

NEWSLETTER

From your Town Supervisor

Greetings, Wilmington Citizens:

Here is the news out of the Supervisor's Office:

The "BRIDGE," as in the stone bridge on Route 86 in the center of town, will close March 1, 2015 for ninety days. This full closure will allow the complete replacement of the bridge. This job is being done by the NYS Department of Transportation. The Town is not controlling the replacement; we only had input as to what the new bridge would look like and the time for the closure which was chosen to have the least effect on business. It will be an inconvenience for all and there will not be a pedestrian crossing of any kind. The hours of construction will be 6:00AM to 11:00PM., which will create a hardship for those who live around the bridge. Please plan accordingly.

When finished it will have the same look as the current bridge and new lighting will be on the bridge as it was many years ago. The state and the contractor have guaranteed one lane open by June 1.

On the bright side, after searching for a year, Senator Betty Little has come through with a grant for \$ 85,000 to place the overhead wires underground and in the bridge. No more wires covered with fish line to look at! We thank Betty, as this is one of the most magnificent views in the Adirondacks and we will not have to look at the ugly wires obscuring our view anymore. I would also be remiss if I did not thank Sam Zhou, Regional Director for NYS Dept. of Transportation. Sam has helped search for money to accomplish this and assisted in many projects personally. In my eight years of being Supervisor, I have never had a DOT official work so closely with the town.

If the weather cooperates, the **Skating Rink** on Park Lane is open for use. We received a grant and have purchased skates to rent at a nominal fee. The Youth Center is open Tuesday through Saturday for a warming hut and to provide rentals. Check Facebook or the front door for Youth Center times, as they may change with the attendance. We have been trying T-W-T-F 4:30-7:30 and Saturday 12-8.

We continue with **grant funding** to upgrade our town. The new lights in front of Adirondack Chocolates have been installed and will be completed in the spring. The Town employees built these lights and the power to light them. We are almost finished at the Beach: a new handicapped fishing deck has been constructed; the new nature trail has been constructed and the finishing touches to include new picnic tables and swing will be completed in the spring. We are also planning a major facelift to the main sign at the four corners, to include new sign, landscaping, and **(continued on pg 2)**

WILMINGTON
HOME OF
WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN



Supervisor

Randy Preston
946-7179

Town Board

Rarilee Conway
524-0493

Steve Corvelli
946-7430

Darin Forbes
946-2058

Dawn Stevens
586-2796

Town Clerk

Gerald Bruce
Office 946-2105
Home 946-2249

Town Justices

Timothy Kertz
946-8231

Robert Kirby
946-2486

Justice Court
946-7129

Highway

Superintendent

Bill Skufca
Cell 524-6758

Code

Enforcement

Bob Guynup
946-2105
Home 946-2348
Cell 569-4878

Water Department

Ed Orsi
524-0380
Emergency/after hours
Pager 574-8755

Supervisor's Report (continued)

maybe a couple of surprises that we are working on. Keep an eye out in the spring as the plan unfolds. We also plan to install the Adirondack lights along the river to the dam when the bridge construction is finished.

We have received another **Local Waterfront Grant** from the Department of State to construct a recreation path down Springfield and Fox Farm Roads. This project has been talked about for years and years, and will now become a reality. The County is going to perform the work which will widen the shoulder five feet, all in the legal right-of-way for the path. After the construction we are going to ask for the speed limit to be lowered. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding the widening in front of your home.

The second part of this grant will continue with our efforts pursuing a hamlet expansion with the APA. We are basically talking about the corridor from Steinhoff's to Fox Farm Road. This has been ongoing for about a year now. At the same time our sewage treatment study is almost finished. This study will be a model for the entire Adirondack Park, using technology and planning to treat sewage and put it into the ground in the end, and not dump it into our pristine waterways. If we are going to expand some without being forced into a conventional multi-million dollar sewage treatment plant, we need more property to have the ability to handle the sewage. If you build on top of each other you are putting yourself at risk in having some day to construct a sewage treatment plant. This is not a direction the Board thinks we should be going.

Whiteface Memorial Veteran's Highway- Completion of this twelve million dollar project will be June 30, 2015. The Town, the County and the Governor's Office are planning a grand re-dedication ceremony. Stay tuned for more info.

With a great deal of effort by the Town and other groups, **DEC has re-opened the Wilmington Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.** The first meeting was held with great attendance, and input from the public was given. The main focus areas are Beaver Brook and the Flume areas adding some more beginner mileage, connection to town, handicapped access to another one of Wilmington's best kept secrets at the bog on Hardy Road. These are really the only two areas that already have trails that are for the most part being looked at. There are still thousands of acres of state land in Wilmington that will be untouched. There will be a draft forthcoming sometime in the future. DEC has cut a new trail to Cobble Lookout, which is essentially the ledges behind and above Santa's Workshop. This trailhead is 3/10s of a mile from Whiteface Highway on Gillespie Drive (Franklin Falls Road) on the right. It is a beginner hiking trail running relatively flat, taking about fifty minutes to reach the lookout for a spectacular view. This will have signage and a parking lot in the future, but it is flagged and cut now.

The Town is working with a group that is bringing **a trail run to Wilmington/Whiteface** the weekend of June 27 & 28. Saturday is the vertical 5k uphill which will start at the base at the Ski Center and run up the ski trails to the top of the Skyward trail. Sunday will be the Whiteface Sky Marathon with a 26 mile race starting at Whiteface running to the top of Little Whiteface through several trails to the Flume area and back to Whiteface for 2 loops. This won't be for the faint of heart. Once again The Town with Whiteface and the Whiteface Visitor's Bureau are teaming up for another event.

The Wilmington/Whiteface Bikefest has been moved earlier to June 5th, 6th, and 7th. This is an action packed weekend which has many performances and races. There is something for the whole family so stay tuned for updates.

History Trivia Questions *(Answers on pg. 7)*

- 1. When was the Nazarene church in Wilmington first organized?**
- 2. What New York State governor visited Wilmington on September 11, 1929 and why?**

Supervisor's Report (continued)

One of the next issues we are working on is finding funding to **repair the wall at the dam** behind the Library and add another gate at the same time. The wall is becoming a concern and will have to be addressed sometime in the future. Because the gate we have is undersized, this would be the time to add a gate so we can control the water levels. Only after this happens can we revisit the discussion of removing the silt that is plugging our river. The Town took a straw poll a few years back on borrowing the money to clean out the river. At that time it went down 2 to 1. It may be time to revisit this project as the economy has improved somewhat since then, and we should, at some point, attempt to do something or we will have nothing but mud flats as it has filled in greatly with tropical storm Irene. The Au Sable River Association, at least preliminarily, is on board with doing something to clean it out. It does not have to be conventional dredging, as what makes the most sense environmentally and economically, is to lower the level of the water in the winter and drive in to dig it out. We will keep the public informed as we move forward.

We continue to attempt to get answers regarding **the old gas station**. The latest we have been told is the lease with the 7-11 Corporation is up the end of April. The owner of the building has stated that he will assess the building at that time and determine if it will be renovated or demolished. We are hoping for something as this is the biggest eyesore in town. We are also hopeful to see the other closed businesses re-open. We do have a few of our motels that are in the process of changing hands, and we wish the new owners luck as they move forward. Some of our blight is being removed with the sale and demolition of the old sport shop, and a few buildings on Whiteface Highway have been demolished. We thank the new owners for their efforts in making Wilmington a better place.

The Town is seeking two candidates to serve on the Board of Assessment Review. This position pays \$300.00 and more info can be obtained by contacting the Town Office at 946-7174



As we start the new year we look back to some **great people we have lost in 2014**: Bea Peck, lifelong resident; Stewart Morgan, lifelong resident; Bruce Hare, lifelong resident; Nancy LeBlanc, longtime resident

and attorney for the people; Robert Denton, lifelong resident. Our condolences to the families of these fine citizens, as these people touched many lives through the years, and contributed to the town in various ways. They will be missed. Stay warm.

Regards, *Randy Preston*
Town Supervisor

Concerts at the Beach

It may not feel like it right now, but summer truly is just around the corner, trust us, and this year the town of Wilmington is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the popular Concerts at the Beach series. Each Thursday evening during July and August you can enjoy a variety of music featuring the best local and regional bands showcased at our newly renovated town beach. It's a great evening of bonfires, picnics, swimming, family, friends and, of course, great live music.

Each concert is open to the public and 100% free with funding provided by the Town of Wilmington, our business community and through contributions from individuals such as you. For 2015 with the cost of a concert reaching record highs, we are seeking sponsors and asking for donations to keep this long standing event going strong.

No donation is too small and EVERY contribution is not only needed, but greatly appreciated as well.

Please, help keep the music and memories going strong in 2015 by donating generously. We thank you in advance for your contribution and hope to see you in the park this summer!

Please make your check payable to "Town of Wilmington" and mail it to PO Box 180, Wilmington, NY 12997 or drop it off at the town offices on Springfield Road.

Thank You!

E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library News

Bridge Project: We just want to reassure the town that the Library will remain open during the bridge construction project. Our hours will remain the same and if there are any changes we will be sure to post them on our Facebook page, website and Jay Community News.

Shut in Service: We are looking to start a service to serve our community members who are unable to come to the Library for whatever reason. If you know someone who could use this service or would like to volunteer for this service, please contact the Library at 946-7701 or library@wilmingtoncooperlibrary.net

Book Reviews: In need of community service hours? We are willing to exchange community service hours for those willing to write book reviews to be posted on our website. Please contact the library for more information.

Take a Bite out of Books Competition: The Library is gearing up to participate in the "Take a Bite out of Books" competition and are looking for students in 5th, 6th or 7th grade who love to read and love book trivia. This year's books are *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein, *House of Secrets* by Christopher Columbus, *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Rhodes, *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, *Tangle of Knots* by Lisa Graff and *Dewey the Library Cat: a True Story* by Vicki Myron.



Wilmington Culvert Replacement Project to Benefit the Community and the River

Plans are in the works for the town to replace a problem culvert on the Lenny Preston Road this summer, with help from The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter, AuSable River Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The culvert, which is undersized and blew out during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, has been a recurring problem for the town. The pipe culvert also blocks the movement of brook trout and other aquatic organisms.

This winter, North Woods Engineering will work with project partners to evaluate the site and develop a design that will reduce flooding risks by better withstanding high water flows and passing debris. The design will also allow fish to swim upstream to reach cooler waters on hot summer days, which is essential to their survival. Right-sizing this culvert will reconnect

more than 1.5 miles of upstream habitat to the main stem of the West Branch of the AuSable River.

Wilmington is one of several communities in the AuSable River Watershed teaming up with these non-profit organizations and agencies to replace culverts that are barriers to fish passage and cause frequent maintenance problems. The costs of the Wilmington project will be covered through in-kind services such as technical assistance and highway department staff time, and a combination of grants, including private grant funding from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund (supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation), and public grant funds from U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Fish Passage Program, and New York State Department of State under Title II of the Environmental Protection Fund.

For more information, visit www.nature.org/nyculverts or www.ausableriver.org, or check out this interactive map showing priority culverts in the AuSable Watershed: <http://www.nyanc-alt.org/gis/ausable-story-map/>

Francis Betters Memorial Statue Project

Friends of Francis Betters are raising funds to commission a life-size bronze statue to be placed in Wilmington, to honor and memorialize the West Branch AuSable River fly-fishing legend. To date we have raised over \$5000 towards our goal.

Fran was born in Wilmington in 1931, and lived to be 78. He began fishing as a young boy and never stopped. He said his father was the best fisherman he ever knew, and that he taught him most of what he knew about fishing and the outdoors. Fran wrote about fishing, was an expert fly-tyer and was known for developing specialized local fly patterns such as the Haystack, Usual, Bomber and Au Sable Wulff. Fran built rods too. He was an authentic Adirondack character who loved to tell stories, sharing his knowledge and great sense of humor. Fran especially loved the West Branch AuSable River and its fast, challenging waters.

Fran owned and operated the Adirondack Sport Shop in Wilmington for almost 50 years and was inducted into the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum Hall of Fame in 2008.

Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to:

Town of Wilmington (501C3)
 Fran Betters Statue Project
 PO Box 180
 Wilmington, NY 12997
 (518) 946-7174

Mr. TJ Swan donated audio CD's, included with donation, with over 70 minutes of Fran talking about his life, fishing, reciting his poems and his great stories.

Levels of donation:

\$25 Mini-Muddler
 \$250 Usual
 \$50 Caddis
 \$500 AuSable Bomber
 \$100 Haystack
 \$1000 AuSable Wulff

Facebook: Francis Betters Memorial Statue Project to stay updated on progress.

Adirondack Wildlife, Inc.

Adirondack Wildlife Inc. is a tax-exempt charitable organization whose mission is to accept injured, sick, orphaned, or otherwise disabled wildlife in order to rehabilitate them with the hope of returning them to the wild. We also provide homes for many non-releasable animals that assist us in educating the public about wildlife, their habitat, and environmental issues that affect both wildlife and humans.

Saint Nick

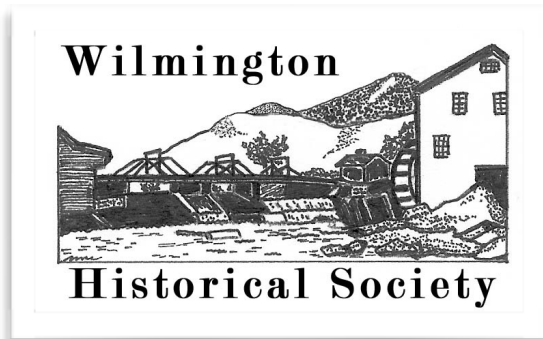
Meet Saint Nick! Saint Nick, named after the Latin name, *Strix nyctea*, is a wild Snowy Owl that was admitted to the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center in April 2014. As an inhabitant of the high arctic tundra, Snowy Owls



are normally a fairly rare visitor to New York. However, the winter of 2013-2014 brought the largest irruption of Snowy Owls in the Northeast and Great Lakes regions in perhaps a century. These irruptions are believed to be a product of very successful breeding seasons as a result of over-abundant lemming populations (their main food supply). Saint Nick was one of many owls that moved south into the United States in search of hunting grounds not already being used by the vast amount of Snowy Owls in the northern regions. One owl even flew south to Florida and one to Bermuda! Unfortunately, Saint Nick's winter travels hit a snag when he injured his wing somewhere near Fairview, NY. Miraculously, Saint Nick was still able to fly over 100 miles before ending up in a field at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY where he was captured by a licensed bird bander. His wing, while having sustained 100 miles of flight, was in terrible shape. He was transported to the Refuge and put on antibiotics and pain medication. However, the damage to the wing involved a torn ligament that left some of his flight muscles unattached and therefore only able to fly short distances at a time. While his injury prevents him from living in the wild, he is now enjoying the well-fed life of an educational ambassador who helps teach the public about North America's largest owl.

Contact Info (for hours, volunteering, donations of food, etc.)

977 Springfield Road PO Box 555
 Wilmington, NY 12997
 518-946-2428 www.adirondackwildlife.org



Planning for a Building Continues

The Historical Society currently uses the Wilmington Community Center Meeting Room for meetings, presentations and display, a reference library, and historical collections that have been acquired from our community. While we appreciate the Town's support in allowing us to utilize this space, we are outgrowing this location and are in the process of securing a home of our own! Our building committee continues to revise our building plans with our needs in mind.

First Annual Appeal—We've Almost Reached Our Goal of \$10,000!

In January 2014, the Wilmington Historical Society opened the Wilmington Historical Society Fund with the Adirondack Foundation, formerly the Adirondack Community Trust, in order to better plan for our future and to sustain our organization in perpetuity. The Adirondack Foundation is an endowment fund which helps local non-profit organizations to build long-term philanthropic support through charitable giving. The Wilmington Historical Society "Acorn Account" at the Adirondack Foundation needs to reach the short-term goal of \$10,000 before it becomes a full-fledged interest-bearing account. The account was seeded with a generous donation of \$5,000 from one of our long-time Wilmington Historical Society members, Dennis Keegan of Colorado in honor of his parents, Thomas and Ruth Keegan. Now we are seeking further donations to get to the \$10,000 level as a full-fledged permanent fund, then "grow" it from there.

In November, we began our FIRST ANNUAL APPEAL. At the date of this writing we have reached \$9,435! We are really close to our goal

of \$10,000! First of all, we thank all of our wonderful and generous donors. It has been an incredible journey. If you have not already done so, we are asking you to help us to *reach our goal now and secure the future of the Wilmington Historical Society* by making a tax deductible charitable contribution to the Wilmington Historical Society Fund at the Adirondack Foundation. You may send a check to the Wilmington Historical Society at PO Box 174, Wilmington, NY 12997 with "Wilmington Historical Society Fund at Adirondack Foundation" on the memo line or you may make a donation by signing into the Adirondack Foundation's secure website at www.generousact.org, click onto GIVE NOW and select "Wilmington Historical Society Fund." Keep in mind that this kind of donation is also a great way to memorialize or honor a loved one. Our seed has been planted. Now your help is needed to make the acorn grow so that we can operate and maintain our new building. Your efforts are appreciated. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

More Genealogy Programs Requested

Nine people attended the October workshop "**How to Research Your Family Tree**" with Karen and Bob Peters. Attendees learned how to research and/or start their family trees. Free materials were provided as well as a demonstration of the use of research resources. From those who attended, as well as from other communications, there is a growing demand for more programs of this type. We will consider more genealogy programs in the future.

Wilmington Historical Society at The Festival of Colors

The Wilmington Historical Society made \$409 from our "Themed Basket Raffle" and silent auction held at the Festival of Colors, even though we had to shut down early due to the bad weather. The money raised from this fundraiser will be added to the Wilmington Historical Society Fund at the Adirondack Foundation to sustain the Wilmington Historical Society into the future.

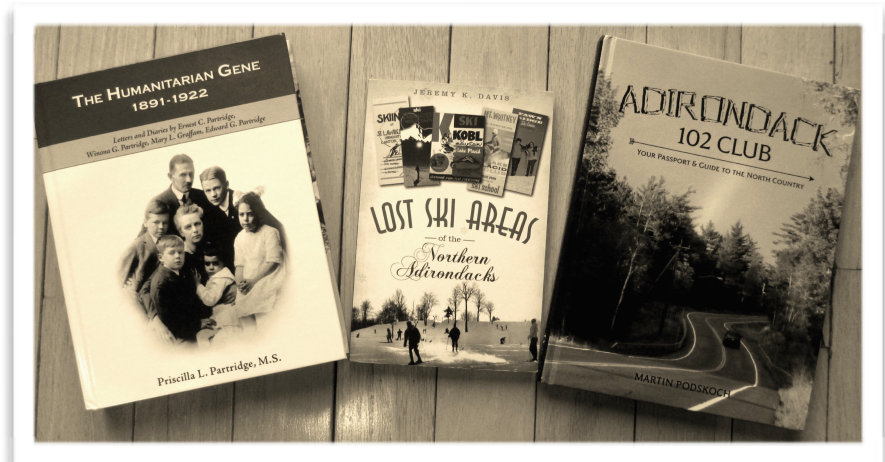
(continued on pg. 7)

Historical Society *(continued)*

We would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations of items for this fundraiser: Whiteface Mountain Ski Center, Adirondack Chocolates, Two Fly Shop, Hungry Trout Fly Shop, Hungry Trout Restaurant, Great Outdoors, Up a Creek Restaurant, T and T Tanning, T and T Café, Village Hardware, Little Supermarket, Wilderness Inn and High Falls Gorge. **Thank you one and all for your support in our fundraising efforts!**

Assisting Writers and Authors for Books and Other Publications

This past year has been a busy research year. We have responded to multiple requests for research from authors of many different backgrounds and interests. Most recently, one of our researchers, Douglas Wolfe, has been corresponding with area writer Phil Johnson who is doing an article with Jeremy Raines on Whiteface/Marble Ski Centers for the February 2015 issue of *Ski History* magazine. Doug also contributed information for a



book by Erik Schlimmer entitled *History Inside the Blue Line: Place Names of the Trans Adirondack Route*, then donated a copy to the Wilmington Historical Society collection. In September, WHS also provided material to Kim Smith Deedam for an article for the *Plattsburgh Press-Republican* about the heroes of the Battle of Plattsburgh, including a photo of Wilmington’s own Reuben Sanford. When we assist an author in researching for a book, we request a courtesy copy for our reference library. We have provided materials for the following books all published in 2014:

- **Adirondack 102 Club** by **Martin Podskoch**. Wilmington photographer Jeri Wright provided the cover, and Karen Peters and Michelle Preston provided the material for the Wilmington pages. The book is a guide to the entire Adirondack region, including the history, treasures, and amenities available in each town, village and hamlet. It encourages book owners to visit all 102 municipalities in the book, thereby obtaining “membership” in the “Adirondack 102 Club.” Each town, village or hamlet will stamp their section of the book for book owners to “collect” in their travels. In Wilmington, the stamp may be obtained at the Whiteface Visitors’ Bureau.
- **Lost Ski Areas of the Northern Adirondacks** by **Jeremy K. Davis**. Locally, some of our lost ski areas now remembered in this book include Marble Mountain, Paleface and, thanks to Wilmington resident Sid Maxwell, Quaker Mountain Lodge. Photos enhance the historical understanding.
- **The Humanitarian Gene 1891-1922, Letters and Diaries** by **Ernest C. Partridge, Winona G. Partridge, Mary L. Graffam, Edward G. Partridge** by **Priscilla L. Partridge, M.S.** The genealogy of the family of Hiram Partridge (Partridge), who lived in Wilmington, NY in the mid- 1800’s, provides the backdrop for the premise of this book. From this family sprang generations of people who believed in education, hard work, self-reliance and social consciousness, and acted on these values.



TRIVIA ANSWERS: 1. The Wilmington Nazarene Church was organized in 1905 under the leadership of Daniel Haselton. The official church was established in 1921 with 14 members, incorporated in 1932, when it also assumed ownership of the old Congregational Church building. The Congregational Church building itself had been constructed in 1834, but its congregation was dissolved in 1907.

2. Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Wilmington on September 11, 1929, to inaugurate the Whiteface motor road, now the Whiteface Mountain Veterans Memorial Highway.

Town of Wilmington
7 Community Circle
Wilmington, NY 12997

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WILMINGTON, NY 12997



**BULLETIN
BOARD**

The Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) will be coming out soon and can be found on the Town's website: townofwilmington.org



ACO Property Advisors, Inc.

Real Estate Brokerage

www.WhitefaceRealEstate.com

518-524-0493

Wilmington/Whiteface, NY



Golf Tournament

Golfers, mark your calendars!

There will be a Golf Tournament on July 10, 2015 in Lake Placid at the Craig Wood Golf Course to benefit Adirondack Wildlife, Inc.

(See article on page 5.)

Interested in promoting your business?

We are also looking for businesses or individuals to sponsor holes or to donate prizes for tournament winners.

For information or questions about the tournament, contact Herb Crispell at 518-524-0888.

Newsletter Editor

Ginny Crispell

crisp.nyhhi@gmail.com