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Hague, New York

HVFD PUBLIC MEETING

The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 7 pm at the Fire House. They are holding this meeting to respond to the concerns of the Town residents regarding ambulance service.

TOWN BOARD PASSES OVERRIDE LAW

At the October meeting, the Hague Town Board passed a local law to override the tax levy limit which authorizes them to adopt a 2012 budget that is in excess of the 2% tax cap. During the Public Hearing many people questioned this tax cap and left the meeting with the impression that the Board would not be making any decisions until after the meeting to be held by the Fire Department on October 25, 2011 [see Town Board report]. The Board, however, passed the local law since it does not require that they approve a budget in excess of the 2% but merely allows them to do so at a later date.

Now that they have the authority to override the cap, they can do so at any Board meeting or workshop. They do not have to wait until after the informational meeting to be held by the Fire Department although they have indicated that they will do so. The law allows them to adopt a Town budget for a) Town purposes, b) fire protection districts and c) any other special or improvement district governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year 2012 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the 2%.

The Board held a workshop on the 2012 Budget on October 13, 2011 and scheduled the next workshop for October 26, 2011 at 4 pm at the Community Center.

On Wednesday, November 9, 2011 the Town Board will hold the Public Hearing on the Budget at 6 pm. They will then adopt the 2012 Budget. Judy Stock

The regular monthly Town Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 6 pm instead of November 8th which is Election Day.

This will delay the mailing of the November issue of *The Hague Chronicle* to Friday, November 18, 2011, but the news deadline will remain the same (November 11, 2011).

ELECTION DAY

The traditional Election Day Luncheon on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 will be provided by the HVFD at the Community Center from 11 am to 2 pm for \$5 per person. Lunch will be a soup and sandwich bonanza!

Voting takes place from 6 am – 9 pm at the Community Center.

HAGUE CANDIDATES

The Hague ballot will see Edna Frasier, for a two-year term as Supervisor and Debbie Manning, for re-election to a four-year term as Town Clerk, both running unopposed on the Republican and Independence lines.

Voters will choose two members for a four-year term on the Town Board from three candidates. Running on the Democratic and Unity party lines is incumbent Rudy Meola. Running on the Republican and Independence lines are Bruce Clark and Steve Ramant.

Incumbent Don Smith will be running on the Republican and Clover lines for Highway Superintendent against E J Siwek running on the Democratic, Independence and Crossroads lines.

Each candidate has been invited to submit a statement for publication.

Statement from Edna Frasier:

I am asking for your support as I seek the office of Town Supervisor.

I have served on the Town Board for 6 years and have served as deputy supervisor for the last 4 years. I have been chairman of several committees which has given me a better understanding of how local government functions.



Leadership skills...I was an educator for 38 years. Financial experience....I have helped run our family business for 40 years and I have been executive secretary of the Empire State Towing & Recovery Association, dealing with all aspects of the organization - finances, budgets, and interacting with members around the state.

I worked diligently to see the completion of Veterans Park. It was important for me to see our veterans recognized. I have run the Food Pantry for several years which has given me the opportunity to help those in need.

We have projects to finish. We're looking into solar panels for the community center and highway garage. We have a grant project involving the 2 Town parking lots and the big boat dock to start in the spring. I will continue to work hard to secure grants for our Town.

I feel that the Town Board should lay out meaningful goals, but these should not place an undue burden on our residents. Whatever goals we set, we will achieve them in a unified fashion. Everyone will work toward the same end result.

I am dedicated to working hard, promoting Hague and being responsive to the needs of all our residents. I am up to the challenge!

(Continued on page 8)

HAGUE SENIOR NEWS

The Hague Seniors were "All Aboard" for the North Creek train ride and luncheon, with a beautiful day of good food, and of course, a good time. The Club members sure perked up the train with singing old songs like *Working On the Railroad* and many more which were heard throughout the train.

The next meeting is October 25, 2011 at noon and you won't want to miss this one. It is going to be a luncheon with a Halloween Theme Party for the 50's - 60's. So slick back your hair, don't forget your comb, roll up your jeans and be ready to party. Ladies don't forget to get out those poodle skirts and saddle shoes, bobby socks and stockings and come out to dance the afternoon away. Bring your thinking caps for Trivia or Name That Tune. Enjoy the Famous Root Beer Floats and Malts for all who would like to stop by our Malt Shop. We also will have a guest speaker from Warren County Health on Fall Prevention.

On November 11, 2011 at 4 pm we will have Pasta Night and Bingo. All Hague Veterans are also invited even if you are not a part of the Club. At the regular meeting on November 22, 2011 at 1:30 pm we will have a theme of Sharing with Thanksgiving where we all can bring a small wrapped gift to share such as a pack of Thanksgiving napkins, a can of cranberry sauce, a Thanksgiving decoration etc. ... Pat Hintze

HEAP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A representative from the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will be at the Hague Community Center on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 from 10 - 10:30 am to help with the applications. Any persons needing financial help with heating fuel and energy costs are encouraged to see if they are eligible. Information on energy bills and income will be needed. For information call the Community Center at 543-6161.

GARDEN CLUB ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

The Carillon Garden Club has announced recipients of it's Enhancement Awards in Hague for 2011. They are: Beth and Chris Navitsky, Lakeshore Drive for Landscaping and Flower and Vegetable Gardens; Sally DeLarm Rypkema, Juniper Designs & Gifts, 9820 Graphite Mt. Rd. for Landscaping and Flower Garden; Holly and Bob de Buys, 7 Holman Hill for Flower Garden and Window Boxes; the Hague Baptist Church, 9830 Graphite Mt. Rd. for Landscaping and Flower Gardens; and the Silver Bay YMCA, 87 Silver Bay Road for Landscaping and Flower Gardens.

FIREMEN ENDORSE FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

The Hague Firemen join other departments throughout the nation in encouraging all of our residents to check their homes and properties to be sure that everything is operating in a safe and secure manner. Now is a good time to check out holiday decorations before putting them up to make sure that no damage has occurred while in storage.

There were 12 Fire and EMS calls in September including coverage brought about by Hurricane Irene using 493 hours of volunteer and E5 Support services.

Daylight savings time "falls back" on November 6, 2011. It's a good time to change batteries in your smoke detectors and check CO detectors.

Everyone have a happy and safe Halloween. I'll be thinking of you from a trout stream somewhere in Montana or points south. ... Joe McCranels

BEATY COTTAGE DEMOLITION

Everyone who travels along Route 9N just north of Ruah will watch the progress of work on the property of Jim and Seddon Beaty. On a rainy September 29, 2011, with several curious onlookers, Walt Waters demolished the Beaty's white cottage on the former location of the original Island Harbor House.



ART LECTURE

Richard Stout of Hague is giving an art lecture on Pre-historic Art at the Community Center on October 20, 2011 at 7 pm. He will discuss how we have evolved from prehistoric to contemporary art.

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is mailed out by volunteers on the Wednesday after the third Tuesday of each month. The News deadline is five days earlier. Please send news or address corrections to the Publisher, Judy Stock at <HagueChronicle@nycap.rr.com>.

The Hague Chronicle is supported by its readers and you may send your yearly (check your label for due date) tax deductible contribution, made out to **The Hague Chronicle** to:

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE
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Judy Stock, Bob Whitaker and Jim Henderson

Treasurer: Bob Whitaker
Layout Editor: Jim Henderson
Database Manager: Jan Whitaker

CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS

In August *The Hague Chronicle* hosted over 100 people at a community celebration of its forty years of publishing. The event was planned by a committee of Judy Stock, Publisher; Pat McDonough, Board member; Nancy Young, Board secretary; John Barber, Board member; Janet Hanna, staff member; Diane Dickson, staff member; Rudy Meola, staff member; Ginger Kuenzel, Board member and Jim Henderson, Layout Editor.

The Hague Chronicle has been keeping residents – both seasonal and year-round – apprised of local events and news on a monthly basis since January of 1972 when Emil Seerup published the first issue. His son, Galen Seerup, was one of the honored guests at the event. Also honored were Alison Craig, who stepped in to help after Virginia Shattuck retired; Dottie Henry, who as both Editor and Publisher kept the presses rolling for over 25 years; Bertha Dunsmore, a supporter in innumerable ways over many years and also a close friend of two of the late editors – Virginia Shattuck and Mig Broderick; Dolly Kennedy who supported her late husband Jack as he guided the Treasury; and Julia Middleton, the most longstanding of the volunteer staff.

The results of the Photo Contest were revealed and award certificates given to the winners by judges Janet Hanna, Nancy Young and Jan Whitaker. There were 112 entries by 24 photographers. Each person could enter two photos in each category. The winners were: for Scenery – Sandy Rypkema, first place; Elizabeth Henderson, second place; and honorable mention to Randy Engler, Seddon Beaty and Al Rider. For People – Mike Brannigan, first; Gabriella Swennes, second; Paul Stolarsky, third. For Animals – Ann Barber, both first and second; Al Rider, third. For Boating – Al Rider, first; Elizabeth Henderson, second; Gabriella Swennes, third. For Botanicals – Mary Ann Eaton, both first and second; Kristen Keefer and Pat McDonough, tied for third. For Still-Life – Kristen Keefer, first; Ann Barber and Gabriella Swennes, tied for second.

In addition, as the only entry in the Youth Category, Gabriella Swennes (granddaughter of Ginger Kuenzel and great-granddaughter of Dottie Henry) was given special Youth Commendation awards for her excellent photography.



Gabriella Swennes and Publisher Judy Stock

All the Photo Contest images are on our Facebook page. All winning images are also on our website <www.thehaguechronicle.org>.



Galen Seerup



Dottie Henry and Dolly Kennedy



Alison Craig



Bertha Dunsmore



Julia Middleton

OKTOBERFEST A HUGE SUCCESS

If success is measured by attendance [about 200 on Friday night and 700 during Saturday] or by profit [preliminary surplus of \$2,447], then by either account the Oktoberfest was indeed a success. And a glorious day on Saturday certainly helped the festival spirit.

Graham Bailey, Event Chairman, submitted a report to the Town Board in which he outlined the results and gave credit to “the hard work by all of the other members of the Oktoberfest Committee: Jack Bast, Carolyn Close, Tim Fiallo, Dick Gladu, Tom Haskell, Rudy Meola, Linda Mury, Carol Pittman, Steve Ramant, Neil Rypkema and Donna Wotton. Additional thanks go out to all the volunteers from the community, the Seniors, Rotary, and Kiwanis.” Special thanks were given to the Town of Hague Highway Department for their valuable assistance.

Bailey also stated that the Committee plans to hold a 3-day Oktoberfest again next year but with a change to the third Saturday in September to avoid conflicts with other events.

ANCA REPORT

Would you like to know how the North Country (14 counties, including Warren) has changed from an economic and demographic perspective since 2000? You can view the presentations delivered at the Adirondack North Country Association’s (ANCA) annual meeting on October 3, 2011 at: <<http://www.adirondack.org/state-of-the-adirondack-north-country-presentations>>.

TOWN BOARD MEETING—10/11/11

Supervisor Dan Belden and Board Members Dick Gladu, Edna Frasier, Mark Martucci and Rudy Meola were all present.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held for: Vincent Jones, Hazel Smith Dean-Davison and Debbie Jordon Ott.

Public Hearing on the 2% Tax Cap

Jim O'Toole started the questions from the audience by asking why our rescue squad does not charge for services. Marty Fitzgerald, HVFD Board President explained that in order to do that, the EMS services would have to be a separate entity from the fire responders. He added that although it was legally possible, the process is a difficult and lengthy one and would not solve the immediate problem.

Dick Gladu reported that the HVFD will hold a public informational meeting to give an extensive overview of the issues on October 25, 2011 at 7 pm at the Fire House.

Jean Yager requested that the Board come up with an alternative to raising taxes.

Councilman Gladu noted that, under the current proposal to increase the Fire Department budget by \$90,000 for one year, the tax increase is \$.22 per thousand. [So on property assessed for \$100,000 the increase would be \$22 for the year, for property assessed at \$500,000 it would be \$110, etc.]

Supervisor Belden explained that the \$90,000 paid to E-5 Support Services includes administration costs, benefits, worker's compensation, etc. as well as salary.

Tom Haskell, member of the HVFD suggested that anyone interested can become an EMT and the necessary information will be given out at the open house.

Lorraine Carberry asked what happened to the ALS staff who are no longer with the EMS squad. Supervisor Belden said, "You will get it all on the 25th."

Ann Barber asked, "When will you decide if you will override the tax cap? Will it be made after the Fire Department meeting?" Supervisor Belden responded that it would probably be done at a workshop and has to be settled by early November. Councilman Gladu said that November 10th is the last date for a public hearing on the budget and a local law must be passed before that.

Supervisor Belden said he would like to write a letter to Silver Bay since 1/3 of the EMS calls are from the Silver Bay area.

Susan Johnson suggested that a price also be given for ALS service.

Wini Conant suggested that the ALS volunteers had not been given enough support to get their required training and had to go out of town to get it. The Supervisor said that the questions will be answered at the Fire House.

Mary Ann Eaton asked about the date that the local law will have to be filed and Town Clerk Debbie Manning responded "after the 25th."

Julie Cook noted that we had a good EMS staff and may not have appreciated it enough and something went amiss. She added, "To jump into something that is less than what we have does not make sense unless we work on fixing the problem." The extra \$90,000 funds would be paying for a lesser qualified EMT (BLS certification) when we had ALS certified volunteers. She asked the Board to consider bringing in a mediator to help resolve the issues.

Supervisor Belden noted that the Town Board approves the HVFD budget but does not tell them how to spend it.

Jim O'Toole suggested that Ms. Cook's concern had not been addressed. He said, "There are rumors afoot that there is a problem and the Board is being asked to try to fix it."

Supervisor Belden then closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing on the Code Modification

The hearing was the next-to-last step in amending the zoning code. Councilwoman Frasier asked if there were any other changes that the code committee has found. ZEO Clark noted that there might be but it would take another two years for further changes. However, the amendment committee could still look at additional proposals at a later date.

Regular Meeting

Supervisor Belden made a presentation to retired Planning Board member John Brown, saying John has "more than served his time and we appreciate your service." John served on the Planning Board from January 1994 through September 2011 and was Board Clerk for many of those years.

John responded that he "appreciated this town" that became his year-round home in retirement after many years of summer residence.

Jim O'Toole inquired about the status of the sewer pump station issue. Councilwoman Frasier reported that she had heard about a recent odor problem and that "Tim and Paul will go up tomorrow and check the filter." Jim asked if the recommendations from CHA were being implemented. She said the parts have been ordered and will set up a meeting with Jim and Paul Belden.

From the Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds/Enhancement (Martucci/Frasier):

Councilwoman Frasier reported on work to be done on the parking lots and boat docks. Councilman Meola requested that "we get a time schedule from them."

Finance & Insurance (Frasier/Martucci):

Supervisor Belden noted that a 15% increase for health insurance has been added to the budget. Councilman Martucci noted that the insurance company is required to give us a 60 day notice if they increase premiums.

Fire Department (Gladu/Martucci):

Councilman Gladu reiterated the date of Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 7 pm at the HVFD for a public informational meeting.

Highway (Martucci/Gladu):

Highway Superintendent Don Smith reported that culverts on Split Rock Road have been taken care of and they have stabilized Yaw Road - both of which will be reported to FEMA.

He also reported that they will be working on Pine Orchard Road and that he had gone to the training course on how to report alcohol and drug issues.

Councilman Gladu thanked the Department for their work on Oktoberfest.

Paul Amara made a request to extend paving on Split Rock Road into the dirt area which is difficult to drive on in bad weather.

Museum & Historian (Frasier/Martucci):

Councilwoman Frasier went to a meeting of the Warren County Bicentennial Committee which is planning activities for 2013. They want each town to participate and have several little projects they want done. If anyone would like to help with this planning or a project, please contact her. Supervisor Belden said he would be glad to help.

Sewer Districts #1 and #2 (Belden/Frasier):

Funds for half-time help will be put into the sewer budget.

Town Park (Meola/Martucci):

Councilman Meola suggested that the Town needs to be careful not to close the boat slip too many times and additional parking space is still needed. ZEO Clark noted that each time the slip is closed for the weekend, signage needs to be put up early and someone has to be responsible for the signage.

Transfer Station (Gladu/Meola):

Councilman Meola noted that Casella Waste Management allowed the Town to use the dumpster at no charge for Oktoberfest.

Other Business:

Councilman Meola moved and Councilman Gladu seconded a motion to establish a local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law 3-c. Since "passing the law doesn't mean we have to override the tax levy", all members voted for the local law.

The Board passed the resolutions for Code Modification and Audit of Books.

The Board approved renewing the Lump Sum Municipal Snow and Ice Agreement with the NYS DOT. The Town will be paid a total of \$239,396 for providing this service.

Supervisor Belden reported being at the Lake George Watershed meeting. The Watershed is applying for a grant and Supervisor Belden was authorized to write a letter in support of the funding. Hague hopes to get money from the grant to clean the delta and boat slip which could happen next fall.

The Board approved a proposal to pay Elan Planners \$3,500 "to submit a grant application for the NYS...Green Innovative Grant Program." The grant will "request funding to install pervious pavement and associated rain gardens on the recently designed public parking areas in the hamlet." The grant for this new type of paving would pay 90% of the cost.

Judy Stock asked if the patchwork paving on Route 9N meant that further paving would be done or if that would be it for the winter. Supervisor Belden said it was the latter.

The Supervisor again mentioned a county grant for hiking trails and if anyone has suggestions for trails in need of repair

please let him know. Suggested were the trail by the brook at Rock and Rye, the paths at the gravel pit, the Lakeshore Mine Road, Graphite Mill Road and the trail to Little Jabe Pond.

Steve Ramant reported that the sign that the Fish & Game placed going into Jabe Pond is missing. Anyone with information should contact him.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – 9/22/11

Chairman Robert Goetsch, Bill Pittman, Lindsay Mydlarz, Maureen Cherubini, Chris Navitsky and Jon Hanna were all present. There is one vacancy.

STANFORD (43.13-1-29) 7 Bayberry Lane (TR-1)

An after-the-fact variance is requested to remedy a condition of a 2006 ZBA approval for a 10 x 20 ft. sun porch addition. In 2006 a variance was granted for a 6' sideline setback with the condition that the sun porch would not be heated. The owner removed the front door and window that separated the sunroom from the rest of his house.

During the public hearing, Chris Navitsky asked, "What did you think the unconditional sunroom meant? Did you understand that there was to be no heat?" George Sanford responded, "I thought I would need a variance only if I installed heat."

Mr. Stanford had received notice from the County that a 500 gal. gas tank on his property line must be moved to 10 feet from the property line or replace it with smaller tanks. Chairman Goetsch asked, "Is the tank moved?" Mr. Stanford said that it would be moved when it is less full. The Board then approved a motion to postpone the public hearing until the tank is moved.

SULLIVAN (76.20-1-9) 8124 Lakeshore Drive (TR1R)

Requested was an after-the-fact approval of the placement of a garage within 25' of the front line setback which was moved in 2001 without permits. The Board approved the variance by a vote of 4-2.

A second variance request was made for an addition of a 274 sq. ft. side shed roof, for the storage of a boat. The Board denied the request 6-0 since there was no need to expand a non-conforming structure.

PLANNING BOARD – 10/5/11

Chairman EJ Siwek, Bruce Clark, Dick Frasier, Bob Whitaker, Pam Peterson, Mike Cherubini and Martin Fitzgerald were all present.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH (PARISH OF ST. ISAAC JOGUES) (25.20-1-7, 8, 9 & 11) 9794 Graphite Mountain Road (Hamlet/TR 2)

The Board issued a negative environmental declaration and then reapproved the Lot Line Changes so the Church rectory and garage will be on one lot and the Church and its parking lot will be on another.

(Continued on page 6)

MC GOWAN (25.1-1-1.31) West Hague Road (OCI)

The Board deemed the application complete for a request for a two lot subdivision of a 36 acre lot. If approved lot #1 would consist of approximately 25 acres and lot #2 would consist of 12.244 acres.

HOESCELE (76.12-1-10.2) 10 Tower Point Road (HS/HS-R)

The Board approved an application for a three bedroom house 60 feet from the Lake.

HACKER BOAT COMPANY (25.4-1-15.2) 9663 Graphite Mtn. Rd. (OCI)

The Board approved an application for a 190 foot long, 8 foot high stockade fence along a portion of their western property line.

BRAUNER (60.13-1-7) 39 Red Fox Lane (TR-1)

The Board approved a request for relief/modification of a 2009 Planning Board condition for a 30' wide native vegetative buffer along the shoreline of Lake George.



REAL ESTATE SALES

Deeds filed with the Warren County Clerk for 2011 (through September 16th) show sales in Hague as follows: from Trudeau to Barnaby for \$95,000; from May to Parlin for \$132,500; from Streeter to Sandman and de Buys for \$195,000; from McClure to Pacala for \$320,000; from Hagerstrom to Parlin for \$1,500,000; from Easton to Hubschmitt for \$175,000; from Deutsche Bank to Rich for \$272,500; from Pritchett to Mathews for \$930,000; from Messerly to Miller-Zier for \$350,000.

FALL EVENTS WITH THE LGLC

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is hosting two hikes this fall, free and open to the public, to explore LGLC's preserves and meet the organization's new Land Protection and Stewardship Specialist Chad Knisely.

On Sunday, October 30, 2011, Chad will lead a hike at LGLC's popular Lynn LaMontagne Schumann Preserve at Pilot Knob, from 10 am to 12 pm. Participants will meet at the preserve's parking area on Pilot Knob Road. The moderately challenging hike will cover about 1.25 miles round trip.

The second hike will take place on Sunday, November 13, 2011 at the Last Great Shoreline Preserve on Warrick Road in Putnam. This moderately challenging hike includes about 2.25 miles round-trip.

Registrations are required for both hikes. Call Sarah at 518 -644-9673 or email shoffman@lglc.org for more information or to register.

KIWANIS CLUB DINNER

A Kiwanis Club dinner will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Methodist Church in Ticonderoga. Take-outs will be available from 4:30-5 pm and dining-in from 5-7 pm or until sold-out. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Proceeds from Kiwanis dinners are used for various community and children's projects in Hague and Ticonderoga.

ROAST TURKEY BREAST DINNER

The Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star will be serving Roast Turkey Breast to the public at their monthly dinner on Friday, October 28, 2011, at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple. Take-outs will be available from 4:30 - 5 pm and dine-in is 5 - 6:30 pm in the downstairs dining hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children.

SILVER BAY DINNER AND A MOVIE

All are invited to the monthly dinner (pizza or soup) with a movie to follow to be held on Thursday, November 11, 2011 at 6 pm at the Brookside Community House on the Silver Bay Campus. The featured 90 minute movie will be *The Kings Speech*, a biographical drama about Britain's King George VI, which chalked up multiple Academy Awards including Best Picture.

A suggested donation is \$5 and reservations can be made to Chip Devenger at <cdevenger@silverbay.org> or 543-8833, ext 215.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

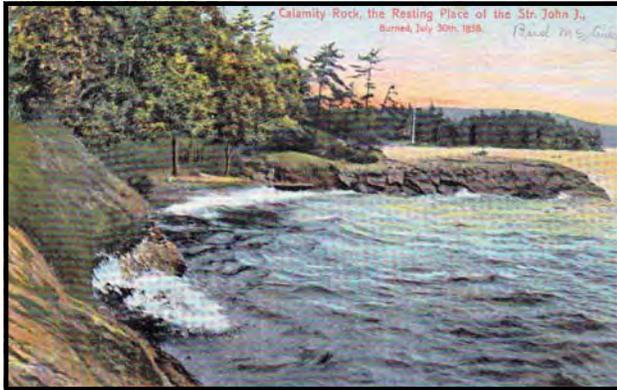
The Episcopal Church of the Cross, 129 Champlain Avenue, Ticonderoga, will host it's Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 9 am until 2 pm.

The bazaar features holiday crafts and decorations, collectables, jewelry, children's toys and games, books, white elephant, and our famous cookie walk with dozens of varieties of homemade cookies. There will also be raffles for a turkey basket which includes a turkey and all the fixings for a holiday dinner, holiday hostess basket, lottery tree filled with dozens of unscratched lottery tickets and a special quilt made by The Adirondack Needlers.

A scrumptious lunch will be served until 1 pm including homemade soups, chili, Michigan hot dogs, potato salad, chips, and assorted desserts and beverages.

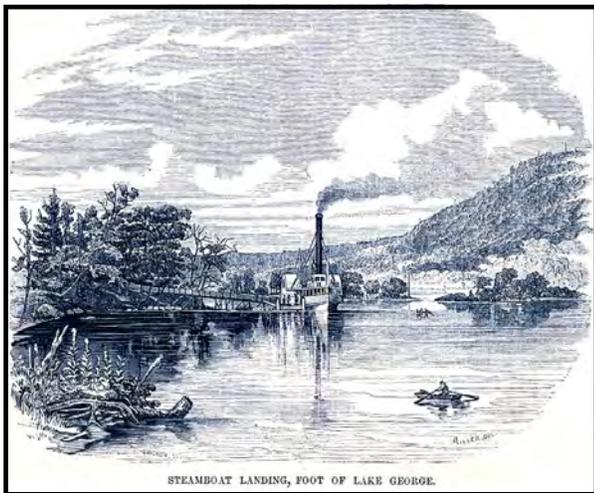


Why "Calamity Rock"?



Though the date on the postcard (1858) is wrong, there is still good reason for the name Calamity Rock, Resting Place of the Steamer John Jay, for on the evening of July 30, 1856, an unsuspecting crew and passengers departed from the boat landing at Ticonderoga destined for a calamity.

Construction of the John Jay began in 1846. Ferris Collyer was the boat builder and the steamer was built for John Jay Harris of Queensbury. Largely built of oak, the 142 foot Lake George steamer was painted white, with upper and lower decks, and a 24 foot beam. She weighed 250 tons and cost \$25-28,000. The John Jay traveled the length of the Lake from Caldwell to the foot of the Lake at Cook's Landing in Ticonderoga moving at about 13 miles per hour. She was considered a fine, seaworthy vessel.



The steamer typically sailed with 70 or 80 passengers leaving Caldwell at 7 am and heading to points north as far as Ticonderoga where passengers could disembark and portage to Lake Champlain for further travels or to visit the ruins at Fort Ticonderoga. On this particular day, however, the return trip to Caldwell was delayed as wagon after wagon of passengers ar-

rived from Lake Champlain to head south. The John Jay didn't depart Cook's Landing until after 6pm.

About a half hour out they rounded Friend's Point and were heading through the Waltonians when smoke and flames began to engulf the steamer. To this day, it's unclear exactly what caused the conflagration; one report being that the fireman, in an effort to pick up some speed after their late departure, was chucking a poor quality of wood into the firebox. When he hurriedly left the engine room, he failed to close the door and the fire spread quickly to the decks. Needless to say, there was pandemonium. Captain Gates tried to calm the passengers and assure them they were in relatively shallow waters by this point, but as the ship burned to the water line, the passengers leapt into the water clinging to whatever they could find that might float. Richard Shear, a "rattlesnake man", was a passenger with a box full of his specimens. The box went overboard as well and someone placed a little girl on it to stay afloat. She drifted to shore with the snakes poking their heads out the top of the box! William Brunet, of the Garfield Hotel at Hague, behaved quite heroically, pulling many women to shore and even diving to bring up the bodies of the five who had lost their lives. The ship's carpenter William George responded to a woman's plea for help by letting her ride on his back as he jumped from the ship. George later pulled Captain Gates, a sailor who couldn't swim, to safety.

The Garfield Hotel (later the Phoenix and even later Beachside/Cave), as well as many local folks, responded with shelter and care for the woebegone travelers. The John Jay was not to sail again and while the engine and other equipment were salvaged and later became part of the Minne-Ha-Ha, her wooden skeleton still lies in the waters off Hague's Calamity Rock.

... Pat McDonough

HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

We'll be working in the Hague Heritage Cemetery at the corner of Pine Orchard Road and Route 9N on Tuesday, November 8th at 10 am. That's Election Day so why not grab a rake or your leaf blower and help us out for an hour before you go to vote. It's not a big cemetery and the work goes fast if we have extra hands. We hope you'll join us.

In addition to a program on the Indian Kettles we hope to develop for next summer, we're looking for your ideas for other programs you'd like to have us research and present. Please email us at haguehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com or call us at 543-6725 with your suggestions.

FLASHLIGHT NIGHTS AT FORT TICONDEROGA

Discover the unexplained past at Fort Ticonderoga's Flashlight Nights on October 21, 22, 28, 29, 2011 from 7 pm until 9 pm. This family-fun fall program will uncover the Fort's layers of history and haunted stories at night in the Fort, on the landscape and in the 6-acre corn maze! Hear the story of Fort Ticonderoga inside the stone walls of the fort and then use your flashlight to guide your way to the Heroic Corn Maze where a multitude of twists and turns through acres of corn stalks await!

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. To reserve a space call 518-585-2821. Gates open at 6:30 pm and tours begin at 7 pm, rain or shine. For more details visit www.fortticonderoga.org/visit/heroic-maze.

Statement from Steve Ramant

I've been going around Town over the last month speaking and listening to many residents of our Town. They've voiced many concerns, thoughts and ideas about Hague and once elected I'll do my best to address these issues.



A key concern for many is to keep the Lake pristine. I agree that this is extremely important and I will work hard to support this cause. A first step would be for the Town of Hague to fully support the ban on phosphorus fertilizers and pass a law similar to those passed in Lake George Village, Town of Lake George, Queensbury and New York State.

Many residents have asked me to look into the previous failure of the Town to gain them Broadband/Cable service. With legislation and amendments going forward by Senator Gillibrand and Congressman Gibson to expand Rural Broadband service, I will seek their help, as well as dealing directly with Time Warner to put in place this needed service for all Town residents.

There are many more issues that have been directed to me – such as improvement of the service of the new ATT cell tower. I will work hard to find answers and solutions to all of them.

Please free to call me, 543-6542 or email me at <2hottubs@msn.com> to discuss what's on your mind. I look forward to serving all of you.

Statement from Bruce Clark:

There has never been a greater need for a harmoniously functional and cohesive Town Board, that will mutually work together to address the issues of the Town for all its residents in a business-like and ethical manner, than there is today.



As a long-time resident of Hague, I have faithfully attended Town Board meetings. My occupation as a Construction Project Manager deals with financials, personnel, organizational and regulatory issues on a daily basis. With my background in business and through the time I have spent on the Hague Planning, Zoning and Assessment Review Boards, plus the many volunteer activities performed (Octoberfest, Winter Carnivals, Memorial Day Parades, Lake George Swim, Ti Youth Commission Girls Softball Coach, Middle School Playground Rebuild, P.T.O., Rotary Fundraisers and others), position me well to be a contributing member of the Town Board.

I was President (and Board Member) of Pride of Ticonderoga - a non-profit organization established for connecting and enhancing the community through restoration and revitalization programs. During my tenure we obtained a Restore Grant that included Hague and completed many projects for local eligible residents for needed repairs (another grant has been applied for and awaits award).

I appreciate your support and will be proud to serve on YOUR TOWN BOARD. I look forward to your vote for me on the Republican or Independence lines on November 8th.

Statement from Don Smith

I am the most experienced choice for Superintendent of Highway and the following are some of my qualifications that confirm my dedication to this community:



I have lived here my entire life and have 31 years of experience working for the Town of Hague.

I was Deputy Highway Superintendent in 1989-2001 and in 2003.

In 2004 I was elected as the Hague Highway Superintendent and I was re-elected in 2008.

I hold a CDL and I am adept at maintenance of Town equipment.

I have experience operating all heavy equipment for the Town of Hague, the most critical of these is having the experience to drive the Town plow trucks on snow and ice covered roads.

I have worked with State and Federal regulations in keeping Hague a pristine community.

I will continue to work with our Town Board in setting the budget for the highway department, and working within that budget to maintain our town roads.

The highway department will continue to lend a helping hand whether it be mowing the cemeteries, working at the beach, helping out at the WWTP, and of course my favorite, helping the Seniors with the Memorial Day parade.

As the most experienced choice, it would be an honor to have your support in November.

Statement from EJ Siwek:

Dan Belden, Town Supervisor asked me to run as Highway Superintendent to offer voters a better choice. Having also served as Highway Superintendent for 20 years, Dan understands the responsibilities and requirements of the office. He stated that I would make an excellent Superintendent as my integrity, leadership skills, budgeting and negotiation experience were all skills needed to strengthen our Highway Department.



I am CDL Qualified and have operated a range of construction equipment including flat bed trucks, backhoes, forklifts, hydraulic excavators, gravel shakers and hoists.

My ideas to improve the Department include:

Form a Citizen's Council to assist in identifying and reporting issues.

Work in cooperation with the Town Board to bring improved communications and reporting from the Highway Department to our residents.

Develop a transparent Master Project plan while assuring that projects are done correctly and completely.

(Continued on page 9)

Bring back honesty and integrity in the use of Town equipment and resources, overtime management, maintenance and repair of equipment.

Re-deploy placement of strategic sand barrels so residents can assist themselves.

Improve and enhance the coordination with other towns to share equipment, improve maintenance standards and to help in leveraging contracted purchases.

I look forward to your vote to help make a difference.

PROHIBITING PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER

On January 1, 2012, a New York State law prohibiting phosphorus fertilizer on lawns or nonagricultural turf goes into effect. Exceptions include new lawns or when a soil test demonstrates that phosphorus is needed. The law also prohibits the application of fertilizer on impervious surfaces, and on lawn or non-agricultural turf between December 1 and April 1. In addition, fertilizer cannot be applied within 20 feet of any surface water, unless there is a continuous vegetative buffer at least ten feet wide, separating the lawn from the water.

Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper, has repeatedly proposed that the Hague Town Board take action to pass a local law which would have greater restrictions but they have declined to do so. He cites the Queensbury law, passed in September 2011, which restricts the application of any fertilizer within 50 feet of a lake shore, allows only phosphorus free fertilizer between 50-200 feet and requires posting of any pesticide application greater than 100 sq ft.

Navitsky notes, "The Queensbury law has a much greater protection zone of 50 feet than either the Town of Lake George or the NYS law. In addition, the Queensbury law has no provision that allows the reduction of the protective zone. Under the NYS law, fertilizer can be applied within 3 feet of the Lake with particular applicators, which provides very little protection from nutrient runoff. There should be a consistent approach for watershed protection. Lake George deserves a higher level of protection than will be provided by the NYS law."

DOCUMENTARY ON INVASIVE SPECIES



Mountain Lake PBS is currently producing a new documentary entitled Lake Invaders: The Battle to Fight Invasive Species Threatening the Lake George Basin. The documentary will air on Mountain Lake PBS, WMHT and other PBS stations in New York State. Segments from the full-length documentary will be featured on the weekly news program Mountain Lakes Journal.

You can view a recent episode covering the Warren County Invasive Transport Law, including an interview with Lake George Association Executive Director Walt Lender at <<http://video.mountainlake.org/video/2141>>.

~SOUNDINGS~

DIED: Vincent Jones, 91, of Hague, on September 23, 2011 at home. Vin and his late wife of 75 years, Mina McKee Jones, retired to Hague from Tenafly, NJ over 20 years ago. He was one of the few remaining members of the American Legion in Hague having served in the US Army during World War II.

Vin was an advocate for the new Veterans Memorial Park in Hague and was an active member of the Hague Senior Club.

Vin is survived by his daughter, Sandra of Hague, his son, Vince of Tenafly, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

DIED: Hazel (Smith) Dean-Davison on October 5, 2011 in Buckeye, Arizona after a long illness. She was the daughter of the late Kenneth and Elizabeth Smith of Hague and was a 1962 graduate of Hague High School.

Hazel is survived by her husband of 5 years, Joe Davison, and was pre-deceased by her first husband, Howard Dean. She is also survived by her children Gretchen, Michele and Howard, 5 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren and her brother, Kenneth of Tucson, AZ and his family.

Weather Report by JoAnne DeFranco

September 17, 2011— October 14, 2011

The weather has been pretty nice this past 30 days. There were some rain days, some cool days, 2 nights of frosty temperatures and a lovely Columbus Day weekend of warm days, sunny skies and some color. We got a brief sampling of chilly/cold and had to look up a fleece jacket for a day or two- a sneak preview of what's in store down the road. About 2" of rain fell. Sunrise is at 7:05 am. Sunset is at 6:17 pm and the next full moon is Nov 10. The one on October 11 rose up over the Lake and looked like a harvest moon. The sunrise on October 11 was a brilliant red- not just the usual peachy-apricot but a true red!

The fall colors are more subdued and later in changing this year. Leaves had a tough season, beginning in the early spring with cold, wet conditions that continued into summer. Anthracnose is a fungus that attacks the leaves of hardwoods and causes the leaves to drop early. The fungus was very noticeable in our area. Many trees looked as if they were dead in August with no leaves. Another fungus, Tar spot, was very evident here also. This fungus looks like someone sprayed the leaves with black oil. Hurricane Irene further damaged the leaves with strong winds. Along the coastal areas of RI and Mass., salt damage can be seen 4 miles inland from the ocean. Check out the website <thefoliagenetwork.com>. The site collects reports from observers all over the Northeast. The leaves in our area around the Lake have changed quickly this past week. Good color is there for the viewing. It won't last long so take a drive or boat ride.



HAGUE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 21-22 7 - 9 pm Fort Ticonderoga Event
- 25 noon Seniors Halloween luncheon
- 25 7 pm Open Information Meeting at HVFD
- 26 4 pm 2012 Town Budget Workshop
- 27 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals
- 28 5 - 6:30 pm Masonic Turkey Dinner
- 28-29 7 - 9 pm Fort Ticonderoga Event
- 30 10 am - noon LGLC hike
- 31 HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER

- 3 7 pm Planning Board
- 6 Daylight Savings ends—Turn clocks back
- 8 6 am - 9 pm POLLS OPEN at Community Center
- 8 10 am Cleaning Heritage Cemetery
- 8 11 am - 2 pm Election Day Luncheon
- 9 6 pm 2012 Town Budget Public Hearing
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY
- 11 4 pm Seniors Pasta Night and Bingo
- 11 6 pm Silver Bay dinner and movie
- 11 News deadline for November issue
- 12 9 am - 2 pm Episcopal Church Holiday Bazaar
- 12 11 am Dedication of Veteran's Memorial Park
- 15 6:30 pm Town Board meeting (new date)
- 16 10- 10:30 am HEAP Assistance at the CC
- 18 *The Hague Chronicle* for November is mailed out

TRANSFER STATION HOURS
 Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm
 Saturday: 9 am to 4 pm

ONGOING EVENTS

- 1st Monday: **Fire Department** (7 pm)
- 3rd Monday: **Chamber of Commerce** (7 pm)
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday: **Mohican Crafters** (10 am)
- 3rd Tuesday: **Ticonderoga School Board** (7 pm)
- 3rd Tuesday: **Fish & Game Club** (7:30 pm)
- 3rd Thursday: **Carillon Garden Club** (10 am)



PARK DEDICATION SCHEDULED

The dedication of the new Veteran's Memorial Park will take place at 11 am on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Park by the brook. Sandwiches will be served afterward at the Community Center.



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE
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