on the sewer going through. As far as sound is concerned, these pumps run on a cycle, at peak flow times 8 minutes out of every hour, off peak, they may not start. A Pump Station may be visited at Shepherd's Park, in Lake George Village. Our Pump Station will be propane powered, which is quieter than the usual diesel.

(B) Dimond (46-1-10) Var 02-01 Pine Cove Rd. Land Use TRI, APA Moderate Intensity

Ms. Dimond is requesting relief from the Hague ordinance (sec160-23) for side yard setback (6ft relief) and Lake Shore setback (sec 160-50) B (b) 46ft relief for a boat rail launch system and a 200sq.ft. accessory storage building.

R. Goetsch requested, and Tina King made a motion that a survey or a clearer sketch of the property is needed to complete the application. The accessory structure is already in place.

A. Hatfield made a motion that Mary Lou Doulin be appointed Vice-Chairman. Approved unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD - 5/3/01

Planning Board and Town Board met at 6PM to discuss ethics. Skip Hourigan, town board personnel chairman, led the discussion. This came about as a result of the April meeting which is referred to elsewhere.

Public hearing: Judith Stock (33-1-8) SP 02-01, 8910 Lakeshore Drive. Ms. Stock would like to operate an antique shop, art gallery/gift shop in a currently established building on her property. The building was previously used for a contracting company, insurance/real estate office and marina. It is presently being used as a garage. Letters from two neighbors were read both objecting to the project. Two letters from distant neighbors and statements from those present were all in favor of project.

In the regular meeting, after much discussion, the board voted to approve Ms. Stock's project, with one dissension.

TOWN BOARD - 5/8/01

A public hearing on the Town Park Ordinance preceded the town board meeting. Several changes were made. Day use, parking stickers for residents, parking for visitors on the west side of the parking lot were all discussed. No bike riding is permitted in the park, but bike riders may put their bikes in the bike rack (which is technically in the park) Cars may not park at the town park overnight. No boats or cars are allowed between 11PM and 5:30AM. No trailer parking is allowed on Rt. 9N or Rt. 8. Official NY State signs are expected by Memorial Day.

The regular town board meeting began with a moment of silence for the deaths of Ken Yaw, Fay McKeon, and Vanetta McFeely.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

1. Sal Santaniello requested permission for the Chamber of Commerce to paint the Cartoon Museum's doors, shutters, and trim. Volunteers will do the work and paint and materials will be donated. Permission granted. (Cont. on page 4 -Town Board)

BE SURE TO MARK JULY 7 ON YOUR CALENDAR!

5/01

Town Board - Cont. from p. 3

2. Tom James and Stan Burdick gave a presentation on the plans for the Hague Hoax Fest on July 7. (See page 1 for related article)

3. Rudy Meola asked for the Board's response regarding the Town Park lights which he has been bringing before the board for a year. He asked the supervisor to put it on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Meola also suggested that a committee prepare a document outlining a Junk Law proposal as a first step towards a Hague Junk Law. Lu Megow cited enforcement difficulties in other towns. Skip Hourigan questioned the Hague community's commitment in support of a Junk Law. The board voted to put the issue on the agenda for June.

4. Nelson Waters read a letter about eliminating boat trailer parking on 9N and Rt. 8 in the hamlet. He suggested that clear information with a map for visitors could be distributed with directions to private parking areas for boat trailers. He requested suggestions and urged prompt action.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Assessor & Justice: Steitz. None.

2. Buildings & Grounds/Community Center: Megow. The Board is pleased with the work on the roof of the Community Ctr. and voted to renew the service contract for the air conditioning system from May 1 to April 31, 2002.

3. Finance: Megow. Monthly report and the budget are completed.

4. Fire Dept.: Fitzgerald. Lu Megow warned of grave fire danger and urges people to heed the statewide ban on burning. Scheduled events for the fire dept. are: Sat, May 26 - Dinner at Silver Bay; Sun, May 27, Coin Drop; Sat. Jul 14 - Open house at new firehouse. Sat. Aug. 4: Steak Roast.

5. Highway: Fitzgerald. Bill Bothe reported on the dept.'s spring cleaning. In response to the letter from Jules Halm, Mr. Bothe reported that the problem with his roadway is in the process of being corrected. Discussion held on building a shed at the Town Park to store equipment (snowblower, tractor, mower, etc.)

6. Insurance: Hourigan. The Board will meet to review questions regarding a State Health Insurance program entitled "Healthy NY?"

7. Personnel: Hourigan. To date one person has applied for the advertised position of transfer station CDL operator.

8. Planing, Zoning and Stormwater Management: Steitz. Ethics guidelines were reviewed at a special meeting of the Planning Board and will be covered at the Zoning Board meeting on May 24. Supervisor Belden spoke on the progress of the Hague Brook and Retention Center. Grant monies are forthcoming to rehabilitate the bridge and replace the Hague Brook's retaining wall.

9. Recreation/P:promotion: Steitz/Hourigan. Skip Hourigan stated that two positions are still open; 1. for

a part time position (6 days a week, 5 hours per day) to man the Visitor's Center for the summer and 2 - another park attendant. Rudy Meola reported the Enhancement Committee will have the triangle in center of town planted and hanging baskets up. Supervisor Belden remarked that this project has been funded by private donors (baskets and bridge planters) and the Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the triangle, at no cost to the town.

10. Sewer District #1: Belden. A public hearing is scheduled for May 24 preceding the Zoning Board meeting regarding the proposed main pump station on the O'Toole property on the corner of Dodd Hill Rd. and 9N. The APA has the plans. The Town is ready to purchase a small portion of this lot, if the subdivision is approved.

11. Town Park and Beautification: Fitzgerald. The Town Beach is ready, new buoys have been ordered. "No Parking" signs have arrived. The lock box at the launch station has been vandalized and must be replaced. Art Steitz remarked that a deterrent system against vandals is being implemented.

12. Transfer/Recycling Station: Megow. Income for April was \$2,360.50. Disagreement ensued regarding a pay raise of \$.50 an hour for Transfer Station employee, Joanne Trudeau on her one-year anniversary. It has been a precedent to grant pay raises the first of the year and she had not been employed a full year on Jan. 1. Motion was denied. Lu Megow and Supervisor Belden voted aye. For the record, Dan Belden's opinion is that this decision is unfair.

13. Youth: Hourigan. Mike Manning has set up youth basketball at the Community Center for groups of 5 to 8 year olds and 9 to 12 year olds on Tuesday nights from 5-8PM. Whiffle ball is scheduled for Thursday nights from 5:30 to 8PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Letter from Dorothy Henry. The board deemed it "counterproductive" to be read and voted against reading it. Rudy Meola voiced his objection, stating the board could not "pick and choose" which letters would be read or not. (This letter was tabled last month and was to be read at the May meeting). Supervisor Belden explained that it dealt with a matter of strong opinions to be worked out between members of the Planning and Town Boards under the Ethics guidelines.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter from the Planning Board and ZBA members was not read. The topic of this letter in part relates to the letter from Dorothy Henry.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Spring clean up. A pick-up date will be scheduled for seniors age 60 and over. All other residents will be permitted to bring one pick-up truck load free of charge to the transfer station.

3. Board voted to fill "Green Thumb" summer position. This person will water flowers and help at Fire Dept.

4. Resolution to amend budget

5 Resolution to adopt Town Park Ordinance . . . ci

NATURE NEWS
by Laura Meade

Since childhood I have enjoyed outdoor activities both in my hometown of Cortland and at my relatives' old hotel on Keuka Lake. But no place has provided me with more outdoor pleasure than camping, boating, picnicking and hiking in the Town of Hague. In recent years, whether walking the trails of Hague or hiking in the High Peaks, my attention has been focused on wildflowers and birds. After identifying and chronicling many wildflowers, I bought a 34 mm camera with an adjustable lens in order to take slides of the flowers. Then I realized there was more to it than the camera, the film, the lens and knowledge of flowers. I was fortunate to be able to take a few lessons from Gary Randorf, an excellent photographer. His advice has been very helpful. He made recommendations simple, so I was able to understand and remember his advice.

As I set forth to take slides worthy of educational presentations, I began to realize the great variety and unusual beauty of Hague's wildflowers. Sometimes I would walk a trail every day, keeping a journal of when flowers were in bloom, angles of the sun at different times of the day, and specific habitats where I would be likely to find certain species. My curiosity led me to join the Carillon Garden Club and to purchase field guides. The most helpful guide for me has been "A Field Guide to Wildflowers" by Roger Tory Peterson and Margaret McKenney.

My next step was to seek an expert botanist who could verify my identification, and, perhaps broaden my search in areas outside of Hague. It was my great good fortune to spend four hours with Dr. Orra A. Phelps, whom I have come to regard as the greatest wildflower expert ever to live. She had one word of correction, plus a warm-hearted encouragement for me to continue my quest. As I turned to leave her home in Wilton, NY I asked, "Do you have a PhD in Botany?" Quietly she answered, "No, I assisted my mother, Orra Parker Phelps, in preparation of a definitive wildflower collection for the University of Connecticut. From the time I was six years old until I was 12 we worked together. By then I knew more than most who had a Doctorate in Botany. I am actually a medical doctor. I worked as a Medical Inspector for the schools in Montgomery County for many years."

My visit with Orra was in 1979. Before I left she drove me to a limestone pit where rare wildflowers were in bloom. Her final words were "It's my 84th birthday today. I'm going to a party at the home of my niece Phoebe Hunt. (Some of you in the Garden Club know Phoebe).

Although Orra has been dead for years she continues to be an inspiration to me in the study of wildflowers, geology and birds. Recently Orra's niece, Mary Arakelian, wrote an extensive biography of her aunt titled "Doc, Orra A. Phelps, ADK Naturalist and

Mountaineer". The book is available from North Country Books in Utica, NY.

HAGUE CREEK ANTIQUES AND GIFTS

I was privileged to be one of the many guests at the open house of Hague Creek Antiques and Gifts on May 12. Diane Farinick and Carol Pittman have really outdone themselves in turning a rather so-so building behind the post office to a wonderful shop. The decor is quite beautiful and very Adirondack. I couldn't resist climbing the stairs to see what wonders were wrought on the second floor. I was very impressed by three quite unusual beds, two antique and one with real Adirondack flavor, which can be made to order per the buyer's choice. Baskets of all kinds are hanging from the rafters and beautiful pieces of furniture of all kinds are displayed.

We certainly can't overlook the entrance to this shop. The landscaping which is a beautiful addition was done by North Country Landscaping, a local firm owned by Peter Foster. Makes for a warm, cozy feeling on entering.

Needless to say I find this shop to be a charming addition to Hague's downtown. I plan to go back to take a closer look when I will have more space and time to look around.

It is a MUST SEE on your list for the summer.

Have you noticed the work that has been done on the outside of the Hague Post Office? For those of you who haven't returned to our beautiful town, you are in for a surprise. These same two talented ladies are responsible for this also. But you will just have to see for yourselves. I hear there is more to come!! . . . djh

WEATHER NOTES

By Mary Lou Doulin

There is much gratitude for the passing of the previously lengthy winter. Its far reaching grasp occupied much too much of the primary months of 2001.

Which brings me to the sweetness of the activation of this year's spring. Once the snow finally departed in about the third week of April - lakeside (West Hague took longer) 80 degree temperatures occurred on the 22nd and 23rd of April. These temperatures dominated the first two weeks in May and it felt like summer. Since May 12 springtime has reappeared and more seasonal daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s have been typical.

The sights and sounds of the season of awakening are accelerated. The birds' return is always a highlight along with the aroma of fresh earth and the blooming of the early flowers and the flowering trees. The hamlet is being spruced up and looks great. The only glitch is that things are way too dry. April was the driest in years and we have only received a few sprinkles so far this May.

ROTARY CONCLUDES ITS 20-WEEK CLUB WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT MEETING

The Rotary Club of Northern Lake George thanks all those who participated in the 20-week club. The primary benefactor of this fund raiser was the Book Project in the Ticonderoga Elementary School. Students are rewarded for reading 20 books by receiving a book of their own.

AND THE WINNERS OF THE 20-WEEK CLUB ARE:

- Week 1 MTM Business Form, Valley Stream, NY
- Week 2 Jill Bersol - Pompton Lake, NJ
- Week 3 Joan Belden, Hague
- Week 4 Karen Laundree, Hague
- Week 5 Denise D. Andrea, Rochelle Park, NJ
- Week 6 Bill Ahern, Ticonderoga
- Week 7 Joe Reynolds, Houston, TX
- Week 8 Carol Brown, Hague
- Week 9 MTM Business Form, Valley Stream, NY
- Week 10 Mike Johns, Ticonderoga, NY
- Week 11 Valerie De Prey, Rochester, NY
- Week 12 Michael Stipo, Ticonderoga
- Week 13 Sharon Lonergan, Ticonderoga
- Week 14 Mary L. Blanchard, Ticonderoga
- Week 15 Mary C. Hundson, Ticonderoga
- Week 16 Gerry Crammond, Silver Bay
- Week 17 Audrey O'Brien, Hague
- Week 18 Carol Brown, Hague
- Week 19 John Barber, Silver Bay

Week 20 (May 8 three names were drawn: Keri Rhebergen, Ticonderoga, (\$50); Nancy Spaulding, Ticonderoga, (\$75); Jan Breitenbach, Silver Bay (\$100) Congratulations to all the above winners and many thanks from the Rotary Club for all your support for this worthwhile project.

911 HOUSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

Cindy Roberts, Warren County Sheriff's Dept. was the guest speaker at the last Hague Senior Citizens meeting. Sponsored by the Warren County Explorer Post 911 and Lowe's Home Improvement Center, it will be used to help senior citizens and the needy to put number signs in front of their homes in order for the emergency services to find a home quickly. This is being done as a service by the Explorers with supplies being furnished by Lowe's. If you fit into one of the above categories, please fill in one of the questionnaires located at the post office, store, or community center. If you would like a form mailed to you contact Dottie Henry, 543-6633 and she will be glad to help you.

This is a very important service and the Explorers and Lowes should be commended on their part in it. It is a completely free service, so please take advantage of it.

LARAC FESTIVAL - June 9 & 10, 2001

The LARAC June Arts Festival is celebrating 30

years of being an annual community tradition. The 2-day event fills Glens Falls City Park with a 200+ exhibitor juried art and craft show, non-stop performances by regional artists, food concessions and activities and displays by many non-profit cultural organizations. The festival runs from 10AM to 5PM each day and is FREE.

FRESH AIR FUND SEEKS VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES

The Fresh Air Fund is seeking more host families in the Hague area to open their homes to a New York City child for two weeks this summer. Since 1877 The Fresh Air Fund has enabled 1.7 million disadvantaged young New Yorkers to experience summer in suburban and small town communities. Through The Fund's Friendly Town program, volunteer host families in 13 states from Virginia to Maine and in Ontario, Canada opened their homes to nearly 6,000 New York City children last summer.

Fresh Air host families can choose the gender and age of their visitor. First-time Fresh Air children are between the ages of six and twelve. Many families find their hosting experiences so rewarding that over 65 percent of all children are reinvited to stay with host families, year after year. Children can participate in the Friendly Town program through age 18. In 2001 The Fund celebrates its 125th anniversary of serving children with a wide variety of special events and volunteer opportunities.

For more information on how you can share the simple joys of summer with a city child, please contact Deborah Reid at 518-585-9023 or The Fresh Air Fund at 1-800-367-0003. You can also visit The Fund online at <http://www.freshair.org>. Deborah Reid, 311 New Hague Road, Hague, NY 12836.

- *One of life's mysteries is how a 2-pound box of candy can make a woman gain 5 lbs.*
- *My mind not only wanders, it sometimes leaves completely.*
- *The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.*
- *The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.*
- *The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.*
- *Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.*

SOUNDINGS

Grade 6: John Breitenbach, Kelly McCoy, Kacheena Trudeau

MERIT ROLL

Grade 8: Danyle Borton, Jason Frasier, Aren Laundree, Lindsay Mascarelli, Maureen Palait, Joshua Patchett, Krystal Trainor, Richard Zacharenko, Seth Towne

Grade 7: Marissa Coffin, Michelle Coffin, Jacob Lawrence, Derek Ross, Bryce Gurney

Grade 6: Jessica Alteri, Brittney Haran

CONGRATULATIONS! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

FYI

• The hams distributed by the Food Pantry for Easter were purchased by a donation from the Catholic Church in Hague to celebrate Ursula Montbriand's 90th birthday. Thank you!

Thanks also to the Hague and Silver Bay post offices for the support of the food collection on May 12, which was donated to the food pantry.

• The Marcella Sembrich Memorial Studio in Bolton Landing has been doing some much needed upgrades. The studio is scheduled to open for the season on June 15.

• Cornell U. Coop. Ext. 4-H Program in Warren County is conducting a 3-day Wilderness Exploration Trip on June 25-27. Open to any youth from 9-11 years of age. Cost - \$12.

A 3-day Wilderness Exploration Trip is being conducted on July 10-12 for any youth 12-15 years of age. Cost is \$28.00 per participant.

Cornell Coop. Ext. in Warren County will be offering a job skills for youth class on Sat., June 9, 2001 at the Queensbury Methodist Church on Aviation Rd. from 9:30-12:30PM. Open to all youth ages 15 and older who are interested in sharpening their job skills for summer employment. Class is free and open to the public.

For info. on above programs, contact Cornell U. Coop. Ext. Education Center, 377 Schroon River Rd., Warrensburg, NY 12885. Phone 623-3291 or 668-4881. Registration required

• The Island View Cafe is opening for the season on Friday, May 25. It will have its usual delicious food, homemade ice cream and friendly service. New this year will be espresso and cappuccino. Located on Route 9N in the town hamlet.

• Osteoporosis exercise class meets every Tuesday in the hospital cafeteria from 1:30-2:30PM.

RESULTS OF TI SCHOOL ELECTIONS HELD ON MAY 15, 2001: For the budget: 363 Yes; 220 No
For School Board: Angela Sammis, 362; William Sola, 366*; Gary Davis, 495*; Robert Dedrick, 419* 5/01

BORN: Lee and Mary Jo Keeler are thrilled to announce the births of two granddaughters: Emma Lee born to Will and Greta Lincoln, Toronto, Ontario on May 11, and Shelby Anne born to Sean and Deborah Leonard on May 12. Babies and mothers are doing fine; the grandparents are a little shaky!

ENGAGED: Jane Frasier of East Greenbush, NY, daughter of the late Clifford (Jake) and Mary Frasier of Hague, was recently engaged to David Connelly of East Greenbush, NY, son of the late Charles F. Sr. and Joan Connelly of Green Island, NY on April 17, 2001 in the Cayman Islands.

DIED: Kenneth Yaw, 79, former justice for the town of Hague died on April 26, 2001. He is survived by two daughters, Kelly Yaw, Clifton Park, NY and Tammy Czara, Morrisonville, NY, two granddaughters, and two brothers, Henry, South Carolina and Edward, Hague.

DIED: Vanetta Rickards McFeely, 92, on April 26, 2001 in Acton, MA. Services will be held in August at the family summer home in Silver Bay. Surviving are a daughter, Vanetta Elizabeth and son William Theodore, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be sent to: The YMCA IMC McFeely Award, c/o Vanetta Hunter, 3 Foster Street, Acton, MA 01720

DIED: Fay (Akins) Mrotek McKeon, 65, North Granby, CT and Pine Cove, Hague, NY. on April 27, 2001 at her home. She is survived by her husband, George A., children, Lisa Mrotek Rhinehart, John, Alice Simoniello, Alicia Atik, and Thomas McKeon. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and two brothers.

DIED: Bernard E. (Buck) Denno, 74, on May 11, 2001 at the Fletcher Allen Hospital of Burlington, VT. Buck lived his entire life in Hague and married Anna Nora Robbins on May 6, 1944. He is predeceased by two sons, Joseph and Robert and his sister Beatrice Denno Middleton. He is survived by his wife, four sons, Bernard R. (Two Buck), Ralph H., Peter B., and Thomas J.; nine daughters, Barbara L. Tyler, Pamela A. Denno, Deborah J. Reid, Michele M. Gautreau, Marie A. Dove, Theresa M. Gagliardi, Mary Anna Osier, Bernadette A. Denno, Maureen M. Germain; 23 grandchildren; 20 plus great-grandchildren and his brother James R. Denno.

TICONDEROGA MIDDLE SCHOOL

ACHIEVEMENT ROLL

Grade 8: Danielle Connors, Joshua Frasier

Grade 7: Sarah Bissell, Andrew Trombley

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

In a letter to the Hague Town Board dated May 5, Dottie Henry protested the way a member of the Planning Board had been reprimanded by a member of the Town Board at a public meeting of the Planning Board on March 15. Mrs. Henry was present at the Planning Board meeting and was so offended by the Town Board member's actions that she felt compelled to protest to the Town Board.

Letters to the Town Board are routinely read at its meetings. However, even though Mrs. Henry's letter was on the agenda, it was not read, the reason given that the board member in question was absent, but the letter would be read at the May 8 meeting. At this meeting it soon became clear that the entire board would not allow the letter to be read. I objected and insisted that the letter be read, when Councilman Fitzgerald moved not to read it. Voting against reading the letter were Fitzgerald, Steitz, and Megow; voting for were Hourigan and Belden. The letter was not read.

I protested this action because I believe in a free society people have a right to express their opinions to their elected representatives and to have those opinions heard in a public forum. Public officials have an obligation to be responsive to the voters' concerns. They have no business withholding information from the people who elected them.

If the board member acted as an individual, he was wrong. If he acted as a member of and on behalf of the town board, his actions were, in my opinion, both unethical and illegal. In either case the chairman of the Planning Board should not have allowed it.

Individual board members cannot unilaterally act on behalf of the Town Board. No board member can legally act independently outside the board or speak for the board. If he does, it is at his own peril. Actions have consequences and you take responsibility for them.

At first blush it appears that this incident is the action of one board member, but the action of the entire board at both meetings leads me to conclude that there was collusion among all the members of the board to protect one of their own.

This view is reinforced by the fact that at the May meeting all five town board members agreed not to read a letter from six Planning and Zoning Board members on similar subjects that addressed by Mrs. Henry's letter.

The arrogant disdain displayed in this situation by some member of the Hague Town Board toward their constituent should be remembered by those same voters next time these officials ask for our vote.

/s/ Rudolph Meola

LETTER TO TOWN BOARD:

Dear Members of the Town Board:

We the undersigned are members of the Town of Hague Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). We are volunteer members who have been

appointed by yourselves and your predecessors to serve the Town in its lawful pursuit of implementation of the Town of Hague Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. In volunteering our time for these positions, we have recognized the importance of the planning and zoning goals and objectives which have been embraced by the Town of Hague. We take our responsibilities as members of these public bodies very seriously.

The principal purpose of this letter is to bring to the Town Board our objection to the manner in which Planning Board member Nancy Harrigan has been treated at several recent public meetings of the Planning Board and ZBA. Ms. Harrigan has been harassed and insulted by members of the public who were allowed to speak out of turn at meetings which were not even public hearings. In addition, Ms. Harrigan has been criticized by Town Board members who have objected to certain of her efforts which she pursued in good faith attempts to bring accurate information to the Planning Board and ZBA. Regardless of whether Town Board members agreed or disagreed with this information, we respectfully suggest that open public criticism of a Planning Board or ZBA member by a Town Board member at a public meeting is neither warranted nor appropriate. It is neither helpful nor productive for Town Board members to make disparaging remarks about Planning Board or ZBA members who are exercising their best efforts to assist the boards in making informed decisions.

Neither election to a Town Board nor appointment to a Planning Board or ZBA means that a citizen relinquishes his or her rights to express their opinions. We recognize and acknowledge that such opinions may differ among members of the boards. However, in such instances, it would seem far more appropriate to discuss differences of opinion or even alleged shortcomings in a mutually respectful manner and in a private setting, rather than subjecting any member of any of the boards to criticism, ridicule and humiliation. Only with such mutual respect can the town board reasonably expect town citizens to continue to perform the vital function of serving on these volunteer boards. In this way we can all continue to work together in furtherance of our common goals of fair, uniform and consistent implementation of the Planning and Zoning laws of the State of New York and the Town of Hague.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts.

/s/ Tina Barth-King, Mary Lou Doulin, Ralph Denno, Tom LaPointe, Cris Ginn, Nancy Harrigan.

The following letter was on the agenda for the Town Board's April meeting, but was not read, since the full board was not present. It was stated that it would be read at the May meeting, but again was not read. Since a number of people have approached us to inquire about the letter's contents, we are printing it (Letters cont. on page 9)

Letters cont. from page 8

GREAT NEWS!

Members of the Hague Town Board April 5, 2001
Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter to you as a protest to what happened at the Planning Board meeting on March 15, i.e. the reprimanding of a member of the Planning Board by a member of the Town Board.

I feel it is totally unacceptable for any member of the town board to reprimand a member of another board, who incidentally volunteers his/her time to the town, in a public meeting. I am not addressing the content of what the board member said - I am addressing the way it was presented. I am of the opinion that matters of personnel are to be addressed in Executive Session and not in an open public meeting. Accusations were made that bordered on slander and should have been discussed with the town board first and discussion held as to how to handle the situation. I was told that neither the Town Board nor the Planning Board was made aware ahead of time that this was going to happen. I would hope that if they had been, it could have been diverted.

I also believe that the chairman of any board has a right to intercede and stop discussions that should not be public.

It appears to me and many other residents with whom I have talked, that if a person does his/her job appropriately but does not necessarily fit in with the thoughts of others, that person is not good for the town. I disagree with that theory.

I feel strongly that apologies are in order from the councilman and town board in general. This town needs good people, but if we treat them in the manner we did at the Planning Board meeting, we will have a hard time getting good people to serve. /s/ Dorothy J. Henry

TRASH PICKUP SCHEDULED FOR MAY 30

The Highway Dept. will be setting aside Wednesday, May 30 for pickup of tires, metal, non- processed items (furniture, appliances) for SENIOR CITIZENS. NO C&D, NO LEAVES AND BRUSH, NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE.

For other members of the community, one pickup truck load per family will be accepted at the Transfer Station free of charge on May 30 only with the same restrictions as above.

Please call Town Hall, 543-6161 before May 25 and leave name and address and description of what you have to pick up. Items must be left by entrance to driveway.

A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON THE PLAN FOR CENTURY 2000 WILL BE HELD ON JULY 17 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER. DAVID DECKER, STATE ENGINEER, WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Twenty-one of our Chamber members, out of 62, now have a presence on the web site either with a display ad or a link to their own web site. That is close to 30% of our Chamber members actively supporting the Chambers on-line efforts. This is a very impressive vote of confidence from our members for our own site.

Outstanding membership support has enabled <http://www.hagueticonderoga.com> to offer a lot of content about Hague, Ticonderoga and Silver Bay and to become the PREMIER web site in the Northern Lake George area. The site shows up near the top on all major web search engine listings. As a result, the site is getting an average of nearly 3000 page reads per month. This means that a lot of potential visitors are learning about our area attractions and businesses.

A very special thanks goes to the following members supporting the Hague-on-Lake George Chamber of Commerce web site:

DISPLAY AD:

- Fort Ticonderoga
- Ticonderoga Ferry
- Silver Bay Association
- Carol's Cozy Cottages
- Snug Harbour Marina
- Jan-Dor Cottages
- Emerald's Restaurant
- Justy Joe Fishing Charters
- Silver Bay General Store
- Silver Bay Guideboat & Canoe Co.
- Werner's Marine
- RUAH Bed & Breakfast
- Trout House Village
- Locust Inn
- Allison V. Craig, Realtor

LINK TO OWN WEB SITE:

- Wicker Ford
- Adirondack Park Motel
- Parkview Retirement Community
- Frederick's Restaurant

For more information about the site please call Tom James at 543-6924 or send an e-mail request to: chamber@hagueticonderoga.com. . . . tj

• TRANSFER STATION HOURS FOR THE REST OF MAY: TUES, WED, THURS, FRI, SAT, SUN, 9AM TO 5PM. CLOSED MON.

JUNE 1 TO SEPT. 15: MON, TUES, THURS, FRI, SAT, SUN, 9AM - 5PM. CLOSED WED.

Sometimes I think I understand everything, then I regain consciousness.

Amazing! You hang something in your closet for a while and it shrinks two sizes!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MAY/JUNE 2001

May

- 20 Champlain Valley Chorale Concert - 4PM at First Methodist Church, Ticonderoga (see p2)
- 21 Chamber of Commerce - 7:30PM
- 24 Zoning Board - 7PM; 6:30 board meets with town board on ethics issues
- 26 Cartoon Museum opens for season at 2PM
- 26 HVFD Dinner at Silver Bay - (see p 10)
- 28 Memorial Day Observed
- 30 High School spring concert - 7:30PM

June

- 3 Planning Board - 7PM
- 8 Town Board Meeting - 6:30PM
- 9-10 LARAC June Arts Festival - Glens Falls City Park
- 12 Town Board - 6:30PM
- 14 Flag Day
- 17 Father's Day
- 21 First Day of Summer
- July 17 Public Informational Meeting on the

The Top Ten Things You Won't Hear a Father Say

10. "Can you turn up that music? It really calms my nerves."
9. "You can't finish your peas? Go ahead & throw them away."
8. "Here, you take the remote."
7. "Oh no, kids, this sled is TOO FAST!"
6. "No honey, sit this one out. I really can't wait to change that diaper."
5. "As a matter of fact, let's both go get nose rings!"
4. "Hey, kids! Sit down at the table and try my vichyssoise."
3. "Go ahead, take my car-and here's fifty bucks for gas."
2. "Waiter! More ice cream for the little one!"
1. "Where do babies come from?"

If the new American father feels bewildered and even defeated, let him take comfort from the fact that whatever he does in any fathering situation has a fifty percent chance of being right.

... Bill Cosby

-Author unknown but appreciated -

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY - JUNE 17, 2001

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