



VOLUME 32 NO 12

HAGUE, N.Y. 12836

DECEMBER 2003

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### CHRISTMAS IN THE HAGUE CHURCHES

**Church of the Blessed Sacrament** - December 24 at 5:30PM there will be a Gathering for Fellowship at the Parish Center. This will be followed by a 6:15PM Christmas Eve Mass. All are welcome

**Hague Baptist Church** - a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7PM in the church sanctuary. A birthday cake for Jesus will be served following the service in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome

**Hague Wesleyan Church** - Christmas Eve will be celebrated with a communion service in the church at 7PM. A special offering will be taken for the needy people of Haiti. All are welcome.



### NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA - "A BALL FOR ALL"

This holiday event is presented by the town of Ticonderoga for all area residents and their guests.

The non-profit dinner dance has been designed solely to initiate the town's bi-centennial celebration (1804-2004) and will be the first event of many planned for the people to enjoy throughout this historic year.

There will be cocktails from 6PM until 7PM (cash bar, run by the American Legion). Dinner (prime rib or vegetable lasagne) served at 7PM. Complimentary bottles of wine (2) on each table. Dancing at 9 until 1AM. (30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, & 70's). Jom Rovelli band plays all the good old stuff. Many surprises during the evening, all for your enjoyment. Complimentary bottle of champagne per table to welcome in 2003. Our bi-centennial year price: \$37.50 each, \$75.00 per couple. Dress: semi-formal. "Period dress admired...but not required"

This is the place to be on New Year's Eve. All tables must be reserved complete with each attendee names before December 20. Each table will seat 7 to 8 guests. There will be no fund raising - no silent auctions - no distractions - just a great time - an elegant eventing to remember. (Ti Chamber of Commerce: 585-6619)

### TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

The Ticonderoga Festival Guild will hold its annual Twelfth Night Celebration at the Hague Wesleyan Church on January 6, 2004 at 7PM. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Area choirs sing their favorite Christmas music, followed by the massed choirs singing the *Hallelujah Chorus* by Handel. There is no admission charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

### MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

A men's prayer breakfast is held on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 AM at the Brookside Community House in the Silver Bay Association. Because of the holiday it will be held on the 9th in January.



### CLEANING OUR CLOSETS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

The Hague Chronicle is cleaning out its older computer hardware and software. We have several items which are available for the best offer by January 15, 2004.

We have one complete package that contains a Motorola Starmax computer (with Power Macintosh OS 7.5.3 and Clarisworks 5.0 v. 1), a SONY monitor and an OPTI Quest monitor, a monitor base, Keyboard Mouse and mouse pad and a Hewlett Packard printer - Deskwriter 600 with power cord.

We also have a Macintosh Performa Power PC 6115CD with disk drive, CD rom drive, keyboard & mouse and an HP Deskwriter 600 as well as older assorted modems, fax machines and connector cords.

Also a 1980 vintage IBM typewriter and a Texas Instruments Micro Laser Printer.

For further information on these items contact Dottie Henry at 543-6633 or Judy Stock at 543-6517.



### FARINICK RESIGNS AS SEWER MANAGER

At a Dec. 4th meeting to discuss the operation and staffing of the sewer, George Farinick expressed frustration with the engineering and decision making process and told those assembled (Town Board members Meola and Belden as well as a handful of interested citizens) that he was leaving his position. Mr. Farinick noted that we have an \$8 million dollar plant and we need to make sure that it is adequately cared for even if the engineers are no longer on the job and the county has not yet turned it over to the Town of Hague. He also indicated frustration with the budget process noting that "it takes 3 years to develop a budget (for a new project like this)."

The sewer plant operation is continuing to be monitored by Tracy Smith of Ticonderoga who is the certified plant operator. Tim Costello, who was assisting Mr. Farinick, has been appointed by the Town Board to be in charge of the day-to-day operations. He will be pursuing studies to become a certified operator. ...js

### STORM DELAYS TOWN CELEBRATIONS

Due to the snow on December 6, the Town Christmas party was rescheduled to Wed., December 10th. Supervisor Dan Belden gave the welcoming address followed by Fire Chief Chris Swinton who lit the Christmas trees. Santa Claus made his traditional appearance and Bruce Tamlyn, Thomas Lucking and Doug Zeyak entertained while awaiting his arrival. Also entertaining were Kacheena Trudeau, Taylor Denno, Qirsten Ross, Ashley St. Andrews and Kaley Manning.

The Senior Citizen of the Year Award was presented by Sal Santaniello of the Chamber of Commerce to Eberhard Werschky.

Eberhard has been a volunteer driver for Meals-on-Wheels since its inception and is active in the Senior Citizen's Club.



The Holiday in Hague celebration was held on Saturday the 13th. The Door Prize from the Specialty Shops was won by John Barber. The Tree Decorating Contest prizes, donated by the Chamber of Commerce and the Specialty shops, were presented to The Senior Citizen's Club (1st prize of \$100), NLG Rotary Club (2nd prize of \$75) and the Blessed Sacrament Youth Group (3rd prize of \$50). The trees which were donated by the Costellos and the Dykstras will remain decorated throughout the holiday.

### SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD AVAILABLE

There are two programs in Hague which provide additional food to residents. The Extra Helpings Program (EHP) provides a food package for a fee of \$14 per month. Diane Trudeau at the Community Center administers the program and each month one can decide to take advantage of this Community Food Buying Club. There are also specials which are made available. Diane is helped by volunteers Emily Cobb, Pat Swinton, Gerry Boyd and John Brown. The food is usually distributed the 4th Wednesday of the month and may include beef, chicken, vegetable, cheese and other available items which would cost more in a food store. An average of 30 orders are delivered to Hague each month with the help of the Highway department or Mike Manning, Town custodian. For more information or to sign up in advance, call Diane at 543-6161.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Georgina Lindquist and Janet Hoffay, Hague is also able to provide food to income eligible families through the CARE Food Pantry. The food is received from the Community Action Programs in Glens Falls and Malone as well as special donations from the US Post Office collections and donations from charitable groups such as the NLG Rotary Club which donated turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams for Christmas. Georgina has been the administrator of this program since the mid 1980's. Any individual or family who would like this available food is encouraged to bring their income information to Georgina at the Town Hall. The hours when food is distributed are posted outside on the Community Bulletin Board. The food pantry can also provide emergency food without any income eligibility. For further information contact Georgina at 543-6095. ...js

### DOWNTOWN PLAN UNVEILED

At a public informational meeting on December 4, Lisa Nagle of Elan Planners presented a preliminary plan for the enhancement of the downtown area. She suggested ten areas of improvement - the four "gateways", the town dock, parks, along the roadways and brook. Each project has an associated cost ranging from \$11,700 to \$211,390. Elan Planners can help apply for grants which are available and can monitor the projects including coordination with the County and State. ...js

*Christmas is going over the hills and through the woods to grand - mother's house...except she's moved to an apartment.*

From Christmas is Together-Time by Charles Schulz

PLANNING BOARD - 12/4/03

The Planning Board met with John Brown and Peter Foster absent.

A public hearing was held on the application of Lauren Parlin (43.5-1-4) to operate a Bake Shop at 9819 Graphite Mt. Rd. with no comments offered from the public. A date for a site visit was set.

Sub-divisions were approved for Meehan (11-1-4.1), 867 New Hague Rd and for Mattison (42-1-14.1), Decker Hill Rd.

Site plan reviews were done for Ragot (42.20-1-6), Lake Shore Drive for a single family dwelling; Serricchio (11-1-17.1), West Hague Rd for a single family dwelling; and Maiaro (43.5-1-54), Lake Shore Drive for a branch sales office in his home. All approved.

Loveland (24-1-12), New Hague Rd plans to add a bathroom and a deck to an existing dwelling which is within 100 ft from a stream and is on a non-conforming lot. A site review will be held.

Turnamian (26.18-1-16), 9200 Lakeshore Drive, wishes to add a second floor and a stairway to part of an existing dwelling which is a legal non-conforming building. More information was requested.

Morgan (61-1-4), Rt 9N, Silver Bay, requested a modification in an existing permit for a 2-car garage to a 3-car garage which he has already built. The application was approved with the conditions that there be no water in the garage and that it meet the requirements for setbacks, parking and septic. ...js

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 12/09/03

The Board met with all members present. After the Pledge of Allegiance a moment of silence was held for Claire Grasso.

During Public comments George Ianson asked about the expenditure of \$17,000 to remove a tank from a private property in Hague. Supervisor Belden said the sewer contractors didn't know it was there and it had to be cleaned up so it was paid by Warren County and reimbursed through the EPA sewer grant.

Committee Reports:

Assessor/Justice - Councilman Meola gave an updated report on the work of Mike Maxwell, the reassessment consultant. Property along the lake including lake rights lots, lakefront lots and those influenced by the lake have been put in different categories. Each category plays a certain role. Improved lots are separate from vacant. A preliminary assessment will be done by the end of the month. For lakefront the appreciation rate is 12%, for land in the hamlet and rural land the rate is 5%. They are "assigning factors to each property and then applying them uniformly to all properties using sound general principles of assessment," said Meola.

The Town is still in the process of resolving 2 grievances from the last revaluation which may go to Court in March.

The Justice Committee has been looking at the cost of the Law library and is trying to determine what is needed.

CARE - Councilman Meola reported that there is food available and we need to encourage the people who are eligible to use this food pantry. (see FOOD article p. 3)

Fire - Councilman Megow noted that the Fire Department had received quite a few thank yous for their efforts during the power outage - especially opening the Fire House and providing for those who needed shelter.

Highway - Highway Superintendent Bill Bothe reported that his department had been busy through the weekend with the storm. There are concerns of property owners near sidewalks and they are working on a system for the sidewalks. When they use the snow blower they have to blow the snow into a truck and haul it away and not blow it onto residential property.

Museum & Historian - Councilman Meola noted that there are funds in the 2004 budget to expand the museum so we need to give some serious consideration as to what it should look like. Once a minimum collection has been displayed we need to have new collections to put out to keep up the interest. The Town may want to budget money to buy artifacts or have rotating displays. The Comprehensive Plan talks about the need for a curator. We may need to have a curator with professional ability.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater - Another easement is needed before next summer for the work in Pine Cove to abate the stormwater runoff.

The Town Board is considering a system of rotating the chairman positions of the citizen boards.

Sewer District 1 - Generators ran the sewer plant during the last power outage. The flow wasn't such that it had to pump out. However, individuals should not put water into their systems (such as hauling water and putting into toilets) because the water will not be pumped out and backup in the resident's system can occur.

Councilman Megow noted that when the tractor at the sewer plant is used for other areas the fuel should be charged to that budget line.

Transfer and Recycling - The revenue for November was \$4865.75.

In Unfinished Business, the Board:

1) Approved the final sewer unit schedule effective as of January 1st. Since many people (not just those in the sewer district) use the community center and the beach facilities, the Board felt that the Town should be assigned higher EDU's and decided on a total of 8 (4 for each location).

(Cont'd on p. 4 - TOWN BOARD)

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(Con't from page 3- Town Board)

Bob Patchett asked about Resolution #69 that changed the EDU's for tourist accomodations and the possibility of retroactive credits. The Supervisor will check with "audit and control."

2) Approved a warranty deed between the Town of Hague and Sean Lobdell.

3) Approved the downtown enhancement plan prepared by Elan Planners.

4) Discussed implementation of Local Law #1 which is now effective six months after filing with the NYS Secretary of State. This local law refers to the disposition of trash, rubbish and junk and the Zoning Enforcement officer has been alerted.

5) Acting as the Town Board of Health, set a public hearing for 6pm on Dec 22 for Woodruff/Whisher variances.

6) Accepted proposal from Walt Waters to tear down the old Town Hall.

7) Discussed and accepted some of the changes to the Comprehensive Planning that had been earlier recommended by the Planning Board.

Under New Business, the Board:

1) Appointed Pamela Peterson to the Planning Board.

2) Appointed Dick Dykstra to the Board of Assessment Reveiw.

3) Accepted a recommendation to appoint Rick Myers as a Highway Department Motor Equipment Operator.

4) Appointed Hannah Cole as a part time laborer at the Transfer Station.

5) Accepted (3-2) the resignation of George Farinick from the position of Sewer Plant Operator.

6) Appointed Tim Costello as Sewer Plant Operator as of Dec 5th., 2003.

7) Approved paying 75% of the cost of Mr. Costello's tuition for Wastewater Training Course.

8) Agreed to look again at the previous applications for Wastewater trainee.

9) Discussed Health Insurance for elected officials.

10) Approved hiring Dave Bolster to survey Old Town Hall.

Supervisor's Report: The Board will have a Transistional Meeting on 12/10; the End-of-the-Year meeting on 12/29 at 4 PM and the Organizational Meeting on 1/2/04 at 6:30 PM. Debbie and Mike Manning will be on vacation from February 4-10, 2004.

Dick Gladu reported that the Ticonderoga School District will hold a vote on a new bond issue on Jan. 13th from noon to 8 pm. Voter registration will be held on 1/6/04. ...js

**TICONDEROGA SCHOOL PROPOSITIONS**

On January 13, 2004 residents will be asked to vote on two propositions. The first will allow the district "to construct, reconstruct and equip school district facil-

ities." The second will permit the School Board "to convey a vacant lot (43.5-1-1) and Spring lot (25.20-1-6) to the Town of Hague on the condition that the Town will assume full responsibility ...in relation to any environmental or hazardous conditions that exist on the property." Voting in Hague will be at the Community Center from noon - 8 PM.

**SOUNDINGS**

DIED: Claire Grasso, wife of Anthony Grasso, Lyndhurst, NJ and Cape Cod Village, Hague, NY, on November 24 in Hackensack, NJ. Besides her husband she is survived by three daughters, Carol, Diane and Pat.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sharon Bree Sann, for having earned a Master of Science degree, majoring in neuroscience from the University of California at San Diego. Sharon is the daughter of Brian and Beverly Sann of Lakeshore Drive, Silver Bay. Sharon hopes to earn her PhD from UCSD in about three more years.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ACHIEVEMENT ROLL**

Grade 6: Nathan Laundree, Kaley Manning, Jamie Patchett, Qirsten Ross

Grade 7: Brendan Carberry, Molly Ginn, Shane Graser, Mara Haskell, Shane King, Kristopher Wilson, Matthew Wilson

Grade 8: Samantha Abare, Justin Frasier, Henry Girard, Connor Kubricky.

**MERIT ROLL**

Grade 6: Michael Alteri, Michael Fish, Brandon Howard, Jessie Patchett

Grade 7: Shsne Fuller, Aaron Lawrence, Amanda McCoy,

Grade 8: Benajah Denno, Hunter Denno, Aaron Palait, Ryan Ryder, Daniel Steitz

The staff of the Hague Chronicle congratulates the above students on their achievements.

**F.Y.I.**

• The Hague Volunteer Fire Department now has a web site at [www.haguefire.org](http://www.haguefire.org). Look us up!!

• Cornell Coooperataive Extension is offering two Environmental Awareness Winter Weekends at 4-H Camp in Speculator; one for families, the other for youth 9-12 years old. The first is January 17-18 at a cost of \$10.00 per family. The youth camp will be held January 31-February 1, 2004 at a cost of \$5.00 per participant. For more info. call Cornell Coop Ext. at 623-3291 or 668-4881. 12/03

## NATURE NEWS - BLANKET OF SNOW

By Nancy Wotton Scarzello

Snow cover is vital to the way we know life to be here in the Adirondacks. Without it the plant and animal life in the north country would be very different - different plants, animals, trees and way of life for humans without snow's protective cover. Snow serves as insulation by trapping air in the spaces between snow granules, keeping the earth-warmed air in and cold air out. Trapping warm air radiating up from the earth, the environment created at the base of the snowbank next to the ground is a network of ice crystals and air spaces in which temperatures can be as much as 50 degrees warmer than above-snow temperatures. This layer under-the-snow serves as suitable place for moles, mice, shrews, voles and other small, non-hibernating mammals to spend the winter. This is really a very active place where many of these mammals have hidden caches of nuts and seeds for winter use. They scurry about in a network of tunnels, often appearing on the surface for short dashes to the next tunnel under the snow.

Snow cover provides food for other winter-active animals as well. All that scurrying to and fro is noticed by hungry foxes, coyotes, bobcats, owls and hawks whose acute sight and hearing leads them to a much needed meal. Deepening snow raises the reach level for snowshoe hares, deer and moose once it has settled and packed while snow-laden boughs dip down to offer their twigs and buds for much needed forage. Grouse will dive right into deep fluffy snow covering themselves completely for protection against the cold and predators while non-migrating birds like the tiny chickadee and golden crowned kinglet depend on the shelter of snowy evergreens for shelter from the cold and wind of winter storms.

Even our spring bloom of wildflowers in this mountain environment would not be possible without a good cover of snow! Tiny life forms of fungi and other micro-organisms are active in the soil under the snow and increase their metabolism as winter progresses, releasing nutrients as the snow layers melt in the spring. The wildflowers of April and May are provided with these nutrients that are necessary for the profusion of bloom we so enjoy. The insulation provided by the snow cover also protects the roots of some of our signature trees - sugar maple, beech and birch - which would freeze, become stunted or die without it as is seen in years with low snow accumulation.

For those who grumble about the inconvenience of digging out after a snowfall or the depth of snow piled around our houses, remember that the insulation provided by that snow will help to keep our water pipes from freezing and our homes warmer inside.

A blanket of snow, thick and luxurious, a gift of warmth and protection for plants, animals, trees & people, is my wish for this holiday season.

## WEATHER NOTES

by Mary Lou Doulin

Well - we are twelve days into December and the major topics of discussion are the storms. But first, let's back up to November.

Actually the November temperatures were slightly above normal. We had plenty of gray, drizzly November days where the bare trees and wet leaves which cover the earth's floor seem to merge into muted harmony, while in back places stillness prevailed. Indian Summer occurred on November 24 as temperatures peaked at 60 degrees under blue skies. Our sunrises are usually wonderful but the one following Indian Summer on the 25th, was exceptional. By 11 AM on Tuesday rain had begun. By the following Saturday, the 29th, the snow squalls and wind and 28 degree temperatures felt like the first authentic days of winter.

December began with frequent squalls of intermittent blizzard-like conditions which after 20 minutes would disintegrate and the blue skies and sun would re-emerge. By Saturday, the 6th of December we were hit with 17 inches of fluffy snow which turned heavy and wet within 48 hours. It was the third largest December storm, and the earliest in 32 years. Most people hunkered in and local activities ceased, except for the hard working intrepid plows and their drivers. Fresh snow pack insured cold nights as temperatures plummeted to 8 degrees on the nights following the storm. At this writing another major storm warning has been issued. Up to 13 inches of snow are predicted.

Ed: And we did get it, but not until after the Holidays in Hague on Saturday and the activities in Ticonderoga on Sunday squeaked in. The snow plows got a good workout on Sunday night and Monday with nearly a foot and a half of snow.

## STAN BURDICK'S CARTOONS ON DISPLAY

Two showings of the editorial cartoons of Stan Burdick, a resident of Hague, are underway during the holiday season. Currently, through December, the exhibit is underway at the Hadley-Luzerne Public Library, Main St., Lake Luzerne, sponsored by SVAN.

The second show kicks off with an artist's reception from 5 to 7PM on December 29 at the Tannery Pond Community Center, Main St., North Creek. This exhibit continues through January.

All 30 original editorial cartoons have appeared in the *Lake Champlain Weekly*, a Plattsburgh literary journal. Both shows are entitled "Shenanigans of 2003," and spoof political events of the year. Burdick has had gallery exhibits in Glens Falls, Blue Mountain Lake, Plattsburgh and Ticonderoga. One of his cartoons received national attention, published in Best Editorial Cartoons of 2003 (Pelican Books).

12/03

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2003 & JANUARY 2004

#### December

- 19 Hanukkah begins
- 22 First day of winter
- 24, 25 - Town Offices closed for holidays
- 24 thru Jan. 2 - SCHOOL HOLIDAY
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 26 Kwanzaa begins

- 6 Twelfth Night Celebration - p. 1
- 8 Planning Board - 7PM
- 9 Men's Prayer Breakfast - p. 1
- 12 Senior Bus to Glens Falls
- 13 Town Board meeting - 6:30PM
- 13 Voting on School Propositions - noon to 8 PM
- 15 Fire Dept. Bd. of Dir. - 5:30PM
- 19 Martin Luther King Day - School closed
- 19 Chamber of Commerce - 7:30PM at Firehouse
- 20 Fish & Game Club - 7:30PM at clubhouse

#### January 2004

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR- Town Offices Closed
- 5 HVFD meeting - 7PM

#### 'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

<p>'Twas the night before Christmas They lived all alone, In a one-bedroom house Made of plaster and stone.</p> <p>I had come down the chimney With presents to give, And to see just who In this home did live.</p> <p>I looked all about, A strange sight I did see, No tinsel, no presents, Not even a tree.</p> <p>No stocking by mantle Just boots filled with sand, On the wall hung pictures Of far distant lands.</p> <p>With medals and badges, Awards of all kinds, A sober thought Came through mind.</p> <p>For this house was different It was dark and dreary</p>	<p>I found the home of a soldier Once I could see clearly.</p> <p>The soldier lay sleeping, Silent, alone, Curled up on the floor In this one bedroom home.</p> <p>The face was so gentle, The room in such disorder Not how I pictured A United States soldier.</p> <p>Was this the hero Of whom I had just read? Curled up on a poncho The floor for a bed?</p> <p>I realized the families That I saw this night, Owed their lives to these soldiers Who were willing to fight</p> <p>Soon round the world, The children would play, And grownjps would celebrate A bright Christmas day. A bright Christmas day.</p>	<p>They all enjooyed freedom Each month of the year, Because of the soldiers, Like the one lying here.</p> <p>I couldn't held wonder How many lay alone, On a cold Christmas Eve In a land far from home</p> <p>The very thought Brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees And started to cry.</p> <p>The soldier awakedned And I heard a rough voice, "Santa don;t cry, This life is my choice;</p> <p>I fight for freedom I don't ask for more, My life is my God, My country, my corps."</p> <p>Thanks to our friend, Gil Engler for sharing this poem with us.</p>	<p>The soldier rolled over And drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.</p> <p>I kept watch for hours, So silent and still And we both shivered From the cold night's chill.</p> <p>I didn't want to lealve On tht cold, dark, niktght, This guardian of honor So willing to fight</p> <p>Then the soldier rolled over, With a voice soft and pure, Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure."</p> <p>One look at my watch, And I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas my friend, And to all a good night."</p>
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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 Editor DOROTHY HENRY, 151 New Hague Road, Hague, NY 12836-2605 by the 12th of each month. Send yearly tax deductible contributions to THE HAGUE CHRONICLE, P. O. BOX 748, Hague, NY 12836-0748.

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

