

Our 45th Year of Service To The Sacandaga Valley!

The Edinburg Newsletter

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

DECEMBER 2025
VOL 45 #4



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	4	7:00 pm	Zoning Board
Tues	9	5:30 pm	BOT Meeting
Sat	13	11-2:00 pm	Edinburg Cookie Sale!
Tues	16	7:00 pm	Edinburg Historical Society (see more on p 58)
Thurs	18	6:00 pm	Edinburg Town Board Meeting
Thurs	25	Christmas Day	
Wed	31	New Year's Eve	



EDINBURG TOWN REPORT

www.edinburgny.com
Robert D. Anderson, Supervisor

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and or Happy Hanukkah. At this time of the season please take time to enjoy the little moments with family and friends; perhaps, bake some cookies, listen to carols and just bask in the SEASON.

Building Permits WARNING, WARNING, WARNING!!!

I know we have put this in the newsletter each month; but building is still going on without permits. You need a permit to build just about anything, if you are not sure contact the Code Enforcement Official at 518 863-2793.

Edinburg Tree Lighting

The annual tree lighting will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 2 pm – 4 pm at the Edinburg Four Corners. The event will begin at 2:00 pm with the tree lighting at 4:00 pm. Santa arrives at approximately 3:00 pm and will be at the Edinburg Methodist Church where the event will be held; next to Shelby's Four Corners Diner. This event takes place because of the efforts of many volunteers. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Jackie Nichols and Evonne Barber for heading up the event and to the church Pastor and volunteers for opening up their doors to allow this to happen. For additional information concerning this

event, to donate or volunteer please contact Jackie at the diner; (518) 863-2488. Again, THANK YOU all!

Reminder to Remove Garbage Bins

Please remember to move your garbage bins or any other articles that you may have at roadside to avoid damage during the winter plowing months.

Edinburg Cemeteries

The cemeteries are closed for burial beginning December 1st. They will be open for walk ins during the winter months.

HEAP

The Home Energy Assistance Program is still waiting on the Federal Govt. For further information on this program, you should contact Saratoga County Social Services or if you are a senior; Saratoga County Office for the Aging.

Saratoga County Health Assessment – Saratoga County Department of Health

As part of the mandated 2025-2030 Community Health Assessment, Saratoga County Department of Health has released a survey for residents to share feed back about the health issues and concerns that are important to them. If you would like to take this survey, please go to www.saratogacountyny.gov/health. This survey is intended for individuals who live, work or go to school in Saratoga County. If you would like a paper copy please call (518) 584-7460 between the hours of 8 am – 4 pm.

Town Hall Closed

The Edinburg Town Hall will be closed for business beginning Monday December 22nd and will reopen on Monday, January 5th. Officials may be reached at home in the event of an emergency.

911 or House Numbers

It has become evident there are a number of homes that do not display their 911 number, it would be very helpful for the numbers to be displayed; it makes it much easier if you need assistance from in the event of an emergency or just for UPS or FEDX.

Merry Christmas!

Bob
Robert D. Anderson
Supervisor

**thanks to our
contributing
writers:**

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Susan Armstrong
Ed Balaban
Sandra Baldwin
Janice Hawk-Baldwin
Tim Blydenburgh
Cindy Cameron
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EDINBURG VOL. FIRE CO.

by Brian DeFeo

We are there, simply because we care.

From October 12th through November 12th, your Fire Company responded to a total of ten calls. A welcome lull between several record breaking months this past year. Our log of responses is as follows:

10/12 Motor Vehicle Accident, North Shore Road
10/13 Motor Vehicle Accident, South Shore Road
10/14 Mutual Aid stand-by, Northville
10/18 Brush Fire, South Shore Road
10/19 Lines Down, Fox Hill Road
10/21 EMS Assistance, Park Drive
10/28 Mutual Aid, Northville
11/3 Good Intent, Military Road

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As I write this article in mid November, it is difficult to think of what to say regarding the dangers regarding lake ice. How does one address the same topic year after year, trying to say something fresh? Something that might grab peoples attention and make them realize that accidents on the Lake can happen to anyone, at anytime. One starts by recalling with sadness, that we did experience a tragedy last winter. Innocent lives are indeed lost, families forever changed. It is not just another news story, it's people's lives.

If you are fortunate enough to live on or nearby the Lake, you know it's dirty little secret. The Great Sacandaga Lake, while it may be great, is not a like at all. It is a bent up river, and rivers are inherently dangerous in the winter. For starters it never fully freezes. There is a current, there are constant changes in the ice stability, and to some extent its thickness. If you have ever been on the Lake when the ice shifts, you have heard that incredible noise.

You appreciate the kind of force the Lake is under. Or if you are on it, and a crack comes out of nowhere and goes right between your two feet as it did to me once, that get's your attention.

I have written in the past what good or questionable ice looks like, yet all ice should be questioned, never assume anything. What makes this particular winter challenging may be the fact that the river is at what might be an all time low. This may create some real hazards for folks who like to zoom across the Lake on their snowmobiles. We have started to see new sandbars coming forth, and I think some old foundations are even visible. Hitting the likes at seventy miles per hour is a recipe for disaster.

Lastly, and this is pure conjecture, with the lake down so low, does the old river channel behave differently? During late winter melt, does more water force into the channel at great velocity, with negative consequences?

Is this something we need to be aware of? Perhaps an expert in hydrology might address this in a future Edinburg News Letter. In conclusion, I would say the same thing each season, respect the Lake, and the river underneath.

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Friends of the Northville Library

Jodi Blydenburgh

If you need to purchase gifts for the holidays, be sure to visit the Friends of the Northville Public Library's first-ever Holiday Market on Friday, December 5 from 3 - 7 pm in the Library's upstairs community room.

There will be plenty of books in excellent condition for sale including books for children, pre-teens, teens, young adults, coffee table books, series books, mysteries, cookbooks, DVDs, puzzles and more. Consider going green this season by purchasing pre-loved items that look new and are budget friendly. Most items cost between \$1 and \$3 so you can spend a little and give a lot — and contribute to your local library.

If you're a crafter — or aspire to create something handmade — be sure to stop by the library and check out the new craft closet, located near the circulation desk. This space was made by the Friends and volunteers and has been stocked with many donated supplies. Recent donations include rubber stamps (perfect for card-making or scrapbooking), boxes of scrapbooking paper and stickers, lots of yarn, crafting books, hooks and needles for crocheting or knitting, sewing patterns, kits for painting and much more.

This space will be ever-evolving as community members

continued on next page



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donate their unused supplies. Library patrons are invited to take home, try out and create using donated supplies. Or, gather your friends at the library and have an evening out — making cards, doing some hand-stitching or any other creative endeavor. Our only ask is that unused items be returned so others may enjoy them as well.

The Friends also paid for and installed a new magnetic blackboard in the library's vestibule. This addition will give staff the space to highlight all that is happening in the library with a monthly calendar and promotional space for programming.

These spaces were created through the generosity of our community. By supporting the Friends' fundraising efforts, money raised is given to the library for projects and purchases that are not typically covered by the library's operating budget. We send out a huge thank you to all who have donated their time and support.

EDINBURG



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

We'd like thank the vendors, visitors and volunteers who were a part of our Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Sand Hill Schoolhouse.

The occasion was a festive one (even without the snow) and we were able to show off our newly refurbished garage for raffle and basket displays and drawings. We are grateful to the following businesses for donating gift certificates or baskets:

Adirondack Country Store
Adirondack Floating Dock Shop
Allen & Palmer
Bottles and Brushes Ceramic Shop
Brownell Lumber (Marshalls gift card)
Edinburg Marina
Edwards Maple
The Flower Barn
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Sacandaga Dog Supply
Shelby's Four Corners Diner
Sport Island Pub
Tender Touch Massage
Tinney's on Lake Desolation
Tops Friendly Markets

Many individuals also put together baskets and homemade gifts.

Copeland Bridge

A reminder that the viewing platform at the Copeland Covered Bridge off North Shore Road is closed off until repairs can be made, expected sometime in the spring. Thank you to Ted O'Lear, which made a generous donation toward the repairs.

Did you know that you can purchase a "share" of the bridge with a contribution to the historical society in honor or in the memory of someone? You'll be issued a certificate and mention at the Rural Museum. For details about how to do that, see our website, <https://edinburghhistoricalsociety.org/>



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NORTHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Alisha Rivera Holmes - Director - 518-863-6922

The Northville Public Library will be closed for about three (3) weeks in January to replace the carpet in the library. If you would like to help remove books off the shelves before the contractors start, please reach out to the library.

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:

Jodi Blydenburgh will be leading The Sacandaga Book Group in a discussion of the book *Foster* by Claire Keagan on Tuesday, December 9th at 10am. Summary: "It is a hot summer in rural Ireland. A child is taken by her father to live with relatives on a farm, not knowing when or if she will be brought home again. In the Kinsellas' house, she finds an affection and warmth she has not known and slowly, in their care, begins to blossom. But there is something unspoken in this new household—where everything is so well tended to—and this summer must soon come to an end.."

Evening Book Club:

The Evening Book Club will be reading *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30pm. Summary: "Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship: poised English beauty Fliss, whose facade of perfect wife and mother covers gaping inner wounds; policeman's daughter Nora, who finds herself entangled with a shadowy gangster; frustrated baseball star Beatrice, whose career has come to an end along with the women's baseball league of WWII; and poisonous, gung-ho Arlene, who has thrown herself into McCarthy's Red Scare."

Programs at the Library:

The Friends of the Library are hosting a Holiday Market on Friday, December 5th from 3-7pm.

Laurie Snell will be leading a class on Needle Felting on Tuesday, December 2nd from 10 am - 1:30pm. Please look on Facebook or the Northville Public Library website for details.

Hours: Sept - March

Sunday:	Closed
Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	10am - 8pm
Wednesday:	10am - 8pm
Thursday:	10am - 8pm
Friday:	10am - 6pm
Saturday:	10am - 2pm

Adult Programs:

- Needles & Pins: Every Wednesday from 11:30am-1:30pm
- Mahjongg: 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, December 16th at 6:30pm.

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!

Mayfield Historical Society

Carol Johnston Publicist - 518-332-0538

Christmas Open House at The Rice Homestead

The Mayfield Historical Society's 34th Annual Christmas Open House at The Rice Homestead will be on Saturday, December 6th, from 12 - 4 p.m. Musical entertainment will be in the Victorian Parlor. Rooms will be decorated in the holiday spirit of yesteryear with fireplaces ablaze. Homemade cookies and hot mulled cider will be served free of charge. The very popular Homemade Pie Sale will be in the dining room. This event is free and open to the public. The Rice Homestead is located at 328 Riceville Road, in Mayfield, NY (GPS is Gloversville). For more information, call 518-857-2820.

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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.



Baptist Church of Northville

111 North First Street, Northville

518-863-8001 bconny.org

Sr. Pastor: Rev. Andrew Larson

Assoc. Pastor: Isaiah Philo

by Barbara Klueg

Jesus – the First Christmas Gift!

We love Christmas, don't we? We decorate our homes, wrap gifts, eat way too many Christmas cookies, attend special concerts and parties, watch Christmas movies, spend fun times with family and friends and . . . we, northerners look forward to and love the snow, too!

Most importantly, at Christmastime we celebrate Jesus . . . the First Christmas Gift. We know that He's the Reason for the Season!

The Bible says in Luke 2 that an angel made an announcement. "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for ALL the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, willingly left His high position and lowered himself to come to earth as a helpless little baby . . . He could have come with trumpets blowing and riding on a stallion fit for a King!

Why did Jesus come such a humble way and then die on a cross? He did this for you and me. Philippians 2:8 says, "Being in human form, Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

"It is written that Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." (Luke 24:46-47)

Jesus wants us to come to Him. He loves us! If you have not accepted God's Christmas gift already, you can . . . right now. The Bible says we must repent and believe in Jesus! Tell Him you are sorry for your sins and trust in Him alone.

continued on next page

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Come to Jesus . . . the King of Kings and Lord of Lords . . . the First Christmas Gift!

Join us at church this Christmas to worship the Lord of Lords! Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 pm with a piano and violin prelude by Mike Alter and Anna Wrabel, a reading of the Christmas story, some sing-along caroling, and our Children's and Adult Choir's cantata, "A Promise Kept." Following the service, we will have refreshments downstairs for all to enjoy! Hope you all can come!

Do you need some spiritual guidance or encouragement? Call one of our pastors, Pastor Larson or Pastor Philo, at church (518.863.8001). They are good listeners, love the Lord and they love to encourage folks in their spiritual walk and lives. If you are housebound, you can watch our Sunday services online at bconny.org 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
- Wednesday: (10 a.m.) Northville Food Pantry at BCON Corner, (7 p.m.) Girls' Sr. High Bible study
- Thursday: (6 a.m. and 7 p.m.) Prayer Meeting, (6:45 p.m.) Girls' Jr. High Bible Study, (10:30 a.m.) NLH Nursing Home Service on 3rd Thursday.
- Saturday: (6:30 a.m.) Men's Coffee Hour at BCON Corner
- Small Groups: Call the church for times and locations

Sacandaga Dog Supply Holiday Schedule



Christmas

Dec 24th - Closing at 3:00

Dec 25th - 29th - Closed

New Year's

Dec 31st - Closing at 3:00

Jan 1st - 5th - Closed

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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SCAN ME!



EDINBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

The Thanksgiving holiday is now behind us and now we move into December and the Christmas season. November 30th is the first Sunday of the Advent season. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ. It is a season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. A hopeful spirit is contagious - it lifts the lives of those exposed to it and brings a sense of peace and joy, ultimately leading to love.

December 6th is the Edinburg tree lighting and we will again be opening the church for Jackie of the Four Corners Diner to host Santa. There will be refreshments from 2-3pm and Santa arrives around 2:30pm. Please feel free to bring your little ones for Santa, gifts and fun.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 10am Wednesday, December 24th. We invite you to join us. Christmas is so much more than just a holiday, it is a Holy day. It is a time when our baby Jesus was born to be the Light of the world. It is a time when God shows up in the middle of the mess to bring us a message of Hope and offer us a better way of life through unsolicited and unlimited gifts of grace and salvation through Jesus Christ. What a blessing for us to have the baby Jesus!

As you go about your preparations, celebrations and festivities this Christmas season, our prayer is that you don't let this story of God's unfailing love for the world go unspoken, but share this Good News with everyone, so that they too can find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in baby Jesus.

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.**

Thank you from the Knights of Columbus – Northville

The Knights of Columbus ("KOC") of St. Francis church in Northville extend a sincere thank you to the community for their generosity in supporting our fund-raising activities. In August we held our annual Chicken barbeque with 375 fantastic dinners sold, and in October a coin drop was held with the community being very generous again. Thanks to the community's support we are able to continue our charitable work. We were able to provide 24 new winter coats and hats for school children in Edinburg, Northville and Wells, provide a happier Christmas for local families, assist with the needs of St. Francis of Assisi church and provide financial assistance to the local food pantry and other worthy charitable efforts locally, regionally, statewide and nationally. Once again Thank You for your support of the Knights of Columbus so we may continue to help those in need. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Edinburg Senior News

Donna Houlihan

Welcome Winter and Being a Good Neighbor

It's the time of year when the snow falls and everything looks beautiful. Until it doesn't. The wind whipping snow drifts over our just shoveled driveways and sidewalks. This is also a time to watch out for our neighbors. Especially the older and most vulnerable people. Ask if you can help. Ask if they need anything. Sometimes it's hard for the elderly to go shopping or to a doctor's appointment in inclement weather. Just checking in with a call or a visit may also be a blessing to someone alone.

If you are able to assist, I know they would greatly appreciate.

Saratoga Office for the Aging is available to answer questions on relevant topics such as:

Food Assistance
Transportation
Medicare
HEAP
Legal Services
Housing
Senior Volunteer Opportunities

You can call the office at 518 884-4100

Happy Holidays to all our Seniors and their families!!



Northville Rotary Grows

Service Above Self

Rotary Provides Food, Warm Clothes and Toys to Children in Need

The Northville Rotarians wish everyone a wonderful holiday season, whatever the holiday you celebrate.

On Saturday morning, December 8th at the Northville School, you will find Rotarians working the kitchen for "Breakfast with Santa"- a favorite activity of all children organized by the PTO

In order to help children have a Merry Christmas and make sure the holidays are happy ones for all local children and their families, Rotarians are expanding the Backpack Program and providing warm clothes and toys to local kids who may not be receiving any.

How does the Backpack program work for students at the Northville and Edinburg schools? The schools provide the names of students that families have identified a need and deliveries are made to the houses. We support the existing program through



the Baptist Church of Northville and since it is a school program, it is non-denominational in line with Rotary policies.

Naomi and Cliff Parker purchase the food and make most

continued on next page

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of the deliveries. Other Rotarians also deliver. Individual donations of items or cash to purchase (provided by some Rotarians), other organizations, and grants are used to purchase food monthly. This is entirely voluntary for members. The Club also provided 15 Thanksgiving turkeys last month.

Once each month the Club treasury pays for milk Northville Rotary has pledged to cover the food for one week at the beginning of the month, and a mid-month delivery of fresh fruit and milk. Due to cutbacks in other food programs we will be adding additional protein in mid-month if we have the funds.

Children are also provided through Rotary funds with warm coats, socks and pajamas delivered as the weather get colder. The schools again assist by interviewing children and parents to find out what their needs and wants might be. Volunteer Rotary members then are given a child's first name and what they would like. They purchase the gifts, wrap them and they are delivered to the child's home along with the food.

Making the holiday brighter for children is another example of "Service Above Self".



Sun, Sand and Swaying in the Breeze!

Janice Hawk-Baldwin

I have struggled trying to decide what to write about for the Christmas edition of the Edinburg Newsletter. An unexpected cold front in the Keys and a memory on Facebook gave me what I needed.

=Two days ago I was sitting at my kitchen counter with the windows wide open and cool fresh air moving all around me. It felt amazing. We don't get many opportunities to open our windows during the year. The temperature was 76 degrees with zero humidity and 20 to 25 mph winds, out of the north. It was simply refreshing and it gave me an excuse to wear jeans and a love sleeve shirt. Yesterday the temperature dropped to 59 degrees with 30 mph winds. I had a 10:00 A.M. appointment and on my way there and back I saw one person riding a bicycle, fighting against the wind. There were no scooters, golf carts or people walking and running. Key West literally felt like a cold day in Tug Hill. . . to me. At least, there, I was prepared for cold Adirondack weather. Unfortunately I don't have heavy duty, cold weather clothes here in Key West. No one else does either because the island became a ghost town. Yes, I am sure you are thinking I have gone crazy. The reality is I have not shivered that much in a long time. Big Hoss and I ended up spending the afternoon on the couch, wrapped up in comforters praying for warmer weather to return.

=Today feels delightful with bright sunshine, 73 degree temperature and 12 mph winds. This is my idea of winter now. Our life surely has changed. I know that those of you reading

continued on page 16

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this are thinking that we have turned into wussies. Our bodies have acclimated to a new climate. Younger me would have never believed this could happen. We have no regrets though. We have a lifetime of happy memories, living in a winter wonder land. As kids we played outside for hours building snow men and snow forts and ice skating at the town skating rink. In high school we started skiing and had many years of fun skiing in the northeast. We also spent many wonderful years snowmobiling.

We also have some not so great snow memories such as plowing, shoveling and sanding, both at home and at work. Some winters it felt like we shoveled before work, shoveled at work and shoveled when we got home at night before we could eat dinner. I don't miss those 10:00 p.m. dinners and the aches all over my body. I was always thankful to come inside, sit in front of our wood stove and look out the windows at our winter wonder land. The last few days were definitely, a gentle reminder of our "northern like weather".

As we approach the Christmas season we need to remember that we are celebrating the season because of a tiny baby, born in a manger to Mary and Joseph. God sent his only son to walk on this earth to live and die for us. Jesus is the reason for the season. It is not about what we can get, it is about what we have. At this time of year we are celebrating his birth. We need to remember this and teach it to our children. This time of year

we get overwhelmed with the season. Decorating the house, shopping for gifts, planning a family get together and going to work and community functions can be overwhelming.

Christmas is about family time together. Families have different dynamics. If you have friends, who have become family because they are always there for you, then you have a rich and fulfilled life. Enjoy the season with all of those that you love dearly. Give thanks for all that you have. Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the Keys!



In this season of giving, please consider a gift to the Northville Public Library.

A tree is in the library foyer decorated with ornaments bearing book titles that Alisha, the Director, has on a wish list. Simply remove an ornament, hand it to a volunteer at the front desk (so there are no duplicates), then purchase and return the book to be displayed under the tree. Book plates will be available to acknowledge your generosity, or you may give a book to honor a loved one. Thank you for helping the library collection grow.

Questions, contact Beth Junquera 518-863-6651



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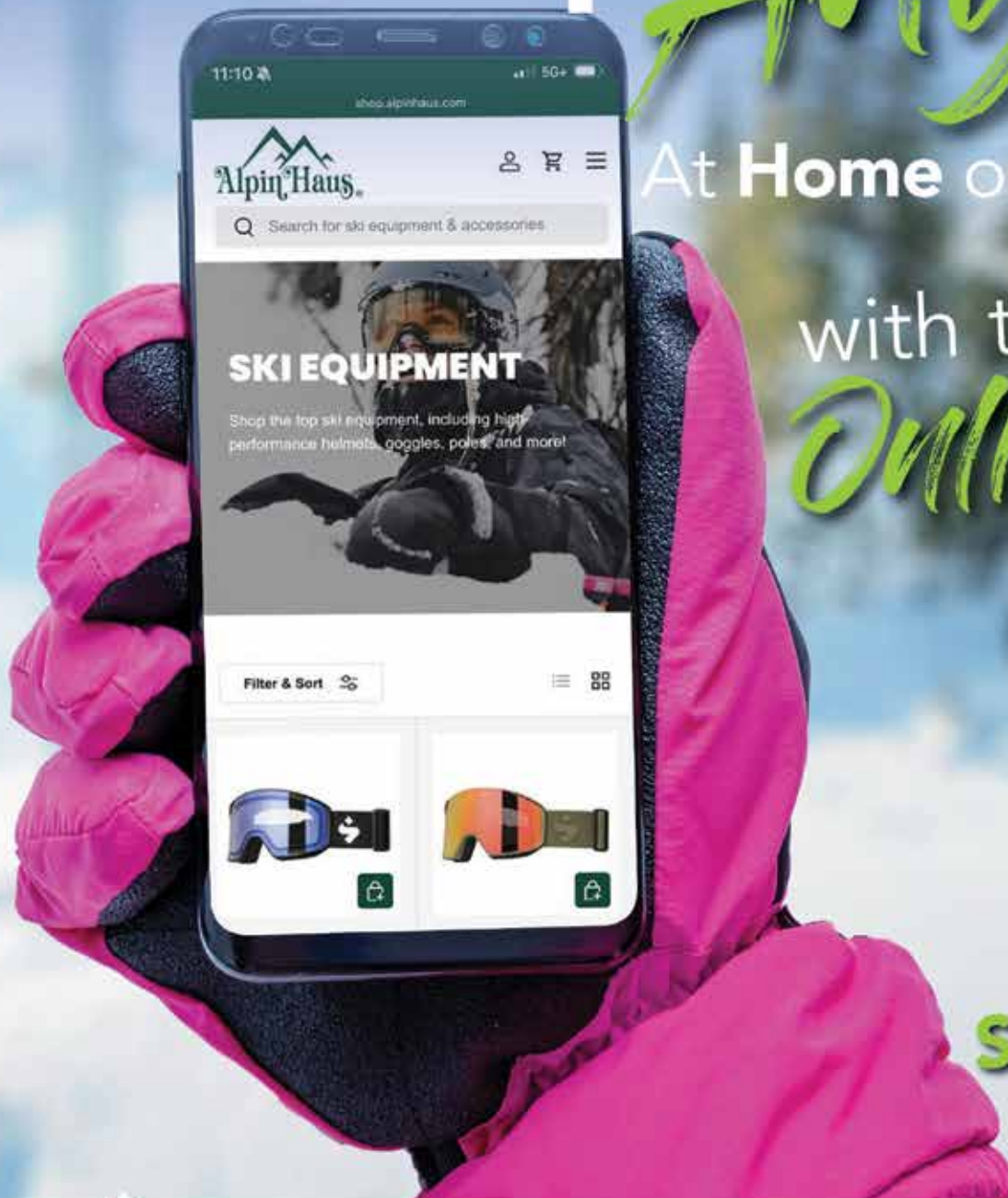
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DID YOU KNOW THAT--

By Priscilla L. Edwards

How many remember the following?

You only went to a doctor when something was wrong and he'd actually see you within a couple of days** Doctors made house calls** Folks bought a car and ran it 'till it wore out. ** Folks bought their vehicles in many various colors instead of just black and white** Cars and pick-ups weren't made so complicated but what the owners could make repairs on them** Churches never had to lock their doors** Whole families attended church each Sunday** Vacation Bible School was held in every community each summer. Lots of fun! ** Northville always had at least one doctor and dentist**

When each family had only one vehicle-if mom needed the car she took dad to work in the morning and picked him up after work** Businesses only had one work shift per day-roughly 7am-4pm** Most stores were closed on Sundays** Drivers courteously dimmed their headlights** People said "Please and Thank You"** Younger folks showed respect for their elders even if their beliefs were different** Men removed their caps and hats when going indoors** Women set their hair in pin curls or rollers; tied a scarf on their head and ran errands** Women gave each other

"home permanents" instead of going to a beauty shop**.

Remember When?

Housewives tended a large garden each year and canned many jars of food every summer and fall** There was only one type of Oreo cookie-no double-stuff or strange flavors and colorings** Local newspapers hired reporters to cover local towns-even crossing county lines to include Edinburg** The "Posy Pot" Ice Cream place that was on North Shore Road each summer**.

Grocers stacked boxes of fruits and vegetables in front of their stores to entice customers** The young man at the grocery store would help you out with your groceries** On the week-end we took our garbage to the town dump on Fox Hill Rd—yes, it was a dump-with no attendant-but a great place to shoot rats** The Lord's Prayer was recited in school every morning with the Flag Salute which had the new phrase added "One Nation Under God"** Wooden rulers were inscribed with the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you"** The national news media reported the news as it really was and not with a bias** S&H Green stamps and Popular and Signet shopping clubs. In the early days of our marriage I acquired several things for our home in this way** Baby showers were held after bridal showers** Bridal and baby showers were simply held at a friend's home or church hall for a couple of hours on an afternoon or evening with simple desserts being served. I still have and use 2 sets of Pyrex mixing/baking bowls that I received 66 years ago. Everyone was always happy and thankful for what they received** Round and square dances at the fire house when our fire house was new. Dances were held there on a regular basis, especially in the winter. The late Cliff Canfield called most of the "squares"** Silly putty**.

Or When?

Someone passed away in the community a neighbor would take up a door to door collection to purchase a flower arrangement from all the neighbors** Churches held delicious "fund raiser" meals and Everyone Came** Many of the local fellows hung out at Boudreau's Garage to "shoot the breeze" and how quiet it got when a woman walked in** Most kids worked each summer, you didn't just "hang out". If you didn't work away from home—you worked at home—parents were great at coming up with projects. By the time September came many were happy to go back to school** Folks went fishing. As a kid I fished in the creek with a hardwood sapling for a pole with a piece of fishline and a hook. When a teenager I was given a bamboo pole that John Shufelt sold at his store at the 4-Corners. After I was married I acquired a fiberglass pole with a Zebco reel. Although I caught some "yummie" bullheads with that pole I probably could have done as well with the old sapling** The days before the "sexual revolution" and "all about me" generations of the 1960's and 70's.** Peacefulness before social media** A power outage before the days of generators. If we had any idea the power

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might go out we'd fill jugs and pails with water. Kerosene lamps were used for lighting inside; lanterns and flashlights outside. Some homes still had a wood stove for heat and cooking. If not we'd go to a neighbor's that did** There were almost more bars and grills around the Reservoir than there were cars in town** Encyclopedias** Folks whistled a lot-not so much today** Family rides on Sunday** A couple entered a diner, ordered their meal and actually talked to each other while they ate the meal instead of playing with their phone** Remember when your business was your own and not spread on "facebook"** Our parents had the last word**.

Remember any of these?

The B-24 bomber that flew into Plateau Sky Ranch Airport that locals called Brownell's Airport** Only cuss words were heard from men and some women-not the vulgar language we hear today** Kids played all kinds of games outside-even in the dark of night** There were only 6-7 makes of cars manufactured and we could identify each one** The family's good set of dishes and glassware was always used for holidays and special events—now more and more folks use ones that can go in the dishwasher** Weekly family get-to-gathers to catch up on the latest news** Dinner was the mid-day meal and supper was the evening meal-at least for country folks** Supper was the same time every night with everyone seated at the kitchen or dining room table. One needed a darn good excuse not to show up for supper. There was one variety of meal served and unless you had an extreme allergy everyone ate the same thing ** The phrase "bullying" didn't exist but most of us took care of the problem on our own**The gas station attendant that checked your oil and washed your windshield while pumping your gas. One of the most pleasant attendants was the late "Skip" Wilson in Northville** Young men "dressing up" old cars or trucks into jalopies to be re-used—some road-worthy and some off-road. My grandson dressed-up his grandfather's pick-up to better fit a young man. That same grandfather-as a teen-ager brought the family farm's old Model A Ford back to life**.

How many others can you remember?



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Northville Meal Site Menus and STFSL Program Calendar for December 2025

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.

Dec 4, OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Chicken and Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Apple.
STFSL Program at 12:30: Crystal Davis from the Cornell Cooperative Extension will show the seniors how to make Corn Chowder Soup. We will celebrate December birthdays with a cake provided by Marylyn Corey.

Dec 11, OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole, Beets, Broccoli, Jell-O
No Program this day

Dec 18, OFA Congregate Meal 11:30-12:30

Stuffed Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Pearl Onions, Dinner Roll, and Apple Pie. STFSL Program at 12:30: Northville Central School Chorus will entertain the seniors with holiday music.

Dec 25, MERRY CHRISTMAS! The Mealsite is closed.

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 call STFSL at 518-752-8737 and leave a message.

Upcoming Trips:

Dec. 6 - Christmas Tea at Old Fort Johnson - this trip is filled unless we have a cancellation.

Dec. 16 - Caregiver Fatigue Program at Mountain Valley Hospice. Free. Refreshments available.

Dec. TBA - Drive through Northville and Mayfield to see the Christmas decorations

Jan. 6th - Paul Nigra 7th Annual Membership Arts Show. Free. Over 110 diverse pieces, many created by local artists. Lunch after at House of Pizza.



Northville United Presbyterian Church News

P.O. Box 657
161 Reed Street
Northville, NY 12134
518-863-4151
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Grace and Peace to you from Northville United Presbyterian Church!

As I write this, I'm looking out the office window at the first measurable snow of this season, and appreciating the beauty of it. It is to me sign of many things: ski season is just around the corner (yay!), Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching, and the full force of winter will not be too much longer in coming.

In the meantime, we are entering the season of Advent in the church. Advent, for those who don't know, is a four week time of preparing ourselves spiritually to welcome Christ into our hearts and lives anew. The four Sundays' themes are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Whether you are a Christian or not, I think we can all agree that more hope, peace, love and joy would be a good thing

Brenda
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these days, as much of our society seems to have lost touch with those critical aspects of living a full and fulfilling life.

When I was a child, we had an advent wreath at home, and every day we would have a short reading and a prayer and light the candles on it. This practice stayed with me, even during times when my commitment to the faith of my upbringing was tenuous. As the days grow darker and colder, it has always been a source of spiritual renewal for me to focus, one week at a time, on: hope for a better world now and in the future; peace within, in our families and neighborhoods, in our nation and in the world; joy for all the ways we are blessed and for the good things we see if only we are paying attention; and love for those around us, and for neighbors near and far, and even those with whom we differ.

I think we have all felt the strain and fatigue rooted in the state of this nation and this world, with its bitter divisiveness, the gridlock in DC in which nothing good seems to get accomplished, and the appalling disregard for those in society who struggle the most – the poor, the disabled, veterans, the elderly, children, persons of color, and those whose nationality, ethnicity, religion, or gender and identity are seen as legitimate bases for discrimination.

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I love the practice of lighting advent candles as I reflect on and pray for more hope, deeper peace, greater joy, and more expansive and inclusive love. In 1907, preacher William Watkinson said in a sermon, “denunciatory rhetoric is so much easier and cheaper than good works, and proves a popular temptation. Yet is it far better to light the candle than to curse the darkness.” By this he meant that while we might be inclined to retreat into our camps and play the blame and accusation game, or to give in to despair over what’s not right in the world, it is far better to light a candle by focusing on the good we can do and speaking hope and peace and joy and love to others both in word and deed.

No matter what religion you practice or whether you have a religious commitment at all, I’d like to invite you to join me, and so many others, who choose to light a candle and pray for, enact, and manifest the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love in our daily lives and relationships.

For in doing so we not only prepare ourselves spiritually for newness of life in days to come, but we are planting seeds for a better tomorrow.

If you would like to share this journey with others who are on a spiritual path, please join us for worship on Sundays at 10 am. All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you are or where you come from. We’d love to get to know you and grow with you.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Lucy Harris

1907 Copyright, The Supreme Conquest and Other Sermons Preached in America by W. L. Watkinson (William Lonsdale Watkinson), Sermon XIV: The Invincible Strategy, (Romans: xii, 21), Fleming H. Revell Company, New York.

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Small Town Adirondacks Life: Epitomizing Some Myths and Illustrating New Distinctions

By P.J. Schaefer

Of Tree Farms, Balsam, and Other Area Adirondack Christmas Traditions

For as long as people have settled in the Adirondack Mountains, they have celebrated Christmas. They brought with them some traditions from their own backgrounds, but they also let the area dictate new habits that have now become traditions as embedded in their lives and annual celebrations. Whether those behaviors remain particular to families or to communities, these customs draw from the very environment in which they dwell.

Perhaps no more enduring or endemic icon of the season exists than the Christmas tree. Here in the Adirondack Park, though a much smaller part of the agricultural economy than the dairy farms, the Christmas tree farms play an important role. Not only do these farms support the local economy, but they also bring tourism, provide seasonal and niche market



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If you have a birthday that you would like to put in the Edinburg Newsletter, please email it to:
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From the Four Corner Diner Gang

items, offer sustainable land use that stabilizes soil conditions and improves air quality, and serve as natural habitats for a host of wildlife. New York State data tells us that every harvested tree gets replaced with a minimum of two seedlings to ensure these benefits last, particularly because, as the New York State Christmas Tree Association clarifies, it takes 8 – 15 years for a tree to grow. According to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Adirondack Park tree farms contribute to the state's overall \$14 million economic impact of the 4th-ranking Christmas tree farm state in the nation, with "875 tree farms sprawling across almost 19,000 acres," many of them right here in the Adirondack Park. Even as far back as 1878, the New York Times recognized the "great market for Christmas greens in New York" and in 1983 wrote articles about "the dealers in Christmas trees" lining the roadways and filling the train cars bound southward. By 1974, as Floyd S. Hyde noted, "Beginning in November every year, huge truckloads of Christmas trees roll out of the Adirondacks, destined for the City markets."

But the trees often bring the market to them as well; whole families make traditional outings of finding the right tree and bringing it back to homes on their own. In this area, 6 of the most prominent tree farms include Gooderie's Tree Farm in Johnstown, Bob's Trees in Galway, Ellms' Family Farm in Ballston Spa, Holland Hill also in Ballston Spa, River Bend Christmas Tree Farm in Lake Luzerne, and a bit farther away, Moody Tree Farm in Lake Placid.

According to its own website, Gooderie's Tree Farm began its tree-farming history in 1970, though it stood as a small farm and sawmill from 1939 until 1960, when the patriarch sold half of the farm. That portion of the farm served as the tree farm, but in 1983, the younger generation of the family bought back the entire farm and turned 250 acres into a tree farm and nursery that produces fir trees, hardwood and flowering trees for landscaping, and "suppl[ies] more than a dozen restaurants with fresh tomatoes and cucumbers, and [a] hop yard [that] supplies Stump City Brewing." The farm's "award-winning wreaths have graced the doors of the Executive Mansion as well as the governor's offices in Albany and New York City." From the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve, this tree farm offers cut trees; freshly cut trees; cut-your-own trees (on weekends only); balsam and mixed evergreen wreaths, kissing balls, sprays, and garlands; and some handmade crafts from local artists.

Bob's Trees offers similar fare, with its trees, snack bar (filled with homemade cookies), gift shop, and Santa's Solution items such as tree stands, tree drag bags, and the like. In existence since 1942, it, too, stands as a fourth-generation family business. In addition to offering several varieties of trees, according to Julie and Company Realty, this farm provides "tractor-drawn wagon rides through its 100 acres of Christmas tree fields,

[. . . and] kids can meet Santa, see Santa's reindeer, and even write a letter to Santa." Here, too, patrons can get cut-your-own or pre-cut trees.

Somewhat different from these first two farms, Ellms' Family Farm offers many seasonal activities year-round, with selling Christmas trees just one of its activities. Unique to this farm is a trolley to the fields and what they call "chicken carolers." Customers who purchase a tree or wreath also get a free cup of hot cocoa.

Perhaps the smallest of the tree farms in the area, Holland Hill, also a family-owned enterprise, according to Julie and Company Realty provides everything the larger farms offer: cut-your-own and pre-cut trees, a small gift shop, handmade wreaths, and hot cider and cookies by a stovepipe fireplace.

Like the others, River Bend Christmas Tree Farm, in business since 1967, provides the consumer with a variety of tree choices and other fir tree décor, but, according to its website, it offers two entities the others do not: Trees for Troops and its own maple syrup.

Likewise, Moody Tree Farm's website boasts that it offers not only "a traditional family experience of choosing and cutting your own Christmas tree," but also "high tech Internet shopping for our handmade Balsam products, wreaths, and centerpieces, etc." It does showcase a physical gift shop on the premises, too, where shoppers can find a plethora of handmade balsam gifts. The farm also provides a children's visit with farm animals and custom-made mantle pieces and the like.

The balsam products such tree farms sell have embraced a time-honored Adirondack tradition. As the New York State Conservationist noted long ago, the balsam's fragrance and durability, coupled with what writer Tom Kalinowski calls, limbs "adapted to bend, rather than snap" make it ideal for a host of craft projects. As William Chapman White, author of Everything in the Adirondacks noted, many women in the 19th

continued on next page

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century worked from November through December creating “pine pillows, filled with fresh-cut evergreen needles in lavishly decorated or utterly simple cloth cases.” These balsam pillows and sachets remain staples of many homes and craft stores even today.

The balsam wreath, still prominent today, also traces its roots to families creating and selling the wreaths as small, cottage industries for a few extra dollars. By the late 19th century, however, the Essex County Republican reported the exporting of these products to the cities as highly commercial enterprises. In modern times, Adirondack balsam wreaths and garlands often serve as fundraising products for the Traditional Arts of Upstate New York (TAUNY), scouting troops, church groups, and various craft fair vendors.

Other traditional uses for balsam fir include resin-based products for medicinal purposes, teas, and soaps. The techniques used to create such items stem from generations of practice and handed-down recipes. These items, too, make their way to local craft fairs and stores where tourists and locals alike purchase them, with sales always rising at Christmas time because they serve as special gifts.

Gift-making and buying and tree-hunting alone do not make up all of the Christmas traditions of the Adirondack

Park communities, however. In addition to town tree-lighting ceremonies (discussed in December 2024 Edinburg Newsletter issue) and the many individual town events announced and highlighted in the pages of this newsletter last month and this month, several events have become cherished Adirondack traditions in the area.

One such community tradition occurs at the Animal Land Park, which hosts Christmas at Animal Land with the option to drive through or walk through and to shop in its gift store. The park provides a festival of light displays of various themes throughout the season.

The Adirondack Net tells us that in Inlet and Old Forge, Adirondack Christmas on Main Street provides “fun, entertainment, and activities” at which people can expect to see “Santa, Mrs. Claus, their reindeer, horse-drawn carriage rides, caroling, tree-lighting, and a parade.”

Ticonderoga hosts North Country Christmas, a season-long activity that encompasses multiple events including hayrides, Christmas crafts, and tree-lighting.

Saranac Lake hopes people will come to discover Sparkle Village Arts and Crafts Fair, a showcase of handcrafted gifts, art, photography and many unique creations, all designed by local artisans.

The North Pole of course offers a season of weekends at Santa’s Workshop. According to Adirondack Net, children ages 2 – 10 will “visit with St. Nick and Mrs. Claus, create their own ornaments, enjoy entertainment like stories and caroling, and more.”

Lake Placid presents the Lake Placid Village Holiday Stroll that involves the entire village providing decorations, contests, games, shopping, and various other activities.

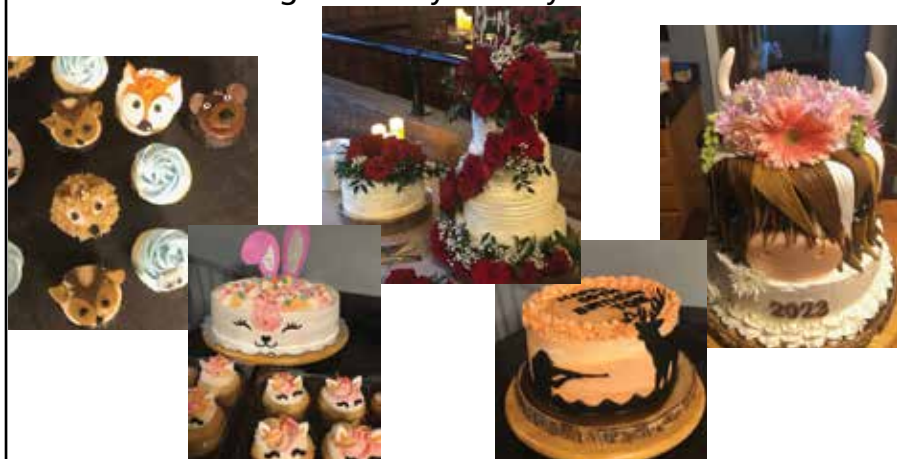
Many of the Park’s Native American communities add to the variety of celebrations, too, by blending Christmas celebrations with their Winter Solstice ceremonies. According to Indian

continued on page 26

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Traders, on December 21 and 22, local Native Americans may celebrate Winter solstice with “bonfires, dances, ceremonies, educational programs, and walks.” But, Indian Trader adds, American Indians also celebrate Christmas by “imbuing it with cultural practices which strongly emphasize Native American tradition.” They may, for example, “encourage their kids to believe their benefactor is The Handsome Fellow (a mysterious Native man who gives gifts and cand) instead of Santa Claus. They may decorate their Christmas trees with dream catchers, totems, beaded ornaments, and wampum ornaments and sing carols in their Native language. Like so many in the Adirondacks, they, too, make community and family the center of their celebrations, often traveling great distances to do so.

As these celebrations and the year come to a close, the North Country New Year at Lake Saranac, complete with fireworks, events, and entertainment provides just one of many of the First Night experiences in the area. And for the charity-inclined, the Adirondack Park offers two Polar Plunges to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, one at Long Lake and the other in Speculator on or close to New Year’s Day. These icy dips have now entered the realm of tradition, too, each year drawing increased numbers of participants and spectators.

No shortage of tradition and community exist in the Adirondack Park at Christmas time; here, modernity makes room

for time-honored rituals that tie us to history and our shared sense of this unique and treasured place.

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Flower Talk

Sally Peck, of the Flower Barn

Hydrangeas

The history of Hydrangeas dates back millions of years! A fossil species called *Hydrangea Alaskana* was recovered from Jaw Mountain in Alaska, in a section of rock dating back to the Paleogene Period. Fossils have also been discovered more recently in Asia, the continent with which Hydrangeas are more associated and where it is recorded that people first started cultivating the species, thousands of years ago.

The hydrangea that was first cultivated in Japan is often referred to as *Ajisai*. The flowers bloom during the rainy season (*tsuyu*) from June to July and turn places like the Meigetsuin Temple into a mystical, fragrant garden. They are often mentioned in Japanese poems composed during 710-794 AD (called the Nara period). According to legend, the emperor gave hydrangeas to the family of a girl he loved to show how much he cared for her. Japanese diplomats also brought them to Hangzhou, China, during China's Tang Dynasty, 618-907 A.D. From there, they were carried throughout continental Asia.

Westerners collided with Japan's hydrangeas through two adventurers from the Dutch East India company. Englebert Kaempfer (1651-1715) and later, Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828), two physicians in search of new medicinal plants. Before their visit to Japan, the west was unaware of these magnificent ornamentals and their role in Japanese life. For centuries, Japan had not been open to foreigners on the island, for cultural and religious reasons. But, Carl Peter Thunberg managed to collect two types of hydrangeas, convincing them they were foraging for fodder (dried vegetation for feed) for his goat. He described them as *Viburnum Macrophyllum* and *Viburnum Serratum*. [*Viburnum* describes a shrub]. Thunberg was later credited to the final names given to these most popular hydrangeas, *Hydrangea macrophylla* (big leaf variety with showy flower heads) and *Hydrangea serrata* (smaller leaves and flowers). He got the word *Hydrangea* from an early 1700's botanist named Groenonius. In Greek, "hydor" means water and "angos" meaning vessel (barrel/pitcher), hence 'water barrel'. This is because of the cup shaped flowers and the fact that hydrangeas are notorious for needing lots of water.

continued on next page



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In 1771 a French botanist, Philibert Commerson referred to the hydrangea as Hortensia and people still do to this day. Rumours have said that he named the flower after a woman, which could be his mistress or a well-known female astronomer, whom he was closely acquainted with. Some claim it was Hortense de Nassau, the daughter of the Prince of Nassau. Whether the flower was named after a particular lady or not, others have argued that the name 'hortensia' loosely derives from a translation of Latin for 'from the garden'. The Latin word 'hortus' means 'garden' and Commerson found the hydrangea in the garden of the King of Mauritius along with all sorts of other flowers. However, the truth about the origin of its French name still remains unresolved. It's a mystery that adds to its beauty.

In 1792, George Washington planted a native hydrangea, on the bowling green at Mount Vernon. Nearby, Thomas Jefferson was designing his gardens and walkways at Monticello. He also included these new shrubs. Today, heirloom seeds from these plants may be obtained from the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants in Monticello. Both men purchased their seeds and plants from their friend, William Bartram, of Bartram's



Nursery in Philadelphia. Who explored the American southeast and unspoiled southern Appalachian Mountains, collecting and identifying indigenous plants. John first came across the smooth hydrangea in the 1730's and the beautiful oakleaf hydrangea native to Georgia. These two varieties of native American hydrangeas formed the groundwork for cultivated hydrangeas,

which spread across the states. James Madison's home, Montpelier, also benefited from Bartram's nursery. Creamy white hydrangeas still border Montpelier's garden wall.

Before the Bartrams supported the cultivation of hydrangeas, Native Americans had long been using wild hydrangeas medicinally. From them, the colonists discovered their roots were useful as painkillers, as well as for kidney, bladder and other ailments.

Today, the modern world is infatuated with hydrangeas. We now have more than 75 different species and over 600 cultivated varieties to choose from. They win global awards and are featured in celebrity weddings. Also called "The Madonna" of flowering shrubs, hydrangeas have a reputation of being "the perfect shrub" — show-stopping blooms, elegant foliage and understated beauty. And with an adjustment to the ph of the soil we can change the color of the white blooms. With acidic soil it turns the flower to blues and purples and an alkaline ph resulting in pinks to reds.

So when you are planting hydrangeas or displaying them in your home or workplace as a cut flower you are carrying on a vast and ancient piece of history and a continuous timeline.


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A Beginning Beekeepers Journey

by Susan Armstrong



Bees are among the planet's most vital and mysterious creatures. Their lives are filled with surprising facts and unresolved scientific mysteries, from complex communication to unique sensory perception and social structures

The Hidden World of Bees: Facts and Mysteries

Most people imagine honeybees and their hives when they think of bees. However, the world of bees is incredibly diverse, with over 20,000 species, most of which are solitary and do not produce honey or live in hives. The familiar *Apis mellifera* (Western honeybee) represents just a fraction of this fascinating world.

Fascinating, Lesser-Known Facts

Solitary by Nature: Roughly 75% of bee species are solitary, meaning a single female builds and provisions her nest without help, and never interacts with her offspring. These bees often nest in the ground or in dead wood.

Five Eyes and UV Vision: Bees have five eyes: two large compound eyes and three smaller ocelli (simple eyes) on the top of their heads. Their vision is sensitive to blue and ultraviolet light, allowing them to see special patterns on flowers that are invisible to humans, which act as “runways” guiding them to nectar.

Beyond Nectar: While most bees are vegetarians, subsisting on nectar and pollen, some tropical “vulture bees” in South America have evolved to eat rotting meat (carrion) to create a protein-rich “honey”.

“Smelly Feet”: Bees have “smelly footprints” and leave a chemical scent on flowers they visit. This helps other bees know if a flower has been recently foraged, preventing wasted trips and maximizing efficiency.

Regenerative Brains: Older forager bees that revert to the role of a younger “house bee” (due to a lack of younger workers in the hive) can effectively reverse brain aging, a phenomenon scientists are studying for insights into human dementia.

They Do Sleep: Contrary to a popular myth, bees do sleep, primarily at night. They remain very still, their antennae stop

moving, and sometimes they even fall over sideways, often holding another bee's leg.

Enduring Mysteries of the Hive

Despite centuries of study, many aspects of bee behavior and biology continue to baffle scientists.

The Nuances of the Waggle Dance: Discovered by Karl von Frisch, the “waggle dance” is a complex, figure-eight movement used by scout bees to communicate the direction and distance of food sources relative to the sun. While the basics are understood, researchers still question how the watching bees decode this information so perfectly. Some theories involve vibrational cues, pheromonal trails, or acoustic signals that reinforce the visual display, suggesting a multi-sensory communication system.

A “Mental Map” Mystery: Bees create detailed cognitive maps of their environment and use multiple cues, including landmarks, the sun's position, polarized light, and potentially the Earth's magnetic field, to navigate. How their sesame seed-sized brains process and update a dynamic 3D map in real-time remains a major mystery.

The Power of Royal Jelly: All female bee larvae are genetically identical, but only those fed an exclusive diet of “royal jelly” become queens. This milky secretion triggers massive growth and reproductive development, but the exact mechanism and the specific chemical symphony (beyond the protein royalactin) responsible for this transformation are still not fully understood.

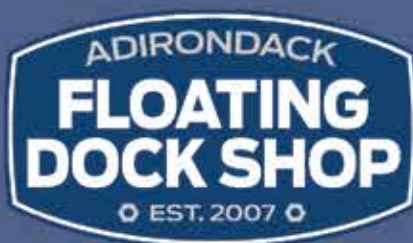
Social Immunity: Bees have minimal internal immune systems compared to other insects. They survive through a concept called “social immunity,” relying on collective behaviors like grooming, cleaning the hive, and using antimicrobial propolis (tree resin) to manage disease. Why nature favored this collective defense over stronger individual immunity is an ongoing area of research.

Honeybees are simply remarkable creatures whose significance extends far beyond their delicious honey production and their crucial role as essential agricultural pollinators.





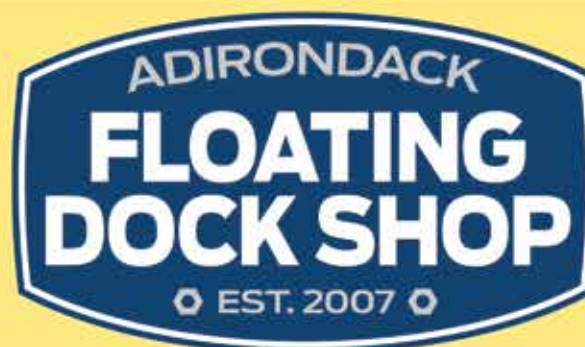
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Samhain

by Bradley Luberto

The moon in hue of fall, was large above the brick chimney of which smoke slowly waft away.

The white washed cottage of clay and straw, stood aside the road. Its boxed glass windows stood back in the home's thick walls.

Behind both on the front, and in one smaller window at the cottage side, that also had a narrow door, were carved pumpkins; that some called jack o lanterns. Believed by some to keep the spirits who roamed this night of Samhain at bay, knowing that if dare come near, they were being watched.

John walked along, he might have quickened his steps as the wind blew strongly, and rattled the branches that dried leaves still clung to. His dog Maggie, sensed the same uneasiness her master did, and for the most part, kept its head low, but turned her head quickly at the sound of a rabbit in the dry thickets, or the hunt of a fox.

Two mice looked in at the bright light of the jack o lantern as they stood on one of the outer wide window sills, scratching at the glass. But ran away quickly at the approach of Maggie. Maggie took a few steps towards the scurrying mice, but John quickly called her back.

John lifted the latch of the wide wooden door, and the light from inside streaked out across the withered grass, and the random flat stones set as a walk before the cottage door.

Maggie entered first, shaking the cold from its fur, and settling herself near the hearth for warmth.

John took the top off the pumpkins; to look at the height of its candles. They had burned low, but would still burn long into the night.

He had walked to the church graveyard of where his wife was buried as he did most every evening.

Her death was something he had never gotten over. She was his life. On the top of her gravestone was carved an hourglass, showing the last of its sand had fallen to the bottom.

The church was of random fieldstone, mortared in place. Its windows in peaks, leaded glass of blues, red, and yellows looked dark from the outside, unless candles were lit in the sanctuary. The belfry was also of fieldstone.

Opened in 4 arches, the large bell of bronze, now darkened to near black by age, hung in silence. It tolled for Sunday service, but other than that, it hung in stillness. The belfry was a nest to birds, who left in smartness each Sunday when the bell was rung.

The moon had past the belfry's spire, but its great light



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awashed the front of the church, its wide wooden door, and across the many gravestones in the graveyard beside the church.

A stone wall with a black iron gate, allowed entrance to the graveyard. Most of the stones were of brown sand stone. Some of white marble stood tall, the name of the dead, and of whom beloved spouse they might be. Some bespoke of a hoped after life, and some ended in sad rhyme.

Some stones were marked only with initials, and some only a rough ridge of stone in the soil leaving no longer words or meaning of a life.

His wife's grave lie aside a small path. Her stone singly, but an open place was next to hers, someday to be his.

Beyond the church, along the rutted road that led down a little hill, lie the rest of the village.

An inn, a blacksmith shop, a small store, and a few homes made up all of the village.

The blacksmith shop; with two large wood doors, was made of fine cut light in color stone, looking as if it would stand forever. The store, of wood, had two large glass windows that were crowded with hanging wares. Its doors were simple, curved glass in each, with a bell atop one inside that rang when opened.

The inn was a solemn place. Not an inn of penny whistle, squeeze box and fiddle. It was a place of food and grog, and clay pipe before a fire. Lanterns hung from forged hooks, and the wax of candles pooled in tin sconces on the walls.

From a crane hook at the fire,



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hung a large kettle of barley soup. While bread turned golden brown in an oven behind a small wood door that was charred to black on the inside.

At one table sat men, puffing on clay pipes, telling stories or news of the day. Another man sat alone in a thin wood chair, his hand on a pipes bowl, his eyes far away.

At another table sat a young man, and a young woman. They talked and even laughed a bit in soft tones. There were rooms to be let above the inn, and no doubt this couple had been traveling, and would lodge there tonight.

John had suppered here earlier; he sat at a table near a window; its glass old with imperfections, showing bubbles and lines.

Across the street, at a cottage, a pumpkin sat on the wide stone stoop at the door. Its face carved in a wide tooth grin, its candle flickering almost out at times from the wind. A black cat pounced at leaves that tumbled along the road, then in a crazed haste ran off.

Other homes too had their lights, but appeared only as an orange glow further down the street.

At his home, Maggie lie on her back, on a braided oval rug before the fire, her legs up, her front paws bent. The pads of her

feet were black and cracked, she was getting old. Her days of running afield were over, her coat still tan, but her muzzle now gray. She'd sleep at times with her eyes open, seemingly always watching. But this time her eyes were closed. A snap from the fire would set her on her feet, but her hearing was going, and she slept through the fire's snaps and pops.

And aged clock on the mantle struck 10 times, and then in an hour 11.

John looked at Maggie, she was on her side curled in a way, her chin on the rug. The fire was of red coals under some black logs crumbling to silver. The pumpkins were dark before the glass.

John stretched back in the rocking chair he sat, the small blanket he had over his legs slid down, the chair creaked awaking Maggie, who slowly came over, putting her head on his leg wanting a pet. John rubbed his hand over her warm head.

You can find Bradley's published books on Amazon!



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Northville News

Wendy Reu, Village Clerk

Northville Lighted Parade and Tree Lighting



the day on Saturday, we will have holiday music in the commercial district and the local Northville merchants will be holding various holiday open house events. Visit the village of Northville for a festive small business holiday experience. To be part of the fun and participate in the parade, email clerk@villageofnorthville.com

Northville officially kicks off the holiday season Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025 - On Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, the Village of Northville will host the Northville Lighted Parade, followed by the annual tree lighting in the park and the arrival of Santa. The parade begins at 5 p.m. We will be using the same parade route as last year. The parade will stage on North Third Street, facing NORTH (Reed Street), proceed to Reed Street, turn down Main Street and continue PAST the Waterfront Park, ending at Washington Street. Please share the new parade route with your friends! Annual festivities in the park include Santa's tree lighting, a visit with Santa, a toasty bonfire with cookies & cocoa will be held immediately after the parade. Throughout

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BACKYARD WILDLIFE

Roberta MacIntyre Games

While winter tracking I found “dog” prints behind the house. We have a new neighbor and I figured it was their dog. So I set the trail cam up in the woods where I saw the tracks. One great way to “observe” wildlife in the backyard is with a trail cam. What was on it surprised me. There were deer, a few large raccoons, a grey fox and I was stunned, there was a beautiful coyote!

Many years ago when I first moved to the region we would sit at night and listen to the coyote song. Coyotes vocalize to alert other coyotes of their territory and to draw family members back together. They can be heard over long distances.

Considering that the coyote has a territory or home range of 2-10 square miles or more, the coyote I see in my backyard may be several miles away tomorrow. Wild animals are always moving in search of food and will stay where all factors support them. Coyote’s diets vary but include rodents, rabbits, deer and other small animals (yes small pets) as well as reptiles, fruit & vegies, whatever is easy to catch or scavenge. I once observed a



Trail Cam Picture

continued on next page



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coyote feasting on a beaver near my house. It was winter and the beaver must have been out of it's shelter.

Coyotes are highly intelligent, curious, fast, agile and very adaptable to their environment. Most folks recognize their presence by their chorus. The yipping and howling even in response to a siren can sound like a huge number of animals. It is said that one coyote can sound like several. They do not form packs in the structure of wolf packs. They can be solitary, pairs (which mate for life) or in family groups. They are very social.

The coyotes in our region are known as Eastern Coyotes. The Eastern Coyote is larger than the Western Coyote and studies have found that they are a distinct species that may have returned to the Northeast after being driven out or had migrated from the west and interbred with wolves from eastern Canada.

In 2001 a hunter in the town of Day killed a large coyote. After testing it was determined to be a wolf. Wolves are not common in the Adirondacks but have on occasion been documented. They are called outliers, most likely from Canada searching for new territory.

The vocalizations of coyotes betray their presence creating both fear and awe but they are a necessary part of our landscape keeping rodent and rabbit populations in check. Because they are attracted to food sources it is important to keep our surroundings "wildlife-proof". Never feed wild animals and protect your small pets. As with most wild animals coyotes will try to avoid humans. If you do encounter one, act big and loud and do not turn and run. Occasionally one may be spotted during the day especially during birthing season when they are probably just busy "parenting".

There are many posts on the internet about coyotes coming into yards, stealing dog's toys and playing. Check them out if you can!

Roberta Games is a longtime Sacandaga region resident and spends many hours hiking and exploring the area. She has a degree in Biology with special interest in Wildlife Biology and loves sharing about her many encounters with wildlife.



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WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship at 9:00 AM -

Coffee Hour and Fellowship at 10:00 AM

Office Hours – Wednesday – 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 12/6	10 AM Church Council
Sunday 12/14	8 AM Winter Covered Dish Breakfast
Sunday 12/21	10 AM Regifting Event
Wednesday 12/24	6 PM Christmas Eve Service
Thursday 12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY

12/7/2025 - SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12; Romans 15:4-13
Message: "Getting Ready for Christmas"

12/14/2025 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10
Message: "Strange Choices"

12/21/2025 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25; Romans 1:1-7
Message: "Divisions"

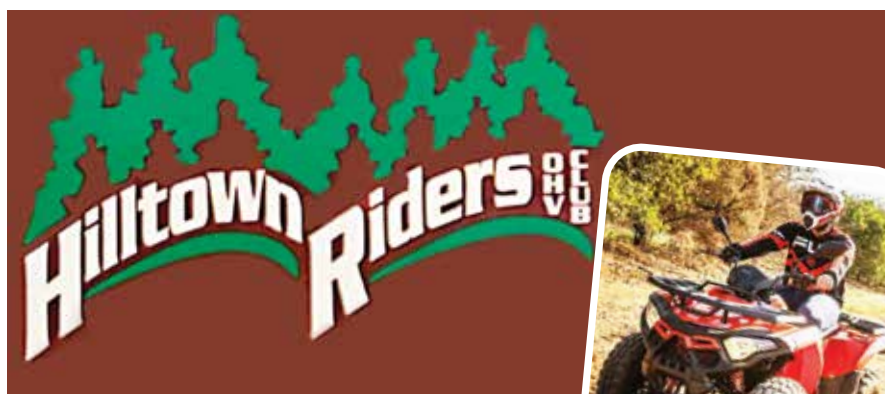
12/24/2025 – CHRISTMAS EVE

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20; Titus 2:11-14
Message: "God is With Us"

12/28/2025 – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23; Hebrews 2:10-18
Message: "Refugees"

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



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Clergy Column

Getting Ready for Christmas

December is time for preparations for Christmas. It is a time for shopping for gifts, attending parties, and preparing for a holiday meal with family often including friends and relatives scattered in distant locations.

In the life of the Church, it is a time for remembering that God so loved us that God came among us in the person of Jesus. In our church calendar this time of preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus is called Advent. Advent is also a time of remembering Jesus' promise that he will come again ushering in the arrival or advent of a new heaven and earth. A place that God through the prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD (Isaiah 65:17-19, 25)."

It is a time to rejoice in what God has done in Jesus and get ready for what God is in the process of bringing to pass. A promise that despite all of the problems that beset this world, God's plan for a place of joy and peace will come to pass. A promise that even now God is at work fulfilling through those who seek to continue God's way of forgiveness, reconciliation, and love revealed through the prophets and most fully through the ministry of Jesus.

In the midst of the many preparations that are part of the season, I encourage you to join your Faith Community in the preparations for celebrating Christmas and preparing for Jesus' second coming and the fulfillment of what was proclaimed by the prophets and promised by God in the person of Jesus.

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



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Sacandaga Valley Arts Network

Linda Brown

“Good morning, December – May your light be soft, your coffee warm and your hours kind.” (Unknown). I really must meet this “Unknown” author! His/her thoughts and quotes so often capture the essence of what I am thinking and feeling, much like viewing an artist’s offerings or musician’s music, and finding the one that speaks directly to my conscious and subconscious. Living here in the Sacandaga Valley in the winter has taught us one lesson, “Every December snowflakes whisper, ‘you should have left five minutes earlier.’” (Unknown) See that, this Unknown person is right again!

November was an eventful month for SVAN. In addition to a gallery planning meeting, an exhibit and reception by artist Janet Marie Yeates, a collage class led by Leslie Ford and Small Business Saturday on the 29th, SVAN held their Annual Meeting. At the meeting the following slate of officers was approved.

- President, Dianne Knapp
- Secretary, Debbie Hoffman
- Treasurer, Carolyn Darkangelo
- Membership, Linda Brown
- Directors at Large (4), Barbara Spaeth, Don Hoffman, Carolyn Wilcox, Joe Pawloski

The Board looks forward to hearing from you with suggestions for future events and any artisans interested in teaching a class. As always they look forward to welcoming you into membership. Membership@svanarts.org.

Additionally, a committee has begun planning for the 2026 Art Trails. This event has grown every year and we look forward to a bigger and better future Trails. Are you interested in being part of the planning? Contact vicepreident@svanarts.org.

**All are Welcome!
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**SVAN offers its continuing thanks and
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members of the First United Methodist
Church, who so graciously allow us the use
of the premises that shelters our
SVAN Art Center & Gallery at
303 South Main St., Northville, NY.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.**

As SVAN continues planning for the winter and year ahead many exciting events are in store for the coming months:

- December 6 – Fiber Art exhibit and reception with artist Dan Bridge at the Northville S. Main St. Gallery. 3-5 P.M.
- December 14 - Adirondack Storytelling with Dr. Joseph Bruchac, Master Storyteller. United Methodist Church of Northville, 3-5 pm. Members \$20/non-Members \$25. Please RSVP at 518-863-8047.
- January 18 – Concert with Chris Carey & Tim Wechgelaer, Singer/Songwriters, United Methodist Church of Northville, 3:00 pm. Members \$20/non-Members \$25.
- February 15 – Songs from the Mountains with Dan Berggren, Award winning songwriter. United Methodist Church of Northville, 3:00 pm. Members \$20/non-Members \$25.

As you are doing your Christmas shopping be sure to check out the gift ideas found in the SVAN Gallery, 303 S. Main St., Northville. A great gift idea for yourself or a friend is an inexpensive gift of membership in SVAN. Information can be found at membership@svanarts.org or contact Linda Brown. You can also visit SVAN Arts page on Facebook.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Helen Keller



Winter Concert Series

Sundays, 3pm

Friendship Hall

**1st United Methodist Church of Northville
303 S Main st Northville**

December 14th

Join us for an afternoon of Adirondack Storytelling



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January 18th

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February 15th

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OVER A DOZEN ALBUMS



Reservations for ALL shows required - (518) 863-8047
Show Cost: \$20 SVAN Members—\$25 Non-members



NEWS From the President of the Great Sacandaga Lake Association

Jane Kinney Denning

Happy Holidays to All from the Great Sacandaga Lake Association

We hope that your holidays are joyful and peaceful and that good things await in the new year.

It is hard to believe that 2025 is almost over. It has been a busy year for the GSLA and with the tireless efforts, passion and dedication of our board (you can read about our board members on our website gsla.org) and volunteers, we have accomplished much and are looking forward to 2026 with high hopes for growing our membership to support our work and to building an even stronger community of people looking to protect and preserve the beautiful Great Sacandaga Lake.

For a bit of background, in 2022, the GSLA was at the point of dissolution. The Covid epidemic, an aging but dedicated board and the difficulty of recruiting new members and volunteers seriously impacted the association's ability to run effectively. Fortunately, there was strong opposition to losing an association that for nearly 75 years, had been a part of the Great Sacandaga Lakes's history and several people, with important skills and strong environmental passions, committed to working together to revitalize the GSLA.

Over the past two years, the GSLA board and volunteers have been working diligently to rebuild and strengthen the foundation of the association by creating a strong, professional board, developing and investing in a new website, connecting with the GSL community, growing our social media presence to share important lake news, creating a signature "clean-up" day event, revitalizing the Environmental Citizenship Award and connecting in a meaningful way with other organizations that also work to protect the GSL.

Our tagline of Advocating, Educating, Preserving, and Protecting, encompasses our overall goals as an association and we need you, especially the over 4500 permit holders on the GSL, to support our efforts.

We are an all volunteer, 100 percent membership funded association and depend upon your support. And to be honest, our biggest challenge is growing our membership and reaching all of the people who benefit from the work the GSLA does. Your

donations go directly to funding our annual water testing, the annual Environmental Citizenship Award and other initiatives focusing on the health of the lake.

This month, we will be participating in Giving Tuesday (<https://www.givingtuesday.org/about/>) so please consider making a donation.

You can do so on our website at <https://www.gsla.org/donate>.

And if you would like to become a member, you can do so at <https://www.gsla.org/membership>.

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301 South Main Street
PO Box 476, Northville, NY 12134
Church Phone: 518-863-4911

Sunday Worship, 11:00 am
Ron Talbott, Pastor

Facebook: First United Methodist Church of Northville
website: firstumcnorthville.weebly.com
e-mail: northvilleumc@gmail.com

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! In this season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we are so grateful for all of you. We ask God's blessing on you and your families as we celebrate this beautiful season.

Advent Worship: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love – Each Sunday starting Nov 30 through Dec 21, we'll light the candles of the Advent wreath and reflect on the gifts Christ brings. The Christ Candle will be lit on Christmas Eve. Join us in worship as we prepare our hearts to welcome the Savior.

The congregation will host two Christmas projects this year. The first is one we have done many times and seems to resonate with so many of us. We are collecting Donations for Brennan Humane Society in Gloversville: dog food, cat food, treats, toys, cat litter, blankets, towels, bleach, paper towels. Boxes will be in the front foyer and gifts will be picked up by a volunteer(s) on or about December 15.

For the second project, we will be making donations of new mittens and gloves for teenagers through the CAPTAINS program in Gloversville for homeless teens. Charlotte Locatelli volunteers for this program and is spearheading this project for us.

December 6 – Members and friends of First UMC will be decorating the church for the season, probably starting at 9 am. Volunteers are welcome!

December 14 – We will host a SVAN Concert at 3 pm in the fellowship hall/dining room: Adirondack Story Teller. Reservations through SVAN are required.

December 24 – A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held in the sanctuary at 7 pm. We are sure there will be wonderful music involved. Join us on this magical night when



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we will celebrate the shepherds and the angels; and, keep watch over the Christ Child along with Joseph and Mary and the animals in the stable.

December 25 – Merry Christmas!

January 1, 2026 – Happy New Year!

January 4 - Epiphany Sunday, a celebration of the Magi (three kings) who followed the star to Bethlehem so they could bow down before the Christ Child and present their gifts.

A Christmas Prayer: Dear Lord, You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ, who bears your very image and brings us your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Our Thrift Store ministry is open and thriving. 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!

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"Stones from the Creek"

Stony Creek Town Historian Cindy Cameron

W. R. Miles advertises his hotel property for sale. Miles sold out to William Cameron the very next month. In 1887 the value was \$1200.00, these figures indicate that the old hotel was indeed prosperous when the fire struck.

After the hotel at the Stony Creek Inn location burned, a letter written by John Smith says "Cameron moved into the house across the way, which was owned by Chauncy Akley and converted it into a hotel. John Smith was staying at Cameron's new hotel and wrote, "it makes a pretty good house, but not near as good as the one that burned." The building that Cameron converted into the hotel was on a one-eighth acre lot on the edge of Roaring Branch Creek.

Cameron is assessed as the owner from 1889-1896. Cameron was not the only proprietor for the period he was the owner. In a Warrensburg News article from 1893 it said that Lyman Brayton of Glens Falls was proprietor from spring of 1892 to February 1893, when Cameron took possession again. The newspaper commented that Cameron "has no license, whereas the temperance people rejoice." October 5, 1893 Warrensburg News Creek Center: Landlord Cameron, of the Cameron house is attending the World's Fair. After William Cameron there were a few owners, Lyman Wheeler, Arthur Sherman, Ella Pasco, John Pasco, William Bowman, and George McDonald. From 1899 to 1902 the hotel is assessed to John Pitkins.

The deed shows that John and Ella Pasco sold the hotel directly to Alta Pitkins in January 1899. She is the third woman, after Ella Pasco and Ruth Dunlap, to have the hotel deeded in her name rather than her husband's. In the 1900 census it gives her husband John as a hotel keeper. In 1903, William Collins is assessed for the hotel lot by the creek and also has the one-half acre lot across the street where the original hotel had burned. In August of 1904, disaster strikes....

Continued next month.



This is a picture of the hotel when William Cameron owned it.

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Happy Holidays

From all of us at Brownell Lumber

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Wednesday December 24th - Sunday January 4th.
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“Nuggets and News” from the Town of Lake Luzerne

Historian, Pam Morin 518-696-7184

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.

Of the twin towns of Luzerne and Hadley at the junction of the Hudson and Sacandaga rivers, very little has been written. The Indian Trail that crossed the river just above the towns was used in traveling from Lake George to the forks along the Mohawk. It is here that King Hendricks army of braves had an encampment while on their way to Johnsonson in the Mohawk Valley and this trail was also used by Sir Johnson when he returned from his long expedition into Canada, to seek his buried treasures at Johnson’s Hall.

In 1782 Butler covered the same route on his famous raid. After crossing the Hudson River above the Village, the trail led past what is know known as O’Keefe’s Pond, on over the notch between the Jeffer’s and Hughes mountains, finally fording the Sacandaga at Huntoon Rifts.

Early records tell of a grant of two thousand acres on the west side of the Hudson River, north of the Sacandaga to an Archibald Campbell for loyalty during the French and Indian War, when he served in the Scottish Black Watch Regiment. Ebenezer Jessups received a crown grant, about the same time, of two thousand and forty acres on the East side of the Hudson. However, Jessups forfeited this grant by going to Canada, as a King’s man at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

Two thousand acres of this land was afterward purchased by Elijah Adams, a Revolutionary soldier from New England for two “York Shillings” an acre. Adams built the house later known as the Porteous House which stands near the present bridge over

the Stewart Brook, on the Earl Woodard property about a half mile distant from the Ferguson House now owned by Dr. Penny and used as a summer house.

As far as anyone knows the oldest framed house in the Village, was the one on the south end east corner of the Ketchum property and was the home of Mrs. Catherine Stebbins. Most of the building has been torn down, only a shed and the foundation are showing This house was built on the Main Street, just about where the Methodist parsonage now stands and was moved to its present location about seventy years ago. Another old-

timer is the house at the foot of Mill Street hill, where the Grant Bethel family lives. Farther down main Street is the house built by Seth Aldrich, later known as the Porteous House and at present owned by Mrs. Joseph Gilroy. These 3 houses are well over a hundred years old.

The fist settler in Hadley was Richard Hilton, who came there in 1788. Alexander Stewart settled on the bank of the Hudson in 1790 and cleared a farm of fifteen acres with the aid of horses, oxen and men, in that summer from May to December.

Jeremy Rckwell, whose name has been closely related to much of the history of Hadley and Luzerne, settled in Hadley in 1802. He erected the first sawmill and conducted the first store on the Hadley side of the Hudson.

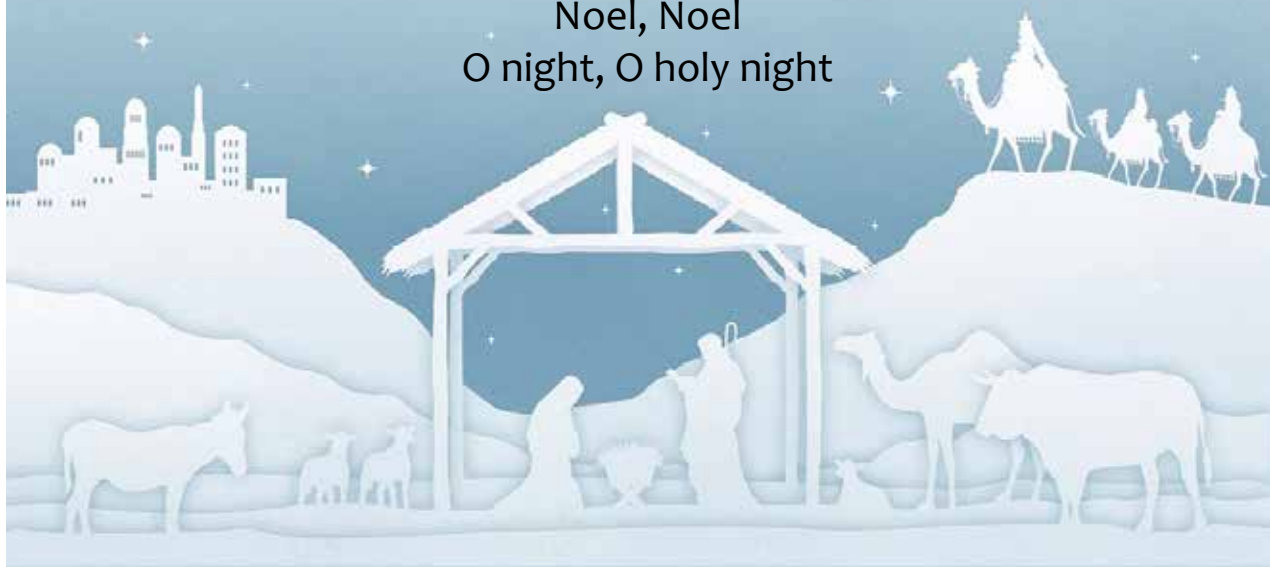
He became one of the leading citizens of the community and was one of the framers of the State Constitution in 1821. On April 10, 1792 land was taken from Queensbury, then a part of Washington County and was called Fairfield. One year later on April 3, 1793 their first officers were elected,

Jeremy Russell being the fist Supervisor with Benjamin Cowles Town Clerk. Five years later on April 6, 1806 the name Fairfield was changed to Luzerne in honor of Chevalier de la Luzerne. Warren County was not organized as a separate County until five years later, in 1813.

to be continued.



O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine
O night, O night divine
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
With all within let's praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord!
His name forever praise we
Noel, Noel
O night, O night divine
Noel, Noel
O night, O holy night



“O Holy Night” is a sacred song for Christmas performance. Originally based on a French-language poem by poet Placide Cappeau, written in 1843, with the first line “Minuit, Chrétien, c’est l’heure solennelle” that composer Adolphe Adam set to music in 1847. The English version is by John Sullivan Dwight.

Sufficiency and Other Ponderings

Shellie Kovaleski

The best thing about short December days? More time to enjoy Christmas lights! If we were in the southern hemisphere, the December sky would be bright like the long days of July. The little ones could be in bed before all the lights came on. I wonder what they do about that. We might have a darker commute in December, but at least it's decorated.

Snow and reindeer and Christmas trees all go together, right?

Does anyone in Texas sing "Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh?" Jingle bells? Do Florida natives dream of a white Christmas? Do Californians know that the horse knows the way to carry the sleigh?

I used to think a Christmas without snow and winter would feel lacking or inauthentic somehow. Then one winter a Florida Christmas happened to me. Without sweaters, mittens and boots it seemed like we were just pretending it was Christmas. At 4:30 in the afternoon when it should've been dark it was bright and sunny.

At dusk we wandered along the streets to the most brilliantly illuminated front yards. Nativity characters clustered uncomplainingly alongside palm trees or were flanked by floral hedges. Santas and reindeer, grinchies and elves sheepishly embellished grassy lawns. It gradually occurred to me that nativity scenes that were embedded among palms were probably much more authentic than the snowy scenes I was used to!

In New York I smile as I drive by beautiful installations. But I realized in Florida most people were strolling by and even pausing here and there. The mild evening, unseasonable to northern sensibilities, let folks linger and gather near the lights they were most drawn to. Some were made merry by Santa and sleighs and reindeer; others made Mary and Jesus and Joseph their main contemplation. Some murmured to strangers. It reminded me of the original Christmas with the watchful shepherds drawn to a bright light.

As a youngster, I found the glow of a room lit only by tree lights to be enchanting and wondrous. I lay for hours under the colored lights, wondering what was in each package. Now I've come to wonder about the season's message, carried by angels. I wondered why everyone's initial response to the Bible's angel messengers was usually fear! I wonder what part I can play in adding to the Christmas atmosphere of joy. My friend Maureen remembers seeing someone alone at a Christmas party. She and her husband sat down to talk with and make him feel more included. A lasting and close friendship resulted. That seems to me like Christmas in action.

After that Christmas in Florida I began to see that Christmas doesn't belong in the north. It doesn't belong in the south... it belongs in the heart. You know it.



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Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club

District Governor Visits Broadalbin-Perth Lions; Club and Individuals Recognized

District Governor of Northern New York Lions Barbara Bentley made her official visit to the Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club at Sport Island Pub in Northville. The evening featured an event of fellowship, frivolity, and recognition.

District Governor Bentley recognized several Club members, mentioning that club president Bob Townsend was recently presented with a Lions Clubs International President's Certificate of Appreciation at the district's recent cabinet meeting, and that club marketing chair Ed Balaban's efforts in publicizing the club's activities continues to far out pace the other 47 clubs in the district. By virtue of this recognition it was clearly evident that the Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club is one of the most seasoned, experienced and skilled group of Lions in the region.

Broadalbin-Perth Lions President Bob Townsend presented an extensive list of the club's engagements at the local level that encompass all of Lions International's global causes. Townsend also made a special presentation to Broadalbin-Perth Elementary School 6th grader Nolan Taylor "in recognition of his support of the Club's youth soccer concession fund raising activity". During the spring soccer season, Nolan approached the Lion's concession booth and boldly asked how he could help. The Lions warmly accepted his offer and he was a presence during both the spring and fall season. Nolan was presented with a certificate of appreciation, Lions ball cap, and a club shirt.

In her remarks to the Broadalbin-Perth Lions, the District Governor spoke about the need for membership growth and retention "in a different time", and continued and expanded service all for the greater good of caring for one's community. Having already heard about the various service projects, solid fund raising, and deep community involvement of the Broadalbin-Perth Lions, when compared to many of the other 47 clubs in the District, Bentley said, "I couldn't be more pleased with the spirit and operation of the Broadalbin-Perth Lions."

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 and hearing preservation, the environment, childhood cancer, food insecurity, diabetes awareness, mental health and other pressing humanitarian needs to help address some of the biggest challenges facing humanity.



From left, Northern New York Lions District Governor Barbara Bentley, Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club President Bob Townsend, Broadalbin-Perth Elementary School 6th grader Nolan Taylor, and Janet Taylor (Nolan's proud mom) gather during the District Governor's club visit at Northville's Sport Island Pub on November 13. Nolan was cited for his volunteerism with the Lions during the spring and fall youth soccer season. (Photo courtesy Broadalbin-Perth Lions/Lion Ed Balaban).

Broadalbin-Perth Lions Hold Vision Screening at Mayfield Elementary School

Lions are known throughout the world for their work to improve the lives of the visually impaired and prevent avoidable blindness. The Broadalbin-Perth Lions have embraced this global cause and have taken action locally by visiting Mayfield Elementary School to provide a day of vision screening for 60 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, coordinating efforts with the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA).

Ashley Wade, Coordinator of Youth Services at NABA, was thrilled at the number of students participating and the continued support of the school and Broadalbin-Perth Lions. “We are so pleased that the school and the Lions are working with us again to ensure that these youngsters have the opportunity to have their vision screened so early in their lives.”

NABA’s vision-screening program is designed specifically for children ages eighteen months to five years. A specialized camera is used to detect potential vision impairments in the individuals screened. Each year, an average of twelve percent of the children screened for vision impairments are “flagged” as having a potential vision problem.

These children are then referred to a doctor for a follow-up visit and treatment if necessary. NABA collects data on the outcomes of those that were recommended for a follow-up visit. Statistics have indicated that low income families are less likely to follow up and schedule a visit with their doctor. Families also

reported that transportation and available time as barriers. NABA works with these families in various ways to ensure that the children are seen by a doctor.

Mayfield Elementary School Nurse, Rebecca, also was a member of the screening team. “This is a great opportunity for families to take advantage of early detection and we so much appreciate all that the Lions do for our Mayfield community.”

Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club President Bob Townsend was quite pleased with the day’s event. “It was well organized and ran like clock work,” said Townsend. The Broadalbin-Perth Lions regularly schedule these screening events with schools in his club’s area.

According to Lions Clubs International, eighty percent of all visual impairment can be prevented or cured. The first step to prevention is awareness. The second is early detection through vision screening. Around the world, Lions partner with medical professionals and community leaders to screen young children, primary school students, and adults to identify those at risk for vision loss. The venue for Lions’ vision screenings varies from schools, to workplaces, to community health fairs, and the screening methods depend upon the age group. But the results are always the same. Early identification leads to timely referral, professional treatment, and improved or restored sight.



Ashley Wade, Coordinator of Youth Services at Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA), right, performs a vision screening on a Mayfield Elementary School student, left. More than 60 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students were screened at the school during the event sponsored by the Lions. (Photo courtesy Broadalbin-Perth Lions/Lion Ed Balaban).



Lions Past District Governor Linda Rhinehart, center, presents a plush lion to a student, left, who was vision screened at Mayfield Elementary School on Nov. 21, as Lion Dan Sardelli, right, observes. The screening was performed by a staff member of the Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA) and sponsored by the Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club. (Photo courtesy Broadalbin-Perth Lions/Lion Ed Balaban).



Edinburg School Happenings

Michelle Ellis, Superintendent

It is hard to believe we are rounding the end of the year already! As winter is approaching, please be on the lookout for any closings, delays, and/or early dismissals for inclement weather. Information and updates regarding closings or delays will be shared with families on the Remind App, District Facebook, and local television/radio stations.



Also, please remember that children will need to have winter gear and snow clothes (coat, hat, mittens/gloves, boots, and snowpants) everyday for outside recess. The only time we will not be outside for recess is if the temperatures (with windchill) fall below 20 degrees or there is freezing precipitation/rain. Should your child/children be in need of winter clothing, please reach out to us for help at 518-863-8412.

On Friday, November 7, 2025, the students, teachers, and staff honored veterans in the gymnasium. We are thankful for their services and the sacrifices they have made to protect our country. The students sang patriotic songs, made projects, and read poems in their honor. We would like to thank our teachers and staff for making this day possible.



Also on Friday, November 7, 2025 during Eagle Morning Program, we honored Students and a Staff Member of the Month. The PBIS word of the month was “Encouraging”!

We would like to congratulate the following students and staff member for being “encouraging” to others. Way to go, everyone!

PK - Dexter

K - Arlo

1 - Olen

2 - Zayleigh

3 - 6th - Addilynn and Avery

Teacher/Staff: Mr. Moore



On Wednesday, November 19, 2025, the Edinburg Common School District enjoyed our Thanksgiving holiday meal together in the gymnasium. We would like to thank Ms. Millington and Mrs. Hennessey for the scrumptious meal!



The Edinburg Common School District will hold a “Holiday Extravaganza” on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM (with a snow date of Monday, December 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM). The students will sing traditional holiday songs and there will also be family activities set up throughout the building after the show. We look forward to seeing everyone!

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

Dates to Remember:

Friday, December 5th - Eagle Morning Program 8:00 AM

Friday, December 5th - Discovery Kids 3 year old program 1:45 PM

Monday, December 8th - Half Day Dismissal at 11:45 AM Bus, Pick-ups 11:50 AM

Tuesday, December 9th - PTO Meeting 4:45 PM

Tuesday, December 9th - ECS Board Meeting at 5:30 PM

Wednesday, December 10th - Santa’s Workshop

Thursday, December 18th - Holiday Extravaganza 6:00 PM (Snow Date 12/22)

Friday, December 19th - Discovery Kids 3 year old program 1:45 PM

Wednesday, December 24th - Friday, January 2nd - Holiday Break



**EDINBURG EMERGENCY SQUAD
CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
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SATURDAY – DECEMBER 13, 2025

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

at the Edinburg Emergency Squad Building

2 Dozen Cookies - \$12.00

Basket Raffle and Christmas Cash Raffle
drawings to follow sale

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

LANDFILL B'ALBIN Mon & Fri 8-3 Tues,Wed, Thur 12-7 Sat 8-1 EDINBURG Fri 12-3 & Sat 9-3 NORTHAMPTON/N'VILLE Mon, Tue 8-4, Sat 8-1	FOREST RANGER EDINBURG/DAY 383-1005 FIRE & BLDG. INSP. DAY Code Enforcer: Bill Farr 696-3789 Ext. 0 EDINBURG Dave Brackett 863-2793 HADLEY Albert Brooks 696-3112 Ext. 4 NORTHAMPTON Dylan Moore 863-6580 NORTHVILLE Daniel Reidell 863-4211 BUILD. DEPARTMENT EDINBURG 863-2034 Ext 14 TOWN HALLS BROADALBIN 883-4657 DAY 696-3789 EDINBURG 863-2034 HADLEY 696-3112 NORTHAMPTON 863-4040 MAYFIELD 661-5414	DOG WARDENS (HOME) BROADALBIN Joe Passino 762-6342 DAY Garrett Metzler 932-8452 EDINBURG Bill VanNostrand 774-1401 HADLEY Alicia Floud 892-1961 NORTHAMPTON/N'VILLE Vernon Duesler 863-6313 ELECTRIC INSP. Ron Royal 369-5199 Joe Swanson 863-2020 Brian Sweet 673-5123 TAX COLLECTOR EDINBURG Faye Frasier 863-2034 HADLEY Pamela Wright 518-696-3112 Ext. 7	ASSESSOR DAY Carrie Schermerhorn,696-3789 Ext. 4 EDINBURG Ron Beckering 863-2034 HADLEY Lorraine Fiorino 696-3112 Ext.6 TOWN JUSTICES DAY Kenneth O. Johnsen 696-3789 ext: 6 EDINBURG Thomas McGroder 863-2034 HADLEY Honorable Patrick Harrington 696-3112 Ext. 8 HIGHWAY SUPER EDINBURG Wayne Seelow 863-8126 DAY Leonard Allen 696-3019 HADLEY Andrew Gilbert 696-3414
TOWN CLERKS DAY Tracy Ladd 696-3789 Ext 2 EDINBURG Denise Ferguson 863-2034 MAYFIELD 661-5414 HADLEY Colleen DeMarsh 696-3112 Ext. 2 NORTHAMPTON Elaine Milhalik 863-4040 STATE POLICE HADLEY 696-4117 MAYFIELD 725-3034 FONDA 853-3415 BROADALBIN 883-5433 SARATOGA COUNTY 911			

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Ponderosa Pines
Placid Pines
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Northville
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JF Farm Store
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Sacandaga Protection Committee

Sacandaga Protection Committee Preserving the Legacy of Great Sacandaga Lake

The Next Generation and Their Summers at GSL

Each summer, the Great Sacandaga Lake becomes a haven for children who delight in its natural beauty and the vibrant communities that surround it. These young visitors not only enjoy the welcoming atmosphere, but also invite friends who eagerly anticipate their visits. New friendships blossom as they share in the joys of clean water, campfires, and the peace of nature in a safe environment.

Beyond the lake itself, children and families relish the ice-cream shops, local restaurants, festive events, and the unique stores found in the villages encircling the lake. When summer ends, they return to their primary homes for the start of school, but the bonds formed during their time at GSL remain strong.

Lasting Memories and Enduring Traditions

The connections and memories made at Great Sacandaga Lake continue well beyond summer. Children share stories of their fantastic experiences with classmates and keep in touch with friends met around the lake. These idyllic childhood memories of the southern Adirondacks become cherished parts of their lives.

As they grow older, many choose to maintain their families' camps, ensuring that the tradition of summers at GSL endures for future generations. These traditions are passed down, with many eventually deciding to retire in the area, keeping the spirit of the lake alive.

Winter Activities and

Community Involvement

The beauty of the GSL area is not limited to summer. Families return in the winter for snowmobiling on the lake and trails, made possible by the Saratoga Snowmobile Association and Southern Adirondack Snowmobile Club. Those interested in supporting these traditions are encouraged to contact these volunteer organizations.

Winter also offers opportunities for cross-country skiing at Lapland Lake and nearby downhill skiing and snowboarding slopes. Evenings are spent enjoying the warmth of a fireplace, with Christmas lights casting a festive glow, creating lasting holiday memories.

Honoring History and Shaping the Future

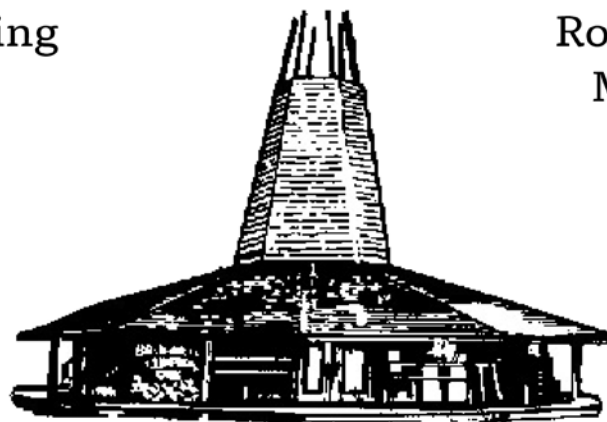
The Great Sacandaga Lake is steeped in history, including the legacy of the beautiful farm fields that were once home to local families before the dam's construction. While the past cannot be changed, the future can be nurtured. The community honors those who once farmed the land, those who enjoy the lake today, and the businesses that contribute to the area's charm and vitality.

Thankfulness and Stewardship

As the Holiday Season continues, gratitude is expressed for the natural beauty, supportive neighbors, and friendships that flourish in the GSL area. All residents are stewards of this land,



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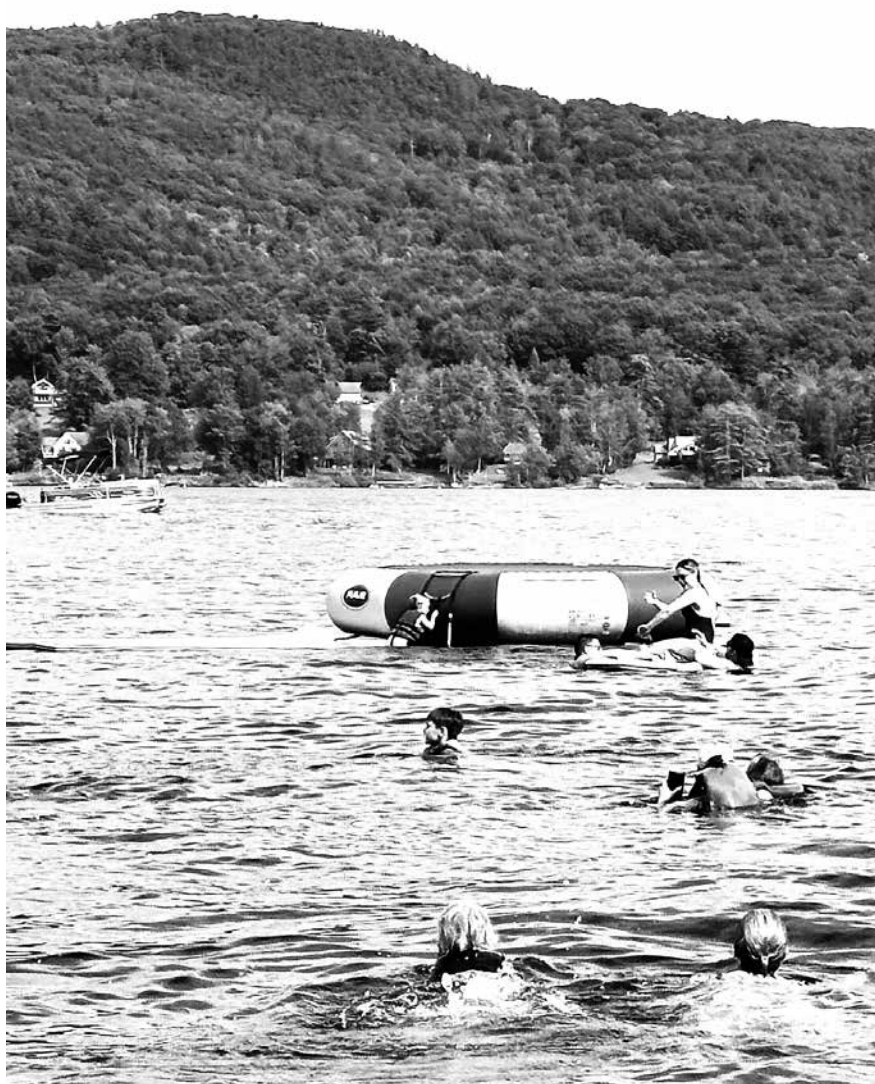
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committed to preserving its legacy and the sweet childhood memories it creates.

Get Involved

To learn more about the efforts of the Sacandaga Protection Committee, explore volunteer opportunities, or make a donation, visit our web page at sacandagaprotectioncommittee.com. Community involvement is vital—it truly takes all of us protect the cherished traditions of Great Sacandaga Lake.



From Hawk....

tried to rescue him. I was on the phone with my back turned to the window when I heard many police cars come rushing in. I turned to look, surprised by how many I was hearing and assuming that they would continue down Stone Church Rd., but they turned into the development across from my window. I saw the plane burst into flames (although I thought it was a house at the time). I frantically texted my staff and they found out it was a plane. I have never seen so many first responders, police cars, ambulances, fire trucks all in one place before. I am not exaggerating when I say there were probably 50 or more. The day got crazier (for me) because after things had settled, I went back to my desk to work and heard a terribly loud crack very close to the wall I was sitting by. I knew it was a tree and I knew it was a big tree. I jumped up, cursed loudly, tried to grab the dogs, then realized – where am I supposed to go? Jesus was with me – the tree landed about 20' to the right of the building – and it was a big one! It amazingly missed the neighbor's house/garage and just wiped out their fences. Additionally, a second tree in my neighbor's yard fell in the wind – his fencing had no chance. Needless to say, I was rattled that day.

As we close out 2025, I start to budget for 2026 projects. The buildings on our property need some TLC. This past year, we had the siding redone on the office – it is not a surprise, but an amazing blessing at how well the office stays warm now. Amanda and I had been using portable heaters under our desks for the last 5 years. There were areas in the siding where there was NO insulation – none – just metal and sheetrock between us and the cold. Next year, we will be replacing the roofs and garage doors on all of the buildings. I told the guys that the first person to run into one of the new doors would be dead. Might be a joke. 2027 – hopefully we will be able to redo the siding on all of the barns. Next year will also include a new water treatment van. One of our vans has troubles and it was hugely embarrassing to follow a tow truck with it on the back; advertising our issues through Malta.

I guess that is my December news: fun accomplishments, exciting upgrades to come, and one crazy day. Thank you for reading and we hope you have a wonderful Christmas. See you next year! And thank you, Nora Thomas, for your lovely card – I appreciated it so much.

Hawk Drilling

Sandra Baldwin

Jeremy and I celebrated our 5 year anniversary of owning Hawk Drilling Company this past October. This has been a significant year for us. First, and most excitingly, we paid off Janice and Bill, so now they can say they are really retired. We paid off 2 of the 3 drill rigs we have, so we now only have 1 payment (granted it is a big one). And, that 3rd rig is our first REALLY big purchase as the owners. We had to negotiate a big loan for that one. The second drill rig (which we just paid off) was a new-to-us rig, not a new rig. The first rig had a 6 year loan on it and our last payment was November 1. And then to add personal accomplishments to this year, Jeremy and I celebrated our 20 year marriage anniversary and Lucas started driving.

I'm sure you all heard about the plane crash just outside of the Saratoga Airport. Well, that is directly across the street from our office. It was crazy. I feel so bad for the pilot – and the people in the neighborhood that

continued inside back page



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