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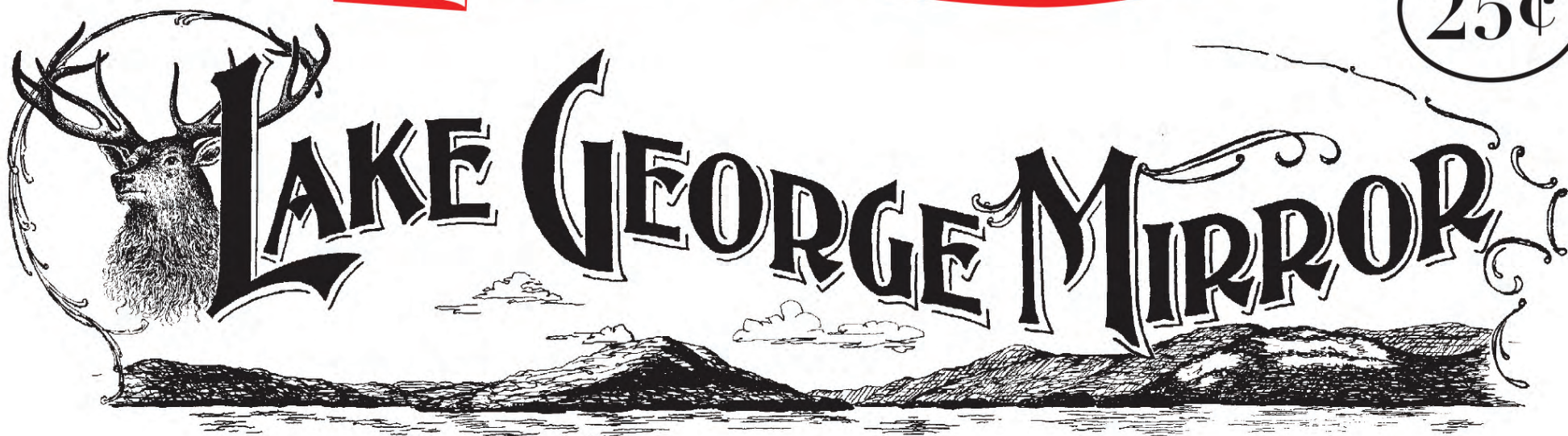
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# A NEW DAY AT SILVER BAY CONDOS: AFFORDABLE HOUSING? FOREST PESTS: A TRIPLE THREAT



Photo of J-24s on Lake George by Susan Jacobs. The National Championships will be held here May 17-21. See Page 17.





# Forever Grateful for His Gifts to Our Lake

1936 - 2023

In every generation that comes to love Lake George, there is a handful of peerless protectors who guard her waters.

**J. Buckley “Buck” Bryan, Jr.**, was one of them.

Since childhood, Buck’s life was guided by his devotion to Lake George, culminating in an extraordinary legacy of Lake protection.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Lake George Association honor Buck’s leadership accomplishments, his fortitude, and his generosity—as a two-time president of the LGA, as a member of our lakeside community, and as a friend.

With unending gratitude for his passion and perseverance, we commemorate the life and recent passing of one of the Lake’s best protectors.



Buck, left, with former LGA president Dick Swire, measure the Lake’s water clarity with a Secchi disk.

**LGA**  
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Association



## Tiki Owners Join Growing Charter Boat Business

By Mirror Staff

The owners of Lake George Village-based Tiki Tours are expanding to private charters, a water-based business category that has grown exponentially in popularity in recent years.

According to Greg Teresi, an attorney and a co-owner of Tiki Tours, their 24-ft Sea Ray bow rider will be berthed with the novelty, bamboo-embellished Tiki Boats at the foot of Lower Montcalm Street in Lake George Village.

The new tour boat company, to be known as True North Boat Tours, will offer groups of nine or less two-hour charters, four times a day, from May to October.

On occasion, when fireworks shows are scheduled,

groups can book evening charters, Teresi told the Lake George Park Commission, which approved the proposal at its April 25 meeting.

"In the feedback we received from Tiki Tours' customers, we learned there was a desire for additional ways to get onto the water," said Teresi. "True North Tours is an alternative to the cruise boats and the rental boats – a private but safe way to experience Lake George with a knowledgeable, seasoned captain at the helm."

While True North Boat Tours will provide opportunities for swimming and tubing, those activities will not be permitted in the waters off Lake George Village or south of Tea Island because of the current, congested conditions in the area, the Lake George Park Commission stated.

## School Budgets, Boards Up for Vote on May 16

By Thom Randall

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE GEORGE MIRROR

School boards throughout northern Warren County have prepared 2023-24 school budgets to present to district residents for a public vote on Tuesday, May 16. Below is a summary of the proposed budgets for two area school districts.

### Lake George Central School

**Expenditures:** \$24,808,692, an increase of \$441,040m or 1.8 percent.

**Tax Levy:** \$21,453,000, an increase of \$481,000, or 2.29 percent – within the tax cap threshold.

**Instructional Costs:** \$12,325,609, a decrease of \$139,133, or 1.12 percent.

**Non-Instructional Costs:** \$3,949,730, an increase of \$487,927, or 14 percent.

**State Aid** is expected to total \$2,377,612, an increase of \$41,648, or 1.78 percent.

**School Board Election:** Three candidates are seeking two open seats with three-year terms on the Board of Education: incumbents Jeanine Bieber and Rosemarie Earl are joined by newcomer Linda Clark.

See BUDGETS Page 18

## Lake George Restaurants Pitch in to Raise Funds for Food Pantries

By Mirror Staff

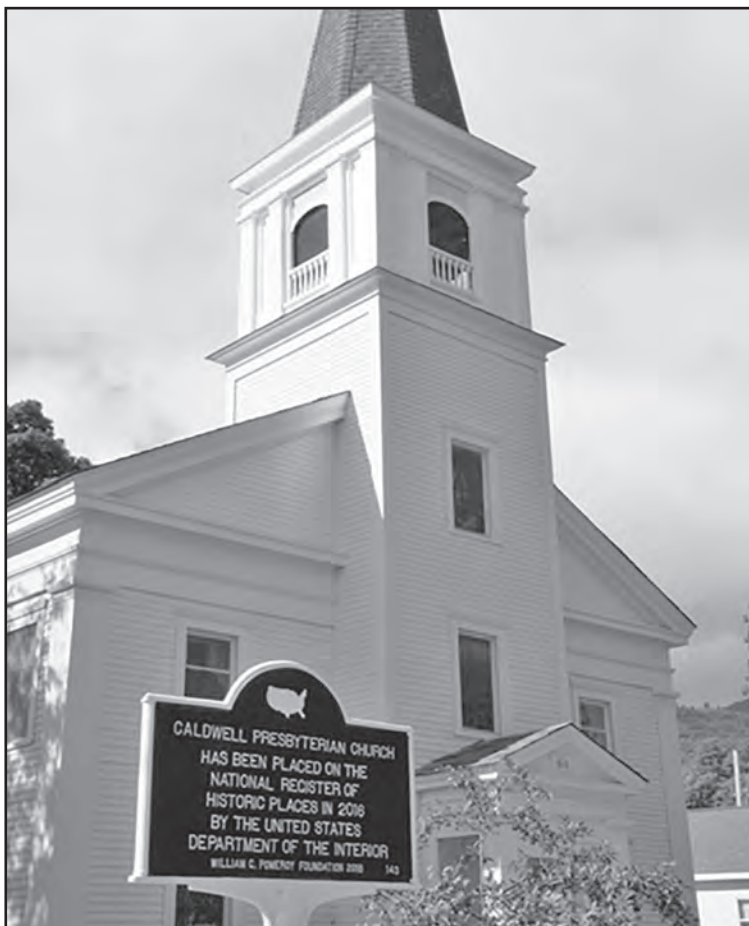
Mario's, The Log Jam, Adirondack Brew Pub, Fort William Henry, Barnsider BBQ and TR's at the Holiday Inn – from May 14 through May 20, these Lake George restaurants are helping their neighbors by donating 10% of the proceeds of sales of meals to stock local food pantries.

All have volunteered to participate in Lake George's First Annual Food Pantry Week, which is sponsored by the Caldwell Presbyterian and the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic churches.

Combined, the two churches' food pantries assist more than one hundred families every week, providing a wide variety of fresh produce, canned goods, meats and infant-care products.

Faced with rising food costs, less grant funding and increased demand, both pantries are in dire need of additional funding, a press release stated.

*The Caldwell-Presbyterian Church in Lake George Village will benefit from Lake George's First Annual Food Pantry Week*



## Board of Elections OKs Local Candidates' Petitions

By Thom Randall

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE GEORGE MIRROR

Rich Larkin, currently a Warrensburg town board member, is seeking to unseat incumbent Bolton supervisor Ron Conover, a Republican who also filed a Conservative petition. Alexander "Zandy" Gabriels, Bolton Supervisor from 2002 through 2007, filed Democratic petitions for the town supervisor post, but they were deemed invalid due to technicalities.

Larkin and Conover are among the candidates to file petitions with the Warren County Board of Elections on or before April 6.

Candidates unaffiliated with a party may circulate and file petitions as late as May 23. Primary elections for the established political parties are to be held June 27.

Candidates filing for established parties by April 6 for municipal and county offices include incumbent Republican Bolton town board members Robert MacEwan and Susan Wilson, both of whom are unchallenged at this point.

In the town of Hague, Hague's incumbent Republican Supervisor Edna Frasier will be challenged by Democratic candidate Joshua Patchett, now a town board member. Both Richard Myers and Chad R. Dunklee filed Republican petitions for Hague Highway Superintendent, a post now held by Donald R. Smith – but Myers' petitions were deemed invalid. Hague Town Clerk Kim Coffin, a Republican, filed to retain her post. For Hague town board, Republican incumbents Jack Bast and Steven Ramant have filed petitions.

In Lake George, Town Supervisor Dennis Dickinson and Town Justice Michael E. Stafford filed petitions for re-election, while incumbent town board members Marisa Muratori and Dan Hurley are joined in the race by Chris Hawley. All the Lake George candidates except Hurley are Republicans.



Democrat Mike Parwana is a candidate for a Queensbury at-large seat on the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

In the town of Queensbury, incumbent Town Supervisor John Strough, a Democrat, filed for re-election. For four seats as at-large county supervisor representing Queensbury, eight candidates filed petitions. They are incumbents Hilary Stec and Mike Wild, who filed both Republican and Conservative petitions, and incumbent Republican Brad Magowan, joined in the race by former Queensbury at-large Supervisor David Strainer, who filed both Democratic and Conservative petitions, and newcomers Robin Larkin and Michael Parwana, both Democrats, as well as James Dobkowski, who filed as a Conservative. Current

Town Planning Board member Brady Stark also filed a petition on the Republican line and received endorsement from the Queensbury Republican Committee.

In the town of Chester, Incumbent Town Supervisor Craig Leggett, who said he plans to file as an independent next month, is likely to face John S. Maday, who challenged Leggett two years ago but was defeated. Maday filed both Republican and Conservative petitions.

In Johnsbury, current Johnsbury Town Supervisor Mark Smith is expected to file as an independent in May. Democrat Anna Bowers, a former owner of Bar Vino, is seeking a seat on the Town Board.

## Wbg vs Lake George in Baseball Battle

Athletes from Warrensburg and Lake George are expected to compete at 4:30 pm Friday, May 12, in an Adirondack League semifinal baseball matchup, after both teams won their respective league games last week. Warrensburg's matchup

with Lake George will take place on the Burghers' field, followed by the Adirondack League Championship game Sunday, May 14, on the East Side Recreation Field in Saratoga Springs.

—Thom Randall



Lake George Supervisor Dennis Dickinson.

## LG Area Officials Cool on Public Transit Take Over

By Thom Randall

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE GEORGE MIRROR

If a public, mass transit ferry service were ever established to cross the Hudson River – or to transport commuters from Lake George Village to Bolton Landing, for that matter – it might end up as the property of the Albany-based Capital District Transit Authority.

However unlikely the possibility of a Lake George ferry, it is among the reasons why Warren County Supervisors – Lake George's Dennis Dickinson and Bolton's Ron Conover included – are balking at a proposal to merge Greater Glens Falls Transit with CDTA.

County Supervisors learned that such a move would most likely require the county to surrender to CDTA public transit jurisdiction over not only all of the local roadways but also on all the county's lakes and rivers.

County Attorney Larry Elmen informed the supervisors about the implications of surrendering transit jurisdiction in a March 21 meeting.

Lake George Town Supervisor Dennis Dickinson offered his thoughts on the legal stipulations of joining CDTA.

"I'm not interested unless the rights to our waterways are excluded," he said, describing it as "nonsense."

Elmen said he doubted that the county could join CDTA without agreeing to the existing state laws specifying CDTA's powers – and that exclusions weren't likely to be granted.

Dickinson said that he did not want the county and its existing transportation entities, including cruise ship owners, to lose control over their present or future operations.

"We have a lot of private businesses on Lake George, and if they want to move people from Lake George to Ticonderoga like they used to, I'm sure one of those businesses would be happy to step up and do that."

Elmen said that CDTA officials have said that they have no plans to provide water-borne transit services.

"They do not operate vessels on any waters and don't have intentions to do so in the foreseeable future," he said.

The supervisors also learned that joining CDTA would require, by state statute, an annual payment of a .25 percent mortgage recording tax surcharge now helping offset county taxes by \$1.2 million to \$1.5

See TRANSIT Page 18



# Village Tax Rate Drops in Blais' Final Year as Mayor

## Tourism Funds Lake George Village's \$6.5 Million Budget

By Anthony F. Hall

Lake George Village's Board of Trustees has approved a \$6.5 million municipal budget for 2023-24.

This year's budget is the last to be prepared by Robert Blais, who retired after 52 years as the Village's Mayor on March 31.

Village residents and business owners will see a 20% reduction in their property taxes, Mayor Blais said at a March 27 hearing on the proposed budget.

"I'm glad that I was able to work with the Board of Trustees to produce those savings in my final year as Mayor," said Blais. "They will be very meaningful to the average homeowner as well as to our largest taxpayers."

### Visitors' Fees and User Taxes Offset Property Taxes

The Village will collect \$1,269,568 million in property taxes to finance its 2023-24 operations, down from \$2,255,491 in 2022-23.

"This is a remarkably small amount to be raised through real estate taxes when you have a \$6.5 million budget," said Blais.

The smaller levy will produce a savings of \$1.03 for every thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

While expenditures have shrunk from \$6,532,915 to \$6,484,510, revenues from sources other than property taxes have grown, from \$4.2 million to \$4.7 million.

"Lake George Village has revenues that far exceed those of neighboring communities, which must rely upon taxpayers to fund more than half their budgets. We don't have to do that," said Blais.

After trimming a draft budget by \$350,000, these outside revenues helped reduce the amount to be raised in taxes by an additional \$437,528. The trustees also approved



March 29, Mayor Blais' last day in office, was marked by a valedictory interview with Channel 13 News anchor Mark Mulholland and a visit from Sayuti Sulemana, who first came to Lake George from his native Ghana in 2008 to clean restrooms and sweep streets. He rose through the ranks of his government – serving at one point in Ghana's embassy in Turkey – and achieved a level of prominence that has enabled him to build a school, one that he will name after Mayor Blais.

an appropriation of \$500,000 from surplus funds, further reducing the taxpayers' burden.

not even receive one single written complaint during the entire summer season," he added.

opportunities to offset those costs, such as hosting a solar farm on site," said Blais.

### Parking Revenues Up Year-Over-Year

Among the Village's auxiliary revenue streams, by far the most important is parking, said Blais.

Revenues from parking rose from \$741,000 in 2020 to more than \$1,165,000 in 2021 after the Board of Trustees agreed to raise the price from \$1 to \$2 per hour. In 2022, Village officials collected \$1.2 million in parking meter revenues. A reserve fund into which a portion of those revenues are deposited now stands at \$2.9 million.

The current hourly rates are consistent with those levied by other resort communities, said Blais.

"I'm happy to report that we did

### Visitors Subsidize the \$24 Million WWTP

These additional revenues, supplied largely by tourists, will help defray the costs of Lake George Village's new \$24 million wastewater treatment plant.

"Our new wastewater treatment plan is required to be as large as it is because on some summer days, such as July 4, our population swells to 50,000 people. So we felt it was fair to ask the tourists who come here to enjoy our village to help with the expenses associated with the new plant," said Blais.

As a result of increased revenues from parking and other funding streams, the new wastewater treatment plant will have "a minimal impact" upon Village property owners' taxes, said Blais.

The Village's annual debt service has dropped \$300,000 to \$948,965, \$390,000 of which is for the wastewater treatment plant.

Blais said the costs of operating the plant are "significant" – roughly \$1 million per year, the single largest item in the budget.

"It's a brand-new wastewater treatment plant, with the most advanced technology available, so we expected it to be expensive to operate," said Blais.

Blais said the plant's electric bill alone rose from \$2,900 a month to \$12,000 a month.

"We've been looking at

### State, Town, County Help Fund WWTP

This year, Lake George's Caldwell Sewer District will start contributing its share of the costs of the plant, expected to be roughly 40 to 50% of the whole.

Warren County's Board of Supervisors has also agreed to contribute \$75,000 per year over the next ten years to help service the debt incurred by the Village to construct the plant.

"The Supervisors understand that we have a regional economy, one that depends upon Lake George and Lake George Village," said Blais. "Nevertheless, they didn't have to do this. Their support is of enormous benefit to our residents."

Lake George Village secured \$17.4 million in grants to fund significant portions of the costs of the plant's construction, including a \$9.4 million grant from New York State announced in January, 2020.

Blais said, "We're very proud of the fact that we were able to build a \$24-million plant without placing an undue burden upon the taxpayers."

### Tax Rate Lower Today than Eleven Years Ago

Lake George Village's mill rate (the taxes dues for each \$1,000 of assessed property value) has dropped from \$5.79 in 2022 to \$4.76 in 2023.

"Village taxpayers have benefitted greatly from all the special revenues. Eleven years ago, the mill rate was \$6.04. Now it's \$4.76, lower than it was eleven years ago. That's remarkable in today's climate of inflation and prices," said Blais.

Among the revenue streams reducing the taxpayers' burden: the Village's share of occupancy tax revenues, which rose by 20% to \$350,000; sales tax receipts, up 10% to \$660,000; revenues from special events, up 15%; and intermunicipal service contracts with the Town of Lake George, worth \$948,128.

Other sources adding revenues to the Village's coffers include rents from Village-owned properties, the coin-operated binoculars on Beach Road, vending machine leases and even, improbable as it may seem, the coins tossed into the Centennial Fountain in Shepard Park.

"Drying those coins collected from the fountain can be labor-intensive, but it's a good example of the many little things that add up to something big," said Blais. "In a community such as ours, you have to get creative."

### 2023-24 Expenses

In addition to appropriations of \$1 million to operate the wastewater treatment plant and \$948,965 for debt service, \$845,206 in employee benefits will also be paid from this year's budget.

Year-over-year increases in the 2023-24 budget include: the first raises for elected trustees in 15 years; 4 to 5% increases in wages for all public employees; money for new vehicles and equipment; stormwater remediation; and financial support for the Lake George Teen Center, the Lake George Community Band, the Lake George Arts Project and the Lake George Park Commission.

### Property Taxes Cut by 20%, Not 35%, as Hoped

At the March 27 budget hearing, Mayor Blais said he regretted the Board was unable to cut property taxes by 35%, as it said that it would in a resolution adopted unanimously on August 15, 2022.

Among the unanticipated expenses: improvements to the wastewater collection system and a modification of the treatment plant that will enable it to accept higher volumes of septage from haulers.

According to Blais, all wastewater treatment systems in the Lake George basin must be


See TAX RATE Page 8

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By Anthony F. Hall

State legislation that would allow municipalities to tax condominiums at market rates is gaining support among Warren County Supervisors.

Under New York's existing property tax law, condominium owners' tax bills are based on the unit's current or potential rental income, not its market value. Queensbury assessor Teri Ross told the Supervisors' Real Property Tax Services Committee on April 28.

"New York State now mandates the formula we use to assess condominiums; it prohibits us from assessing them as we do all other real property, at market value," said Ross. "We are required to assess them as if they were individual units in an apartment building, determining what they would rent for, rather than what they would sell for."

It is estimated that under current law, condo owners' county, town and school tax bills are 30 to 50% less than what they ought to be.

"That means they're paying that much less than what everybody else is; that is just not fair," said Ross.

### Hochul Vetoes Same Legislation in 2022

Under the proposed legislation, upstate communities would be allowed to tax a new condominium on the basis of its market value — just as they do any comparable primary residence or vacation home.

The legislation would apply only to new construction, and it would not require localities to tax condos at market rates — it would merely give them that option.

Assessors have been advocating for this particular change in the law since the 1980s, Ross told the Supervisors.

"The bills never passed; they were voted down every year," she said.

In 2022, however, both houses of the legislature passed the bill. But on December 31, it was vetoed by Governor Kathy Hochul.

### \$1 Million Condos: Affordable Housing?

According to municipal government associations, the legislation limiting assessments on condominiums was adopted in 1964 at a time when the purchase of a condo was viewed as a path to home ownership for low-income renters.

Hochul continues to view condos through that lens, arguing that many people shopping for a first home seek out condos. She said higher taxes would make that type of housing less attractive to low-income homebuyers.

"At a time when New York state is in the midst of a statewide housing crisis, this would be an unacceptable outcome," Hochul wrote in her veto message.

# County Gets Behind Bill to Tax Condos at Market Rates



Condominiums at the Antlers in Lake George. State legislation that would allow municipalities to tax new condos at market rates is gaining support among county supervisors. Former Bolton Supervisor Deanne Rehm argues that all condos should be taxed at the same rate as other real property. (Mirror Staff Photo.)

"How can Governor Hochul see condominiums as affordable housing?" asked Queensbury Supervisor-at-large Brad MacGowan, noting that condominiums sell for one and two million dollars.

"We can't have folks that can afford very expensive condominiums carrying less of their share of the load than the guy who owns a modest home," said MacGowan.

"This legislation would allow counties, municipalities and school districts the right to opt out of the current state law, and I think that's smart, because one size does not fit all," said Bolton Supervisor Ron Conover.

Several condominium projects are planned or are under construction in Lake George and Bolton Landing, and the revenues that local governments and school districts will lose as a result of Governor Hochul's veto are not insignificant.

As of now, condominiums in Bolton Landing cost the town \$150,515 per year in taxes; Warren County \$8,196 and the school district \$198,081.

In Lake George, the town, county and school district collect \$25,437, \$80,290 and \$126,044 less, respectively, than what they would if condos were assessed at market rates.

At present, there are only two small condominium projects in Queensbury, which cost the Queensbury Union Free School District \$51,000 per year, said Ross.

More may be on their way, though, to towns throughout Warren County, said Ross.

### Assessors Seek Supervisors' Support

Ross and the other assessors who accompanied her to the Supervisors' Real Property Services Committee — Lori Barber of Lake George, Deanne Rehm, until recently assessor for Lake Luzerne and Christine Hayes, who serves Bolton and Horicon and is the New York State Assessors Association's current president — have requested the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution calling upon Governor Hochul to sign the legislation that she vetoed last year.

The county's constituent towns will be asked to adopt similar resolutions, the assessors stated.

While the proposed legislation would apply only to new construction, Deanne Rehm, Bolton's Supervisor for six years and a former member of the Adirondack Park Agency, said she favored taxing existing condominiums at market value.

### Home Rule Request to Opt Out of Current Law

Should Hochul veto the bill again in 2023, the assessors hope she will grant Warren County a home rule request to allow the county and its constituent towns to tax new condominiums at the same rate as single family homes.

Last December, Hochul granted the Westchester County Town of Greenburgh, which is comprised of wealthy villages such as Irvington, Hastings and Dobbs Ferry, a similar request, permitting it to value newly constructed condominiums at market value.

The legislation was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who represents the portion of Westchester that includes Greenburgh.

"We figure if Greenburgh deserves that consideration, so, too, does Warren County and its towns," said Ross.

On April 18, according to "The Rivertowns Enterprise," the Greenburgh Town Board approved legislation allowing future condominiums to be taxed at market rates.

According to the newspaper, opponents argued the new local

law would deter developers from constructing new housing within the town.

On Greenburgh's website, town officials stated developers who wish to build affordable condos and co-ops could apply for tax abatements.

Warren County Attorney Larry Elmen said he would draft the home rule request, which Assemblyman Matt Simpson and Senator Dan Stec have agreed to introduce.



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A condominium complex in Dobbs Ferry, which officials sought to tax at market rates. They were successfully sued by homeowners, who won more than \$2.1 million in refunds. A bill signed by Governor Hochul, however, will now allow those officials to tax new condos at market rates, a privilege Warren County may seek for itself. (Mirror Staff Photo.)



# EDITORIAL.

## How to Win Friends and Influence Policy

In the end, Assemblyman Matt Simpson voted against the Governor's 2023-24 state budget, but environmental conservation organizations and local governments credit him with helping to restore funding for the management of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. And rightly so.

At a February 14 hearing on the proposed budget, Simpson pressed DEC commissioner Basil Seggos to maintain - through predictable, recurring revenues - state and local stewardship programs that help ease congestion in the High Peaks.

For FY 2022-23, a budget line funded those programs to the tune of \$8 million. In the draft 2023-24 budget, that line was omitted altogether, alarming not only Simpson but spokesmen for environmental groups, many of whom worried that the programs would be funded through the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, or not at all.

According to Simpson, using Bond Act funds to finance routine governmental functions would not only introduce uncertainty into any attempt at long-range planning; it would divert funds that were meant to be invested in Adirondack communities, many of which are under legal orders to update aging wastewater treatment and drinking water facilities.

Thanks in large part to Simpson and his colleagues in the Assembly and Senate, the \$8 million budget line for stewardship was restored and included in the budget adopted May 2.

"We thank the legislature for recognizing this need for a dedicated Forest Preserve line in the final budget," said Michael Barrett, ADK Executive Director.

"This action shows a commitment ... to ensure that the Adirondack Forest Preserve and its communities are successful and will thrive," said Hamilton County Supervisor Bill Farber. "The dedicated funding (allows us all) to work together to enhance and protect our beautiful park in the year ahead."

Over the past several decades, members of the minority parties in the New York State legislature have, for the most part, been reduced to repeating the talking points of their conference's leaders, introducing bills that are certain to be dead on arrival and voting against the annual budgets negotiated by the leaders of the majority party and the governor, even though it funds programs that benefit their constituents.

On occasion, though, legislators from the minority can influence outcomes from the margins, working inconspicuously with colleagues from the other side of the aisle and in a manner that validates the quote attributed to Harry S. Truman: "it's amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

For the first time in nearly ninety years, the Lake George region has neither an assemblyman nor a state senator who is a member of a majority party. That puts us at a distinct disadvantage. Under Assemblyman Dick Bartlett and Senators Ron Stafford and Betty Little, we had virtual veto power over any policy likely to harm Warren County, as well as the muscle to steer state funds back in our direction.

Democrats have never, in the state's entire history, had the power they now hold, a near-lock on the executive chamber and a super-majority in both houses of the legislature.

Unless Republicans recapture one or both houses (an unlikely event) or the region sends a Democrat to Albany (an equally unlikely event), our representatives must adopt less partisan, less contentious and more independent approaches to governing if they are to deliver results to their communities and truly represent the interests of their constituents. Matt Simpson has shown us that it can be done.



The reconstruction of the bridge crossing the Adirondack Northway at Riverbank will keep the southbound ramp at Exit 24 closed through November. Mirror staff photo.

## I-87 Exit 24 Southbound Ramp Closed Through November

By Mirror Staff

The southbound ramp at Adirondack Northway Exit 24, used frequently by those headed toward New York from Bolton and Hague, will remain closed through November 30 as the New York State Department of Transportation completes a \$4.1 million renovation of the bridge crossing the interstate highway. "Reliable, well-constructed and well-designed infrastructure is the key to New York's economy," said Transportation Commissioner

Marie Therese Dominguez. "The Northway is a vital corridor in the North Country, and with this project, the Department of Transportation is ensuring that connectivity between I-87 and our local communities and Adirondack destinations remains strong."

Southbound traffic should detour north to Exit 25 and turn south from there or take Schroon River Road to Warrensburg and access the Northway at Exit 23.

The northbound ramps at Exit 24 will remain open through construction.

"Motorists on the Northway in both directions in the vicinity of this work zone should also watch for lane reductions during construction, as well as brief overnight stoppages between midnight and 6 am as needed to stage construction," the DOT stated in a press release.

According to the DOT, the new bridge is expected to have a life span of 75 years. Its vertical clearance will be greater than that of the existing bridge, in conformity with standards established for modern interstate commerce.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

### "Property Rights Argument" fails to address complexity of STR issues

To the Editor:

Re: Letter to the Editor, "Renting is a Right, Not a Privilege" (March, 2023)

Contrary to the hard-right property rights position expressed in Edward Pontacoloni's March, 2023 letter to the editor, property

ownership does not confer any absolute, inalienable, or sacrosanct rights. The owner's use of her property is regulated by zoning laws and building codes, and can only be retained upon payment of property and school taxes, for example.

I cannot build an apartment building on my lot in a single-family residential zone, nor can I violate the front and side yard setbacks. I can't open a sports bar in my family room. My septic system must meet code and must function. I cannot have loud parties in my backyard without consequences due to noise ordinances. In many communities, I cannot harbor chickens!

Why are "property rights" not inviolate? Because the community as a whole benefits when certain standards are imposed and met. As a civil society, we recognize that the greater good is more important than individual rights. Laws restricting behavior affecting neighbors and


the community at large, enacted by our elected representatives, are legitimate and necessary. Without such regulation, we move from civil society to the Hobbesian state of nature.

In its extreme, the property rights ideology leads to the recent doorstep, driveway and next-door neighbor shootings we've all recently read about.

The issue of whether to allow short term rentals is way more complicated and way more consequential to the good of our community than can be captured by a bogus property rights argument.

Susan F. Weber  
Kattskill Bay, NY

The writer is a retired lawyer, administrative law judge, former Department of Environmental Conservation legislative counsel, and a property owner.



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By Anthony F. Hall

It's a new day at Silver Bay. On Lake George but apart from Lake George, or at least perceived as such for much of its 120-year history, Silver Bay YMCA now welcomes its neighbors with open arms.

As of November, 2022, residents of Bolton Landing, Silver Bay, Hague, Ticonderoga, Crown Point and Putnam have access to its fitness facilities at no cost – a privilege that will only grow in value once the Fisher Gym is winterized.

A \$1 million federal grant, announced in February, will help Silver Bay install heating and air conditioning in the 118-year-old building, allowing it to host even more fitness and wellness classes and more activities, such as indoor pickleball.

“These improvements will positively impact the physical and mental health of local residents as well as create jobs,” a press release from Silver Bay stated.

As part of the renovations, the gym's Fisher Lounge will be reopened “as a community gathering spot,” the press release noted.

“We look forward to serving our community in a greater way with a wellness center and a place for folks to congregate and enjoy one another's company year-round,” said Peter Doliber, Silver Bay's CEO.

Moreover, Silver Bay is hosting a variety of new events that are open to the public as well as guests, from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, including a first-ever Bluegrass Music Festival September 15-17.

“This is the first year that Silver Bay is really expanding in this outward-facing direction; it's very exciting,” said Walt Lender, who is charged with nurturing and reinforcing relationships with the surrounding communities.

Lender, for many years the executive director of the Lake George Association, was named Silver Bay YMCA's Vice President for Development and Government Relations in January.

“It's a new position; it's part of a plan to strengthen ties with the community, with local governments and with elected officials,” Lender said in a recent interview.

According to Lender, it makes perfect sense for Silver Bay to be “a leader in all things Lake George.”

“Silver Bay has a huge community impact; upon the economy, upon civic organizations, upon local families and the workforce, upon the environment. We have a mile of shoreline and 700 acres of ecologically significant lands. So, it's an important part of the watershed as well,” said Lender.

The current initiative merely “expands the imprint of Silver Bay and reaffirms what Silver Bay has always been about,” said Lender.

As envisioned, that initiative not only comprises a policy of open doors to the surrounding communities but wider access to those communities – to their businesses, museums, attractions, special events – for Silver Bay guests.

# Silver Bay Opens its Doors, and its Arms, to the Community



A: For much of its 120 year-history, the campus of Silver Bay has been regarded as off-limits to locals. Its new leaders want to change that perception. B: Walt Lender, the former Lake George Association executive director, was named Silver Bay YMCA's Vice President for Development and Government Relations in January, 2023. C: Silver Bay is hosting a variety of new events that are open to the public as well as guests, from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, including a first-ever Bluegrass Music Festival September 15-17. Photos courtesy of Silver Bay YMCA.

“We're developing partnerships that will incentivize our guests to go out and see what's going on in Ticonderoga, in Hague and in Bolton Landing,” said Lender. “We're really trying to integrate everybody into one community.”

Lender's new brief is one that he is well qualified to hold. A graduate of Ticonderoga Central School, he returned to his hometown after college and graduate school to serve as the Executive Director of PRIDE of Ticonderoga and Director of Development and the Government and Corporate Relations Officer for Fort Ticonderoga before joining the LGA as its second professional executive director in 135 years.

A former board member of Silver Bay YMCA, Lender remains active in both civic and environmental affairs as a member of many other committees and boards, including the Ticonderoga Planning & Zoning Board and the boards of Lakes to Locks Passage, the Lake George Land Conservancy and the Elizabethtown Community Hospital. He is the chairman of the Lake Champlain Basin Program's NY Citizen's Advisory Committee, which helps steer funds to the southern stretch of the Lake Champlain Basin. He is also slated to become a member of the board of the Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce in the very near future.

“I really enjoy working with those non-profit organizations whose causes and missions I support,”



said Lender. “For example, this past November I joined the board of the Lake George Land Conservancy, and I'm especially excited about that because it's an organization that, by protecting the watershed, does so much to protect the lake.”

After devoting eighteen years of his professional life to lake protection, Lender expects to carry on that work at Silver Bay.

“Lake protection is not only a commitment of mine; it is one shared by the leadership here,” he said. “Protection of the lake is written right into our mission statement. It's one of our core values.”



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B



A

# How Bolton Celebrated EARTH DAY

By Mirror Staff

Earth Day - which happened to fall on a perfect spring Saturday - was celebrated in Bolton Landing by twenty-two Lake George-area residents who donated their morning to collecting litter along Route 9N from one end of Bolton to another.

The volunteers followed the highway from Coolidge Hill Road to County Route 11, where they worked their way up the hill. Bolton Police Officer Jeff Webster's traffic control protected the safety of the volunteers.

(The Earth Day volunteers were joined by a group of Bolton Central School teachers, who have adopted



C

A: Twenty-two Lake George-area residents celebrated Earth Day on April 24 by collecting litter from Route 9N in Bolton. B: Volunteers included Willie Bea McDonald, Bonnie Donnelly and Deanne Rehm. C: Five Bolton Central School students participated in the clean-up: Emma Anand, Ian Daken Natalie Figueroa, Ila Hubert and Nora MacInnis.

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Route 9N between Chelka Lodge and the Bolton Cemetery, which they maintain assiduously.)

More than thirty large plastic bags were filled with the roadside litter, which Bolton's Highway Department retrieved Monday, April 24 and delivered to the transfer station.

Highway Superintendent Bill Sherman supplied the group reflective safety vests and Stewarts Shops donated gift cards good for coffee and ice cream cones.

Among those participating were five Bolton Central School students - Ila Hubert, Nora MacInnis, Emma

Anand, Natalie Figueroa and Ian Daken - who said they found the volume of litter left on the roadside "eye opening."

Other volunteers were: Paula Abele; Kathleen Andersen; Joan Baldwin; Denise Clark; the Devine family, Liz, Sean and their son Theo; Bonnie Donnelly; Jack Ennis; Mike Graney; Willie Bea McDonald; Susan Peer; Deanne Rehm; Connie Reilly; Teri Ross; Carol Sheridan; Lance Truax.

"This a great way to demonstrate what a few good people - including a very young child - can do," said one participant, adding, "The highway

looks good, and will continue to look good until some thoughtless person throws some junk out the car window!"

## Village Tax Rate Drops

from page 4

cleaned by a registered septic hauler at least once every decade, as per new Lake George Park Commission regulations. Lake George Village's is the best if not the only wastewater treatment system within the Lake George basin able to treat septic sludge, but without upgrades, it will be unable to process it.

The costs of the improvements to both the collection system and the treatment plant: \$5 million.

"The 35% reduction in property taxes was unpractical at this time," said Blais. "We adopted that resolution in good faith. And, mindful of the expenses to be confronted by the Village, this budget has also been adopted in good faith."

According to Ray Perry, who was elected to succeed Mayor Blais on March 21, the Board will revisit the proposal during the next budget cycle.

"It's not dead," said Perry. "It just didn't happen as we wanted it to happen."

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# Local News Anchor's Charity Aids Ukrainian Refugees

By Anthony F. Hall

"Hugs for Ukraine," a new initiative of Kelly's Angels, Inc.

is raising funds to support Ukrainian children whose families have fled the war and who are now living in the Capital District.

According to Mark Mulholland, founder and president of Kelly's Angels, a charity that supports children who have lost a parent or a primary caregiver, "Hugs for Ukraine" was founded after one of Kelly's Angels' board members happened to mention the number of refugees living in her children's school district.

Further research revealed that a significant number of families affected by the war were relocating to the Capital District; more are being identified with the help of schools, churches and concerned individuals.

"They've left their families behind; grandfathers, fathers, the young men, are all fighting to protect their country, and they're here, many of them struggling," said Mulholland, an anchor and reporter for Albany-based News Channel 13. "They're working to assimilate, and that's not easy. They've been uprooted. Often, they don't know the language. They have no friends here."

Mulholland continued, "Kelly's Angels is in the business of putting smiles on faces of kids dealing with grief. So we said, 'Why not put smiles on the faces of kids from Ukraine?' So we came up with 'Hugs for Ukraine.'"

The program "has taken off," said Mulholland. "It's been a grassroots effort, spread by word-of-mouth, as is everything we do. People hear



Right: Albany-based News Channel 13, where Mark Mulholland is anchor, has helped promote "Hugs for Ukraine." Above: Mark Mulholland founded Kelly's Angels after the death of his wife in 2007. Its largest single fundraising event, the Mother-Lovin' 5K Run/Walk, takes place on Sunday, May 14 at the Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs. For info, visit [KellysAngelsInc.org](http://KellysAngelsInc.org).



about what we're doing and send donations. We're tremendously grateful."

As an example of the program's impact, even at this early stage of its development, Mulholland cited an email he recently received from one of the program's beneficiaries.

"Mr. Mark Mulholland," the message read. "We thank you very much. This is a big surprise for our family. We are very pleased there are people who understand the situation

happening in our country and that you support us and our children. We are very pleased that you give a smile for them. May God richly bless you with a big heart."

In addition to raising cash, "Hugs for Ukraine" organizes activities for the children, such as field trips and

roller skating outings.

Schools, churches and everyone who knows of Ukrainian families with children living in the Capital Region as a result of the war are encouraged to nominate a family for a one-time grant. Applications are available at [KellysAngelsInc.org](http://KellysAngelsInc.org).

Kelly's Angels largest single fundraising event, the Mother-Lovin' 5K Run/Walk (ML5K) will take place this year on Sunday, May 14 at the Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs. For info, visit [KellysAngelsInc.org](http://KellysAngelsInc.org).

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members and is responsible for promoting the Lake George region as a destination for leisure travel, group tours and special events.

The position has been vacant since November, 2022, when Alfred Snow resigned two months after being hired and returned to his home in Florida.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Heather Bagshaw, a tourism professional with decades of experience, has been named Warren County's Director of Tourism.

Until recently the Director of Tourism for Greene County and, before that, vice president for marketing at Destination Niagara USA, Bagshaw has also worked at marketing agencies and non-profits in the Capital District and New York City metropolitan area.

Bagshaw said she looks forward "to continuing to build brand awareness for the Lake George Area in New York's Adirondacks, and continue to grow it as a top tourism vacation destination."

According to Don Lehman, Warren County's Director of Public Affairs, the Director of Tourism oversees a department of four full-time and two-part-time staff



Kirsten Anthony Catellier, a landscape architect who grew up in Bolton Landing (and whose senior project at SUNY-ESF/Syracuse University became the basis for the town's rules limiting light pollution) is among this year's recipients of the Albany Business Review's Forty Under Forty awards.

Catellier is now president of the Saratoga-based Studio A Landscape Architecture, a firm she founded in 2017 with her father, Jeff Anthony. Almost immediately, the new firm embarked upon such high-profile projects as the Base Camp at Bear Mountain, Killington, which includes the construction of a ski in-ski out village at the foot of the trails. Among its recent projects in Bolton Landing: the conversion of two former resorts to residential properties.



Wayne LaMothe, Warren County's Director of Planning and Community Development, has been selected as the 2023 recipient of the New York Planning Federation's highest award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of planning.

LaMothe was chosen to receive this year's "Heissenbuttel Award for Planning Excellence" which is presented by the NYPF annually to an individual, municipality, or agency for their work in planning. He received the award recently at the NYPF's annual conference in Saratoga Springs.

LaMothe was recognized for his remarkable 42-year career with Warren County, starting as an intern in 1981 and rising through the ranks to become the Warren County Director of Planning and Community Development in 2012.

During his career, he helped secure over \$36 million in program funding, and an additional \$10 million of in-kind and private financing to support county and local projects. He also helped initiate the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor, started in 1988, and was awarded over \$9.5 million for communities

along the historic and culturally significant Upper Hudson River watershed.



Bruce Tamlyn, the long-time chaplain of Silver Bay YMCA, retired on December 30, 2022.

"My decision to retire from my position as chaplain at Silver Bay has not been an easy one. I have so enjoyed my work at Silver Bay. It has brought immense joy, meaning, and purpose to my life," Tamlyn wrote in a letter to the Silver Bay community.

According to Silver Bay CEO Peter Doliber, Tamlyn's 52-year long association with Silver Bay began in 1970, when he joined the summer staff. He returned in June of 1975 as the first year-round program director, a position in which he served until 1979. In 1992, Tamlyn became Silver Bay's personnel director, and in 1995, Silver Bay's first year-round Spiritual Life Director. In 2018, he became Silver Bay's Chaplain. Tamlyn was elected to the Silver Bay Board of Trustees in 1990 and served on the board until 1992.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

J-24 Nationals is not the lake's first championship

To the Editor:

Re: Lake George to Host National Sailing Championship (March, 2023)

A member of the Northern Lake George Yacht Club sent me an email about of the Mirror article highlighting the exciting upcoming J-24 Nationals regatta.

If people haven't seen this level of competition before, this is where sailing becomes an exciting spectator sport.

However, we would like to offer a correction to the article, which asserts that this will be the first national, sanctioned sailing championship ever to be held on Lake George.

In fact, the Northern Lake George Yacht Club hosted the Comet Class National Championships in August 1972 and June 2015, and the Star Class North American Championship in September of 1998.

So while this might be the first time the Lake George Club has hosted an event of this magnitude, it's not the first time for a major class to have their National Championships on Lake George.

We at the Northern Lake George Yacht Club are rather proud of this record.

Donna Wotton Hague

Editor's Note: The article also failed to note that the Lake George Club hosted the National Rainbow Sailing Championship Regatta in 1965.

The Spring Zing returns: Warren County Fish Hatchery open house/fishing clinic Saturday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. At the Warren County Fish Hatchery, 145 Echo Lake Road, Warrensburg.

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# WHAT'S NEW AT THE HYDE

## "Recent Acquisitions" and "Celebrating Sixty Years"

By Anthony F. Hall

"Freeman Young's Place (Matinicus Island)," a 1916 oil painting by the American artist George Bellows, is among The Hyde's rarely – if ever – seen holdings now on display at the museum through June 6.

Selected by Dr. Bryn Critz Schockmel, who was named The Hyde's curator of the permanent collection in January, the works on view in the Whitney-Renz Gallery comprise a new exhibition, "Recent Acquisitions."

"Though the majority of works on display in Hyde House were from the collection of our founder, Charlotte Prunyn Hyde, over the past 60 years as a public museum, we have continued to acquire new works, particularly in the fields of modern and contemporary art. This exhibition highlights some of those acquisitions," said Schockmel.

"Recent Acquisitions" consists of works collected over the past five years.

"We don't have a huge budget for acquiring works, so all the pieces you see in this gallery were donated to us. Going forward, we would love to be able to grow our ability to purchase work," said Schockmel.

"Freeman Young's Place (Matinicus Island)," was bequeathed to The Hyde by the late Evie Muller, a summer resident of Diamond Point and a two-term Hyde trustee. She died at her home in New York in 2020.

Although George Bellows is best known for his "ash can" school works (of the kind exhibited at The Hyde in the 2019 show, "From the Rooftop: John Sloan and the Art of a New Urban Space") his "Freeman Young's Place (Matinicus Island)," is one of a number of Maine landscapes which he painted relatively late in his foreshortened career. (He died at the age of 42.)

"When I first saw this in the vault, I couldn't believe it was by George Bellows. It's so striking in part because it's so different from much of his work," said Schockmel. "When you think of George Bellows, normally, you would think of his gritty urban scenes and dark color palette. These colors – the lime green, the blues – are really stunning."

With the Muller bequest, The Hyde now owns two paintings by Bellows. "Old Lady with Bonnet" (c. 1919) was a gift of Hirschl and Adler Galleries, donated to the museum sometime in the 1960s.



Above: George Bellows (American, 182-1925), Freeman Young's Place (Matinicus Island, Maine), 1916, oil on plywood. Photo: mclaughlinphotography.com. Right: Child Hassam (American, 1859-1935), Girl in Pink/In the Garden, 1896, pastel on sandpaper.



"We now have the ability to show different aspects of Bellows' work, enabling visitors to get a sense of the different styles in which he worked over the course of his career," said Schockmel. "That adds to the strength of our collection."

"Recent Acquisitions" also includes pieces by Rembrandt van Rijn, Rockwell Kent, Marc Chagall and Dale Chihuly.

Likely to be of particular interest to Lake George residents and visitors is a post-Civil War landscape of the lake titled "A Peep into Lake George" by James Brade Sword.

Somewhat anachronistically, it shows Lake George as a wilderness, with a stag lurking in the shadows, at a time when Lake George was already developing as a resort destination, even as agriculture and timbering were denuding its slopes of forest land.

Complementing "Recent Acquisitions" is another show curated by Schockmel, "Celebrating 60 Years: The Collector Charlotte Prunyn Hyde," on view in the Hoopes Gallery through September 17.

All works in this exhibition were acquired by Charlotte Hyde and were part of The Hyde's collection when it opened as a museum in 1963.

According to John Lefner, The Hyde's CEO, the highlight of the museum's 60th anniversary season will be "Songs of the Horizon: David Smith, Music and Dance," the first major exhibition of the sculptor's work in the area since 1973, when The Hyde Collection mounted "David Smith of Bolton Landing: Sculpture and Drawings."

The Hyde is located at 161 Warren Street, Glens Falls. For information, call 518-792-1761.

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Videos about businesses such as Mario's in Lake George and the Algonquin in Bolton Landing, as well as Warren County communities, are now available through a LakeGeorgeTV app.

## NOW ON VIEW: LakeGeorgeTV, A Video Brochure of County's Attractions

A publicly funded, privately-owned video service promoting area enterprises is now live

By Mirror Staff

A multi-platform video entertainment service bankrolled by Warren County taxpayers that promotes Lake George-area enterprises was launched May 1 with a catalogue of more than 230 videos.

"LakeGeorgeTV" presents content about Warren County communities, businesses, attractions and non-profit entities through a variety of digital devices and media.

"Users will find videos featuring businesses, attractions and recreation areas large and small, categorized on the app for easy browsing," a press release from Warren County stated.

The enterprise, launched by Hague resident Jesse Hood Jackson and his Hood Communications and Look TV, was funded in 2022 by a county occupancy tax grant of about \$275,000.

According to Warren County officials, communities and tourism-related business owners and organizations may use the service to disseminate their videos at no charge

because it is funded through the occupancy tax program.

The service is targeting people seeking to visit Warren County as well as tourists already visiting the area.

"We're 'locked and loaded,' and ready to launch," Jackson told the county's Occupancy Tax Committee on April 25.

He said that the LakeGeorgeTV initiative "offers an opportunity for Warren County businesses large and small to have free marketing exposure on a connected TV streaming service."

Jackson said his enterprise is employing local videographers to produce the videos, as well as accepting existing videos submitted by enterprises in the county.

Jackson said the content of the videos now online or in production seemed to have differing objectives.

"Some people want to sell, and others just want to tell a story," he said of the videos, noting with a smile that one of them features instructions on "how to make a great grilled cheese sandwich."

He said businesses now depicted on LakeGeorgeTV range from small retail stores, a family farmstand, a sport fishing service and local motels to such large businesses and enterprises as The Queensbury Hotel, The Sagamore Resort, and Fort William Henry.

Among the videos now or soon to be available on the LakeGeorge.TV app: Goose Pond Inn in North Creek, Oscar's Smoke House in Warrensburg, The Chapman Museum, the Luzerne Music Festival, and Silver Bay YMCA Conference & Family Retreat Center.

The videos are categorized, cross-referenced and searchable through QR codes, Jackson said.

According to officials, LakeGeorge.TV is being promoted to tourists as well as residents by area chambers of commerce, accommodations in the county, participating businesses, and Warren County Tourism Department as well as regional economic development entities.

Jackson added that the LakeGeorgeTV service will be collecting data on viewers of

the videos, including location and interests, to help depicted enterprises more effectively target their marketing.

"We now live in a video-centric universe controlled by consumers who communicate via video. They demand engaging content delivered in a programming environment that offers variety, is entertaining, exciting and presents options 24/7, 365 days a year-- across all digital options. That's what LGTV will deliver," said Jackson.

Although public funding for private enterprises such as LakeGeorgeTV was opposed by Warren County's Tourism Director Al Snow when it was initially proposed during his brief tenure, elected officials have embraced the project enthusiastically.

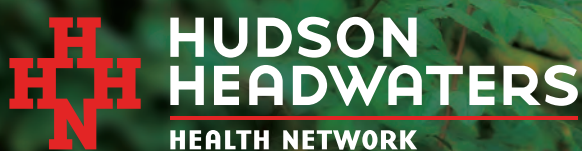
"We thank Hood Communications and our local business owners for making this new resource available in time for summer here in Warren County," said Gene Merlino, Lake Luzerne Supervisor and Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors Tourism Committee.

Thom Randall contributed reporting.

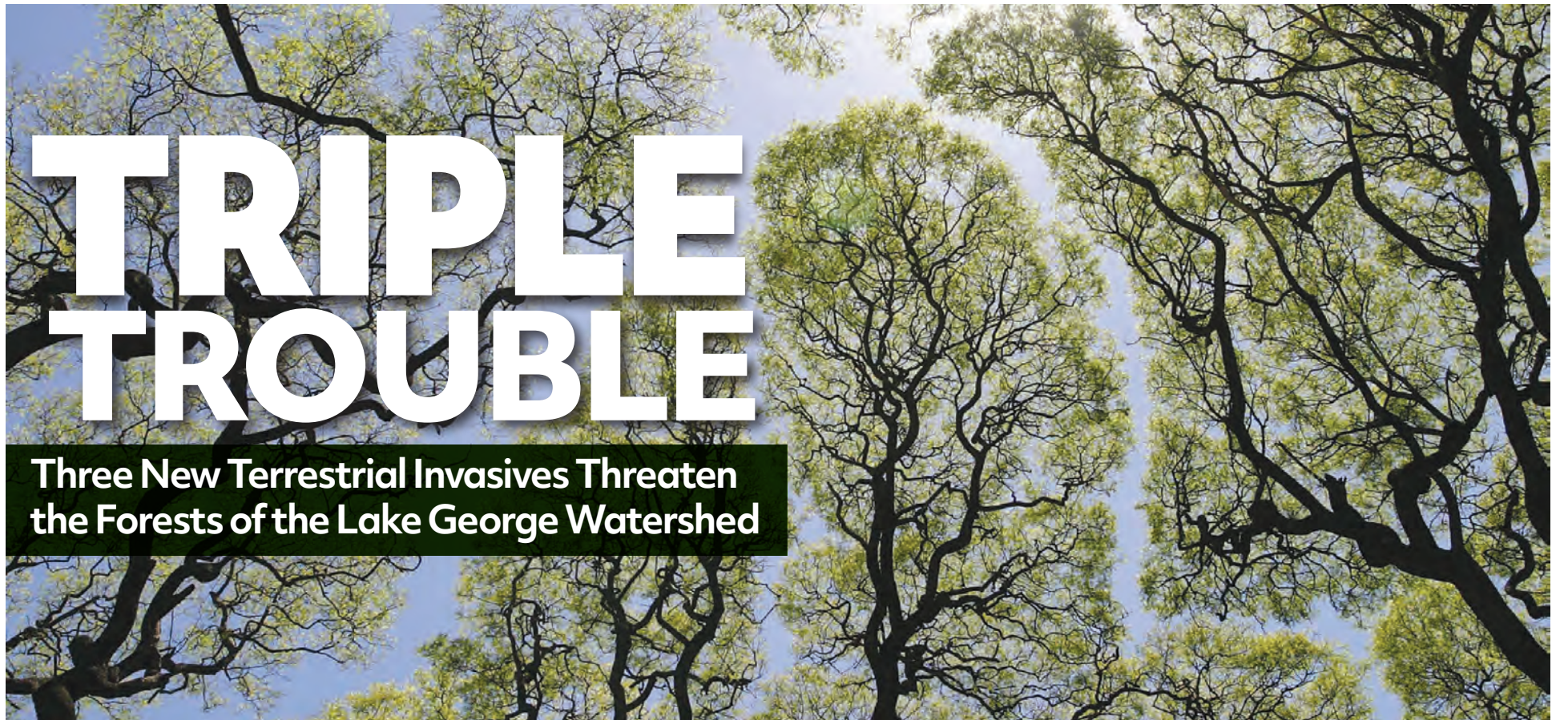
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## Three New Terrestrial Invasives Threaten the Forests of the Lake George Watershed

By Anthony F. Hall

In the years since the Lake George Park Commission started its mandatory boat inspection program in 2014, not one of the scores of aquatic invasive species dwelling in other New York lakes and rivers - round goby, quagga mussel and hydrilla, among them - has found a niche here.

Land-based invasive species, however, are another matter altogether.

Within the past six years, three new nonnative terrestrial pests have emerged to threaten the forests of the Lake George watershed.

### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

In July, 2017, Dr. David Orwig, an ecologist from the Harvard Research Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts, happened to be climbing Lake George’s Prospect Mountain when he spotted a small cluster of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) in a stand of three hemlocks.

Three years later, in 2020, those trees were declared pest-free after being treated with chemicals.

That very same summer, however, a camper alerted the Department of Environmental Conservation to an infestation of HWA north of Shelving Rock.

Since then, HWA has been found at ten other locations around Lake George, most notably on Dome Island and most recently in June, 2022, on state-owned Turtle and Mohican Islands.

### Emerald Ash Borer Arrives in Warren County

The year 2020, it appears, was annus horribilis for invasive species in the Lake

George region.

That summer, Emerald Ash Borer, a foreign beetle, was discovered in Warren County, near the bridge that crosses the Schroon River at Chestertown and Horicon.

Last summer, the pest was found in the Town of Lake George, near Hearthstone Park, where, perhaps, it arrived via a camper’s firewood.

The Department of Environmental Conservation now warns us that another threat to our forests, Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is on its way.

First discovered in 2018 in western New York, by 2022, BLD had spread to Herkimer County, a portion of which lies within the Adirondack Park and which borders three other counties with Forest Preserve lands. More counties are likely to become infested with BLD this year, the DEC stated.

And no doubt more are on their way. More than 70 terrestrial invasive species have been documented in the Adirondack region, and species like small carpetgrass, Japanese hops and oak wilt can be found just beyond the Blue Line.

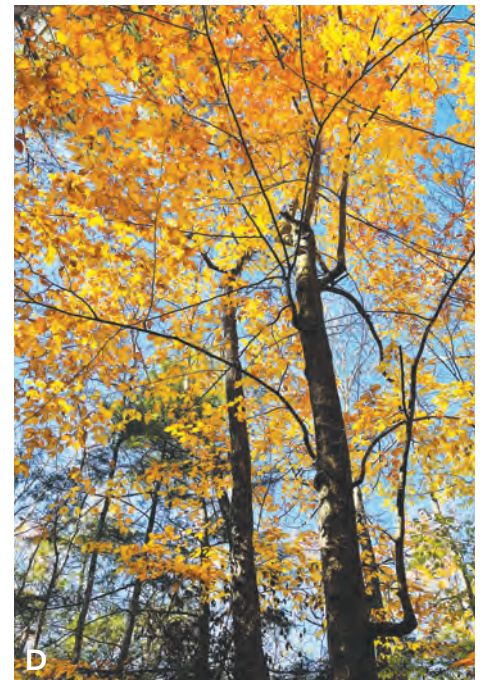
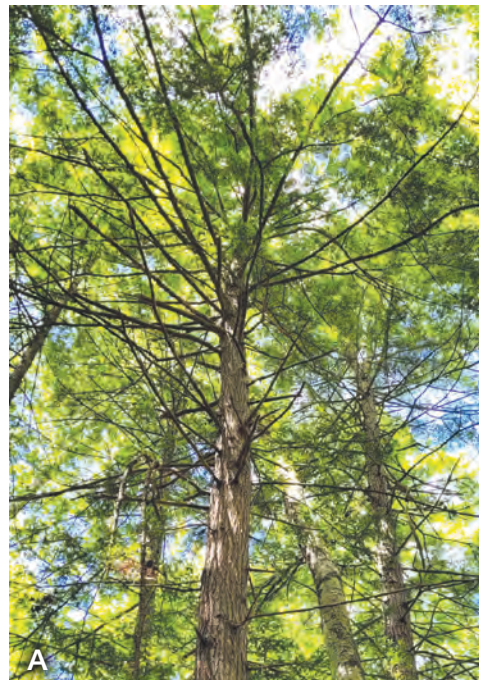
As terrestrial invasive species proliferate, so, too, do educational programs, forest surveys and controls - some more effective than others.

### Can Invasives be Stopped?

Since New York has the highest number of terrestrial invasives in the nation, we should expect our legislators to be the organizers and leaders of the effort to halt the importation of foreign pests. New York alone spends more than \$15 million every year to fight invasive species.

Rep. Elise Stefanik, for example, has sponsored what she has named the “Stamp

See *TROUBLE* Page 18



A: The Hemlock, one of the oldest trees in the Adirondack Park and among its most abundant and prominent conifers, is on the precipice of extinction. B: The bridge that crosses the Schroon River at Chestertown and Horicon, where EAB was discovered in 2020. C: Emerald Ash Borer. D: Beech trees, like this one near Paradise Bay, are threatened both by Beech Bark Disease and Beech Leaf Disease. E: U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik at a 2016 press conference on invasive species in Lake George. F: DEC technicians treating hemlocks with pesticides on Lake George in 2020. G: Training citizens to identify and report invasive species at Hearthstone Park, 2023.





Photo courtesy of New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

## Loon Ecology and Conservation Geared for Summer Camps

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, headquartered in Saranac Lake, will sponsor presentations about loon ecology and conservation at summer camps throughout the Adirondack Park this year.

The presentations – using storytelling and art-based projects to engage the campers – will be conducted by Emma Borys, a sophomore at SUNY’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry, whose summer internship with the Loon Center will be funded by The Adirondack 46ers

“The Adirondack 46ers’ support will enable us to expand our outreach to a wonderful new audience and also provide a college student with an incredible learning experience,” said Dr. Nina Schoch, Executive Director at the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

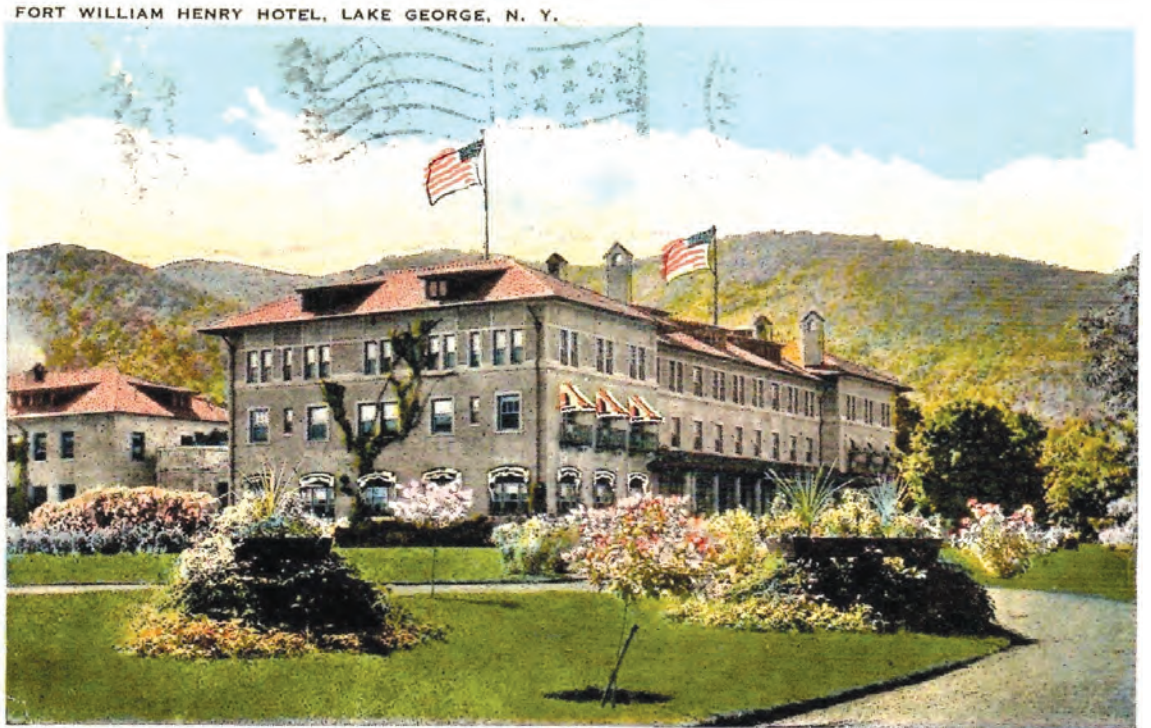
Nine summer camps have already booked presentations. Day or sleep-away camp leaders who have yet to arrange for one but who are interested in doing so should contact the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation at education@adkloon.org or 518-354-8636.

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Cover Art: © Fabian Lopez



This postcard, sent in 1924, is an example of a similar postcard mailed from Lake George in the same year as Lem Barber’s 1924 correspondence. Barber’s 1924 Lake George postcard took seven years to reach its address, only 26 miles away in Northville. Photo: Joseph W. Zarzynski Collection.

## 1931: Postcard Mailed from Lake George Arrives 7 Years Later

By Joseph W. Zarzynski  
 SPECIAL TO THE LAKE GEORGE MIRROR

In August of 1931, many newspapers around the country published a human-interest story about a postcard mailed from Lake George that arrived at a Northville, NY address seven years later. Reportedly, the postcard departed the Lake George post office in 1924, but it circulated to several wrong destinations before reaching its journey’s end.

The postcard was addressed to “Delbert Weaver” in Northville, 26 miles southwest of Lake George Village. The 1924 postal communication was sent by Lem Barber. On August 12, 1931, the

correspondence finally arrived at the residence of Walter Weaver, son of the intended recipient. The postcard showed wear-and-tear from its seven-year odyssey.

Barber’s note written on the 1924 postcard inquired how Delbert and his brother, Noel, were doing. Strangely, when the postcard arrived, Delbert Weaver had been dead for over two decades. Obviously, the sender was unaware of the man’s passing. Barber’s note on the 1924 postcard inquired how Delbert and his brother, Noel, were doing.

Before e-mail and text messaging, mailing postcards was common communication to family and friends, especially when the senders were on vacation.

Throughout the years, there were various eras of government-issued and privately produced postcards until the White Border Period (1915–1930). German printers had for years monopolized the printing of American postcards. That changed during World War One (1914–1918), when postcards began

to be churned out in the USA. To save on ink, printery operators left a narrow white border around the image.

The postcard mailed in 1924 to Delbert Weaver, probably was of the White Border Period kind.

Moreover, there are other notable cases of late mail. One of the more famous was a letter postmarked from Bath, UK in 1916, and addressed to Katie Marsh in London. It reached that address over a century later in 2021. Katie Marsh had long since died, but when the postcard was mailed, she ironically was married to a famous stamp dealer named Oswald Marsh.

In 2021, a Royal Mail official commented he was unsure what happened to the 1916 letter, sent 105 years earlier. It was believed the correspondence was lost in a postal sorting office, which years later closed. More recently, when that building was being redeveloped, the missing mail was unexpectedly discovered. The postal official hypothesized the letter “had perhaps fallen behind some furniture.”

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# “Third Actors” Rally In Albany Against Banks’ Fossil Fuel Investments

By Susan Harris

SPECIAL TO THE LAKE GEORGE MIRROR

Spring arrived! As always, “April showers bring May flowers!” But what if it didn’t? What if extreme weather put the kibosh on Spring? If Winter just hurtled into scorching Summer, and stifling heat literally choked off earth’s flora and fauna? If loss of multiple ecosystems then threatened the livelihood of humans?

## OPINION

This, at least for now, is a fictional scenario. Spring 2023 is “bustin’ out all over.” But I mean to evoke shock, and to spur collective action. Earth is at a tipping point, and I know, “Climate Can’t Wait!”

Indulge me a sec on my soapbox. While I blame Climate Change for mounting asthma, heart and lung disease, cancers, and heatstroke. While I blame Extreme Weather for crop loss and starvation; for climate refugees having to escape floods and forest fires and migrate empty-handed from what were their “forever” homes. And, while I fault Climate Change for targeting the poorest and most vulnerable among us, those who always, and disproportionately, suffer the greatest hit.

Truth. I believe Public Health and safety is a human right. I’ve fought for rights before: civil rights, anti-

war rights, women’s rights. So, with cautious optimism that together we can still fix this climate mess, I sprang into action on the first full day of Spring! High noon on 3/21/23, I took up my banner, and excitedly joined “Third Act” for a climate rally in downtown Albany. We were not alone! In over a hundred cities all over the country, same date, same time, “Third Actors” rallied, and chanted, marched, and delivered letters to presidents of our nation’s four largest banks. They were forewarned: “Take your money out of fossil fuels, or we’ll take our money right out of your banks!” To underscore the point, some protesters actually cut up their credit cards on the spot!

Since the Paris Climate Accords in 2016, these four banks have financed the fossil fuel industry to the tune of 1.3 trillion dollars! Paraphrasing “Third Act” Cofounder and keynote speaker, Vanessa Arcara, the banks have a business model unlike Exxon Mobil’s. Their profits don’t come from the ground. With the right incentives and sufficient pressure, they could put the brakes on fossil fuels, pivot, and, for the health of the planet, fund strictly renewable sources of energy! Big Banks could finance healthy adaptation to climate change. They could finance mitigation of its nasty effects.

The THIRD ACT movement is gaining steam. Founded just a year



Local residents traveled to Albany to participate in a Climate Change rally on March 21.

and a half ago by environmentalist and author, Bill McKibben, it’s a national movement that recruits 60-somethings and up, people like me who have lived experience, time, and resources to get the job done. It’s our mission, it’s our third act! Not surprisingly, we were joined on 3/21/23 by activists of all ages. High school and college students took the podium. They’re anxious about the future, and frankly, not certain

they’ll have one!

At first it surprised me that a bunch of religious groups had signed onto our rally. Speakers included a rabbi, imam, pastor, from a variety of denominations. Then Michael Richardson of GreenFaith spelled out what should have been obvious: the spiritual significance behind such a rally. We are all just stewards of planet Earth, and are tasked with passing a healthy planet

onto unborn generations. He spoke of the moral imperative to do no harm, and renounce profits reaped from universally destructive greed.

Albany’s enthusiastic turnout on 3/21/23, convinced Richardson and Arcara to pursue an Upstate NY chapter of THIRD ACT that would cover the Hudson Valley all the way up through the Adirondack Park! Sounds like a reasonable third act for the Adirondack Park and for me!

## Meet the Cooper’s Cave Composers’ Consortium May 14

By Mirror Staff

A group of local composers and musicians calling itself “The Cooper’s Cave Composers’ Consortium” will present its first concert on Sunday, May 14 at the Strand Theater in Hudson Falls.

The two-hour program starts at 3 pm. Tickets will be available on the day of the performance at the box office. Prices are \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors.

The Consortium includes Greg Auffredou (percussion), John Benware (piano), JP Hubbs (piano), Anthime Miller (cello, voice), Catherine Reid (piano), Ben Rowley (piano) and Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius (piano, melodica).

The May 14 concert will feature entirely original compositions, some of them world premieres.



According to a press release from the group, “The Cooper’s Cave Composers’ Consortium was formed by a group of artists with very different musical backgrounds

and all at different points in their respective creative careers. The Consortium was created with the goal of providing opportunities

See CONSORTIUM Page 18

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# TRAILBLAZERS

## SEMBRICH SUMMER SEASON CELEBRATES INNOVATORS

By Mirror Staff

"Trailblazers" is both the title and the theme of this year's Sembrich Summer Festival.

From sculptor David Smith to conductor Marin Alsop, cellist Grigor Piatigorsky to composer Philip Glass, "Trailblazers" celebrates artists who have shown us how to see, hear and experience the world in unexpected and

unanticipated ways.

"The art world has always had trailblazers - unique individuals who forged a route through the wilderness for others to follow," said Richard Wargo, The Sembrich's Artistic Director. "Our festival this summer is built around these innovators."

Wargo added, "Our featured performers can be said to be "trailblazers" in their own right:

guitar and cello duo Boyd Meets Girl, the all-female horn quartet Genghis Barbie and Hub New Music. We've planned an exciting series of programs that we look forward to sharing!"

"Trailblazers" will be composed of 23 performances, talks and screenings, starting June 11 and concluding August 30. Tickets are now on sale for all events.

Highlights of The Sembrich's

2023 Summer Festival include: a recital by the award winning young pianist Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner (July 1); the genre-bending Promenade Series; World Music Wednesdays; The Sembrich Film Series; "Alma Mahler and Her Charmed Circle," (July 19) a program in words and music; "A Tribute to David Smith" (July 22), two newly commissioned pieces performed by Hub New Music; a

Masterwork Series; and this year's gala performance, "Mi México Querido" with tenor Leonardo Sánchez (August 26.)

*The Sembrich is located at 4800 Lake Shore Drive in Bolton Landing. For a full listing of events, or to purchase tickets visit [TheSembrich.org/festival](http://TheSembrich.org/festival).*

## TABLE TALK

by  
Blaze  
Marshall

### East Cove

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the background after their owner left.

Such legends were Pete and Debbie Smith at Lake George's East Cove.

Built in 1947 by the LaFonds, this iconic log building began as the Colonel's Table. Its location in the 50s and 60s on the Eastside, nestled among the many night spots was sketchy, but the Smiths changed the name to East Cove and the rest is history.

Locals and tourists flocked here to enjoy the Smith's hospitality and the longtime members of their staff. Their Sunday brunch was a favorite and many a March Madness "Calcutta" graced the upstairs dining room.

After Peter Smith's death, the place was sold to a local contractor. Renovations closed "The Cove" for a long time and the new owner ended up selling it recently to a downstate firm that was not interested in the

restaurant business, but rather the accommodations on the property.

Enter Chef Chris Lanfear, a native of Lake George with extensive experience beginning at the Georgian and following up with Mario's and Saratoga's iconic Wishing Well for many years. Everyone is pleased to see this local landmark's lights back on, as well as having a native ready to give it "their best shot!"

My family and friends decided to give it a try a few weeks after the re-opening.

Gone is the upstairs dining room. The new bar and lounge is up a small ramp, elevated above the old main dining area. The entire area is invitingly stunning, lined with several high-tops, and a new bar that is backlit with a silhouette of our majestic mountains. Beautiful glassware sparkles overhead and it has a modern, chic atmosphere that complements the casual Adirondack,

woody feel that remains in the dining area.

I arrived early and turned down the house chardonnay for a nice glass of Josh Cellars in an exquisite Riedel glass! Heather was the host, and I enjoyed the dry, crisp white with a hint of oak as my companions arrived.

Mindy seated us at a great round table as the dining room began to fill up.

I noticed on the menus provided that Chef Chris's selections did not include those on the internet! Perhaps dating back to the former owner or even the Smiths, the East Cove's menus were not the same.

Our waitress, Courtney, poured ice water out of two frosty carafes that were to remain at our table; a nice touch, and we appreciated the ability to refill as often as desired. She also delivered two baskets of warm bread for our party of six while mentioning that tonight we could choose from three cuts of prime rib as a special.

App selections begin with a jumbo shrimp cocktail, fettuccine Alfredo, chicken fingers and pork belly, consisting of a thick cut of homemade bacon, served with arugula and bean sprouts with horseradish oil and lava bean puree. Got to be good as Chris raises his own pigs!

There's seafood gumbo and butternut squash soup as well as Caesar and house salads.

Mains include sesame grilled tuna, deep fried haddock, baked stuffed shrimp, chicken parm, chicken scampi, and an inviting broiled seafood platter with haddock, shrimp and scallops finished in a lemon butter and white wine sauce.

All dinners come with vegetables and a choice of garlic mashed, rice pilaf, or Chef Chris's great steak fries.

Interestingly, you can order those ala carte as well, along with cauliflower au gratin, potato au gratin, or veggies of the day.

We all decided to share a platter of baked clams casino. Several fresh littlenecks stuffed with shallots, sweet peppers and parmesan dressing with bits of "The Cove's" homemade molasses smoked bacon. A great beginning!

Mr. New York Yankee, Ms. Adonidia and New York City's Gregmore all chose a filet of salmon piccata layered over a bed of fresh spinach and rice pilaf.

Young Miss Sara raved about her tender filet of beef prepared exactly medium as ordered.

Yours Truly and Mrs. Shen opted for a generous bowl of chicken and broccoli Alfredo. Several crisp broccoli florets and tender strips of white meat layered over a rich, creamy sauce on penne pasta, with just enough garlic and butter that did not overwhelm the dish, offering a perfect consistency and wonderful flavor. Mrs. Shen declared it one of the best Alfredo sauces she has had! She was glad to take some of the ample portion home to enjoy the next day.

Courtney offered desserts. Although we were truly comfortable and having had a memorable evening, we had no dessert takers to extend our stay or Dad's/Pop Pop's bill.

Portions are generous and service efficient and friendly. Mindy was all over the dining area assisting servers and greeting guests as well.

It's great to see "The Cove" open again! Chef Lanfear has the will, tenacity and the talent to return it to its former grandeur, offering families and friends many enjoyable evenings just as I had with mine.

Who knows, he could be the next legend as well!



# OVER THE TRANSOM

BY BUZZ LAMB

## Antique Outboard History



### Tricks of the Outboard Champs

In the last two installments we've taken a look at the evolution of outboard racing that began after WW II. Now we'll move that focus to the racers, both men and women, and how they achieved prominence during those early years.

Outboard racers who commanded success by finishing in the winner's brackets didn't achieve that through some form of magic, though a knowledge of the "tricks of the trade" was vitally important.

By "tricks" I do not infer that the consistent winners were sleight-of-hand merchants. Although the manner in which a half-dozen or so contestants in any given class back then seemed to make it appear that way.

To win, a driver had to blend personal skill, a fast and reliable piece of equipment with a barrage of knowledge gained from both personal experience and observation. Added to this, the racer had to thoroughly pre-test their rig long before the day of the regatta and again on race day to prepare for wind and weather conditions. The combination of this gave them a

better-than-average chance to finish out front.

Some of the early-1950's best practitioners of outboard racing already had decades of throttle-squeezing prior to the war. Since the test of a driver's skill and equipment is graded at the race-site, let's for a moment, pretend that we are at the course. Let's see what the champions did that the "also-rans" didn't.

One of the first tricks any racer must learn is to mentally prepare for the event. To win a race you must be determined to win and believe that you will win. The hardest driver to beat is the one who expects to win. Also, it's the rare individual who is not nervous on race day. So, another thing to understand about racing psychology is that you aren't unique if you have a bad case of the "jitters" before the five-minute gun.

Here the champions had a formula (or set of "tricks") to keep their tautness under control. A flurry of last minute anxiety often sent drivers onto the course as nervous as a long-tailed cat in room full of rocking chairs. The champs

knew that the peak of nervousness would be overcome the minute their rig fires into action and moves onto plane. They knew that from then on they'd be too busy to be jumpy.

Many outboard racers have said, and rightfully so, that races are won or lost at the start. The smart racers wouldn't handicap themselves in advance. They had a plan to have their boat up on the line at full-throttle when the starting flag dropped.

This is an easy statement to make, but how to do it involved some of those "tricks". First, the veteran racer knew exactly how many feet per second their boat would travel at wide-open throttle. How they figured this out was quite simple. At 60 miles-per-hour a boat moves at 88 feet per second. A bit of simple arithmetic gave them the feet-per-second their particular rig would travel.

Usually, somewhere along the race course there was some sort of marker set back a certain distance, usually 500 feet, from the starting

buoy. After the one-minute gun sounded, drivers who passed the 500-foot buoy could not turn back nor could they approach the starting line pursuing an erratic course. All had to approach at or near a 90-degree angle or be disqualified. However, the driver could approach the starting line at any speed they chose.

If they misjudged and reached the starting line too early, they were disqualified as well. If they reached the starting clock too late, they imposed an unnecessary handicap on themselves in a race where split-seconds mattered. Also, keep in mind that the boat that reaches the first turning buoy had a distinct advantage over the balance of their competitors. They had clean water ahead and no rooster-tails blinding them and threatening to washout their rigs.

Any boat that got to that first corner, if it's piloted by a skilled driver, will have complete control of the traffic through the corner. The driver of that boat could set their

own pace, and if they are "wise", they will stroke through just fast enough to offset a challenge, staying close to the buoy and sliding just far enough to forestall any bid by a driver trying to move around on the outside. This is where the beginners made mistakes.

One of the most difficult things for the newcomer to learn was that the shut-off point to begin their turn was not at the buoy but some distance in advance of the buoy. The skilled driver would crack his throttle back some 20 yards before the buoy, point his bow toward the buoy and enter a controlled slide. As they reached the buoy a quick advance of the throttle overcame the sideways movement of the boat with prop thrust and headed the boat squarely in the direction of the next buoy.

Above all, the winners continually learned to look, not only straight ahead, but back over both shoulders, particularly entering a corner. A veteran driver knew that you only looked back over to one side then they would take advantage of this and close in on your blind side. Another "trick".

Finally, the best tip any newcomer could receive back then was to observe the veterans in action. The seasoned driver could easily give a newcomer a five-percent margin in speed and still beat them to the checkered flag every time. The driver who consistently won races took advantage of every legal method to stack the odds in their favor. Those were the "tricks of the trade".

In the next installment we'll take a look at a high-power outboard concept that never made it to the marketplace. Until then, keep your ropes dry.

## Lake George Hosting National Sailing Championship May 17-21

By Mirror Staff

The United States National Championships for J-24s, a popular class of one-design racing sailboats, will be held on Lake George next week.

The Lake George Club will host the races May 17-21. The club has been home to the class since 1981 and a base for one-design racing since the 1930s.

This will be the second time the Lake George Club has hosted a national, sanctioned, sailing championship; the first was in 1965 when Rainbows raced here.

Spectators will be able to view the races from their own boats, from within safety zones lying outside the perimeters of the course, said event organizer Alfie Merchant, a Queensbury resident and skipper of the J-24 "Crackerjack."

According to Merchant, registration has been capped at 50 boats – 40 from yacht clubs as far away as Seattle and California and ten from Lake George itself.

With each boat sailed by a crew of five, and with most sailors accompanied by partners and families as well as by race judges and officials, the event is expected to draw 350 to 500 people to Lake George at a time of year when overnight and week-long visitors are historically few.

According to Merchant, sailors who arrive in Lake George on Wednesday, May 17, will be invited to participate in the season's inaugural weekly Wednesday night races, which are open to sailboats of all classes. Following the races, sailors will dine at the Diamond Point Grill. Practice sessions will be held Thursday, after which sailors will congregate at the Adirondack Brew Pub in Lake George Village.

National Championship J-24 racing begins on Friday, May 19, and will continue through Sunday, May 21. On Saturday night, the skippers,

crews, officials and their guests will assemble for a formal banquet, to be followed by fireworks. Results will be announced and awards will be presented on Sunday.

The Warren County Board of Supervisors' Occupancy Tax Committee has recommended that the Board award the organizers \$13,500 to defray the cost of hosting a national event on Lake George.

Merchant said the Warren County

Tourism Department and its online and print vehicles for promoting tourism - VisitLakeGeorge.com and "Visit the Lake George Area in New York's Adirondacks" – will be the event's lead sponsors.

Some of the most accomplished J-24 sailors in the world will travel to Lake George to compete in the 2023 USA National Championship, said Merchant.

Many of those who compete

in the National Championships will register to race in the World Championships, which are held every year in a different major global city.

The nation's sailing media

will cover the J-24 National Championship, attracting additional attention to Lake George and generating more publicity for the region, said Merchant.

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## School Budgets, Boards Up for Vote

from page 3

**Proposition:** A proposal to purchase two 60-passenger school buses for \$302,092.

**The vote:** Tuesday, May 16, from 11 am to 7:30 pm in the elementary school gymnasium.

### Bolton Central School

**Expenditures:** \$10,359,965, an increase of \$248,644, or 2.46 percent.

**Tax Levy:** \$8,349,740, an increase of \$26,563, or 2.6 percent — \$26,563 below the state's tax cap

threshold.

**Administration:** \$931,372, a decrease of \$14,948, or 1.58 percent, from 2022-23.

**Educational Programming:** \$7.65 million, an increase of \$175,031, or 2.34 percent.

**Capital Costs:** \$1,779,968, an increase of \$88,561, or 5.2 percent.

**State Aid** is expected to total \$944,225, an increase of \$27,193, or 3 percent.

**School Board election:** Two board seats are up for election, and incumbents Timothy Daken and Jesse Foy are seeking reelection.

**The vote:** Tuesday, May 16, from noon to 8 pm at the school.

## Officials Cool on Transit Take Over

from page 3

million annually. In the proposed acquisition, that county revenue would be diverted to CDTA.

CDTA representatives have told GGFT and Glens Falls officials that existing routes and services would be maintained for several years, but would not commit to any expansion of routes or schedules, county administrator John Taflan said.

County officials said at the meeting that this pledge wasn't sufficient.

Asked by Dickinson if CDTA could eventually eliminate services to Lake George, Taflan answered, "They probably could do that."

"Count me out," Dickinson

responded, referring to the proposed acquisition.

He added that GGFT provides the county's only mass transit services, which were "absolutely crucial" to Warren County's workforce, and that transit to and from Lake George represented one-third of GGFT's ridership. He said that any changes to routes or schedules could have "serious consequences" to workers in Lake George businesses, and local control should be retained.

Bolton Supervisor Ron Conover stressed that it was vital to take action as soon as possible to resolve the issues discussed.

"We need to ensure that over the next 90 to 120 days, our buses roll," Conover said. "The last thing we want to do is fail our communities."

## Composers' Consortium May 14

from page 15

for other composers to have their original music performed in the greater 518 area, to expand the local audience for new music and to inspire the next generation of composers of any age or experience. They look forward to expanding their

roster and performance schedule to provide further performance and commission opportunities for other composers in the area."

The Strand Theatre is located at 210 Main St, Hudson Falls. For more information, call the Strand Box Office at 518-832-3484 or visit [mystrandtheatre.org](http://mystrandtheatre.org).



The late Gary Lovett, a forest ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, speaking about the threat to the Adirondacks Park's beech trees at an Adirondack Invasive Species Summit on October 19 in Blue Mountain Lake. Right: A new guide to the forest pests of the Adirondacks is now available. To order copies, visit [adkinvasives.com](http://adkinvasives.com).



# Triple Trouble

from page 13

Out Invasive Species Act," which, according to her office, would require the United States Postal Service to issue a "Combating Invasive Species Semipostal Stamp." Proceeds from the sale of stamps would be distributed to federal programs that combat invasive species.

Stefanik first introduced the bill in 2016. It recently made it out of the House Natural Resources Committee, but the legislation has never passed both houses and become law.

Stefanik said she introduced the bill in part to raise awareness about the threat invasive species pose to Upstate New York and North Country ecosystems.

According to David Orwing, the Harvard Forest ecologist who discovered HWA on Prospect Mountain, the introduction of nonnative species to North America is, in part, an unintended consequence of international trade: shippers' solid-wood packaging material is the primary vector for wood-boring pests.

Orwing and the late Dr. Gary Lovett, a forest ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, in Millbrook, New York, argued that shipping companies should be forced to use non-solid-wood packaging materials for pallets and shipping crates.

Other recommendations included improving procedures in foreign countries to ensure that shipments are pest-free before they leave, and increasing penalties on shipping

companies that don't comply with regulations.

Before his death in December, 2022, Gary Lovett appealed to Rep. Stefanik to support legislation codifying the ecologists' recommendations as law.

"The spread of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid cannot be stopped, at least not without the aid of biological controls," Lovett told the Lake George Mirror last fall. "But with political will, we may be able to stop the next invasive forest pest from getting into the country."

### Containing the Spread of Invasives

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand also wants to "hold importers accountable for bringing invertebrates like Emerald Ash Borer into the country," though doesn't say how.

Preventing the introduction of nonnative species into the US is the most effective way to combat them; once established, they are almost impossible to eliminate.

According to the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, there is, as yet, no statewide or regional program to treat ash trees infected by EAB.

To contain an infestation, DEC officials recommend that infected ash trees be felled and that the wood be left behind, to be burned or chipped on site.

Early detection reduces the cost of removing and replacing a tree, the DEC stated.

To limit the spread of EAB, DEC tries to prevent the transportation of firewood beyond a fifty-mile radius.

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), based at the Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley, recommends that firewood be "a hyperlocal purchase."

### Beeches Under Threat

Speaking at the Adirondack Invasive Species Summit on October 19, an event sponsored by APIPP and held in Blue Mountain Lake, Gary Lovett said that "almost every beech tree in the Adirondacks shows some evidence of Beech Bark Disease."

Over the past five decades, Beech Bark Disease "has changed the structure Adirondack forests forever," Lovett said.

(A few years ago, Beech Bark Disease was discovered on Dome Island for the first time; for decades, it was thought that Dome's isolated location and protected status had inoculated it against the disease.)

Lovett also discussed Beech Leaf Disease, first detected in Ohio in 2012 and which scientists believe is

associated with a particular species of worm.

According to the DEC, Beech Leaf Disease will kill mature trees in six to ten years and saplings in as little as two years. As with EAB, there is no known treatment for infested trees.

### Combatting Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Unlike EAB and beech diseases, scientists have developed tools to combat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

According to the DEC, insecticides are, at present, the most effective method of controlling HWA. Two different insecticides, one fast-acting, killing the insect before it can reproduce, the other affording the tree long-term protection, are applied to bark near the base of the tree and absorbed through its tissue. When HWA attaches itself to the tree to feed, it receives a dose of the pesticide and is killed.

But according to Dr. Mark Whitmore, Director of the NYS Hemlock Initiative at Cornell University, biological controls offer the best hope of eliminating HWA as a permanent threat to the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Once established, these populations of beetles and silver flies will expand and spread beyond the original points of introduction, becoming a permanent check on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

### Crowd-Sourced Monitoring

After the discovery of HWA in 2020 near Paradise Bay, the DEC, APIPP, the New York Hemlock Initiative, the Nature Conservancy and the Lake George Land Conservancy mobilized and coordinated a comprehensive survey to identify and treat infestations of HWA throughout the Lake George watershed.

These organizations are undertaking similar efforts to monitor Adirondack forests for HWA and other terrestrial invasives.

In March, for example, the Lake George Land Conservancy, the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program hosted an educational session at Lake George's Hearthstone Park, the site of an HWA infestation.

Those who registered for the session learned how to use iMapInvasives as a way to report the new infestations.

APIPP has also begun to teach people to identify and report beech leaf disease with training sessions and with publications, such as the newly released "Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Species of the Adirondacks," which helps people identify not only BLD, but the 70 invasive plants and animals found in the Adirondacks.

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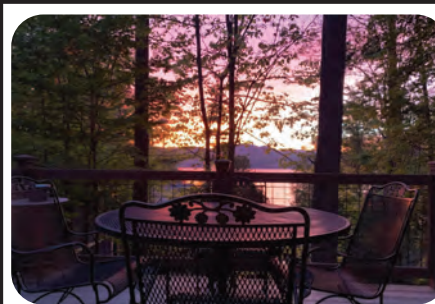
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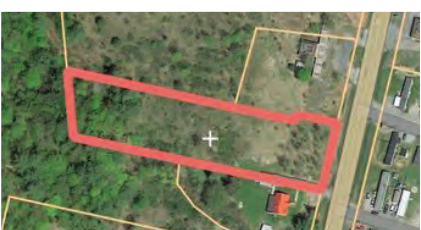
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