

Our 45th Year of Service To The Sacandaga Valley!

The Edinburg Newsletter

Enjoyed every month throughout Warren, Fulton, Montgomery and Saratoga Counties

MARCH 2026
VOL 45 #7



www.edinburgnewsletter.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Here's a list of some notable dates and meetings. Please send your information to the Edinburg Newsletter at edinburgnews2023@gmail.com

Thurs	5	7:00 pm	Zoning Board Meeting
Sun	8		Daylight Savings Day
Tues	10	5:30 pm	BOT Meeting
Tues	17	7:00 pm	Edinburg Historical Society
Tues	17		St. Patrick's Day
Thurs	19	6:00 pm	Edinburg Town Board Meeting
Fri	20		First Day of Spring
Sun	29		Palm Sunday



EDINBURG TOWN REPORT

www.edinburgny.com
Robert D. Anderson, Supervisor

Happy St. Patrick's Day March Madness!!!

Well, it is hard to believe, but here we are in March. In like a lion out like a lamb or in like a lamb and out like a lion? This is the month you never know what the weather is going to bring, but remember we are headed to spring ALREADY!

Saratoga County News

The County of Saratoga will be starting its annual 4-H Shooting Sports Course on March 10th; they will be meeting every Tuesday evening through April 14th. If you have interest, please visit the link on the Town of Edinburg's website. (edinburgny.gov)

Charge for Hunting and Fishing Licenses

The Town of Edinburg will be charging an additional \$1.00 when you purchase a hunting and or fishing license and want a paper copy. This charge is for the printing of the licenses. If you do not want your license printed it can be emailed to you at no extra charge.

Solid Waste Tonnage, 2025

The Town of Edinburg took in 16.38 tons of cardboard, 49.42 tons of metal and 53.02 tons of single stream recyclables for the 2025 year.

Burn Permits

The Town of Edinburg has a new Forest Ranger, his name

is Paul Quinones, he has requested the Town give out burn permits to residents who wish to burn. The permits will be available during regular business hours.

Corrections

There was a mistake with the Supervisor's phone number in the February Newsletter, the correct number is 518 863-2395. There was also a mistake with the Code Enforcement Officers number it should be 518 863-2793.

Please use caution when out on the lake

Respectfully,
Bob
Robert D. Anderson
Supervisor



PO Box 801,
Northville, NY 12134
EdinburgHistoricalSociety.org
Tim Blydenburgh

Edinburg-area residents were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Norma Porteus, known for her creativity, kindness, hard work and devotion to many causes — and of course her longevity.

Norma died Dec. 31, just a few days shy of her 107th birthday. Among her many activities, was her involvement with the Edinburg Historical Society as a member, lifetime trustee, officer and guest speaker.

According to her obituary with the Northville Funeral Home, she was born Audrey Norma McKittrick on on Jan. 11, 1919 in Amsterdam, N.Y. She married Charles Porteus and they settled in Edinburg in 1950, living on North Shore Road. He died in the early 1970s.

According to the obituary, the couple ran a pub and a seasonal trailer resort in the area. She was a member of the senior citizens group, volunteered with the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network (SVAN) where she was a featured artist and volunteered at the Northville Public Library.

Many of her activities continued well beyond her 90s: bowling, walking and yoga are just some examples.

On the occasion of Norma's 100th birthday, former Edinburg Town Historian Priscilla Edwards composed an article for the Edinburg Newsletter looking back on her life. It noted a love of roller skating, the color purple, movie houses and candy — and

walking to school in all kinds of weather.

“She is humble, direct and kind,” Priscilla wrote. “One only has to spend a few moments with Norma to see what a great sense of humor she maintains. Norma never sought out to change the world, only to make her world a better place, but in doing so she has modeled for us what it means to love, have passion for, and live in Edinburg.”

The Porteus’ cabins were a welcome stop for many visitors. Norma herself made the furniture for the cabins, including built-in beds and dressers.

In the month when she turned 100, SVAN honored her art with a reception, and noted that she started her photography at age 15 with a Brownie camera gifted to her by an aunt.

She was also honored at a Tuesday Morning League at Arterial Lanes in Gloversville. State Sen. Jim Tedisco honored her in person with a State Senate Commendation Award, noting her “very positive impact on the community.”

She also spoke at length with Edinburg Historical Society members in May

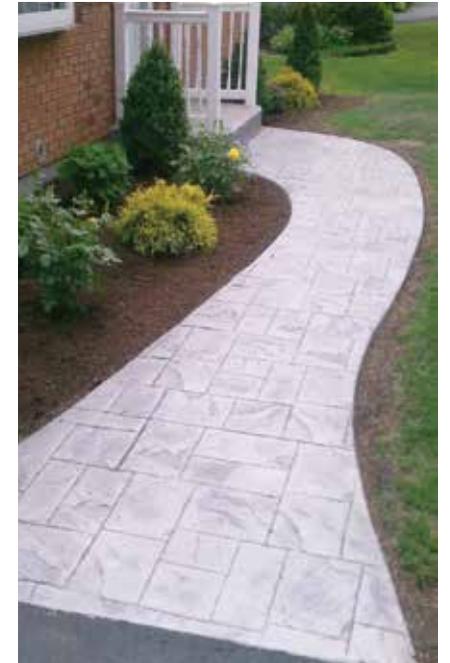
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2019, recalling details of her life with amazing clarity, the EHS newsletter noted. As a 9-year-old she was convinced that there were all kinds of monsters in the Sacandaga River and “still, to the present day, she remains wary of the deep water at the Great Sacandaga Lake.”

When she turned 103, during the pandemic, the community organized a parade for her that passed by the SVAN gallery in Northville where she stood on the porch. The Daily Gazette of Schenectady ran a story on Norma’s 106th as she celebrated her special day at the Rusty Nail in Clifton Park, noting her enjoyment of mild and garlic parmesan chicken wings and a cup of cranberry juice.

She was grand marshal of a recent Northville parade.

In the words of Priscilla Edwards upon her 100th birthday: “Life has many paths and we are very blessed that the path for Norma Porteus has made its way into the Edinburg community.”

It’s a sentiment that will ring true well beyond these years.

Northville Funeral Service will be the site of a celebration of Norma’s life in July, according to her obituary.



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EDINBURG VOL. FIRE CO.

by Brian DeFeo

Winter has been fairly quiet so far. The Fire Company had a total of eight calls, from January 12th through February 12th of this year. Our Call Log is as follows:

- 1/27. Mutual Aid to Northville
- 1/28. Mutual Aid to Northville, stand by our Station
- 1/29. Mutual Aid to Northville, MVA snowmobile
- 1/29. Fire Alarm, Sinclair Road
- 2/1. Mutual Aid to Broadalbin
- 2/3. Mutual Aid to Northville
- 2/4. EMS Assistance, Wheeler Road
- 2/8. EMS Assistance, Fox Hill Road

At the time of this writing (mid-February), our area had just experienced one of the coldest winter periods on record. With overnight lows approaching close to minus twenty in some spots. A daytime temperature of plus ten seemed down right balmy.

Surely, the Lake ice must be thick enough to land a C-130 ski plane on it. However don't count on it, as we approach mid to late March. The ice has its own way of thawing. Not measured by man's time, rather its own. What was six inch thick ice two weeks ago, might be three today. Particularly, if you are near a tributary. So please, don't become a seasonal statistic in 2026.

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Friends of the Northville Library

Jodi Blydenburgh

If you haven't stopped by the Northville Public Library, you should!

In early January, all of the library's old carpeting was replaced with new laminate flooring. Staff and volunteers rearranged all of the books and collections into a more user-friendly arrangement. As part of this renovation, the Friends of the Library purchased block-letter signage to clearly identify spaces within the building. Rather than installing "permanent" wall-mounted signs, the new letters will give flexibility should changes be made in the future.

The Friends have also approved the purchase of an electronic photo frame which staff may use for marketing library events, new books or any announcements. The frame will be displayed in the circulation area allowing patrons to see all that is happening at the library.

Several new donations have been received in the Friends' Craft Closet. There are new knitting needles and yarn, as well as a lot of scrapbooking supplies. With winter hanging on for another month, there's still time to try out a new project without having to purchase supplies. Most supplies may be taken home or patrons are invited to host an event at the library — so invite

some friends and spend a morning, afternoon or evening hanging out and creating. Don't forget, the Library's Needles and Pins group meets every Wednesday from noon - 1:30. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Event chairpersons were selected at the most recent Friends' board meeting. Sarada Junquera is program chairperson and will be working with the library director on sponsoring programming for all ages. Cheryl Miller is chairing the Mammoth Book Sale (which is taking place on July 2, 3, 4 this year). Wendy Beaulieu and Laurie Leonard are chairing the summer raffle program. Annette Fry is chairing the annual meeting event. And Jodi Blydenburgh is chairing the holiday market.

Some other items in the works include the establishment of a Facebook page for the Friends; updating bookshelves and space for the on-going book sale in the library's vestibule; and selling Friends of the Library-branded items as a fundraiser.

Everyone is welcome to become a Friend of the Library. Individual membership is \$10 and a household membership is \$25. Volunteers are also needed for most fundraisers and in the library's garden. If you are interested in helping, please contact the library at 518-863-6922.

continued on page 8



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As always, the Friends appreciate the incredible support of our library community. Without this support, the Friends would not be able to provide additional monetary support for many wishlist items that benefit many patrons, including children and the elderly who regularly visit the library.



NORTHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Alisha Rivera Holmes - Director - 518-863-6922

New at the Library

We've opened a Necessities Pantry at the Library! The pantry is filled with food and hygiene items and is open to everyone, regardless of residence.

Dear Edinburg Residents,

The Northville Public Library is changing our policy for out of district library users and Edinburg Residents. If you would like to receive a Northville Library card, we ask that you consider donating \$5 towards the cost of the card.

Book Clubs:

Sacandaga Book Club:

Kathleen Kish will be leading The Sacandaga Book Group in a discussion of the book *The Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff. Tues. March 10th at 10 am. Summary: "Stopping was never part of the plan..."

She was a successful ad sales rep in Manhattan. He was a homeless, eleven-year-old panhandler on the street. He asked for spare change; she kept walking. But then something stopped her in her tracks, and she went back. And she continued to go back, again and again. They met up nearly every week for years and built an unexpected, life-changing friendship that has today spanned almost three decades.

Whatever made me notice him on that street corner so many years ago is clearly something that cannot be extinguished, no matter how relentless the forces aligned against it. Some may call it spirit. Some may call it heart. It drew me to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still."

Evening Book Club:

The Evening Book Club will be reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30pm. Summary: "In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she

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helps create a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.”

Programs at the Library:

On Saturday, March 28th at 11am, Local Author, Deborah Waffle, will be sharing her heart-wrenching and inspiring book (The Grief Jar) about grief after the loss of her daughter.

Summary: “When Debbie walks into a dog agility class with her late daughter’s golden retriever, it’s the last place she ever imagined she’d be. Just a week earlier, her 29-year-old daughter, Kelsey, passed away without warning. For years, Kelsey had lived with unexplained medical issues that no number of doctors or treatments could resolve—and despite Debbie’s tireless efforts, she couldn’t save her. Kelsey’s final wish was simple yet profound: for her golden retriever, Brody, to become a therapy dog. A dream left unrealized—until Debbie decides to fulfill it herself. As she stumbles through the darkness of her grief, she begins to uncover something she thought was gone forever—hope.”

Adult Programs:

- Needles & Pins: Every Wednesday from 11:30am-1:30pm
- Mahjonn: Every Wednesday from 1pm-4pm
- Sacandaga Book Club: Second Tuesday of the month starting at 10am
- Evening Edition Book Club: Second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm
- Adult DND: Third Thursday of every month starting at 6:00pm

Teen Programs:

- Teen D&D: Every First and Third Friday of the month from 4pm-6pm
- Art Guild: Every Fourth Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm

Children Programs:

- Toddler Social Hour: First and Third Tuesdays of the month starting at 10am
- 1000 Books before kindergarten
- Lego Afternoons: Saturdays from 11am-12pm

Our Board of Trustees meeting is Tuesday, March 17 2 6:30 pm

Libby:

Looking for a book we don't have in the library? It might be

on Libby! The library provides E-resources for our patrons. Go to our new website: <http://northvillepubliclibrary.mvls.com/> and click “eBooks/eAudios” or add the Libby app to your reader. This will take you to the site where you may borrow E-books for Kindles, tablets and similar devices and E-audiobooks for your listening pleasure. You may search by author, title, or subject. If you have a problem with your device, come see us!

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Follow us on facebook, instagram, TikTok, and YouTube to keep up with everything happening at the library!

Edinburg Senior News

Donna Houlihan

AARP Volunteer Tax Preparation

AARP Volunteers will prepare taxes again this year. Trained volunteers will prepare Federal and State personal income taxes for low to moderate income individuals. Electronic filing is available. There are various sites throughout the county providing these services. Appointments are required. Please contact the Office for the Aging at 518 884-4100

Volunteers Needed for Home Delivered Meals

We are in dire need of volunteers to deliver meals to our community of seniors. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours on a weekly or monthly basis, please contact: Home Delivered Meals at 518 363-4020

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!



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Sr. Pastor: Rev. Andrew Larson
Assoc. Pastor: Isaiah Philo

by Barbara Klueg

I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills!

=When you feel desperate and want to shout “HELP” where do you turn?

The Bible clearly states that we need God. He is our helper!

Psalm 121 is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible and, also one of my ‘Go-To Scriptures.’ It’s a good one to memorize, which comes in handy during those extra-troubled times in life, and believe me, they will come.

Psalm 121 “I lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you. The Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm

you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm. He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore.”

WOW! Knowing your Maker personally is amazing and has benefits beyond comprehension. He watches over you . . . every minute. He knows all about your fears, hard times and troubles. He protects you, even when you don’t know it. How long does He do this? Now and forever!

Question? So, how can we prepare ourselves for these unforeseen trials that life throws at us? We need to get our battle gear on! We need to be ready! We need to be reading God’s Word, praying daily, attending a good church and having fellowship with other believers on a regular basis. We need to ‘Lift up our eyes to the hills!’

God instituted the church so believers could grow spiritually and serve the Lord together. Come and join the rest of us forgiven sinners . . . as we desire to do this very thing. We would love to have you join us. If you have questions, feel free to contact Pastor Larson and Pastor Philo at church (518.863.8001). They are good listeners, love the Lord and are very encouraging. If you are housebound, you can watch our Sunday services online at bconny.org

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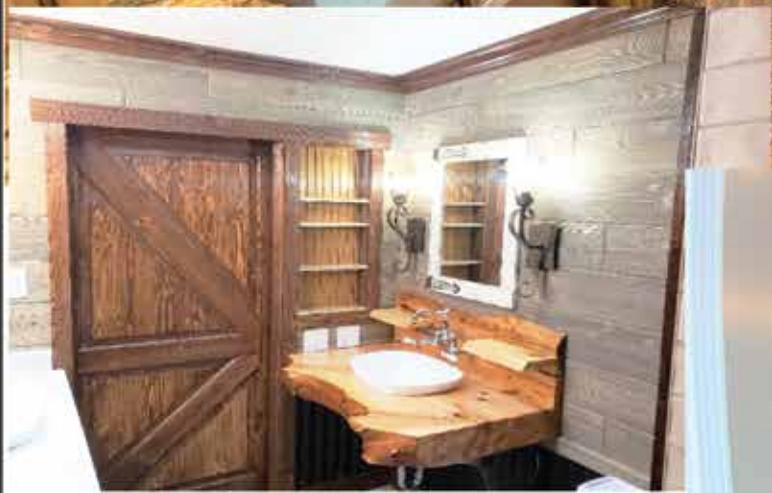
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Our church ministries are:

- Sunday: (8:45 a.m.) Sunday School for all ages, (10 a.m.) Worship Service (Nursery & Children's Church provided), (6 p.m.) Family Night Fellowship & Teaching (1st Sun. of the month with refreshments), (7 p.m.) Jr. and Sr High Youth Groups
- Monday: Bible Club (K-5th grades after school), (8 p.m.) Man Up Bible Study for young men at BCON Corner
- Tuesday: (7 p.m.) Sr. High Girls Bible study
- Wednesday: (10 a.m.) Northville Food Pantry at BCON Corner
- Thursday: (6 a.m. and 7 p.m.) Prayer Meeting, (6:45 p.m.) Jr. High Girls Bible Study, (10:30 a.m.) NLH Nursing Home Service on 3rd Thursdays.
- Saturday: (6:30 a.m.) Men's Coffee Hour at BCON Corner
- Small Groups: Call the church for times and locations



Northville Rotary Grows

Service Above Self

Ever Think about Joining Rotary?

We would like to invite you to consider joining Northville Rotary. Why you might ask? Membership is a way to give back to the local community as well as the wider world.

Northville Rotary is part of an International organization but has a strong local focus. We have entered our 76th year serving the Village of Northville and surrounding community.

We are a service club. Our business is human kind. Our product is service. Rotarians provide community service to both the local and international communities. This is the best reason perhaps for becoming a Rotarian. The chance to do something for somebody else, leads to a sense the self-fulfillment. Rotarians believe in "Service above Self"...which is richly rewarding.

You may know some of the notable things we have recently done in our local community such as donating the accessible

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Kayak Launch to the Village of Northville, as well as supporting local youth to include Scouts, Little League, and academic scholarships. We provide local schools with necessity closets, winter clothing and school supplies. We also support SVAN's summer Music in the Park opening show. We continue to support the local food and drive thru food pantries and much, much more. One fun way we earn money for these projects is running the Woodworking and Fine Arts Show each July. This year it will be held on July 17-19.



Rotarians practice a 4-Way Test which governs one's ethical standards.

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

We usually meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Sport Island Pub in Northville and at members' houses during the summer. Meeting info will be posted on our Facebook page and you can reach us at northvillenyrotaryinfo@gmail.com for more information.



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EDINBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3 North Shore Rd, Edinburg
Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M.
Stephanie Schrom, Pastor
E-mail: edinburgmcpastor@yahoo.com

Greetings and God's Grace and Peace to all from all of us at the Edinburg United Methodist Church!

Spring is just around the corner, according to the calendar March 20th is the first day of Spring. Spring can symbolize new growth. We also have the opportunity to grow not only in the Spring but everyday. Isaiah 40:31 tells us: "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Through our faith and worship we can find strength, comfort and peace. A long time member wrote the following poem that I will share.

Cast Away

I'm not talking of the movie
I believe people feel this way at times!

Circumstances and sin separate us
This life is temporary; do you think of your soul?
Please consider casting your cares on the Lord!!
Cast your problems
Confess your indiscretions (sins) away
Jesus is ready to meet you wherever you are
With love and acceptance.
Quickly rid yourself of that cast away feeling!

NHC

We began our Lenten last month and it will last for 40 days and end on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation of observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus and celebrating Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus. The purpose of Lent is to draw closer to God through prayer, repentance and self-examination. Lent is also a time to open our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Easter comes it is not just another day at church but the opportunity to receive the abundant grace God has to offer.

March 29th we will celebrate Palm Sunday, Jesus' Triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will celebrate by passing out palms.



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We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Bread of Life food pantry in Northville and personal hygiene products, white t-shirts, socks, gloves, hats & umbrellas for the Capital City Rescue Mission in Albany. Follow our Facebook page for upcoming events and missions in the community.

If you are new to the area or do not have a home church please come and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 9 am. Our service is a traditional service with messages of hope, love, peace, joy and all of God's goodness and grace. Please like and follow our church Facebook page to see our past events and what is coming up in the future.

We welcome everyone! Our church motto is: Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF READING ALOUD

Beth Junquera

One of the easiest, yet most impactful, ways to give a child a lifelong advantage is by reading to them. It's common knowledge that children love stories, but the digital age has blurred that importance. Modern studies have been done however, to bolster and reaffirm that the simple act of regularly reading aloud to a child of any age offers far-reaching benefits.

Acting as an antivenom to the distractions of today's world, reading can:

calm a distracted child

strengthen emotional connection (cortisol decreases and oxytocin increases for the child AND the reader)

increase oral vocabulary (2 picture books a day, about 5 minutes of time, over a period of a year means that the child will hear around 438,000 words)

increase vocabulary correspondig to a better grasp of math concepts

increase reading comprehension (which grows with repeated reading)

help a child to become emotionally self-regulated

help a child form a lifelong love of the written word

It sounds daunting but it could not be simpler, just pick up a book and read to your child, grandchild, neighbor or class. But what if your toddler will not sit down? Read before or after a meal, while they play with legos, during bathtime or the favored special moments as they are being tucked into sleep. Just read. It is better than any fancy digital learning tool because of the human connection. The brain scans of four year olds show that the brain "lights up" with the reading of a picture book, and though a child may seem to be engaged with a video, the brain scans show very little brain activity during that time.

Not sure where to start? Come to the library for some suggested titles and jump in. Or contact Beth Junquera, 518-863-6651, or Kate Walsh, katewalsh2421@gmail.com

Studies and statistics were taken from the book, The Enchanted Hour by MC Gurdon.



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Northville United Presbyterian Church News

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Grace and Peace to you from Northville United Presbyterian Church!

The season of Lent is upon us for those who observe it. Lent is a period of forty days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing until Palm Sunday (the Sunday prior to Easter). The forty days remind us of Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. When the observation of Lent was formalized in the fourth century A.D., it initially served as a time of preparation for baptism, and as a period of penance for those seeking to be restored to communion. Over time, it evolved into a season for all Christians to engage in fasting, prayer and acts of charity as a way to prepare for the celebration of Easter. The practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving are intended to clear distractions and foster a deeper communion with God.

I remember as a child having friends who always gave up something for Lent. My Catholic friends would abstain from eating meat on Fridays. But other friends would give up eating chocolate, or their parents would give up unnecessary spending. I never could understand how not eating chocolate or meat would make one's faith life deeper. And honestly, back then, most protestants didn't observe any type of Lenten fast.

As I grew older and eventually engaged in seminary study leading to my work in ministry, I began to appreciate the idea of using Lent as a time of spiritual renewal. But I still didn't (and don't even now) practice abstinence from certain foods or spending. I do, however, seek to give up habits of the heart and mind – letting go of grudges, refraining from judging others, and trying to repair broken relationships. These practices do indeed clear many distractions and open me up to a deeper relationship with God.

In light of all that is happening in our nation and world today, I remembered the words of the prophet Isaiah regarding the type of fasting that pleases God:

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
 -Isaiah 58: 6-8

I believe that those of us who are Christians should embrace the call to this type of fasting: -working for justice and freeing the oppressed, whoever they may be, rather than supporting the inhumane treatment so many are facing right now

-sharing resources with the hungry and homeless here and throughout the world, rather than feeling we must hoard what we have

-refusing to break fellowship with family and friends with whom we differ, rather than turning away

The gospel of Jesus Christ is one that calls us to serve neighbors in need, to extend hospitality to the stranger and foreigner in

our midst, to share bread with the hungry, and to practice both humility and compassion. The Christian faith is not meant to be weaponized against the least among us, the vulnerable and marginalized. It is certainly not meant to be enmeshed with the empire that abuses and oppresses, a worldly power that seeks its own good before all others, or any group or person who claims to speak for God while speaking and acting in ways that demean others and mislead yet others.

My prayer is that people of faith, and even no faith at all, might strive for the values that Isaiah proclaims. In this way, the world might become a safer, healthier, more compassionate community for all of God's beloved children.

Whatever your practice during Lent, or even if you have none, may the emerging spring bring warmth and hope, inspiring us all to work for that better world.

Blessings upon you all!
 Rev. Lucy Harris

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Small Town Adirondacks Life:

Epitomizing Some Myths and Illustrating New Distinctions

By P.J. Schaefer

Some Pioneering Women of the Adirondacks

Today, all of us can probably name several prominent women in Adirondack area politics, art, conservation, education, and multiple organizations. But how many of us know of the earliest regional female mavericks who led the way for other women to follow? Our town historians make note of some, but in all likelihood, others exist who remain almost forgotten footnotes in Adirondack history.

Of course, that earliest history goes back to the American Indians, and they, too, offered female icons, including such individuals as Agnese [dates unknown], a Mohawk woman who, according to the Blue Mountain Museum, in 1742 served as a much sought-after trapper, tracker, and guide to Europeans and Canadians. The legend of the Abenaki woman, Phebe Cary [dates unknown] demonstrated uncommon stamina, too. According to Glenn Pearsall of New York Almanack, at the age of 13, she refused an 1857 marriage contract by escaping from the spouse's home and navigating and walking the 100 miles back to her northern Adirondack home. Eventually, her father returned her and she bore 10 children, but she never fully surrendered her independence or occasional returns to her beloved Adirondack mountains.

Among those whose independence blossomed in the Adirondacks, Kate Field [1838-1896] surfaced as a rebel with distinct causes. Initially using only her journalistic credentials to win people to her ideas, Kate Field became a prominent advocate for the preservation of the Adirondacks. According to writer Sandra Weber, the Essex County Republican even recognized her in her own time, stating, "Of all the public

characters who are upon the platform today, Miss Kate Field should be foremost in the hearts of citizens of Essex Country, for she was among the first to agitate the question of the preservation of the forests of the Adirondacks." As Weber notes, Field, already a well-known journalist, one of the first female reporters who wrote for the New York Tribune, New York Herald, Atlantic Almanac, and others, even launching her own paper, Kate Field's Washington, in 1889, read William H.H. Murray's Adirondack Adventures and decided to try camping for herself. Weber tells us that Field, "plunged into the woods, traveling from Plattsburgh to Lower Saranac Lake to Raquette Lake. She fished, hunted, climbed mountains," and then later wrote and spoke about it. Frequently, she faced criticism for her all-female camping trips, her speeches urging other women to camp, and her blatant statements such as the one that writer Terrence Young highlights: "if several hundred men think that the life giving principles of the North Woods was instituted for the benefit of a few guns and rods, they are sadly mistaken." She viewed the wilderness adventure as a democratic endeavor, equally open to all. These sentiments led her to written and oral advocacy. She even invested her own money into what she believed in: preserving that wilderness. Where did she start? She began with a single 244-acre farm. As Weber notes, as soon as Field learned that the John Brown farm and gravesite in North Elba were for sale, "she contributed a hundred dollars, and she convinced 19 others to do the same," for she wanted, in her own words, "the farm to be held as sacred ground." But that ownership did not suffice. In 1896, she persuaded that entire group to transfer ownership to New York State with her own condition: that the state use it as "a public park or reservation forever." Though she did not live to see that ceremony later that year, in her advocacy, she served as a frontrunner in the burgeoning field of conservation and preservation of the Adirondacks.

Another woman of letters, though one aiming for a different goal, Jean Robert Foster [1879-1970] also explored literary pursuits: poetry and journalism – and later in life, social work. Adirondack Research Librarian Matthew Gloebiewski tells us that Jean Robert Foster actually proved herself quite eclectic, making careers of fashion modeling and art dealership before dedicating herself to the other activities. According to Glenn Pearsall of New York Almanac, a resident of Johnsburg, Glens Falls, and Rochester as well as Boston, New York City, and some European cities, in her youth, Foster had worked as a tourist guide on Crane Mountain, for which she charged twenty-five cents per trip, and that experience held a lasting influence on her; her poetry always reflected the beauty she saw and loved in the Adirondacks. Eventually, she returned to live in Schenectady, and while there, Golebiewski tells us, she "remember[ed] the plight of the elderly people in the Adirondacks [and] she helped build the first low-income housing for the

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elderly in New York State.”

Also using the pen, one of the few avenues open to women in the 19th century, journalist Paula Brandreth [1885-1946], a Hamilton County native, avid angler, and accomplished hunter, used her writing to express her voice. According to Sabrina Jones, her subject matter forced her to write under a male pen name, Paul Brandreth, so she could publish articles in *Field and Stream* and write several books, including *Trails of Enchantment*. Just as she defied expected genre categories for women writers, so, too, did she defy fashion, for she frequently wore what was at the time considered men’s clothing.

Elsewhere in the Adirondacks, challenging a similar set of norms regarding what women could and should do, Inez Milholland [1886-1916] dared to speak publicly for suffrage. *Adirondack Life* writer Sabrina Jones tells us that Inez Milholland came quite naturally to the role, for her whole family routinely engaged in political activism, with her father fighting for racial justice. Though Inez Milholland died at the age of 30, she had spoken ardently for women’s rights all over New York and the country.

Much better known than Inez Milholland -- perhaps one of the best-known women of the Adirondacks -- Ora A Phelps [1895-1986], one of the “first women to attend Johns Hopkins University’s medical school while juggling several jobs and supporting her family,” according to *Adirondack Life*’s Annie Stoltie, stood out not only as a doctor willing to hike into the woods to minister to people with medical emergencies, but also as a botanist, writer of the very first *Guide to the Adirondack Trails*, and as a teacher-explorer. A native of Saratoga County, she even once “walked the 350 miles from her college in Baltimore to her home.” Stoltie adds that as a climber, Phelps ascended all 46 of the Adirondacks high peaks, made over 30 climbs of Mount Macy, and completed many hikes along the 132-mile Northville Placid Trail. A tribute to her, the Ora Phelps Nature Preserve, 18 acres of forest and wetlands, sits just south of the Adirondack Park in Wilton, New York.

That kind of adventurous spirit marked Julia Burton Preston (1896-1969) too. The first woman to become a New York State licensed guide sometime between 1914 and the 1920s, according to Beth Lomnitzer of *Experience Our Adirondacks*, Julia Burton Preston had actually served alongside her father as a guide to wealthy New Yorkers during her early teen years (1906-1909). Lomnitzer tells us that at sixteen, Burton married another guide, Charlie Preston, and they became a team. Whenever males objected to having a woman along, Charle Preston defended her as an equal. Lomnitzer adds that during World War II, when Charlie Preston served in the Seabees, Julia Burton Preston managed the guide business on her own and, with her brothers’ help, built a cabin that her granddaughter still lives in today. Julia Burton Preston defied stereotypes well ahead of her times.

While Juila Burton Preston guided others to the woods surrounding the mountains and Ora A. Phelps ascended mountains, they did not mark the first such ascents for women; Grace Hudowalski [1906-2004] holds that title. Sabrina Jones notes that Hudowalski not only was the first woman to climb all 46 peaks above 4,000 feet in the Adirondack Park, but she also served as the first president of the Adirondacks 46ers and spent 50 years as its historian and correspondent to aspiring climbers. After her passing, “East Dix was renamed Grace Peak.”

Other female climbers such as Esther Combs [1824-?], who probably solo-climbed Mount Esther at the age of 15, and Kay Flickinger Dockstader [1910-1995], who, according to Golebiewski stood as “the first woman to ascend Mt. Iroquois on skis and helped popularize winter hiking” also left their mark. Dockstader frequently guided winter trips and created many photographs for future researchers.

To research, climb, or preserve, one must first observe, and in the 1920s through the 1980s, several women distinguished themselves as the first females to man the Adirondack Park fire towers. According to Peter Benoit, writer for *New York State Conservationist*, women covered 8 of the 52 towers in the Park: Florence Mykel [1926-1929], Harriet Rega [1930-1936], Susie

continued on next page



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Page [1944], Laurel Wells Gailor [1980], Kathy Blaise [1988], Linda Lamphere [1988], Patricia Finnegan [1989], and Mary Brophy-More [1989] took on the role. Neil Burdick of Adirondack Almanac adds one other: Frances Boone Seaman [1942]. These women did not confine themselves merely to observation and reporting; they also took part in search and rescue operations, cleared for and repaired the communication lines and trailheads, hunted and trapped to survive while living in these wild areas, survived Strategic Air Command target practice runs, evaded bears, and, as Benoit notes, “protected lives, local communities, and economies of towns and villages” and “educated the public on how to be a respectful visitor to the Adirondack Park.” Frances Seaman actually wrote a memoir about her summer experience,

showcasing, as Burdick explains, her “eight hours a day in a 70-foot tower [. . .] seven days a week in dry spells, with vacation days granted only by rainy weather.” During those rainy days, Seaman painted watercolors and perfected her skill with the bow and arrow.

Much like these other outdoor-loving women, Anne LaBastille [1933-2011] embraced the Adirondacks. According to Sabrina Jones, first came LaBastille’s love for the owner of a Big Moose lakeside lodge; then her life-long love of the Adirondacks followed, ultimately leading her to earn her Ph.D. in wildlife ecology at Cornell University and eventually to 17 years of service as the Adirondack Park Commissioner responsible for preservation of its wilderness. Writer Paul Grondahl of Adirondack Explorer has labeled Anne LaBastille “a fearless woman who in some ways out-Thoreaued Thoreau.” How did she do so? She fought consistently and boldly for the preservation of the Adirondacks. According to Grondahl, while living in a tiny cabin, LaBastille wrote sixteen books, over 150 magazine articles, and two dozen scientific papers, though her most famous and influential work, the 1976 *Woodswoman: Living Alone in the Adirondack Wilderness*, sold more than one hundred thousand copies. When she did not occupy her time with advocacy, writing, or hands-on researching, she took photographs and acted as a New York State Outdoor Guide.

All of these women of the Adirondacks, guided by their own love of the wilderness, desire to move beyond prescribed female roles, and drive to enjoy and protect the land they loved have left lasting legacies in the Adirondacks. Their pioneering spirit still echoes throughout our Adirondack communities every time we gaze upon the forests, mountains, and waterways that shape our aspirations and challenges, too.

**For additional reading, see Breaking Trail: Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks, written by Peggy Lyn and Sandra Weber, 2004, Purple Mountain Press.*



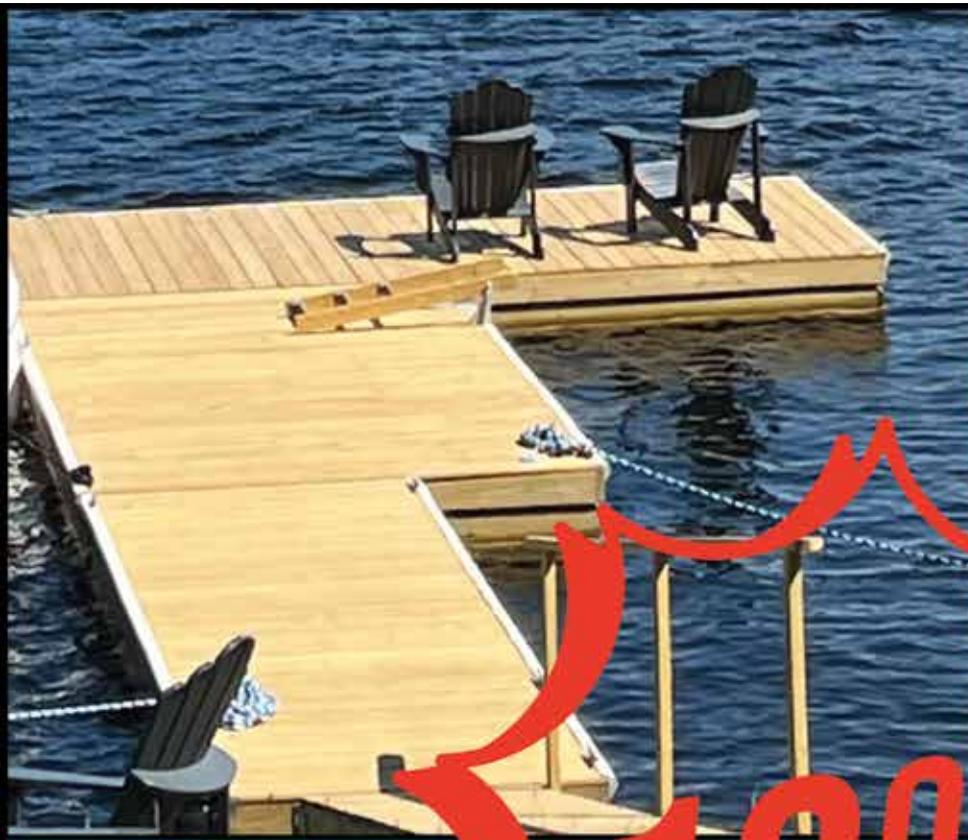
Pickle in the Park is a pickleball membership club in Sacandaga Park. There are 5 outdoor courts and 1 heated 24-hour indoor court. Access to the courts and parking is off Rt30, on the East side, at the 45mph sign just North of McKinley Avenue. We have open play every day, morning, afternoon and/or early evening. Private playing sessions, guests and reserved small group play can be accommodated. The Summer outdoor and Winter indoor membership fee per player for 2025/26 is \$175 each; the individual session guest fee is \$10 per player. Private group session fees depend on membership status, time, day and group size. Coaching session for individuals and groups are available by appointment. The indoor court can also be used for other activities such as Yoga, TaiChi and badminton. For further info and scheduling call Willem at 518 332 6896.

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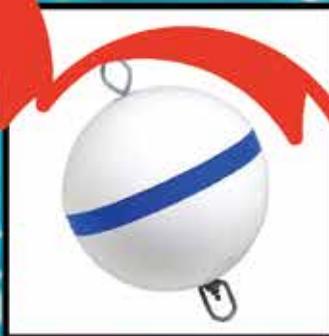
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Greetings from the members and friends of First UMC!

At First UMC, we open our hearts and arms to welcome you to be in worship with us. It's a great time to take an hour to just rest, clear your mind, and open up your heart to God's presence. Join us on Sunday mornings at 11 am for music (occasionally including flutes), prayer, and interesting sermons, including a children's time with the pastor; and, if you are really lucky, there will be refreshments after the service! Even when the weather turns cold, our church family stays warm through worship, fellowship, and faith. Join us and be reminded that there's no

better place to find warmth than in God's presence and among His people. We ask God's blessing on you and your families this season of Lent.

We are meeting in worship on Sunday mornings in the chapel area off the dining room for the winter months. It's a warmer, cozier space for singing and praying, a space for us to feel closer to one another spiritually and to feel the Holy Spirit among us. As we move into March, we continue the journey into Lent that we started in February with the imposition of ashes and the first Sunday of Lent. It is a journey of faith and renewal and reflection, a journey that we take individually in our own hearts and together when we gather on the Sundays leading up to Easter. Here are some dates to remember:

March 1 – **Second Sunday in Lent**; worship service at 11 am.

March 8 - **Daylight Saving Time Begins**: Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour! As we "spring forward," let's also renew our hearts in faith and gratitude for God's steadfast light that never fades. *

March 15 – **UMCOR Sunday** (United Methodist Committee On Relief): A special offering will be taken to support the administration of this organization that provides disaster relief all over the world. This is the only day that our gifts support administration; 100% of gifts given the other 364 days a year support disaster relief.

March 17 – **St. Patrick's Day**: We remember the missionary heart of St. Patrick, who shared Christ's light with courage and compassion. Wherever you go, let your faith shine bright! *

March 20 – **First Day of Spring**: Creation sings of new beginnings, fresh growth, and God's renewing power. May this new season remind you of the hope that blossoms in Christ! *

March 29 – **Palm/Passion Sunday**: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! As we wave our palm branches in praise, we remember the King who entered Jerusalem in humility and love. May our hearts welcome Him anew this Holy Week. *

Coming up: April 2 – Maundy/Holy Thursday; April 3 – Good Friday; April 5 – Easter Sunday

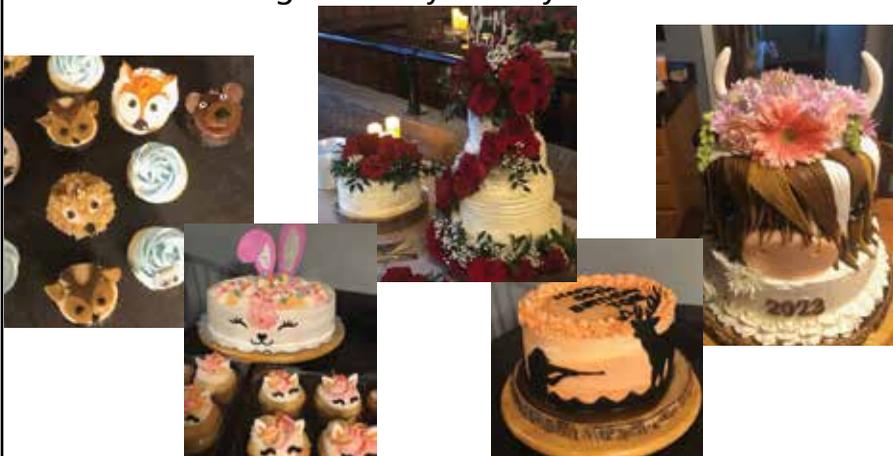
Out of the mouths of children: A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I don't know what to say," the little girl replied. Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say." The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?" *

March Winds Blow: Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves. Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike

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enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances. —Jane Truax *

Our Thrift Store ministry is open through the winter ... weather permitting ... and thriving. Our volunteers are wonderful. Would you like to volunteer a few hours a month? Let us know. Hours are: Tuesdays, 2-5 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Shoppers are asked to bring their own bags. All purchases are by donation. Gently worn, good, clean, used clothing only is accepted and welcomed. PLEASE DO NOT DONATE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOYS, BEDDING, ETC. We cannot emphasize this enough! We look forward to seeing you!

* Inspirational thoughts from The NEWSLETTER Newsletter, March 2026



Sun, Sand and Swaying in the Breeze!

Janice Hawk-Baldwin

I am sitting in the backyard today wearing shorts and a tank top. It is sunny and 79 degrees, with light and variable breezes. After the last few months of cold and wind, it feels wonderful. I heard it is supposed to be a high of 41 degrees in New York today. This time of year that feels like a heatwave. I used to love those days. I'd find a spot in the sun, out of the wind, and sit outside in shorts and a tank top to catch some "rays". People always thought I was crazy and maybe I was BUT that is what got me through the winter. I loved snowmobiling, especially on those sunny warm days when you did not have to wear so many layers of clothes. It was great to find a gathering spot to park your sled, take off your helmet and gloves, crack open a drink and visit with friends. We all knew that there would be more snow storms ahead but we also knew that spring was a promise and it was coming soon. However, we also knew that Mother Nature had a way of throwing "curve balls" and gifting major snow storms as spring approached. That has always been a promise and not a threat.

Lake locals learn to appreciate every season. At the end of snowmobile season the promise is that we finally have the lake to ourselves. That comes with the promise of calm and quiet until boating season begins. It is no different than here. We enjoy the rush then we savor the calm until the next "season" begins. It reflects like the ebb and flow of life.

In many ways living in Key West is no different than the GSL. Yes it is warmer here and yes it is bigger here than the lake. I am talking about the people who live here full time. There is the same small town feel among the locals. Once tourists clear out, at the end of the season, we are happy to spend time with those who work so hard to meet all of our needs. We get to slow down, get together with each other and relax until the next season begins.

There are many upstate New York people who live here and many more that visit every winter. Protect the places that you love. Protect the small town feel. Support your town no matter where you are. Most importantly, love the life you live. Spring is coming in a few weeks. Enjoy every moment!

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Sufficiency and Other Ponderings

Shellie Kovaleski

It was mid-afternoon as the two of us sat in an empty diner. I don't usually get out to eat anymore, but my good friend who helps me at every turn was being treated, as part of a Christmas gift. A woman from another local business came in and asked if that was our car parked outside, did we realize it had an expired registration AND inspection? They were months overdue! It didn't seem... like it had been 15 months since the last inspection. But thanks to an observant woman waiting for her family, it finally got noticed. We had just been discussing how troopers can now scan vehicles in passing and spot expired tags without even stopping them. I called for an appointment before the food even arrived. They put me down for an inspection the next afternoon. That day I also mailed our taxes, paid the lake permit fee and topped off the gas tank. There. I was getting my act together!

But then the next evening, suddenly the lights went dim. It might be the only time we've completely run out of propane. It only takes one call a year to top off the tanks before winter and somehow that didn't happen. The first night was easy, as it was near bedtime. The next, we went by candlelight. And it turned

out to be a blessing. Forty hours without propane was the perfect nudge to defrost our ice-bound freezer. The food, in buckets, sat safely in the great open-air freezer known as an Adirondack winter. After chipping and scraping away 3 gallons of dense ice, I can now stow an extra 5 or 6 boxes of ice cream which is an essential staple here. I was told that lining the freezer with aluminum foil would slow down another ice build up. I have no idea why that would work but I did it anyway. It was also an advantage that our delivery was two days out because we had to open a path and shovel around to the back of the house. Couldn't have planned it better.

Not just little stuff falls through the cracks. I've known, like you probably have, friends in the caregiver's role without really comprehending what their experience is. Wondering why a family member couldn't just cover for them a couple hours at a time. Why one couldn't step out the backdoor to visit the garden and pull weeds for half an hour? Why a visit from a friend wouldn't pick them up and brighten their day. Sometimes it's exactly the right medicine, and other times not. But to protect a loved one's privacy and dignity a lot of details aren't told. Tending to immediate and constant needs or constantly changing needs means other really important things can fall through the cracks.

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The golden strategy in helping a person dealing with memory challenges may be Don't Argue. It doesn't help.

One friend with vast professional experience tells me if someone says they're riding a white horse to Baton Rouge to meet the queen, I say, Great, when do we leave?

But another woman engaged in full time care insists that, to her, reinforcing fallacies is a disservice. Both of these can be true. I try to ask thought-provoking questions, to challenge fallacies non-aggressively.

One woman is "remembering" trips that she hasn't taken. It seems to indicate an active mind immersing herself in the books she's read and the movies she's enjoyed as life-long interests. After learning a lot about Tibetan culture and Antarctica, all the books and movies now blend and replay in her thought as travel memories. That store of ideas could fuel an interesting conversation: Would you go back? Do you think I'd like it there? But I also try to gently confront the delusion, "Why didn't you invite me to go? And, by the way, why didn't I get a post card?"

If a person, sitting in their own home, declares this is NOT their home and wants to leave, whether or not that's true doesn't need to be a point of contention. Side step. Reframing the conversation sometimes helps. Move from Who lives here, to

What is here: This is where you keep your boots and shoes. Your clothes are here, your sewing things, your photos, your books, etc. It's all here. This is where you sleep. You eat here. You might as well stay for now.

One man told his wife, We need to get out of here. Well, don't you like it here, she asked? Yes, but I might have a problem with one of your two husbands! So they went for a drive. Problem solved.

Many of us have talked with someone who fell into repetition of the same question many, many times. I've seen this challenge quickly resolved when the answer is written down big and bold and presented to them. They might have a stack of flash cards by the end of the visit but it can work.

I like to think of the caregiver's golden strategy as Be Creative, Don't Argue, Be Creative. Actually, it's not a bad strategy for all the rest of life too.



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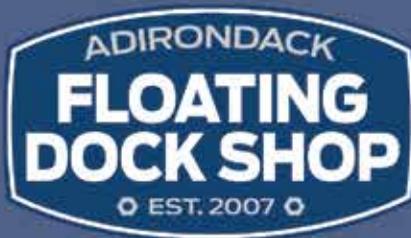
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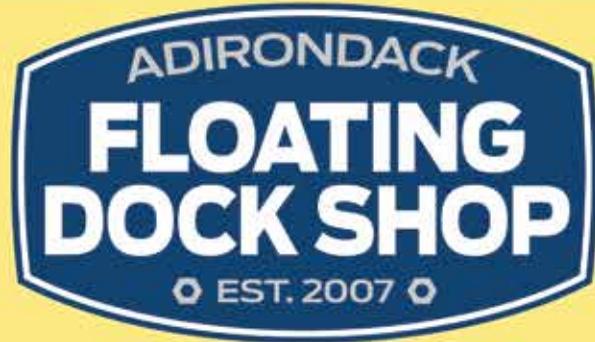
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NEWS From the President of the Great Sacandaga Lake Association

Tim Blydenburgh and Jane Kinney Denning

Invasive Woolly Adelgid found near the Great Sacandaga Lake

A pest known to kill one of the most prevalent and important trees in the Adirondacks has made its way to the northern shores of the Great Sacandaga Lake.

The hemlock woolly adelgid was found in the Conklingville area by a winter hiker about a year ago on those evergreens, say two professionals who monitor the invasive.

The discovery launched countermeasures and increased vigilance, said Brian Greene of The Nature Conservancy and Matthew Del Buono, extension aide for the New York State Hemlock Initiative at Cornell University. They reached out to the Great Sacandaga Lake Association to describe the threat and to see how the GSLA could help them with their community outreach.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an invasive insect threatening our forests and has been detected in the Great Sacandaga Lake watershed, where conservation professionals will be surveying this year. You can help protect hemlocks by checking branches for white, cotton-like spots and using the QR code to learn more and report sightings.

Website: blogs.cornell.edu/nyshemlockinitiative | Email: nyshemlockinitiative@cornell.edu



The invasive insect, already a problem in the Lake George area among other places, is a menace to the fourth most common tree in the Adirondacks, Greene said. Fewer hemlocks could lead to more erosion and less shade, among other disturbances, he said. The Hemlock Initiative notes that the “shallow, branching root systems” of the trees “help filter agricultural runoff and keep water clean along stream corridors and other water bodies.”

“This is a serious pest,” Greene said of the hemlock woolly adelgid. “It will take a fair amount of resources and community involvement ... to make sure this doesn’t get out of hand.”

The good news is that there are ways to stop the damage.

Del Buono said 1,756 *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles were released in mid-November last year in the Great Sacandaga Lake area of concern. The beetles are specialist predators of hemlock woolly adelgid and are established at 18 sites, with confirmed dispersal at more than 40 sites across the Lower Hudson Valley, Catskills and Finger Lakes, he said. This effort is targeted, legal and safe, Greene added.

You can help

Landowners and community members can do their part as well. Become a “forest pest hunter,” to spot these and other invasives. (Winter is an especially good time to find the woolly adelgid). So much of the land around the Great Sacandaga area is privately owned, so landowners can be key resources in alerting the two agencies.

“We can use the public’s help — for where we see it and also where we don’t see it,” Greene said. He is the Nature Conservancy’s Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program program director.

A meeting to bring people together on this issue in the Great Sacandaga Lake community is in the works for March or early April.

Eradicating the pest is likely not possible, he said, but using the right resources to fight the threat will allow this vital tree to remain on our landscape.

To learn more:
See <https://blogs.cornell.edu/nyshemlockinitiative/>

Also, see where the HWA has been spotted in the Adirondacks, go to nyimainvasives.org/hwa

Helen was a Witch.

Bradley Luberto

Helen died at 98 years old, the youngest of 15. Her oldest brother, and first-born sibling, was 20 years old at her birth. If he was alive at her death, he'd have been 118. As hard as that is to believe, it was even harder to fathom that her mother if still alive would be 139, giving birth to Helen at 41. And her father, being 11 years older would be 150.

Helen's kin filled the mountains and byways for miles around. And there was no one, no not anybody who wasn't related somehow. Some too close for outsiders. Almost all had the same last name, except the 2 or 3 others who worked their way in but were never excepted.

From the valley, and crooked lanes that southerners call "hollows," that ended in dead ends. To up and over the mountain top, all were kin.

A small store too had the same name, and they carried what couldn't be grown, or carded and spun.

Helen's birth house stood aside the road that led up the mountain in what was called, "the town."

The town where Helen's parents' home was, was one of maybe 5 others.

Roosters woke most up, but who wasn't up somewhere between 4 and 4:30 already, were called sleep-ins. Bells of cows from a farm just over the hill, made their dull clinking sound, as they headed back to the barn to be milked.

A store with a wooden porch, had streaked glass windows. On the porch, was two racks holding brooms, shovels, pitchforks and some rakes. It was a dirty white building, its paint peeling from the first and only time it was painted, probably a century ago.

Inside was a dusty mess. Smoke and coal dust from the pot belly stove that stood center of the store, but with a very long stove pipe stretching over head to a brick chimney, was caked black, and never cleaned.

The store carried everything as was said, that couldn't be made at home. Pins, needles, some fabrics, seeds, coffee, tea, hammers, saws, nails and screws. Tins lined some of the shelving. Some items were even behind shelving with glass doors in front of them. But all were too dark, too dirty with coal dust, to see much.

A brass cash register stood atop a wooden counter, next to it was a smudged curved glass case in which lie some pipes for smoking, and a few harmonicas. Oddly there were even some "fancy" women brooches on cardboard there. I guess a gift for a wife, or a sweetheart. But the cards they were pinned to, were also faded, seemingly rarely if ever sold. If purchasing anything, Ed would make his way from one of the benches on the porch, where he most always sat. Unless it was cold, then he'd be next to the stove, his feet on its worn silver edging, with a dog asleep beneath his feet.

At the register, he'd punch the glass topped keys, making the prices jump up on little white cards atop the register.

Two sad dogs made the store their home. One sitting on the porch always scratching. The other a sleep on its side, close to the pot belly stove, whether it was hot or not. Chickens roamed in and out the store as they pleased also. And it wasn't odd to

continued on next page

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see a nest somewhere with an egg or two in it. Ed who ran it, was not a man you'd want to mess with. Tall, thin, and mean, he had a look in his dark eyes that would make even the bravest give him room. You could tell he took a hand to his wife now and then. But with the bruises seen on his face at times, you know she fought back.

There was a blacksmith shop, that was also the closest thing you'd find to a wheelwright. The blacksmith was a big man, not in height but in girth. His body was like a barrel, his arms so big they didn't seem to even be able to go down at his sides. Even the largest of hammers looked small in his grip. The forge still had a large wood and leather bellows. It worked by a wooden pole that was pulled and in turn pulled a chain hooked to the bellows. Coal dust wafted through the air when more coal was added to his fire, until suddenly it exploded in its flame. Then followed by the roar of a volcano.

There was a gas station with two glass-topped tanks out front that showed how much gas you were buying. The shop fixed autos, but you'd wait an awful long time to get yours repaired if you did bring it in. Flats were about the only thing you'd get done fast. Faster, if you were just passing through.

Electricity was run up the mountain to the town, but not gas. But all still used coal and wood to heat the house and cook with. About the only thing electric most did have, was a refrigerator

and lights.

There was no plumbing. And no indoor bathroom. There was either a well out back or a hand pump well right in the kitchen at the sink. And every building or house had its outhouse out back. Baths were still taken in the kitchen in a large galvanized tub. Some privacy was given by an old sheet hung over a rope strung across the kitchen.

An auto fitted out to be a loaning library once made its way up the mountain. A pretty woman opened the sides of the auto, and back, to expose all the books. A few people walked down to the gas station where she had parked. They looked in more amazement of the oddity of anyone having that many books. Not many up the mountain could read. And the ones who could, had little time in life to read a story. There were no newspapers ever in the town, not many cared what was happening off the mountain.

There was a small white church with its steeple. On Sundays its eight pews were full, sometimes people stood along the back wall, as they heard the "good news." Religion was more than important in these parts. Live right and hope to live again. It was too bad that many thought just being within the doors meant "being saved," than living it in an everyday life.

To the side and behind the church was the graveyard. There

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were stones there so old they were worn smooth by time and the weather; some tilted this way or that. Some stones were fenced in by black iron fencing, a little gate to let family in. Some of these enclosures seemed never to be opened again. Vines covered the stones and even intertwined themselves through the fencing and gate, keeping out everyone forever now. Two or three tall monuments stood in the graveyard. Around them were smaller stones saying mother, father, even sister and brother, others said husband of, or wife of. A close-knit family for sure.

Helen's childhood friend was Rachel, the only girl nearby who was her same age. But Rachel was sickly. Thin, weak, her dull eyes with dark circles, looking like she was always in want of sleep. There were other kids, mostly boys, or older girls. There were a few "young-ins," as everyone called the other girls; and some boys, but they were babies, or "toddlers."

Rachel was the only friend Helen had. Rachel was never asked to do much by her parents. She didn't have chores as Helen, or the other kids had. Rachel's mother kept Rachel's hair, mostly in two braids. Rachel said, it was because her mother didn't want it to get so tangled, as she spent so much time in bed.

On good days, Rachel was out of bed, and out of the house. She didn't roam the fields and forest, as Helen did. Mostly Rachel when younger, sat on her porch, playing with a few of her

dolls. Rag-dolls they were, made by her mother. Little limp rag dolls with mismatched buttons for eyes, and clothing from flour sacks.

A small crick flowed through the woods, and under the stone bridge the road went over down past Rachel's home.

The crick made its way back of Helen's home too, but quite a ways away. Sometimes Helen and Rachel would go down by this crick and throw pebbles into the water. Rachel never really liked the water, maybe it was from hearing the stories of an older brother of hers drowning in this same crick when he was young. The story was that he was playing with friends after a heavy rain. The crick was flowing fast, as it did at times, after a hard storm. Somehow, he slipped in. His friend said they tried to get him out of the water, but it was moving fast and pulled him under a downed tree. He went under its trunk. His friends said they climbed out even on to this tree, onto its trunk. They said how he was reaching up to them, but his hand, and theirs was wet, and they kept slipping. Soon the water was higher, and it kept washing over his face. That's when he just didn't put his hand up any longer. They ran home, one of them even going to Ed's store. Everyone about, came to help. But by the time the adults got there, even the trunk of the tree was under water. There were no undertakers nearby. The boy's body was taken back to his home. Rachel's mother would tell how he was



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put on the table, right on the kitchen table. She said how they washed him, and put on his best clothing. The blacksmith, made a coffin for him. He even burnt the boy's name into the lid of the coffin.

The blacksmith had a two wheeled cart he used in his shop. They put the boys coffin on that and wheeled it to the graveyard. In such a small town, everyone knew everyone, so many came to the graveyard that day. The Reverend said a few words, and a prayer, then ended by saying, God had his reasons for everything done on the earth.

When Rachel was about 12, she started getting weaker and weaker. Very often not even leaving her bedroom that was on the second floor of her home. Her mother would set a chair by the upper window, and she and Helen would talk for a while, until Rachel said, she was getting to tired to sit in the chair any longer.

The last time Helen saw Rachel, was when Rachel's mother had asked Helen's mother, to send her down to see her daughter.

Helen went up the stairs to Rachel's room. Rachel was in her bed, thin, white, just looking at the ceiling.

Helen came next to the

continued on next page

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bed, one of Rachel's arms was out of the cover that was over her. Helen rubbed her friend's arm, it was so thin, so cold. Rachel's dark eyes looked over to Helen.

Rachel's lips moved, but Helen could hear nothing.

She rubbed Rachel's arm again, and said you rest, I'll come over and we'll play another day. Rachel's head nodded slightly yes. Then she was just still.

Rachel was buried next to her brother of whom she never knew.

Something changed in Helen after Rachel's death, she withdrew from family and began spending more time alone in the woods.

She married at a young age, marrying the son of her father's brother. He was a good man but died in a logging accident.

Their home was the last one in the town, until the road went off into the woods; the next town being some 30 or 40 miles away.

After the death of her husband, she moved to a logger's cabin deep in the woods.

Abandoned by one of the mills that slowly moved out after the old growth forest was gone as there was no longer money to be made.

There were many logging camps that now stood empty. Ponds made to run the great saw blades of the mills were now stagnant, and the saw blade, now stood rusting. The lodging for the men, sometimes 100's of men, slowly fell back to the forest.

The cabin Helen found, was one built for a foreman, better made than the large cabins built for the men. Those were made to house 50 men or more. Rows and rows of wooden bunk beds 4 high in some.

The foreman cabins were built well and strong. A rubble fireplace, and glass windows, whereas the bunkhouses for the men, often had oiled paper for their windows, if that. More often these bunkhouses had just wooden shutters to cover the window opening. In these windows men would stuff old blankets and such to seal up the openings the best they could to keep the cold wind out.

It was her time alone in the woods, that she began to know the plants and flowers. Some were always known, elderberry for a spring tonic, dandelion was good for most everything, and tea from wild rose hips, was a relaxing treat. But she started to learn more. There was luck in some pebbles, where others saw just a stone. And the carved markings on a tree seemed or could, make it produce better fruit next year. She learned the stars, and followed their course over the seasons. And it began that the wind in the pines, wasn't the wind, but whispers.

She made teas from plants that she wondered of their workings. Some making her terribly ill. Others, remarkably well. She blotted her wounds with spiders' webs, and bound them with plantain, while comfrey could sooth a sprain. The sting of a bee, brought pain, but if stung to a boil it drained it.

Word was spread about the witch woman in the hills.

Helen began to homestead, chickens for eggs, goats for milk, rabbits for meat. In her garden were beans, carrots and potatoes. There was a wild apple tree nearby, and thick stands of blueberries and raspberries.

She blanched acorns for meal, and used chicory and dried dandelion root for coffee. She made teas from white pine needles, and the leaves of the sassafras tree. She even learned how pine resin could close a large wound, as good as any stitch.

Helen seldom came back to town, but when she did, it was for flour and sugar.

She gathered small wood whenever she saw it, and learned to swing an ax as well as any lumberman. The buck saw she found in a dilapidated bunkhouse, needed only heavy twine to hold its arms tight and its blade strong. She drained the stagnant pond, and it filled anew, the water not being held back any longer by the sluice to the mill wheel.

She yearned for companionship at times. The nights were cold, and even lonely, not being in the arms of her husband. She

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never didn't get along with her siblings, but she was never close, never felt connected.

Of the 15, six had died. Logging accidents took the lives of many men, birth to women, and in some cases, birth to very young women.

Farming, and dairying took a lot of work, with long hours. Farms too were far apart, and family didn't come together just to see each other. Some moved away, down out of the mountain, and of them, they were never seen.

Her mother died first. Helen was married, and her husband alive. Worked to death many said her mother was. Raising 15 children, a husband to take care of, and little to take care of her, the life just went out of her.

One of Helen's brothers were still living at home. It was good that he was there to help his father in ways. But his father got ill one winter. With no real heat in that house, other than the cast iron stove in the kitchen, he set up a bed in the kitchen, to help keep his father warm. But the cold he came down with, got the better of him, and he died one night in his sleep.

The son kept on at the

continued on next page

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house for a while. But he wasn't one for steady work, and the upkeep of a home. He moved down off the mountain, and was another one, just never seen or heard from again.

The house still stands there aside the road. Empty, a roof with holes, broken windows from the dare of friends. The yard over grown, the porch steps gone, the screen of the door hanging in curls.

After Helen's husband died, there was no reason to stay in town. That's when she sought out a place to live, a place to live alone, no family, no kin, no one.

That first winter was the worst for Helen.

The foreman's cabin had no furniture, other than that of what Helen could make herself. She lashed together sticks and limbs.

She was able to find flat boards from the fallen bunkhouses to make somewhat of a bed. Upon it she put a thick layer of pine boughs, and a wool blanket she had brought with her. A heavy quilt made by her mother many years ago, was her only covering.

The bed, she set next to the fireplace. She learned if she heated rocks, then wrapped them in rags, she could set them in the bed near her to keep warm. But she was always fearful that their heat would set the pine boughs ablaze.

She also found out, that if she heated rocks and set them about the cabin, that their heat would radiate off them, warming other parts of the small room.

A cast iron pot, kettle and fry pan, a silver spoon, a fork, and a large knife, was about all she had, and made up all the wares she had to her new life. In time, she had learned to carve spoons and ladles from wood, and a trencher for a plate.

The latch on the door was broken, and she always worried someone would be about now that she was there. She planned to fix it, but until then, she, at night, rested a stout heavy log standing upright against the door.

There was less and less a need for Helen to go back to town. Sometimes a year or more past before she did. When she did, many said, they thought she had died out there all alone.

She'd smile a smile, that showed half her teeth were now missing. As they went bad, she learned to work them out with a stick. She thought; wondered if I was dead, but not to come out to see. That was "kin" for you.

About the only people who did come out her way, were ones looking for help. They had heard of her "witch-ways," as they were called

She was able to stop a bleeding, without even seeing the



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person. They'd point to where the cut was, and Helen would start her ways on it. Sometimes she'd build a small fire outside her cabin. There was a ring of large stones she had somehow set up herself. These weren't little stones, some of these stones were 3 or 4 feet tall. The ring was a good 12 feet or so across. She never said why she did make this ring, or maybe no one asked. In its center, was a table of stone also, the top large and flat. It was here, she would build that small fire of twigs and such. As it grew in size, she'd throw on a handful of some dried plants. The smoke would darken, then come up out of the flame, curling upwards almost looking like a snake. She'd cover the flame with a green hide, then suddenly pull it off, herself saying some words, as the smoke went upwards.

Sometimes, and for other ailments, she asked for something of that person, maybe a ring, or a bit of cloth from clothing they had worn. If they had a lock of hair, it seemed all the better. With one of these, she'd set it in a bowl of water, the blue sky, and the trees reflecting in the water.

She dipped her finger in and stir the water over the item.

Other times, she'd bag up a kind of a poultice, dried herbs in a small cloth bag on a string. She'd tell who she was helping, not to open it, but to wear it around their neck.

Helen never asked for any money or payment for her help, but

only a few walked away with just a thank you, most gave her silver or gold coins, pressing them into the palm of her thin but callused hand.

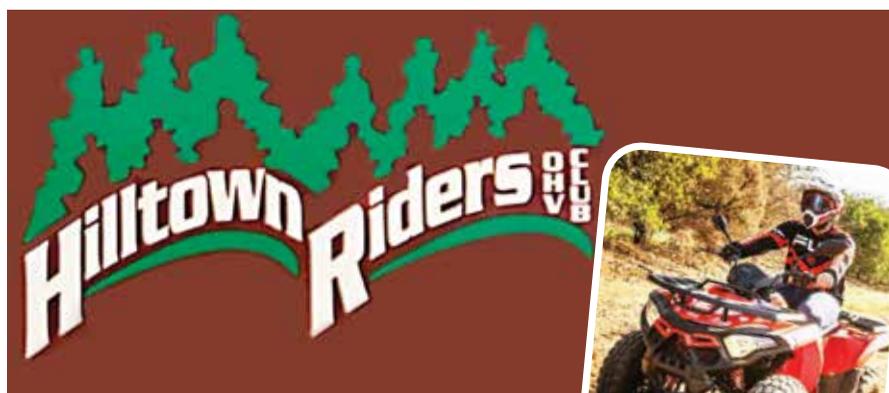
Her cabin once empty, was now full. She had gotten more boards from the fallen mills and bunkhouses for shelving. Upon these shelving stood bottles and bottles of herbs and such, their tops stopped by dried corn cob, or cork when she had some. Large crocks stood on the floor filled, and herbs hung drying from the beams of the cabin.

The bottles may have come back with Helen from things she bought in town. The crocks no doubt found among the ruins of the bunkhouse and such.

The springs and summers, falls and winters past, and Helen remained in her remote world. She was old, she was tired. She had made a chair of brambles of wood, its tree branch arms worn to a smooth polish from the years of her rubbing them with her hands. A great owl seemed to befriend her, and many a night he'd sit atop the highest of the ring of stones, silhouetted against the full moon.

It was in this chair as she sat one night, the fire in the old fireplace burned low, its coals ruby red. Steam rose silently from

continued on next page



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the kettle that hung on the iron cross bar of the hearth.

Helen turned her head looking out her window, the owl was on his rock before the moon. It looked at her, she could see it point like ears aside its head. Suddenly, it raised its wings, and lifted from the rock, and in a way took Helen's soul with him.



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Lunch and programs are held each Thursday at the Northville Meal Site which is now located in the Fellowship Hall in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, 161 Reed St. Northville. The site is accessible by stairs and by elevator.

Mar 5, OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Beef Stew with Vegetables, Biscuit, Fruited Jell-O.

No Program this date. We will celebrate birthdays with a cake provided by Don McLeod

Mar 12 OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Turkey with Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Corn, and Banana.

STFSL Program at 12:30: Samantha Hall-Saladino will present "Rural Social Welfare: a Case Study of the Fulton County Poorhouse"

Mar 19 OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Chicken and Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Fruit Cup.

No Program this date.

Mar 26 OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Roast Pork Dinner, Stuffing, Mixed veggies, Cookie.

STFSL Program at 12:30: We will play bingo, with cash prizes! There will be a blood pressure clinic this day

Call Fulton County OFA at 518-736-5650 to make lunch reservations. If you are unable to attend the lunch, please call OFA by 9 am to cancel your meal! If the OFA meal site is closed, there will be no program that day. For closure information check channels 6, 10 or 13 and WENT 1340 radio.

Additional information about STFSL can be found online at STFSL.org.

For information about trips or to request volunteer medical transportation, call STFSL at 518-752-8737 and leave a message.

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- CHAIR YOGA THURSDAYS 10-11 AM AT THE NORTHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- DEFENSIVE DRIVING FOR SENIORS (AS SCHEDULED)
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Stones from the Creek

Stony Creek Town Historian Cindy Cameron

I recently sat down with Dot Bartell, the owner of the Stony Creek Inn, (for 45 years), to get her perspective on what has been some of the things that have contributed to the longevity and love of her business.

As with all great stories, we have to start at the beginning.

Dot was born in Manhattan and moved to Long Island when she was eight years old. She graduated high school and started working for the Federal Aviation Administration at Kennedy Airport. She moved to the Lake Luzerne area in 1972/ 1973 through her friend Hank Soto (original Stony Creek Band member) who was her neighbor in Long Island. His mom and dad Elsie and Henry Soto had place in Lake Vanare called Cabin in the Pines. This place had a small bar, dining area and some cabins in the back. Dot would come up to visit the Soto's on weekends, and holidays. Also, at this time the Stony Creek Band was being formed with original members Hank Soto, John Strong and Michael Roden. They were the ones who "found" Stony Creek and contacted Dot and said you have to come check out this little town. She was 23 years old. The first time that she went

to the Inn was on a square dance night and was just enthralled with the experience, "the funniest thing to do". Art Pratt held these square dances every Saturday night. Her first job at the Inn was cooking, after a late Saturday night, she went home set her alarm to go back in on Sunday. Unfortunately, the alarm didn't go off and she didn't get up till noon. When she got to the Inn, Art Pratt said your fired! She said oh Art you don't mean that, and he said no I don't. She decided after that she would just stay up, because she had to feed the hunters breakfast on Sunday mornings. The Inn at the time was the happening place to be. The music was a big draw, whether a specific band or a spontaneous jam.

As time went on met Gail Stearns and became friends with her and moved to Harrisburg Road where Gail and her then husband Chris lived. After that Dot moved to the little house next to the Norkett house on Hadley Road and paid \$35.00 a month rent. At that time Dot worked in Lake George tending bar for 4 plus years, one of the places was called the Long Branch. Does anyone remember that Miss Kitty from the TV show Matt Dillon worked in a bar called the Long Branch? Dot would work here in the summers and then go to Florida in the winter to work, and it was there that she met her future husband, John

continued on page 44



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Fickel. Dot was still in contact with Gail during this time, and received a phone call one day from Gail saying Dot the Inn is for sale and my dad wants to buy it. Do you want to come in and we'll manage it. And she immediately said yes, and said I will be back in May after Mother's Day.

When Dot returned Gail and she got together and found out that the Inn had a Small Business Administration loan. At that time the SBA didn't go through the bank, they were the bank, so you had direct loans from them. Gail's father was unable to take over the mortgage because he had too many assets. The loans were setup for people who needed the money to open a business, and "that was them, because they didn't have any money". And ironically Art Pratt, had secured that original mortgage, they would target minority and because Art was Native American, he was able to get the mortgage. When Gail and Dot went to apply, they were able to get it because it was women in business. The mortgage amount in 1979 when they started working on it was 28,000 dollars. It took a while, and there was a lot of work to be done, not only did they do the work themselves, but they also had help from some people in town. One major undertaking was ripping up all the floors, with one exception, the dance floor. The wood for the dance floor came from trees that were cut, milled and laid in the early 1900's, during the Arehart ownership before electricity. If you go down in the basement, when there are



people dancing, the floor actually moves and gives. There was a gap in time between the owners Art Pratt, and Joseph Mansfield before Dot and Gail purchased the Inn, doing so after the passing of Joseph and his wife. They secured the mortgage in July but didn't open until Columbus weekend, 1980. Coincidentally this year (their 45th year in business) fell on the same date as their first year's opening date.

I asked Dot what were some of the challenges that she faced, not only as a woman, but challenges in general. She said it was all a big challenge, but we were young at the time and really didn't think about it. Dot was 30 years old when she purchased the Inn. She said that they just went for it, got right to work, and saw it as a positive challenge. As a woman, when you were working with men or businesses did you get any push back? Well in subtle ways, in buying the place, we had a very kind, old gentleman for our lawyer, and throughout the process and even the day that they went to sign the papers, he was like are you sure you two girls want to do this? Of course, their answer

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was yes! They had a lot of help and the SBA (located in Albany) was amazing. Dot and Gail got their liquor license doing all the paperwork themselves, and at that time there was a satellite office in Glens Falls. There was a man there named Phil, every other Wednesday, that is where they got their paperwork and started filling it out, they would go over to the office and Phil would look through it, give them suggestions, or would let them know what other documentation that they may need, he really walked them through it.

Now you said that you came from Manhattan/Long Island, did you feel out of place coming to a small rural town? No not at all, I found it a very welcoming place, and throughout the years



she had camped, even as far away as California, and living on the south shore of Long Island, she swam and did activities that were not unlike things you would do in a small town. So, it was not a culture shock of city girl comes to the country.

How did you survive in a town with a population of just a little over 400 people? The Inn back before Dot and Gail purchased it was the place to go, Art Pratt was the person who invested in the place, he was a big personality, a draw for the Inn, not only with his music, but the whole vibe of going out for a drink, doing some dancing and getting something to eat. (His menu wasn't to the extent of what is offered today at the Inn.) Dot and Gail just tried to keep it simple. Norm Williams, a fiddler and piano player came into the Inn one day while they were working on the place and said this is great, but don't make it too fancy. They have never forgotten that to this day.

In 1980 this whole area was depressed, when the guy called Dot and said you were approved at 18%, she was like wow! He said don't get too excited about it, you pay cash for everything you buy, beer, liquor, large amounts of products, and after a year we will look at it again, and they would probably lower the rate. So, they did that and after a year they were told, oh after 3 years,

continued on next page



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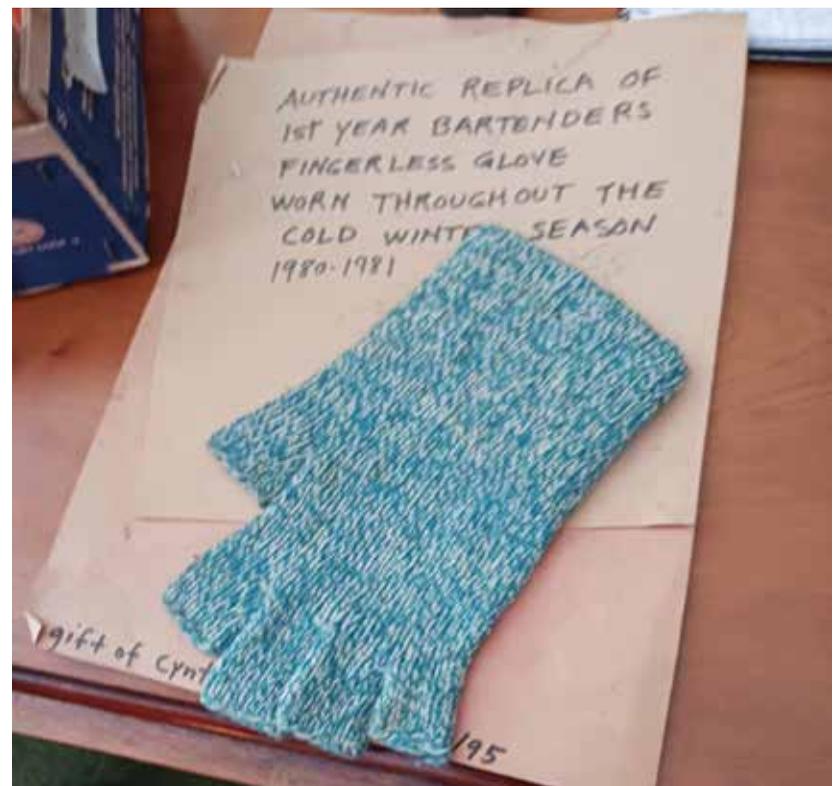
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after 3 years they did get a lower rate. Dot said that the SBA was a lifesaver, and had retired business men who would come to new businesses and give their advice. He looked things over and said that you really aren't doing bad, but for the next year don't buy anything on credit, and only buy things that are turning a profit. In the beginning they were open year-round and they had some winters that were brutal, in fact the first year they were open they wore gloves inside. See attached photo. Eventually, they started closing on Monday and Tuesday's. After a few years in the business, Gail left the Inn to pursue a career in nursing.

They did square dances every Saturday night for 10 years, and also continued the once-a-month fiddle jam that Art Pratt originally started. Hunting season was huge back in those days, which was a real shot in the arm before winter came. When they started closing up in the winters, they would open back up around St. Patrick's Day, usually on a Sunday and offer all day corned beef and cabbage. They also had Irish music. Later the Sundays featured the Stony Creek Band and Mexican food, Stony Creek Band has the distinction of always opening up for the Inn, as well as closing for them at the end of their season.

March weather could and can be tricky with fluctuating temperatures, ice, snow, wind, so the opening date was moved to April 1st. The day was called trout fool's day and they held a trout contest. It cost a dollar to enter, people would bring in

their fish to be measured and later added to a fish fry for the participating contests. Just in case there wasn't any fish caught, the Inn would cook hot dogs and other food items to be able to have something for the fishermen. Over the years there were some really nice fish brought in. Some people would even go to Wilcox Lake to fish and the ice would sometimes have just gone out. When asked what made the Inn a success, Dot said it was a combination, the food (always cooked to order), the music, (always a big variety and types) which never had them pigeon holed, and the people who came, all types of people, and they all had a common goal to enjoy the Inn as they wanted with others wanting the same thing. A welcoming experience which is always what people get when they walk in the door. The musicians no matter where they came from love the stage, the sound, the customers, feeling welcome and original music is encouraged and of course the dance floor.



Originally the bar was a horseshoe bar but it was changed to what it is now and lumber was gotten from Jackie Perkins. John Fickel Dot's husband did the carpentry work (they were married on September 23, 1985) along with Tim McCoy, as well as help from the local townspeople, including kids. When the existing wood was removed, the kids would remove the nails, and the wood would be repurposed in the Inn where needed. They sandblasted paint inside and out to remove the color of yellow paint, that someone must have gotten a good deal on because it was everywhere. They removed layers and layers of linoleum, they cleaned the old beer coolers, which they still use to this day.

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John and Sonny Lent did the electricity and plumbing; John also went to ACC and took a refrigeration course.

Dot said they are now into the third generation of people who come to the Inn, people will say my grandfather came here. And she said it was unfathomable to think how many people's lives have been affected by the Inn. When asked what was a food favorite, she said not a favorite per se, because they serve what they like, but it is all the fresh ingredients, and they cook to order. Her husband John was also the chef for many years, when John and Dot got cancer Joe Albon came on as chef he had been working with John in the kitchen for many years. The longevity is staff, Val Lanfear worked for the for 40 years, Jean Walters retired out of the kitchen, after working 20+ years, over the years the number of staff has been relatively low, because once they came to work at the Inn, they stayed.

When asked what was a favorite memory that she had of the Inn, and she said she had so many it would be hard to pick, but she did have a favorite day, Mother's Day and surprisingly Sundays too, she can be tired, but when Sundays come around the excitement and anticipation are still there. But by far the favorite thing of all for her are the people, they are the thing that keeps the whole thing going for her.

What is the biggest change that you have seen in the Inn? As far as that really nothing, same mission, same plan. But for her personally it is technology, she doesn't do any of it, she still does pen and pencil. Dealing with the different businesses is more challenging than it was back in the day. The personal one on one interaction is missing, now it is phone, texting, emailing. For example, the beer and liquor companies you can call your order into the office. She says no I want a salesman. The bean counters don't understand that she will buy more from a salesman, than just placing her order. They are talking about the product, they know the product, she finds out what's going on, who buying what, talk about other businesses, so for her she still has salesmen come versus calling it in. When asked about retirement or a golden party for 50 years, the answer was I don't think that far ahead, I am in it so that is where the focus is. We are getting older, and there are people interested, but you have to have the heart for it. Health is also a consideration, which we have had some issues, but family, friends, and customers have always been there for us, and we appreciate that, and find ways to give back.

Dot has had very few incidents happen at the Inn, her staff is very keen on that, and Dot is the bouncer. If things are getting

continued on next page



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a little heated the staff immediately goes and gets Dot, who takes control of the situation. She has 3 rules, no politics, no religion and no betting on the pool table, any of those things can be trouble in their own right and then add alcohol. She has been challenged in past, from people saying you can't tell me what I can say or not say, and she says actually I can. She had written to the SLA and requested a letter from them to have in writing what her rights were as an owner. When the letter arrived it clearly stated she could ask anyone to leave her establishment, even if they were considered a potential problem. That letter is posted on her bulletin board. She never calls them out in front of people, she speaks to them privately, which they appreciate as well as the other customers. Things get worked out, and everybody goes back to having a good time, which is ultimately what everyone is there for and wants the opportunity to come back.

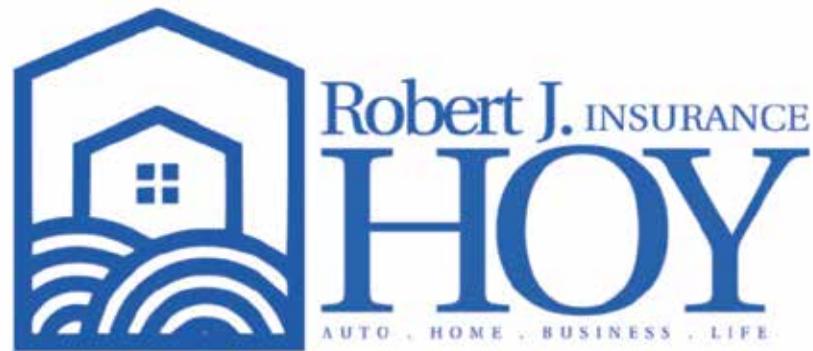
The name recognition for the Stony Creek Inn is amazing, I was telling Dot that while on vacation in another state, I said that I was from Stony Creek, and there was a group of people there who when they heard that said we know the Stony Creek Inn, in fact we have a camp in Lens Lake, an area that I had been recently researching. Dot said that she has gotten the same experience, someone said I was in California sitting outside and someone walked by with a Stony Creek Inn t-shirt on. Dot and family took a trip to Florida and John took a night fishing trip

and mentions Stony Creek and a passenger on the boat says I know the Stony Creek Inn. Another time a friend of theirs is in Phoenix and gets talking with a guy and mentions he has a camp in Stony Creek, and the guy says oh, do you know Dot and John from the Stony Creek Inn.

People often ask where they get their clientele for the rooms that they rent above the bar, they come from all over and for all different reasons. The people who work in town, the cable guys, loggers, family, and not only from the states but from other countries. They had a family from Ireland that happen to find them, who take a trip every year somewhere in another country. They had never been to the United States and this was going to be their trip. One of the draws for the dad was he wanted his children to experience rural life. He said that they would be in this area from Thursday-Sunday, leaving on Sunday, which Dot said that you have to stay through Sunday that is when our big doings are. He said he would call her back and let her know what they had decided to do. She figured that she won't hear from him again, since when he called it was months before their scheduled vacation. Five minutes later the phone rings and it's him saying my wife said yes, we will be staying. Dot sent them to the rodeo on Friday night, they loved the Inn, on Sunday they had the Willie Playmore band, who play some Irish music. The reason this trip was important to this family was it was going to be probably one of the last family trips, one kid was going to college, one was moving, kind of a coming of age. Every year she gets a Christmas card or postcard from them; they also did other traveling in other states while they were in the United States. The first card that Dot received from them after they returned home, said we all agree that Stony Creek was the best part of our trip

Finally, what would you like people to remember about the Inn and your 45 years of ownership? She has had people say to her I think I have been to your place and she tells them if you think you have been here then you haven't because you would remember. What she would like people to remember is that Stony Creek is an adventure, no matter where they come from, whether it's someone from Warrensburg who has never been here or from Ireland. They remember the peace, the people they met, the music, the time, not only a memory but a feeling.

Till next time, Cindy



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Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club

Broadalbin-Perth Lions Join With Local Church to Rise Against Food Insecurity

BROADALBIN, N.Y. (Feb. 1, 2026) - The Broadalbin-Perth Lions participated in the “Rise Against Hunger” meal packaging event held today at the Broadalbin-Perth High School. The event was sponsored by Broadalbin’s First Presbyterian Church and the more than 150 volunteers were on pace to meet their goal of 43,000 meals having packaged almost half that amount within the first hour of the event.

Rise Against Hunger, an international humanitarian organization, is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. With locations across the U.S. and six international offices, the organization provides immediate nourishment for those facing hunger today and implements sustainable solutions that will lift entire communities for years to come.

Bob Townsend, Broadalbin-Perth Lions President, said that



Teams from the Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club helped pack meals at Broadalbin-Perth High School this weekend, in support of Rise Against Hunger. Along with Broadalbin’s First Presbyterian Church and other volunteers, at least 42,000 meals were packaged for distribution to those in need of nutritious meals around the world. (Photo courtesy Broadalbin-Perth Lions/Lion Ed Balaban).



Broadalbin-Perth Lions, from left, Tom Kevlin, Tim Ott, and Bob Townsend measure and package food during the Rise Against Hunger event sponsored by Broadalbin’s First Presbyterian Church and held at Broadalbin-Perth High School this weekend. The Lions along with about 150 other volunteers packaged at least 42,000 meals during the event. (Photo courtesy Broadalbin-Perth Lions/Lion Ed Balaban).



Taking a break from packaging meals are Broadalbin-Perth Lions and friends, back row from left, club president Rob Townsend, Bill Suchy, and Tim Ott; second row from left, Marty Stewart, Jillian Kenna, Valerie Kevlin, Linda Swietlicki, and Tom Kevlin; front row from left, Kevlins’ grandson Jamas, unidentified student, Katelyn Kenna, and Debbie Murphy. The event was sponsored by Broadalbin’s First Presbyterian Church and at least 42,000 meals were packaged during the course of the afternoon. (Photo courtesy Broadalbin-Perth Lions/Lion Ed Balaban).

continued on next page

“food insecurity and addressing hunger is one of the Lions’ global causes and we serve to ensure all community members have access to nutritious foods. Joining with Broadalbin’s First Presbyterian Church to support Rise Against Hunger in this effort is a prime example of how we as individuals and organizations can act locally and have a global impact.”

Rise Against Hunger New York City Area Event Facilitator Adia Ledbetter was grateful for the Lions’ involvement, who have participated in this event for the last four years at Broadalbin-Perth High School. “While Broadalbin is one of the smallest communities that choose to get involved with Rise Against Hunger, they are one of the most impactful in terms of community involvement and production”, said Ledbetter. Each box of food can sustain one child for a full school year.

While the exact destination for this year’s efforts has not yet been determined, Ledbetter said that 37 countries were served last year including Congo, Haiti, and the Republic of the Philippines.

“Nuggets and News” from the Town of Lake Luzerne

Historian, Pam Morin 518-696-7184

Twin Towns PART 4

In celebration of the United States 1775 Commemorative Anniversary of the American Revolution, I have chosen to shine a light on the writings of a HLHS alumni and veteran, Frank Tom Beattie. “The Luzerne and Hadley Story” was written in 1957. It was printed in a small paper booklet and published by airway-photo-lake Luzerne. Frank highlight details that capture the growth of what he calls the “Twin Towns.” This includes the evolution and milestones from the of the mid 1700’s. forward

Religious practices in the early days were not neglected. Many settlers were Quakers but there is no record of a Quaker Church being built. A Union Church was erected in 1807, about three miles north of the Village of Luzerne. A new Union Church was erected in Luzerne on the site of the present-day Presbyterian Church in 1837, were both Methodist and Presbyterians worshiped until 1853. In that year the Methodists under the guidance of their Pastor, the Rev. Henry Williams, erected their own church and still later a new Parsonage. This was destroyed by fire in 1864.



The Presbyterians, not to be outdone, purchased the Union Church in 1855. This was repaired, at the cost of \$5,000.00 and under the pastorate of Rev. Charles Skillman, a year later the Rockwell Falls Presbyterian Church, with only sixteen members, was formally organized, being dedicated on January 17, 1882. At that time under the ministry of Rev. A. Rankin, the beautiful stone Church which was burned in December of 1926 was commenced, in December 1882, the first service was held. The building was not completed until spring and on July 28, 1883 it was dedicated.

The first church in the Village of Hadley was the Wesleyan Methodist, organized in 1884, with Walter Sutliff as leader. Episcopal services were first held in Wilcox Hall, in 1865, and later in the school house with the Rev. E.E. Butler of Glens Falls in charge of the Parish.



**We will be closed January through
March. See you in April!**

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Sunday Coffee Hour and Fellowship at 10:00 AM
Wednesday 10 AM and 6 PM - OfficeHours

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday March 7 - 10 AM Church Council
Saturday March 14 - 2 PM Community Covered Dish

Communion - First Sunday of the Month

All are welcome who desire to turn away from all that is contrary to God's will and follow the way of Jesus. It is a time to be renewed by experiencing in a powerful way the very presence of the risen Christ. A Jesus who reaches out in love, offers forgiveness and the opportunity to be channels of God's love.

UPCOMING - SERVICES

March 1 - Second Sunday of Lent - Communion
Scripture: Psalm 121, Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17
Message: Say Yes
Young People's Time: "Trust Me"

March 8 - Third Sunday of Lent
Scripture: Psalm 95; John 4:5-43
Message: Life Giving Water
Young People's Time: "Story of a Pair of Wells"

March 15 - Fourth Sunday of Lent
Scripture: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-41
Message: Can You See
Young People's Time: Glasses

March 22 - Fifth Sunday of Lent
Scripture: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

continued on next page



Message: From Death to Life
Young People's: A Simple Cross

The pastor also offers a Daily Photo Devotion to all who are interested by email, revdavid76@gmail.com or on the pastor's blog at www.adirondacksights.wordpress.com/blog-posts/.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: David E Smith,
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Clergy Column

What is March?

March is an eagerly anticipated month for many, for those of Irish Heritage it is the celebration of St Patrick's Day, for sports fans it is March Madness and exciting Basketball games, for those who hate Winter it is the official beginning of Spring. It is a time to celebrate.

In the process of the celebrations, it is easy to lose sight of a major function of the month. It is within the Christian faith a time of preparation for and anticipation of a celebration that is greater than all other celebrations combined. It is a preparation for the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus. It is a time to celebrate that God's love has conquered even the power of death. It is a time to celebrate that our limited time here on earth is not all there is to life. It is a time to celebrate that Jesus was willing to die upon a cross that we might know God's forgiveness and be given a fresh start on life; life that Jesus' resurrection proved did not end at the grave.

Every denomination has resources available to assist you in developing a devotional life, many of which can be found on the web or in a bookstore. Within the United Methodist Church The Upper Room has many resources which can be found at www.upperroom.org. The Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church also offers resources at www.unyumc.org/ministries/spiritual-disciplines. In addition I offer a Daily Photo Devotion which you can receive via email, just send an email with the subject "Photo Devotion" or through my blog at Blog Posts – Daily Photo Devotions (<https://adirondacksights.wordpress.com/blogposts/>).

March is a time of getting rid of everything that stands between us and fully experiencing God's love. It is a time for giving up habits and practices that cause us to turn away from God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It is a time to develop practices that help us know God's presence in our lives. Lent is more than just 40 days of denial. It is a time to say goodbye forever to destructive habits and adopt devotional practices that will sustain you throughout the coming days.

For more information contact: David E. Smith, revdavid76@gmail.com , 518-572-4051

A Beginning Beekeepers Journey



by Susan Armstrong

Honey bees are often associated with the hum of summer, the sweetness of honey, and the efficiency of pollination. Yet, beneath their industrious reputation lies a world of profound mystery and strange, almost supernatural, phenomena. From ancient folklore to modern scientific discoveries, bees continue to baffle researchers, suggesting a level of collective intelligence and, perhaps, emotional connection that we are only just beginning to grasp.

Here are some of the most fascinating, lesser-known mysteries regarding honey bees.

1. The Telling the Bees" Phenomenon

Perhaps the most mysterious phenomenon is the deeply rooted tradition known as "telling the bees". For centuries, European folklore has held that if a beekeeper passes away, the bees must be informed, or they will leave, stop producing honey, or die.

- The Ritual: When a death occurred, families would "put the bees in mourning" by draping a black cloth over the hives.
- The Mystery: Tales abound of bees attending their keeper's funeral or gathering on their coffin. In a 1956 case in Massachusetts, bees swarmed a funeral tent, clinging to the ceiling to "bear witness" to their keeper's death. Another case reported bees visiting a graveside a mile from their hive for a week before departing.
- The Scientific Side: While folklore often points to grief, some skeptics suggest these events might be related to the disturbance of the hive causing defensive swarming or the disruption of familiar pheromones and vibrations.

2. The 3-Mile "Mental Map" Mystery

Honey bees have a brain no larger than a sesame seed, yet they can create detailed mental maps of their environment, navigating up to 3–5 miles from their hive.

- The Navigational Puzzle: Bees use the sun and polarized light to find their way home, but they also use a "navigation memory" based on linear landmarks like roads, rivers, and tree lines.
- The "3 Feet or 3 Miles" Rule: Beekeepers know that if you move a hive less than 3 feet, the bees will find it. If you move it more than 3 miles, they will reorient. Move it in between, and they will return to the original spot, confused.

3. They Recognize Human Faces

Bees do not just see colors and motion; they possess advanced pattern recognition skills. A study showed that bees can learn to recognize human faces, similar to how they recognize unique flowers. They can be trained to recognize a specific person, such as

their beekeeper, and associate them with a reward.

4. The Supernatural “Waggle Dance”

When a forager finds a new food source, she returns to the hive and performs the “waggle dance”—a figure-eight movement that communicates the exact distance and direction of the food source.

- **The Unsolved Part:** The exact mechanism of how this information is transmitted in a dark hive—whether through vibrations on the comb, sound, or pheromones—is still not fully understood.

- **Collective Decision-Making:** When choosing a new home, scout bees “vote” on potential locations through their dances. When a consensus (a quorum) is reached, the entire swarm moves in unison.

5. They Can “Reverse Age”

In an astonishing feat of biological adaptation, older foraging bees can reverse brain aging when needed. If a hive loses its younger, “nurse” bees (which care for the brood), the older foragers can revert to nurse duties, and their brains revert to a younger state.

6. The “Sperm Selection” Mystery

A queen bee mates with up to 20 drones in a single, high-altitude, one-time-only mating flight. She stores this genetic material for her entire life. However, researchers have found that the queen may filter or reject certain sperm, allowing her to choose which genetic material is used to fertilize eggs.

7. The Mystery of Magnetic Fields

Honey bees have a sensitivity to the Earth’s magnetic field, which they likely use to orient themselves on cloudy days, to orient their hives, and to navigate. Despite years of research, scientists have not definitively located the “organ” or mechanism responsible for this, though they suspect it involves tiny crystals of magnetite in their bodies.



Summary

The world of the honey bee is far more complex than just a simple insect colony. They are, in many ways, an extension of their environment and their caretakers, operating on a level of awareness that blurs the line between instinct and, as our ancestors believed, something spiritual.



Edinburg Bible Chapel at the four corners invites you to join us as we worship and receive God’s blessing, sharing our love with others.

Sunday Worship 10 AM / Wednesday Prayer Meet. 7 PM
Looking forward to seeing you.



Edinburg School Happenings

Michelle Ellis, Superintendent

We hope this newsletter finds our families and community well! The winter has been giving us quite the weather thus far, so we are excited for some warmer temperatures! We have a lot of fun things happening at ECS other than what you read in this monthly newsletter, so please follow our district Facebook page for our latest and greatest updates!

And the winner is . . .

On Friday, January 30, 2026, the Edinburg Common School District held the annual Spelling Bee. Students in grades 3-6th, who opted to participate in the Spelling Bee, went through several rounds before a winner was declared.

We would like to congratulate Koupas in the 5th grade for winning the Spelling Bee. We would also like to congratulate our runner up, Aubrey in 6th grade. We are so proud of all contestants that participated in the event! Great job to all!



During Eagle Morning Program on Friday, February 6, 2026, we honored Students and a Staff Member of the Month. The PBIS word of the month was “persistent”! We would like to congratulate the following students and staff member for being “persistent”. Way to go, everyone!

PK Kaiden
K Wyatt
1 Westlynn
2 Easton and Liam
3-6 Devin and Leah
Teacher/Staff Member Miss Shultz



We would like to also congratulate the following students that have been identified for being named in Honor Roll/High Honor Roll in grades 3rd through 6th for the 2nd marking quarter. We are so proud of you all! These students along with the students of the month were honored at Eagle Morning Program on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Honor Roll 89.5-94.4
Devin
Addilynn
Brayden
Carter
Noah
Matthew
David
Aubrey
Tori
High Honor Roll 94.5-100
Kenley
Cora
Koupas



Birds of Prey

Students, teachers, and staff were in awe over the Birds of Prey presentation last month! We learned so much about these amazing birds and even had an opportunity to be up close and personal with them! The presentation was made possible by the generosity of the Stewart's Holiday Match program and the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York! We are thankful for programs that fund environmental education programming for elementary school students in our area!



Discovery Kids and Pre - K

The Edinburg Common School District is also accepting enrollment packets for students in the 3 year old program (Discovery Kids) and the full day Pre-K program (students must be 4 years old by December 1, 2026). If you know of a family or have children that would qualify to enter these programs, please call the office at 518-863-8412 to request an enrollment packet. You may also find our enrollment packet and information to the Discovery Kids and Pre-K program at <http://www.edinburgcs.org/enrollment.html>. Please remember the Edinburg Common School District still has an Open Enrollment Policy and accepts students from other school Districts. Please call the main office for any questions you may have.

For more information please go to our school website at www.edinburgcs.org and/or like our school Facebook page.

Upcoming:

Eagle Morning Friday, March 6, 2026 at 8:00 AM in the gymnasium

Half Professional Development Day on Friday, March 6, 2026
11:45/11:50 AM Dismissal

Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Discovery Kids on Friday, March 13, 2026 at 1:45 PM

Superintendent Conference Day - No School - Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Discovery Kids on Friday, March 27, 2026 at 1:45 PM



Sacandaga Valley Arts Network

Linda Brown

Well, after a rather cold and relentless February, March is finally here. It would seem we have paid our winter “dues” on all the below zero mornings and spring is just around the corner. Gustav Mahler shares, “Spring won’t let me stay in this house any longer. I must get out and breathe the air deeply again.” As we venture out into the hopefully warmer world in which we live, we hope the SVAN offerings made this past winter tolerable with fellowship and entertainment. Good attendance at the three SVAN Winter Concert Series events held in the Northville United Methodist Church had attendees clapping along with enthusiasm and momentarily forgetting the weather outside. The arts can provide us with diversions, even in our darkest hours. A light-hearted cautionary warning from Doug Larson is in order however, “Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.”

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Audrey Norma Porteus on December 31, 2025. Born on January 11, 1919, Norma was a positive presence in Edinburg and the surrounding area, sharing her warmth and kindness with everyone. A talented photographer, she shared the beauty of her Edinburg surroundings through historical, scenic views and local flora and fauna. Norma’s positive energy was contagious, and she generously shared tips and kind criticism with budding photographers. Norma was a longtime supporter and special part of SVAN. SVAN celebrated Norma’s 100th birthday with a reception in the Northville Gallery, and as newcomers to the area at the time, she certainly impressed us as she wore her years with wit, dignity and grace. SVAN President, Dianne Knapp shared the sentiments of many in the local arts community. “We have all grown to expect Norma to always be with us. We will miss her greatly. She will live on in all those she touched with her smile and her art during her lifetime. Our condolences to her family, colleagues and friends.”

Hot Night - Perhaps you have noticed that a long-time favorite event was missing this winter? We’re sad

to announce that the Sacandaga Musical Theater postponed the always popular “Hot Night” event until 2027 due to lack of performers. If you or anyone you know is interested in being part of this fun group and interested in volunteering, please

have them contact secretary@svanarts.org.



Homage to Georgia O’Keefe, a painting workshop will be offered on:

**Saturday, March 14, 2026
10:30 am – 1:00 pm
Northville Public Library
341 S. 3rd St. Northville**

Registration required before March 9 to assure a seat and materials. Fees are SVAN Members \$15, \$2 materials fees. Non-members \$20 registration, \$2 materials fee. Children

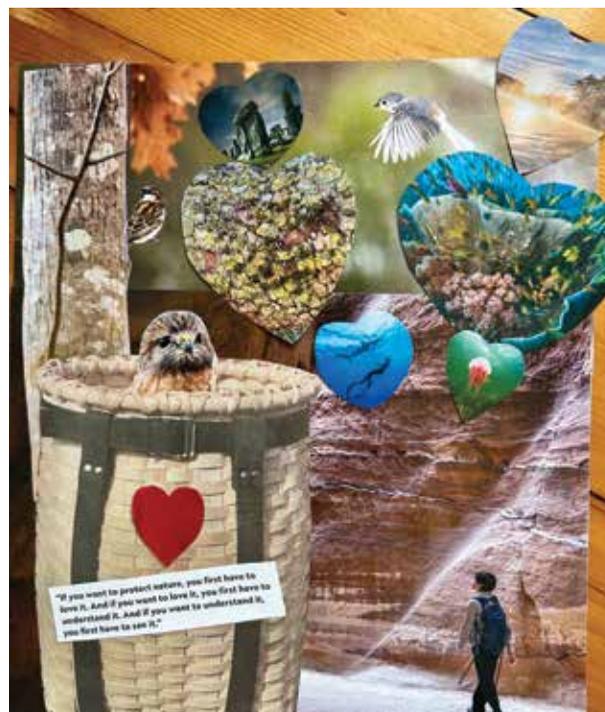
under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult. Register with vicepresident@svanarts.org and the Northville Library.

“A flower blossoms for its own joy.” Oscar Wilde

Stencils, Snowflakes and Hearts Workshop was held at the SVAN Gallery on February 7th. A good number of participants braved the extreme cold to enjoy and create their own collage.

SVAN Scholarship Program- It is that time of year when high school seniors are thinking about their future and parents are thinking about finances. The SVAN Scholarship program is offered to high school seniors in the Sacandaga Region, consisting of two \$500 scholarships to be used to further their education at a two or four-year college or university. The application details key requirements and can be found on our website: SVANarts.org. The deadline for applications is May 8, 2026 and can be mailed to SVAN Scholarship Committee, PO Box 660, Northville, NY 12134. Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before May 8.

The SVAN Music Program is a much enjoyed and appreciated addition to our fine arts community. February saw Dan Berggren share his talents with the audience at the United Methodist Church of Northville on Sunday, February 15. Dan shared his honesty, humor and sense of place with his songs exploring the many dimensions of home, hard-working folks and taking care of our planet and each other.





The SVAN Music Committee is very excited about the upcoming summer concert series in the Northville Waterfront Park. The summer concerts are a very popular event throughout July and August and this year's line up will feature some of your favorite groups and perhaps a few new performers to the stage. Be certain to be on the lookout for the upcoming listing and times.

SVAN is growing in membership and encourages all who share a love of music or the arts to become members. Membership information can be found at membership@svanarts.org. SVAN is looking for volunteers to assist as workshop presenters, marketing assistance and Hot Nights. Share your talents with the Sacandaga Arts Community.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." Charles Dickens

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Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club

Broadalbin-Perth Lions Support Glove City Coalition at Community Winter Fest

GLOVERSVILLE, N.Y. (Feb. 21, 2026) -- The Broadalbin-Perth Lions provided a unique “hands on” feature to this year’s Glove City Coalition Community Winter Fest held today at the Gloversville Public Library. Several Lions were present to offer to those in attendance the opportunity to assemble a wooden bird house either on site or as a kit to be put together at home.

“The Lions’ assembly project aligns with the Coalition’s goal of providing opportunities for pro-social activities as part of a greater community effort to provide needed resources to develop and sustain healthy lifestyles in support of the reduction and prevention of youth substance abuse,” said Bonnie Peck, director and program coordinator for the coalition. “The Coalition welcomes the Lions’ participation,” she added.

Lion Tom Kevlin fabricated the bird house kits, to include pre-drilled holes to streamline the assembly. He explained that “across all our Global Causes, we remain committed to serving children and youth, as well as our local communities. As Lions, We serve.”

Kevlin said that during the course of the event, all 26 bird house kits were donated to those who stopped by the Lions booth.

The Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, the largest service club organization in the world. More than 1.4 million members in over 48,000 clubs are serving in 200 countries and geographic areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects, and extend their service impact through the generous support of Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lions are focused on supporting vision, the environment, childhood cancer, food insecurity, diabetes and other pressing humanitarian needs to help address some of the biggest challenges facing humanity.



An example of the bird house kit constructed by Broadalbin-Perth Lion Tom Kevlin that was offered to attendees at the Glove City Coalition’s Community Winter Fest. Attendees claimed all 26 kits. (Photo courtesy of Broadalbin-Perth Lions).



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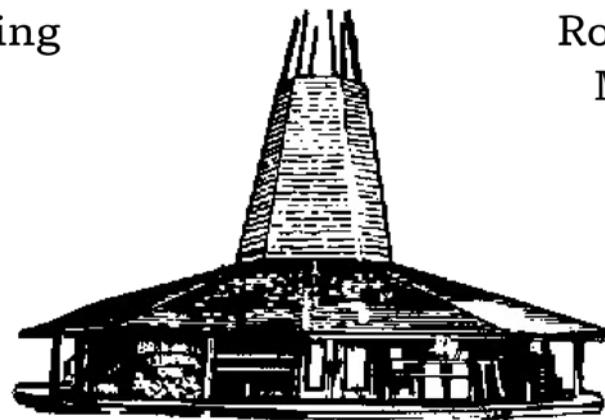
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B'ALBIN Mon & Fri 8-3 Tues,Wed, Thur 12-7 Sat 8-1		EDINBURG/DAY	383-1005	BROADALBIN		DAY	Carrie Schermerhorn,696-3789 Ext. 4
EDINBURG Fri 12-3 & Sat 9-3		FIRE & BLDG. INSP.		Joe Passino	762-6342	EDINBURG	Ron Beckering 863-2034
NORTHAMPTON/N'VILLE Mon, Tue 8-4, Sat 8-1		DAY		Garrett Metzler	932-8452	HADLEY	Lorraine Fiorino 696-3112 Ext.6
TOWN CLERKS		Code Enforcer:		Bill VanNostrand	774-1401	TOWN JUSTICES	
DAY		Bill Farr	696-3789 Ext. 0	EDINBURG		DAY	Kenneth O. Johnsen
Tracy Ladd	696-3789 Ext 2	EDINBURG		Bill VanNostrand	774-1401		696-3789 ext: 6
EDINBURG		Dave Brackett	863-2793	HADLEY		EDINBURG	Thomas McGroder 863-2034
Denise Ferguson	863-2034	HADLEY		Alicia Floud	892-1961	HADLEY	Honorable Patrick Harrington
MAYFIELD	661-5414	Albert Brooks	696-3112 Ext. 4	NORTHAMPTON/N'VILLE			696-3112 Ext. 8
HADLEY		NORTHAMPTON		Vernon Duesler	863-6313	HIGHWAY SUPER	
Colleen DeMarsh	696-3112 Ext. 2	Dylan Moore	863-6580	ELECTRIC INSP.		EDINBURG	Wayne Seelow 863-8126
NORTHAMPTON		NORTHVILLE		Ron Royal	369-5199	DAY	Leonard Allen 696-3019
Elaine Milhalik	863-4040	Daniel Reidell	863-4211	Joe Swanson	863-2020	HADLEY	Andrew Gilbert 696-3414
STATE POLICE		BUILD. DEPARTMENT		Brian Sweet	673-5123		
HADLEY	696-4117	EDINBURG	863-2034 Ext 14	TAX COLLECTOR			
MAYFIELD	725-3034	TOWN HALLS		EDINBURG			
FONDA	853-3415	BROADALBIN	883-4657	Faye Frasier	863-2034		
BROADALBIN	883-5433	DAY	696-3789	HADLEY			
SARATOGA COUNTY	911	EDINBURG	863-2034	Pamela Wright	518-696-3112 Ext. 7		
		HADLEY	696-3112				
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Northville Library
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Northville Liquor Store
Hoy Insurance
Post Office
Walgreens
ADK Country Store
Gifts By Northern Lights
Tops Market
Flower Barn
NBT Bank
The Local
Klipples Kozy Korner
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Northville 5 & 10
Stewarts
Town Hall
Ego Expressions

Stony Creek

SC Laundromat
Stony Creek Market
Stony Creek Library
Stony Creek Inn



Sacandaga Protection Committee

Bob Jones

The Sacandaga Protection Committee is hosting our 6th annual golf outing on Saturday June 6th, 2026. This is our primary fund-raising event for 2026 and thanks to generous donors last year's outing was very successful even though the weather did not cooperate as we got rained out two Saturdays in a row. Thank you to all the golfers that donated their entry fee to the SPC. We were able to have a reception with the silent auction, and all sponsor signs were displayed for an extended period of time. Fundraising plays a vital part in helping us achieve our vision. We know this is only made possible through the unwavering support from members and our generous community.

This year the event will be held at the Hales Mills Country Club. We are expecting 100 plus supporters to attend this year. By being a sponsor, purchasing a tee sign advertisement, donating an item for our silent auction, or playing golf in our outing you will allow us to continue in our efforts to preserve the exclusive use permit system and public access to the Great Sacandaga Lake, thereby ensuring the greatest enjoyment of the lake by all users and bringing benefits to the surrounding communities.

The sponsor levels are as follows :Presenting \$2,500; Platinum \$1,500; Gold \$1,000; Silver \$750; Bronze \$500, Tee Sign \$100, or donate an item for the silent auction. To play golf the cost is \$110 and is a scramble format with prizes, coffee, lunch, on course beverages, silent auction, cocktails and hor's d'oeuvres at the award reception

You will receive recognition in event promotions, in our program, and signage on the golf course. If you would like to support the Sacandaga Protection Committee, please complete the attached form and return it to the Sacandaga Protection Committee P.O.Box 86, Mayfield, NY 12117 or if you are donating an item, please call Jennifer at 518-376-4779 to arrange for pick up.

If you have donated in the past thank you for your continued support. If you have not, visit our website to see how the SPC ,with your help, keeps the Great Sacandaga Lake Great and help support our mission. To learn more about the SPC and how we protect your lake access and the way of life in our lake communities or to donate to support our mission, please visit our website www.sacandagaprotectioncommittee.com. You may also contact us at SPCGSL@gmail.com. Or visit us on Facebook at Sacandaga Protection Committee.

SACANDAGA PROTECTION COMMITTEE

6TH ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER

JUNE 6, 2026

9 :00 AM START (8:30 AM REGISTRATION)

HALES MILLS COUNTRY CLUB

146 STEELE RD JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095

Register by email to SPCGSL@gmail.com or by mail to:

Sacandaga Protection Committee

PO Box 86

Mayfield NY 12117

If you have any questions, please call Bob Jones at 518-257-0282

Sponsor Reply

Name - _____

Address - _____

Phone - _____

Company - _____

Email company logo to spcgsl@gmail.com

Sponsorship level requested - _____

Amount enclosed - _____

If item for silent auction; description of item _____

Golfer response \$110 each golfer

Player 1 - _____ Phone number - _____

Email - _____

Player 2 - _____

Player 3 - _____

Player 4 - _____

If you do not have 4 golfers, we will attempt to pair you with others

Non – golfer award reception guests \$20 each person

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Name - _____



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If you have a birthday that you would like to put in the Edinburg Newsletter, please email it to: edinburgnews2023@gmail.com

Dan A.

Gail V.

Dayna Mc.

Angela R.

Joden W.

Cindy L.

Denise F.

Oskar H.

From the Four Corners Diner Gang

From Hawk....

A LOT (mostly back and forth between the US, Canada, and Holland), so Dad never really settled enough to make friends. That meant he had never had a kid's birthday party. My sister and I had gone to Target the morning of the party and there were dinosaur decorations. She told me that Dad wouldn't want them, so I didn't get them, but when we got back to his house I told him about it and it was clear in his eyes that he wanted me to go nuts – so I did. I got the blow up dino, dino hats/plates/cups, streamers, noise makers. It was great – I hope to never forget his delight. I also hope he kept the blow up dinosaur.

Acadia got big news last month – she was accepted into the IB program. This was completely new to me before she applied to it and honestly, I still don't really understand it, but it is a program to train teenagers to be thinkers and it is an honor to be accepted. The program starts next year and will be for both the Junior and Senior years of HS. It is also at Queensbury School, so I will have to drive her in to Corinth at 6:40 am and she then takes a bus with the other IB students to Q'bury, then takes their bus back to Corinth for after-school sports. She is ambitious, that is for sure. She says that staying busy keeps her motivated – welp, she will be busy. I got the acceptance letter before she saw it and got to meet her at school with flowers.

Also big in Baldwin news is that we are going on a college tour. Both kids are interested in going to Liberty University in Virginia and we are teaming up with a group of family friends to go down for CFAW (College For A Weekend). It is obviously very far away, but my sister only lives a couple hours from it. It is so exciting – we got tickets to see Josiah Queen (our favorite Christian artist) for stupid cheap (\$29/person – free for students) and tickets to a basketball game. My nephew attends there so we get to hang with him and Lucas will go to some of his classes (for fun). We and our friends got an Airbnb together near the campus. CANT WAIT! There is no pressure for the kids to go there, but they seem to have the majors they are interested in, so we will see. Thank you for reading and think of us when Mud Season starts!

TOWN OF DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Day Town Board hereby gives notice that there will be no parking of vehicles on Town Roads or placing of objects on Town Right-of-Ways, beginning October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026, due to the problems created for snow removal. Warnings will not be given, vehicles will be towed at owners expense immediately.

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Hawk Drilling

Sandra Baldwin

Happy March, everyone! We (as I suspect you are too) are eager to move past the cold. It has been a long time since we had to not work because it was too cold and we had to do that in February. The techs work in single digits (to their credit, because it is the worst), but when you have negative degrees, everything freezes too fast and trucks don't start. March brings the beginning of the thaw and Mud Season (which sometimes I dislike more, but right now, I dislike the cold more).

February was a big month for us. Both of my parents celebrate their birthdays in February and last month was my Dad's 80th, so they had a party for him at their house in Delaware. When we got there, it was evident that there was no planning for decorations; it felt like a dinner – nothing special. Bear in mind, my Dad was one of the first boomers – literally, Holland was announced as freed from German occupation and my Oma and Opa “celebrated”. They had really struggled through the occupation and money was not used lightly. They also moved around

continued inside back page



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not just throw in a new pump.**

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WELLS ♠ PUMPS ♠ WATER TREATMENT ♠ GEOTHERMAL