



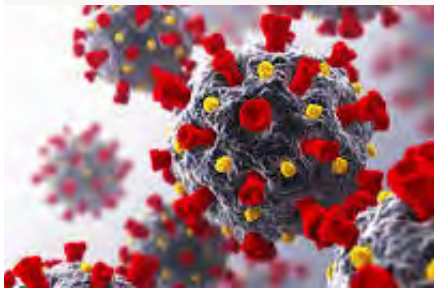
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OUR 50TH YEAR

Hague, New York 12836  
December 2021

## COVID-19 UPDATE

As of Dec 18, 2021:



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

LOCATION	CASES	DEATHS
Worldwide	273,534,945	5,343,274
US	50,616,347	805,254
NYS	2,899,469	58,465
Warren County	8,023	101
Essex County	3,258	44

### Sources:

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

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

### Local resources during COVID-19:

**Warren County Public Health** –  
518-761-6580

**Mental Health Assistance** –  
518-792-7143

**Domestic Violence Assistance** –  
518-793-9496

**State COVID-19 Hotline** –  
1-888-364-3065

## TOWN OF HAGUE BUDGET FOR 2022


The Town Board has approved the budget for 2022.

As usual, there will be NO town-wide tax to cover the General and Highway expenses. Fortunately Hague receives \$1,070,00 from county sales tax which covers \$600,000 of the General purposes budget and \$470,000 for Highway.

The Fire and Ambulance budget, which does include property tax income, will receive \$80,000 from sales tax. Another budgeted source of revenue includes \$45,000 from Mortgage Tax (the town received over \$100,000 in mortgage tax in 2021) as well as \$38,000 in hotel occupancy tax, both of which are distributed to the town by the county according to their formulas.

As is also customary for the town, \$300,000 of sales tax revenue due the town is left with the county and is used to decrease taxpayer's county bills.

When the budget is finalized, it will be published [HERE](#).

Please see chart of funds and tax rates on page 3. 



## MASK MANDATE

A new mask mandate was enacted in New York on December 13, 2021, which stated that masks would be required to be worn in all Indoor public places to address winter surge and to prevent business disruption as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations rise statewide.



Governor Kathy Hochul announced that masks will be required to be worn in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement.

The new business and venue requirements extend to both patrons and staff. This measure is effective December 13, 2021 until January 15, 2022, after which the state will re-evaluate based on current conditions.

"As governor, my two top priorities are to protect the health of New Yorkers and to protect the health of our economy. The temporary measures I am taking today will help accomplish this through the holiday season. We shouldn't have reached the point where we are confronted with a winter surge, especially with the vaccine at our disposal, and I share many New Yorkers' frustration that we are not past this pandemic yet," Governor Hochul said. "I want to thank the more than 80 percent of New Yorkers who have done the right thing to get fully vaccinated. If others will follow suit, these measures will no longer be necessary."

Businesses and venues who implement a proof of vaccination requirement can accept Excelsior Pass, Excelsior Pass Plus, SMART Health Cards issued outside of New York State, or a CDC Vaccination Card.

(Continued on p. 5)

## SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze



We had our annual Christmas Party, which was a lovely sit-down dinner at Frederick's Restaurant and Lounge in Bolton Landing. The restaurant was beautifully decorated for the holidays and a fire was glowing in the fireplace.

The \$50 money tree was won by Jan and Kenny Olcott. The top three prize winners were Linda Baker, who won a cardinal lamp, Claire Best, who won a grey and white blanket throw, and Carol Barnwell, who won a poinsettia plant. There were many others gifts given out throughout the party including bird feeders, paintings, solar lanterns, wine glasses, ADK beach towels, plaques, and more. Each club member got a "Hague Senior" pen.

Three decorated Christmas trees were put up along the brook. The Senior Tree was decorated with

important picture memories. The tree is now missing and we would very much like to get the pictures back. Please let me know if you have any information.

The club has a full schedule of events for next year, including many activities we haven't done before.

On January 13th, we'll kick off the new year at 4 pm with our annual International Dinner at the Hague Community Center. We invite the townspeople to come out and enjoy a feast with us. Everyone should bring a dish to share. This is a great opportunity to make new friends and get to know neighbors you haven't yet met. For more information, call Maureen Cherubini at 518-543-6463, Carol Barnwell at 518-543-6938, or me at 518-543-6502.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2022 for a wonderful year of senior events. ▣

## HAGUE SNO-GOERS

by Tom Haskell and Wally Peterson, III

We are working on opening a trail from Jabes Pond to the lakeside part of the Silver Bay YMCA campus. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is on board, along with the YMCA.

We are going to meet after the holidays and are hoping to open the trail next season.

We are ready to get busy grooming once Mother Nature cooperates. Our trails are now open for X-Country skiing.

The Hague Sno-Goers wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year! ▣

## WORK BEING DONE ON PEGGY'S POINT

by Judy Stock

If you recently drove by Peggy's Point in Hague and noticed some large boulders, you may have wondered, like I did, how they were going to be used on this Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) property. You also may have seen a large branch had split off from one of the trees. While the events are not related, work is being done at Peggy's Point.

The property was named in honor of long-time supporter of the LGLC, the late Margaret "Peggy" Darrin of Hague, who donated the 1.9 acres in 2005.

Mary Lou Doulin, for whom the flower garden is named, told me some interesting lore about the branch. It was actually a second tree that grew out of the one white pine trunk (probably over 100 years old) and had a unique bend in it. According to Mary Lou, it was common practice that young trees were bent that way by the Native Americans who hunted and fished in our area and used it to



indicate the direction to the good fishing grounds. Unfortunately, a very strong gust came through the park recently and the branch was broken off. The branch was the frequent background for special events at the park, including many weddings. It has since been cleaned up by DeFranco Landscaping.



DeFranco also did work on a shoreline project for the LGLC. They used the large boulders to reinforce the shoreline where erosion was caused by strong wind and waves. The area at the end of the delta where rocks and other debris have been washed down Hague Brook. ▣

## FRIENDS POINT ROADS TO CLOSE

The Friends Point Roads will be closed for the 24-hour period of 12:01 am Saturday, January 1, 2022 to 12:01am Sunday, January 2, 2022. ■

## VACANCIES IN THE TOWN OF HAGUE

There are vacancies in the Town of Hague for members and alternates on the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Please apply at the Hague Town Hall. ■



## PROPOSED OF FUNDS AND LEVY DETERMINATION FOR THE TOWN OF HAGUE FOR 2022

	APPROPRIATED EXPENSES	ESTIMATED INCOME	UNUSED BALANCE	TO BE RAISED TAXES
GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,114,796	\$ 802,464	\$ 312,332	\$ 0
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 1,274,194	\$ 1,274,194	\$ 0	\$ 0
OCCUPANCY TAX	\$ 68,500	\$ 38,006	\$ 30,494	\$ 0
CF WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT	\$ 12,900	\$ 0	\$ 12,900	\$ 0
subtotals	\$ 2,470,390	\$ 2,114,664	\$ 355,726	\$ 0
STREET LIGHTS	\$ 8,000	\$ 2	\$ 0	\$ 7,998
FIRE/AMBULANCE	\$ 368,787	\$ 80,015	\$ 0	\$ 288,772
SEWER DISTRICT #1	\$ 235,866	\$ 235,866	\$ 0	\$ 0
SEWER DISTRICT #2	\$ 195,539	\$ 195,539	\$ 0	\$ 0
subtotals	\$ 808,192	\$ 511,422	\$ 0	\$ 296,770
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,278,582</b>	<b>\$ 2,626,086</b>	<b>\$ 355,726</b>	<b>\$ 296,770</b>

## 2022 PROPOSED TAX RATE

	ASSESSED VALUE	2022 LEVY	PER 1000 2022 TAX RATE	2021 RATE	% CHANGE FROM 2021
TOWNWIDE	\$ 465,051,882	0	0	0	
STREET LIGHTS	\$ 42,334,450	\$ 7,998	0.18892	0.20767	-9.03%
FIRE/AMBULANCE	\$ 470,264,487	\$ 288,772	0.61406	0.59619	3.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.80298</b>	<b>0.80386</b>	<b>- 0.11%</b>



## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 11/18/2021

Chairman Robert Goetsch and Board Members Jon Hanna, Maureen Cherubini, Linda Mury, and Ray Snyder were present. There will be a vacancy on the ZBA in January 2022 due to the impending resignation of Maureen Cherubini.

### **BAZALYUK (59.8-1-1) 138 Split Rock Road (TR-2)**

The applicants would like to build a six-foot-high perimeter fence to be located on both sides and the back boundaries of their property to be located on the lot lines. The applicants wish the fence to terminate at the intersection of the front and side yard lot lines. There would be no fence built on the front yard/road side of the property lot line. The proposed fence would go from six feet to three feet in height at the 20' setback point from the front yard/road side per code requirements. A public hearing was held. The applicant's attorney mentioned incidences of the applicants feeling unsafe when dogs were on the property and that a four-foot-high fence could be jumped by dogs in the winter when snow is present. Neighbors felt a four-foot-high fence per code would be adequate and are opposed to a six-foot-high fence. The Planning board made a positive recommendation for this variance to the ZBA with the following conditions: 1) a sample picture of the proposed fence be provided prior to the vote and 2) the applicant submits a more detailed variance test as safety was not listed but was mentioned at the site visit. A motion to approve the variance was voted down with four members against and one member for (Jon Hanna). The variance request was denied. ■

## PLANNING BOARD - 12/2/2021

Deputy Chairperson Pam Peterson, Judy Gourley, Meg Haskell, and backup ZEO Cathy Clark were present. Chairperson Dick Frasier and Alternate Martin Fitzgerald, Sr. were absent. There is one vacancy on the board due to the resignation of Dan Belden.

### **BELDEN (42.1-14.31) 125 Decker Hill Road (SCUZ/OC1)**

The owner requests an after-the-fact approval for a six-foot stockade fence on a commercial property. Per the town code an eight-foot fence must be approved by Planning Board under Type 1 site plan review. The fence is not visible from the road and is centrally located on the property behind the house

blocking the house view of the back area of the commercial property. The application was unanimously approved.

### **DIDONATO (43.17-1-14) 33 Jenkins Point Drive (TR-1)**

The applicant is proposing a five-bedroom house on a vacant lot which is also in the sewer district. A Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) Stormwater permit has been applied for. The new construction would be within 100' of the Mean High-Water Mark (MHWM). The proposed location meets the town code setbacks of 50' from the MHWM, ten feet from side lines and 25' from wetlands. The board requested elevation drawings and overall building height.

### **RICHARDS (12.18-1-16) 9568 Lakeshore Drive (TR1)**

The applicant is requesting another two-year extension of approval for the construction of a three-bedroom house. The Planning Board approved a two-year extension on December 5, 2019, which will expire on January, 2, 2022. The septic and well are in place. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring. A two-year extension was unanimously approved. ■

## TOWN BOARD - 12/14/2021

Under the Freedom of Information Law, the town board minutes will be made available as soon as they are drafted.

*The Hague Chronicle* was unable to obtain notes or the draft minutes of this meeting prior to our publication date this month.

When they are completed, the minutes of meeting should be available at [townofhague.org](http://townofhague.org) by clicking on "Boards" and then "Town Board," [HERE](#).

Audio Recordings of Town Board Meetings will be maintained by the Town Clerk for a minimum of four months and are available upon request. ■

**NEEDED:** A community-minded volunteer to attend the monthly Hague Town Board meeting, take notes, and submit a draft article to the editor of *The Hague Chronicle*, who will then write the final draft for publication in each month's issue. ■

## THE HAGUE MEMORY TREE *by Diane Trudeau*

When Hague's first-ever Memory Tree was launched in 1988, *The Hague Chronicle* described it as something that "promises to become a Hague tradition!" And it has done just that. The Hague Memory Tree was started by my mother, Imogene Frasier, in memory of my brother, Dale W. Frasier, who passed away on Fathers' Day 1987. Her goal was not only to keep my brother's spirit alive, but also to support our Hague ambulance squad, who made many, many trips to our home. What a valuable service they provide to our town throughout the year!

Our original sponsor, The Hague Chamber of Commerce, my mom, Bertha Dunsmore, and I have worked diligently for the past 33 years, raising thousands of dollars through hundreds of one-dollar donations that people have made to add a name to the Memory Tree. Sadly, my mom passed away in 2009, and the Hague Chamber of Commerce no longer exists, but Ms. Bertha and I still work to keep the Memory Tree alive.

Do you want to add the name of a loved one or someone in Hague you admire to our 2021 Memory Tree and support our Hague Volunteer Fire Department at the same time? If so, make your check out to The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (\$1 for each name you submit) and mail it to: Town of Hague Memory Tree, PO Box 509, Hague, NY 12836. Or, stop by the Hague Community Center and see Bertha or me to make your contribution in person by cash or check. We'd love to see you or hear from you! Thank you in advance for your generosity. ■

## WHO IS "THE FRIEND OF THE HERMIT?" *by Bobbi Bryant Taylor*

For the last twenty issues of *The Hague Chronicle*, we have published limericks titled "The Hermit of Hague," written anonymously by "A Friend of the Hermit." Now that we have published all of the ones that were submitted, we wondered if our readers could guess who the talented author of these limericks was. In the November issue, we asked readers to guess the hermit's identity. Every reader who ventured a guess thought it was Ginger Henry Kuenzel. Excellent guess, but, alas, they were wrong.

So, here is the great reveal...(drum roll, please!)

*There once was a guy from Silver Bay  
Who knew he had so much to say.  
Each month he wrote rhymes,  
Appropriate for the times.  
Thanks, Vincent M. Smith, for brightening our day!*

We have just been notified of Mr. Smith's passing back in the spring. We offer our sincere condolences to his family. ■

## MASK MANDATE, CON'T

In accordance with CDC's definition of fully vaccinated, full-course vaccination is defined as 14 days past an individual's last vaccination dose in their initial vaccine series (14 days past the second shot of a two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine; 14 days past the one-shot Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine). The state also accepts WHO-approved vaccines for these purposes. Parents and guardians can retrieve and store an Excelsior Pass and/or Excelsior Pass Plus for children or minors under legal guardianship.

Businesses and venues that implement a mask requirement must ensure all patrons two years and older wear a mask at all times while indoors.

Unvaccinated individuals continue to be responsible for wearing masks in accordance with federal CDC guidance. The state's masking requirements continue to be in effect for pre-K to grade 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and health care settings per CDC guidelines.

New York State and the NYS Department of Health continue to strongly recommend mask-wearing in all public indoor settings as an added layer of protection, even when not required. Children two to five (who remain ineligible for vaccination) must wear a proper-fitting mask. ■

## SILVER BAY TO OPEN FITNESS CENTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Starting in January 2022, Silver Bay YMCA plans to reopen its fitness center and property access to the community.

The fitness center will be open from 9 am – 12 pm Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Community members may access the fitness center during those times for free, with no program pass. Exercisers will be required to sign in at the door, bring a clean pair of gym shoes to wear, and abide by all current state regulations. Locker rooms, showers, and a water fountain are available.

Additional programs open to the community include:

**Spiritual Life Programs:** (contact Garth Allen [gallen@silverbay.org](mailto:gallen@silverbay.org) for more information)

- Christmas Eve Service December 24th in the Helen Hughes Memorial Chapel at 7:30 pm
- Men's and Women's prayer breakfast first Friday of each month (Pre-registration required)
- Reading group online
- Centering Prayer online
- Weekly devotionals online

**Walking, hiking, and snowshoeing** on Silver Bay's property and extensive trails

**Micro Disc Golf course:** bring your own equipment

**Access to Lake George for ice fishing:** contact Zac Smalley for more information [zsmalley@silverbay.org](mailto:zsmalley@silverbay.org)

For more information about Silver Bay YMCA, visit [www.silverbay.org](http://www.silverbay.org). Keep an eye on the Activity Calendar for program updates and additions at [www.silverbay.org/activity-calendar](http://www.silverbay.org/activity-calendar).

For more information on obtaining a program pass, visit [www.silverbay.org/day-use](http://www.silverbay.org/day-use). ■

## SOUNDINGS

**DIED:** Bruce Craig, 97, of Hague, peacefully, on December 9, 2021.



Bruce Craig loved the idea of flight. Whether he was flying a World War II C-47 supply plane, a precision kite, or drones, which he did well into his 90s, flying and all he learned from it was a touchstone of his life. His skills at reading clouds for flight made him a reliable family weatherman. Maps, his navigation tools, were always within arms' reach, although most of the time, he knew routes without looking.

Flying became making family furniture, including a prized table made out of a felled tree from wood that never left the property. Flying became skiing fast slopes and sailing and racing across Lake George's blue waters, the hull humming its song of life.

Bruce sang life's song well for nearly 98 years, listening to great music, telling stories, grilling at the same fire pit as he had done since the age of nine, and playing his harmonica, a sound that comforted his children on the edge of sleep.

His father, Ralph Craig, was a two-time Olympic gold medal winner; his mother, Elisabeth Spies Craig, was one of the first women to graduate from Vassar College. It was a lot to live up to, but Bruce found his way with his wife and co-pilot of 66 years, Alison. They met while they both attended St. Lawrence University.

They made harmony together, singing in the car with their three kids, raising their family, and

working together in Alison's real estate business after the kids were launched. As time passed, family grew to include a granddaughter and the partners of their three children.

On December 9, 2021, Bruce took flight once again, to a "Jim Dandy, Peachy Keen" place among the stars.

If you wish to celebrate his life, please perform a random act of kindness for someone in need. If you want to spend some time telling stories, laughing, or singing a song with Bruce, he'll be flying with the wind. ■

*The Hague Chronicle* is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths. We will now include a recent headshot of high enough quality for publication with obituaries. Please send to [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org).

## A CHEF'S JOURNEY TO THE ADKS by Noah Ball

Born in Detroit, Chef Derek Leinonen had a long journey to the Adirondacks. Like so many of us, he was magnetized by the rolling hills and mountains that he now calls home.

I met Chef Leinonen while seeking reprieve from the looming early winter weather. Heading into Seymour's Restaurant in Ticonderoga, I was greeted by a warm wood interior and friendly faces.

The winter vistas are a far cry from the sunny streets of Florida or Texas where Leinonen began his career. He was excited to share the things he'd learned along the way: about fish in Florida, how to make a true Texan chili, and plating dishes artistically. Yet, the lessons he often returned to were those from his family.

Leinonen remembers watching his parents cook. His mother stayed strictly to her recipe for consistency while his father went by taste and feel. Throughout our conversation, he reiterated that food is what brings people together. I could feel his passion for cooking, but more importantly, I could sense his pride in providing a unifying experience for his customers and his community.

The menu at Seymour's reflects the comforts of a winter in the mountains. Even as the cold wind howled through the hills, a warm, full meal inspired by local agriculture and family recipes put me at ease.

*(Continued on p. 7)*





## NEW LGLC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has announced the hiring of its next Executive Director, Michael (Mike) G. Horn, effective January 1, 2022. He succeeds Jamie Brown, who served as LGLC's executive director from 2015 to October 2021.



"Jamie did a fabulous job protecting the land that protects the lake," said Horn, "while building a very strong financial foundation to support the LGLC's ongoing efforts. I am honored and excited to be the LGLC's new executive director and continue this positive momentum."

For the past four years Horn has been conservation director of Saratoga PLAN, an accredited land trust in Saratoga Springs. Prior to pursuing his passion for land conservation, he had a successful management career at GE in the renewable energy field.

LGLC Board President Michael O'Reilly said, "Mike's land acquisition experience, passion for conservation, love of the outdoors, and business acumen will ensure LGLC's continued success in

protecting the land that protects the lake."

Horn received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Business from Lafayette College as well as a Master of Science in Natural Resource and Environmental Policy and Master of Business Administration, both from the University of Michigan.

He and his family reside in Saratoga Springs. ▣



## TOWN'S PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Town of Hague's public documents such as agendas, minutes, resolutions, annual town budgets, and the Comprehensive Plan are available online, along with the Town Code through the Town of Hague's E-Code.

To access the Town of Hague's E-Code, visit [townofhague.org](https://townofhague.org) and click on the "Town Code" link in the left-hand column under "Popular Links" or go directly to <https://ecode360.com/HA1590>. ▣

## A CHEF'S JOURNEY, CONTINUED

The chef's team whipped up a mushroom rigatoni that blew me away. It was a meal you'd expect from a world class chef, presented beautifully, and it filled me with the satisfaction of home-cooked meal.

Chef Leinonen has developed a style of cooking that melds perfectly with the Adirondack landscape. It matches high quality farm-to-table experiences with the creature comforts we need to get through the chilly winter. It was reminiscent of a rolling fire on a snowy day, filling me with warm satisfaction. It pairs as well with vegetables from local farm stands as it might with an exotic ingredient imported from a far-off land. Between the pasta and the white chocolate lava cake for dessert, I felt content to sit and watch the clouds roll past the big windows.

At a time of year when so much slows down, Seymour's is just getting going. This winter, the team aims to create a space for people to feel at home. They hope to open the door for more businesses in the region so that a community of restaurants and shops can stay open throughout the season.

The night I visited, Seymour's hosted a holiday movie screening for local families with cookie decorating, food, and drinks for the whole family. Chef Leinonen alluded to more big plans for the future, but you'll have to wait and see what those are.

So, pay a visit there this winter. Sit by the fire and take in the view as you enjoy a meal inspired by friends, family, and the mountains. And don't forget to thank the chef; he's done a lot to get here.

Visit the Seymour's website for their winter hours, upcoming special events, and reservations. ▣

*Noah Ball is a content developer for the Champlain Region for the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST) in Lake Placid, NY. ▣*

## SILVER BAY YMCA NAMES NEW CEO

The Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center has released an announcement appointing Peter Doliber as CEO effective January 1, 2022.

"Peter is an accomplished and passionate leader with unparalleled commitment to community and economic development. He now serves as CEO of the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs," stated Chair of the Silver Bay YMCA Board of Trustees Stephanie Wagoner.

"The CEO Search Task Force worked hard to find someone who could build on the tremendous success that Steve Tamm and the entire staff team have achieved for Silver Bay over the last six and a half years. Our journey to select Peter included an extensive search both within and beyond the YMCA that tapped into many resources to identify a diverse candidate pool. Peter has more than 30 years of experience in advocacy, program development, and marketing, and has inspired us with the exceptional qualities he brings to the CEO role," Wagoner continued.

At the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, Peter oversaw advocacy, policy,

operations, and statewide initiatives with collective impact, representing 28 YMCA Associations with over 700 locations serving over three million individuals in Massachusetts. In this capacity, Peter secured and managed over \$7 million in state funding and obtained \$1 million in grant funding. Prior to leading the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, Peter was the CEO of the West Broad Street YMCA in Savannah, GA where he revitalized the struggling urban YMCA. He increased programming for children, conducted three successful capital campaigns raising over \$2 million for improvements and expansion, grew the operating budget from \$125,000 to \$1.3 million in two years, and created over \$2 million in grants, government, and corporate support for the Y over four years. Peter's experience in hospitality services included management, conference planning, food service and front office experience.

Peter Doliber stated, "I am humbled and honored to be joining the Silver Bay YMCA as its next CEO. The staff and volunteers are incredible, demonstrating what is selfless service to others. I look forward to working together as we build on the foundation of compassion that is Silver Bay."



*Silver Bay CEO Peter R. Doliber*

"Peter has an impressive track record of executing on significant initiatives," Wagoner continued. "His accomplishments across the private and non-profit sectors make him the ideal choice to lead the Silver Bay YMCA as we continue to fulfill our mission: to foster relationships, strengthen communities and nurture spirit, mind and body for all. Peter will work closely with the CEO Transition Task Force before he assumes his new role to ensure a smooth transition. Please join me and the entire Board of Trustees in welcoming Peter and his wife, Jean, to the Silver Bay community." ■

## SILVER BAY RESUMES YOUTH & GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center is resuming its Youth & Government Program for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It is a national program of the Y that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model government programs.

"Youth & Government is pivotal in shaping tomorrow's leaders, providing first-hand experience in governmental processes as they learn how to discuss issues, negotiate and debate topics, and present their position in front of others," said Chief Executive Officer Steve Tamm. "Knowing that it has been over 18 months since local teens

have been able to meet, learn, and experience the legislative process, it is a major win for students in our local communities that we can resume this impactful program."

Six local students joined 22 other students from across New York State in Suffern, NY earlier this month to participate in the first meeting. These participants will serve as justices at the Annual State Conference in March 2022.

There are several other students who have already begun developing proposals on a wide range of topics and have started to learn more about their responsibilities as legislators, lobbyists, attorneys, and other roles.

Local students will continue to refine



their proposals and practice civic engagement throughout the school year and gather for the annual district conference at Silver Bay YMCA in early 2022. The program will culminate with the Annual New York State Youth & Government Conference in March 2022, when students will take to the floor of the capitol building in Albany to present their legislature. ■



## LOOKING BACK

### THE HISTORY OF THE SILVER BAY GENERAL STORE, PART II

by Kathy Braisted Santaniello

(See Part I in the November issue of *The Hague Chronicle*)

Fred Sain died in early 1977 and Dottie did not open the store that summer. She decided to sell the store and mentioned this to friends of hers on Long Island, Sal Santaniello's first wife's parents, who told their daughter and son-in-law about this opportunity. They had already seen the store when they stayed in the motel unit a few years earlier. So, they bought the store, sold their home in Huntington, NY, and Lee and their two kids, Terri and SJ, moved into the apartment above the store in November of 1977.

Sal stayed behind in Long Island, lived with his parents, and kept his job managing an auto body repair shop, commuting back to Silver Bay on weekends. In May 1978, he left his job and opened the store. They bought a soft ice cream machine and changed to Amoco gas. After the first summer, it was obvious a second income would be needed in the off-season, so Sal found a job in the New York City area doing independent car damage appraisals and commuted back to Silver Bay most weekends to help in the store.

After Sal and Lee divorced in 1979, Lee ran the store alone for one summer, remarried Roland Dame in April 1980 and she and Roland ran the store together during the summer of 1980. But due to health considerations, Lee sold her half of the business to Sal in early 1981.

Sal and I were married in May 1981, and we moved into the store apartment. After 34 years, a Braisted was back in the store!



L-R: Roland and Lee Dame, SJ, Terri and Sal Santaniello and Shu Shu the Cock-a-Poo – 1980s

In spring 1981, Sal and I closed the store for two months and started a major renovation of the first floor, which included gutting the store down to the studs, putting in

modern insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors, a new floor, new shelves, some new display cases, modernizing the wiring and plumbing, removing the soda fountain, reconfiguring the counter/deli/check-out area, tearing out the overhead duct work for the furnace, and adding board and batten siding on the lower half of the building. We also bought wood stoves for the store and apartment and put in electric heat for the upstairs apartment. All this made the store more energy-efficient and easier to run. The motel units continued to be rented until 1985.



Sal continued to work as a car damage adjuster for two insurance companies from 1979 to 1993, first out of Glens Falls, and then out of Albany, which involved quite a bit of travel in the area. I remained in the store during the day and Sal covered nights and weekends. The store was busier in those years in the summers and there was a lot of ordering and stock to manage. The store was usually open from 7 am to 10 pm seven days a week in July and August. We would hire five local high school and college kids as summer employees.

In 1984, our son Ted was born, and company day care came to the Silver Bay General Store.



Sal, Ted, and me – 1984

(Continued on page 11)

## FUNDRAISER FOR THE DOWNTOWN GALLERY

From January 6 - 29, 2021, there will be a fundraiser for the Downtown Gallery in Ticonderoga, with the opening reception from 5 - 7 pm on Friday, January 7th. Original works by gallery members and guest artists and treasures from their art collections will be for sale.

There will be a Silent Auction throughout the fundraiser with starting prices and a "buy now" prices.

On a date to be arranged, there will be an Appraisal Night during which one - three items may be brought in to be appraised by antique dealers.



## VISITATION RESTRICTED AT HOSPITAL

On Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the University of Vermont Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital updated its visitor policy as a preventive measure to protect against the spread of COVID -19.

The temporary change allows hospitalized patients to have one visitor between 12:30 and 2:30 pm and one between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. One support person may accompany patients in the emergency department, outpatient clinics, and health centers.

The hospital made the decision to limit visitation in response to the continued high prevalence of COVID - 19, which is above 7% community transmission in our region. ■

**SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE** :You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time **HERE**. Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

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

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## LOOKING BACK: SILVER BAY STORE, CONTINUED

Ted grew up in the store, worked there in the summers as he got older, graduated from high school in 2002, and graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2006. He married in 2011 and now lives in Plattsburgh with his wife, Nicole, and their three children.

The two older kids, Terri and SJ, have both married and each have two children. Terri's family lives in CO and SJ lives in Greenwich, NY.



*Naptime at the store*

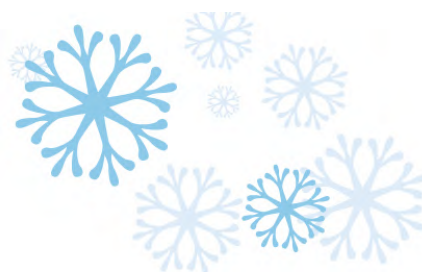
Business went on as usual at the store until the late 1990s. The motel was converted to a storage area in 1985 and into a one-bedroom year-round rental apartment in 1988. Sal and I remodeled the cottage directly in back of the store next to my parents' home and moved in there in 1998. The store apartment was remodeled and became a rental apartment after they moved out. Sal left his job as a full-time insurance adjuster to stay in the store, and I worked from home as a medical transcriptionist for about ten years. I did some caretaking and cleaning in the Silver Bay area and helped in the store in the summers.

Also, over this time period, Sal and I were involved in many town organizations, including the Hague Volunteer Fire Department, the Chamber of Commerce, The Hague Fish & Game Club, the Winter Carnival Committee, the Beste Scholarship Fund, and the Hague Central Alumni Association. I served on the Hague Planning Board for a few years.

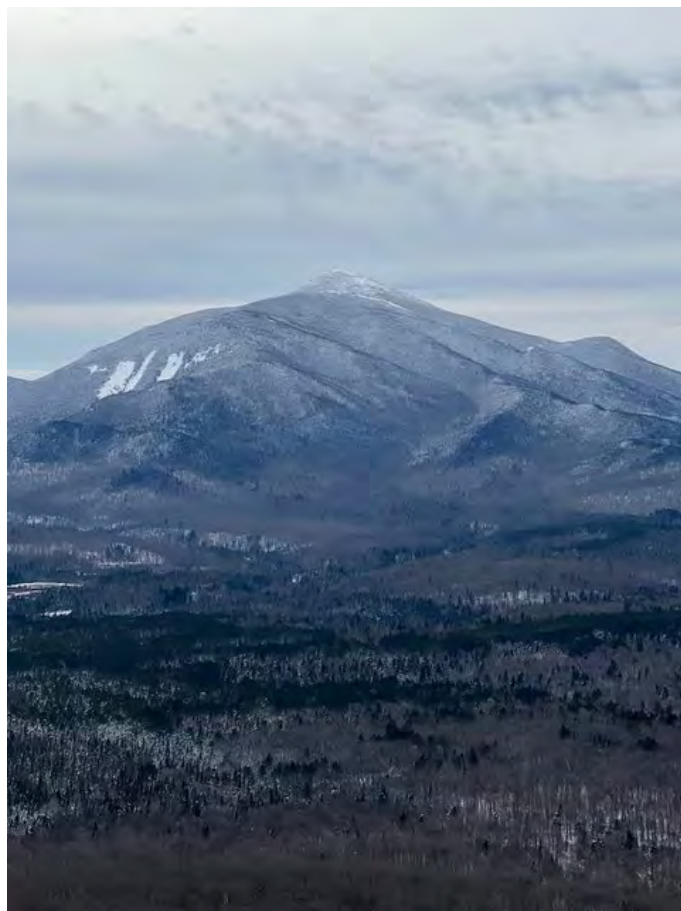
With a gradual slowing of the economy and opening of Wal-Mart in Ticonderoga, keeping a small business viable in a rural area became quite a challenge and many of the small store suppliers have gradually faded away.

Unfortunately, Sal received a cancer diagnosis in 2017, so it was obvious then that the store, his "empire," had to be sold. I kept things going throughout Sal's battle with cancer and for a year after his passing in August of 2020.

I passed the "crown" on to Paul and Joanne Budd in 2021 who are enthusiastic and happy to go forward in much the same tradition as the last 40 years. ■







*Top left: Cook Mountain hike - taken December 14, 2021; Top right: Mt. Von Hoevenburg - taken November 17, 2021; Bottom: Hike to Jabe Pond showing view of Silver Bay and Odell Island - taken December 4, 2021; Photos courtesy of Michael and Margaret Kennedy*



**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE**

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ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

**CALENDAR**

December 2021

**DECEMBER**

24 CHRISTMAS EVE/town offices closed  
25 CHRISTMAS DAY – MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE/town offices closed

**TRANSFER STATION HOURS:**

Wednesdays & Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm

**JANUARY**

1 NEW YEAR'S DAY – HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
Friends Point Roads closed  
6 7 pm Planning Board  
6 – 29 Downtown Gallery Fundraiser  
7 5 – 7 pm Opening Reception for Downtown Gallery Fundraiser  
10 Deadline for the January issue of *The Hague Chronicle*  
11 6 pm Town Board  
13 4 pm Seniors International Dinner  
17 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY