



The Inside Edge

*A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter
for Residents of Water's Edge/Woodlands/Spencer's Landing*

Volume 4: Issue 1 Spring 2025

President's Letter

As we celebrate the arrival of Spring, there is much to be thankful for here at Water's Edge. It was three years ago that "The Inside Edge" newsletter became a reality. Kudos go out to the entire newsletter committee for all the hard work and dedication you have put into it! As someone who has published many publications in my career, I can appreciate the effort that goes into getting a quality product to the readers!! We are lucky to have such a talented group. Thank you!

The new community room has hosted many gatherings since its completion, and now features an additional seating area with comfortable chairs, a few workstations, and a new area rug. This new area will allow multiple groups to enjoy and take advantage of the space. A shout out to the design committee that has put in hours of volunteer time to make the HOA such an inviting space!

The Board has been working on several issues. We have started the budget process earlier than in the past to give us additional time to evaluate the areas of opportunity and to limit fee increases. Our goal as a Board is to ensure that we get value for the dollars we spend and to ensure that we maintain the amenities that we enjoy. We will be sharing our proposals in a future meeting to make sure the community understands the process, and how we came to the decisions we did regarding the budget.

We recently added the new courtyard under our non-smoking policy. We also updated the reservation system for the pickleball and tennis courts to include guest names. And, the Board is gathering information on the frequency of guests utilizing our facilities so we can make better decisions on any potential future changes to our guest policy. In addition, we are continuing the member-priority hours when signing up for the pickleball and tennis courts.

Over the long winter days, the new gym has seen a healthy utilization of the new machines and free weights. The pool and hot tub continue to provide an oasis for those of us who have not flown south for the winter. Aqua Zumba has kicked back up, and several groups have been gathering to play Mah jongg and socialize to help pass the "long" winter days! The good news is we have started to see a few days in the 70's that are providing us hope!

As the "snowbirds" begin their return, we welcome you back and look forward to another great Spring and Summer season! For everyone who has stuck out this winter weather: We made it!!!

On behalf of the HOA Board of Directors, we thank you for your continued support of our community!

Rich Hand
HOA President

2025

ACC/HOA Board Meetings

May 14
ACC Meeting/Board Meeting
5:30 p.m.

July 5
Annual Meeting
9:00 a.m.



Read with the Silent Book Club

May 8th
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Don't Miss La Vie Parisienne

with Opera Saratoga

June 28
6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate with a Patriotic Picnic

July 5th
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Attend the Annual Meeting

July 5
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

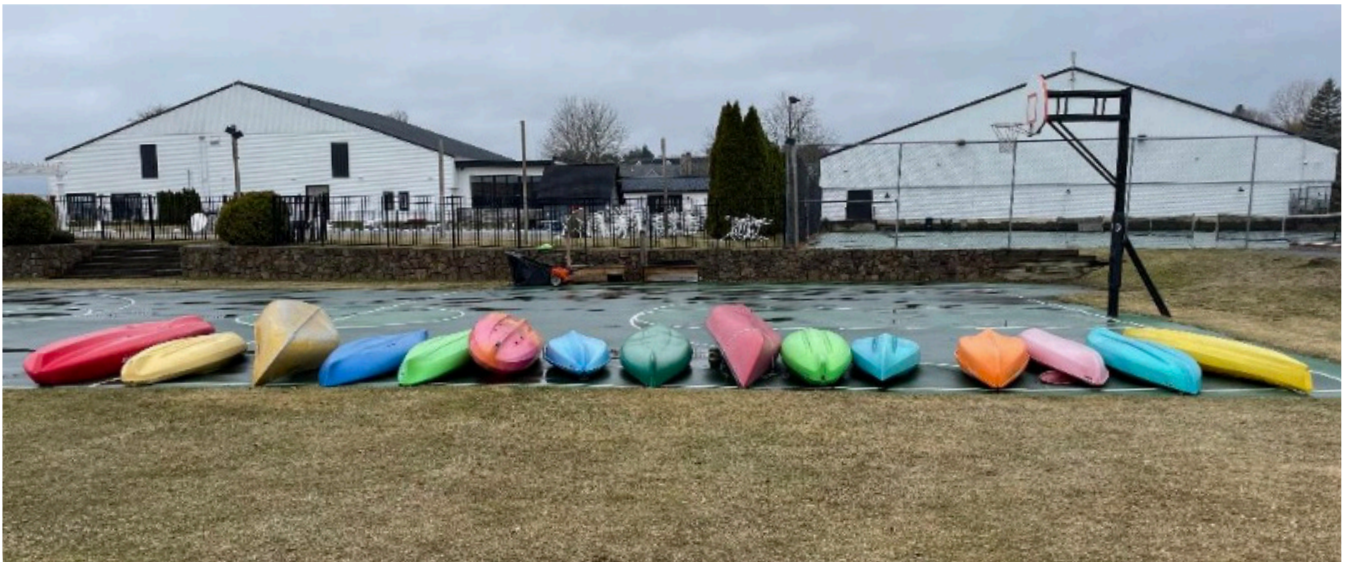
Bob's Lane

Editor's Note: As part of our quarterly newsletter, General Manager Bob Lane shares some thoughts on current news and events in the community from his unique perspective.



Now that winter has officially ended (although Mother Nature hasn't fully cooperated yet), we are starting to look ahead to summer preparations. The dock moving crew is set to start that process within the next week. Once on site, we will be working to replace all the boards and cleats on the finger sections. This follows the work that was completed on the main stems last year. We expect (weather permitting) to complete this next phase in a matter of weeks and will be opening the docks for boats one dock system at a time - as dock boards are completed. The goal is to have all boards replaced before allowing boats, as all cleats will be replaced as part of the process. We will be notifying slip owners as we progress. Please be reminded that any customizations on docks should be removed as soon as possible to avoid the staff having to remove and store items (e.g., extra cleats, bumpers that are attached to finger boards, etc.)

At the March Board of Directors meeting, it was pointed out that the kayak area is littered with a number of small boats on the ground. The staff has removed all boats left on the ground (without stickers indicating where they belong) and temporarily moved them to the basketball court. Any boats stored in the small boat area must have a spot and a corresponding sticker (available at the office). The fee per vessel is \$50 per year for storage. Please check out the photo and inform the office if you see a vessel that belongs to you.



The outdoor pool will undergo some minor surface repairs as soon as weather permits. I anticipate we will open mid-May as usual.

After a long run, Barnes Landscaping will not be returning to perform landscaping and snow removal duties in 2025-26. Skyview Landscaping has been contracted to perform the services after a very successful year working in the neighborhood on Spencer's Landing homes. I would like to thank Barnes for their years of service and look forward to this new relationship.

I hope you all have a very nice spring, and we look forward to an incredible summer season.

Your Community At Play



The French Connection: Part One

Tout Le Monde Craque Pour La Chips (Everyone Goes Crazy for Chips!)

So, what is the connection between a potato chip, Saratoga, and French T.V.? Why, it's our Water's Edge neighbor, Alan Richer, of course! You have no doubt seen interviews with Alan on the History channel, local television programs, or in numerous newspapers and books, but did you know that his notoriety as the "Toga Chip Guy," a leading expert on all things potato chip, has now crossed over to France, with a recent documentary aired on "66 Minutes," a French public television news program?



*Alan explains an antique potato slicer to the T.V. crew.
(Photo by French reporter Sophie Gousset)*

Hosted by NYC-based French journalist Sophie Gousset, the "66 Minutes" segment was filmed in Saratoga on a wintry day this past January, and featured, among numerous local spots: Alan and wife Jessica's Water's Edge townhouse, filled with potato chip memorabilia, including old-fashioned potato slicers, historic potato chip ads and packages, photographs, and newspaper clippings; the site of the original Moon's Lake House, just up Crescent Avenue, hosted by current owner Mary Skevington; a lovely view of Saratoga Lake; the Canfield Casino and Saratoga History Museum; a trip to downtown Saratoga Springs, highlighting a Saratoga potato chip display at the Impressions souvenir shop; and, a group enjoying Fry Chef Mason Cochran's Saratoga chips at Saratoga's famous Wishing Well restaurant.

The French interest in the origin of the potato chip can easily be explained when one looks at the SNAC International (a snack food trade association founded in 1937) statistics that reported 32 million pounds of potato chips sold during the 2023 Super Bowl weekend. The "66 Minutes" show claimed that the French, alone, each eat an average of over six and a half pounds of potato chips annually. In order to understand the origins of the potato chip – a truly international snack item – the "66 Minutes" crew turned, of course, to our very own "Toga Chip Guy."

Alan began his French T.V. interview with the legendary origin story we all like to tell our house guests, that the potato chip was invented at the original Moon's Lake House. The story concerns George Crum, the chef at the Moon's Lake House back in 1853, who had a problem with a customer who com-

plained that his French fries were not well done enough. (One story attributes the complaint to Cornelius Vanderbilt, although he was not reported to have been at the restaurant until years later.) Others claim that the potato chip was invented by Crum and his sister, Kate Wicks Adkins, who might have made the first chips by accident when she dropped a potato slice into a cruller donut fryer machine.

While Saratogians enjoy perpetuating these origin stories, Alan readily admits that there were fried potato recipes recorded as early as 1817 by an English doctor named William Kitchiner, who fried the potato slices in lard; and, an 1849 New York Herald article describes a cook named Eliza and the widespread popularity of her recipe for crisping potatoes. Regardless of where or when the potato chip was invented, says Alan, it is clear that it was popularized here in Saratoga.

For many years, the Saratoga chip was the generic name for all potato chips, according to Alan, and home "chippers" sold salty fried potatoes, calling them "Saratoga Potato Chips."

Manufacturers across the country picked up on the name. Chips manufactured in Portland Oregon by Williams and Company were sold as "Williams Saratoga Chips," and Boston-based "Marshall's Saratoga Potato Chips" were sold throughout New England. The Saratoga chip became a truly nationwide phenomenon. Eventually most chip manufacturers dropped the "Saratoga" part of the name, but the snack endured.



Alan visits with Mary Skevington, owner of the site of the original Moon's Lake House. (Photo by Sophie Gousset)

Potato chips are now the world's most popular snack, according to Alan, based on his research. "Just observe the amount of shelf space they claim at any grocery store. Potato chips are "more American than apple pie," says our "Toga Chip Guy" (whose nickname, by the way, was given to him back in 2012, by Mark McGuire, a Times Union feature reporter at the time.) And now, it seems that the French share our enthusiasm for this crunchy little snack. Vive la chips!

~ Submitted by Laurie Wellman

The French Connection: Part Two

C'est Si Bon!

When we speak of the many features our community offers in conversations with outsiders, we tend to mention its beautiful setting and unrivaled amenities. But lately, it has occurred to me there's another we should mention: the mix of remarkable people who call our community home.



Jean-Baptiste

A case in point is Jean-Baptiste Laloë, who moved to our neighborhood five years ago with his two young daughters, to live with his lovely wife Christa and her young son, both long-time residents. You've very likely seen them walking or riding along Vista Drive, a beautiful blended family, accompanied by their dogs or their bicycles.

Of French descent, Jean-Baptiste arrived in the States in 2009, initially living outside of Boston before moving to Saratoga, where he and Christa met. With a degree in physics earned at Imperial College in London, England, he works in the semi-conductor industry at GlobalFoundries. But six months ago, another new and important role was added to his curriculum vitae: that of French Honorary Consul in Albany.

In this seemingly novel capacity, Jean-Baptiste is responsible for protecting the rights and interests of French citizens living east of Buffalo and north of New York City by interceding on their behalf with regard to matters both large (e.g., a natural disaster, a legal problem) and small (e.g., passport applications, academic scholarships, questions about nationality).

As if his new title were not ample cause for fascination, the process behind his recent appointment most certainly was. It was Jean-Baptiste himself who saw the need for someone to serve the 2,000 or so French citizens living in this region, and who took it upon himself to approach the French General

Consul in New York City. Once the Consul was convinced of the need to create this new position, the appointment was made after 18 months of back and forth talks and meetings and correspondence among the Consul, the French Ministry in Paris, and the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.

All this for a position that is strictly part-time and entirely voluntary! Yet Jean-Baptiste is elated to have it, and has already helped several French citizens in the first six months of his five-year term. FYI, there are ten French General Consuls in the U.S., including the one in New York City that approved his appointment, and five regional honorary consuls in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Bermuda regions, including him.



If you are a French citizen, or know of one, who is in need of assistance, you can reach Jean-Baptiste online via the French General Consul website, <https://newyork.consul-france.org>, or by writing to him at albany@agenceconsulaire.fr.

As a lifelong Francophile, learning about Jean-Baptiste's new role was, for me, a source of some excitement. As a resident of The Woodlands, I'm proud to say "Bien Fait!" or, in English, "Well Done!"



Jean-Baptiste, Christa, and family

~ Submitted by Ilene Angarola

HOA Bulletin Board: Important Messages from Management and Your Neighbors

No-Smoking Policy

To help ensure the health and safety of all residents, the Board has expanded the policy restricting all forms of smoking to include the new courtyard area between the breezeway and the outdoor pool. This is in addition to areas where smoking is already prohibited: inside the HOA building, the outdoor pool area, and the beach area. Thank you for your cooperation.

Water's Edge Website

To check out the many exciting activities going on in the community almost every day, go to the community website at watersedgewoodlands.org. Once you log in, just click on the community tab to view the calendar. If you haven't already done so, you will need to register to use the site to view upcoming events.

Zoom Procedures for HOA Meetings

Residents who wish to attend HOA Board meetings via Zoom must provide their first and last names in order to sign into the meetings.

New Gym is a Hit!

Use of our gym is reportedly triple what it was prior to the opening of the new facility. Therefore, residents are asked to be considerate of others who might be waiting to use the equipment they are on.

Spring Brings More Renovations to our Community Room

Spring is finally here and, with it, a sense of renewal—evident in the buds on the trees and the onset of blooms in our gardens, as well as the latest additions to our clubhouse community room.

Throughout the gloomy winter and early spring, our Interior Design Committee was remarkably busy, selecting an assortment of furnishings in complementary fabrics and colors in order to give us more seating in this increasingly popular space.

Among the items ordered and recently delivered: five extra-comfy swivel chairs in a yummy saddle faux leather and a circular coffee table that are perfectly pulled together by

a gorgeous blue, beige, and saddle area rug; two new bar-top tables; and six attractive barstools in the same saddle faux leather fabric as the swivel chairs. The tables will serve double duty as both bars and work stations, with one being placed behind one of the blue sofas and the other placed against the wall to the right of the fireplace. Also coming in April: three handsome new sconces that feature a combination of metal, rope, and glass.

With all of these new additions--and the selection of additional artwork--the community room will be completed—a welcoming space for residents and visitors to the clubhouse that combines both form and function, style and grace. Kudos to the Committee for their hard work and good taste!!

~ Submitted by Ilene Angarola



A Day in the Life of a Saratoga Springs High School Student

The “A Day in the Life of” column of our newsletter regularly highlights members of our Water’s Edge community. For our Spring issue, we thought it might be interesting to share a day in the life of some of our Saratoga Springs High School students, because so many members of our Water’s Edge community are old enough to not have been inside a high school for 50 years (or possibly more). For other neighbors who are young enough to still be in elementary school (or younger), their only exposure to what a day in high school looks like might be based on silly T.V. sitcoms or bad movies, where students who seriously dislike high school are trying to cut classes (e.g., “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off”) or are being strongly disciplined for bad behavior (e.g., “The Breakfast Club”).

In order to give our readers a brief glimpse of what a day in Saratoga Springs High School might look like, five of our neighbors who attend the high school agreed to answer a few questions. This informal survey of opinions was strictly confidential, is in no way scientific, and is not meant to evaluate the school in any way. The respondents represented all four grades (i.e., 9 – 12). Following were the questions I asked and the answers they gave:

What is your daily routine?

All of the students responded that they wake up on or around 6:00 a.m. on school days. Only one takes the school bus (at 7:00 a.m.), with each of the others getting rides with their parents or driving themselves to school. All of the respondents have their first class beginning at 7:49 a.m. When asked if they think that the school day should begin later, they unanimously and resoundingly agreed that it should! One reported that, “Young children wake up early naturally; however, because of more homework, studying, and pressure, high schoolers are usually sleep-deprived and need extra time to sleep in the mornings.”

Time of arrival back home at the end of the day varied widely, depending upon after-school activities. Most of the students get home at or around 2:45 - 3:00 p.m., while one, who is involved in sports, does not arrive home until 4:45 p.m. The amount of homework also varies widely, with the 11th and 12th graders reporting a usual three to four hours of homework and those in the lower grades having only one or two hours. The students reported that the amount and difficulty of the homework was “doable.” Usually, required classes like math and history have homework every day, while the electives are “lighter on the amounts.”

What is your typical class schedule?

The high school works on a four-day rotation schedule. The days are labeled A, B, C, and D days. A and C days have the same daily schedule, as do B and D days. One day out of the four includes a gym class or study hall, depending on the student’s overall schedule. Each class is 70 minutes long and there are four classes per day. After the second period, there is a 30-minute window called “FLEX,” where students are assigned a classroom in which to work, socialize, or visit with teachers regarding assignments or to ask questions. One student reported an A-Day schedule that included physical education, chamber orchestra, FLEX, statistics, and pre-calculus. Other days for the same student included history, language and composition, principles of marketing, French, and orchestra. (Almost all of these classes were honors or advanced placement, suggesting that the high school provides a wide range of such courses for those students who qualify and who welcome the challenges.) Another student’s typical daily schedule included earth science, English, introduction to engineering, career financial management, geometry, global history, and gym. Yet another student reported taking English, band, Spanish, marketing, math, history, and chemistry.

Once again, these students take a wide variety of honors and advanced placement courses, further conveying the high school’s strong emphasis on providing for those students who wish to be challenged. In addition, there are many interesting electives that the students can choose from, including the aforementioned introduction to engineering and career financial management. *(continued)*



A Day in the Life of a Saratoga Springs High School Student (cont.)

What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?

Extra-curricular activities are many and varied. While our survey was limited to only five students, the number of activities they reported being involved was significant: football, baseball, working out in the weight room, member of the Student Council, tennis, cross-country, track and field, girls' flag football team, newspaper club, National Honors Society and French Honors Society (both requiring community service), coding club, yarn club, fiddle club, and politics club. No doubt these students will never be bored!

The students were asked to respond “yes” or “no” to the following statements:

I think the school should have security guards in the building: 4 yes/1 no

I think the school should have metal detectors: 1 yes/4 no

I think that cell phones should be banned during the school day: 1 yes/4 no

I think the administration needs to do a better job of controlling bullying: 2 yes/3 no

I think the school has a good variety of technology (computers, white boards, etc.) available for students to use: 4 yes/1 no

I think the school staff does a good job in disciplining disruptive students: 4 yes/1 no



The students were also asked if there were any other comments/issues that they would like to include in this section of the survey. One student reported that, right now, there are cell phone restrictions in place that include collecting and putting phones in sleeves, reminding students to put their phones away, and taking them from students when the phones become too disruptive. However, this student stated that teachers are very flexible with the rules and the phones are a persistent problem. If students need to contact their parents, they can always use the phone in the main office, according to this one respondent.

What do you like best about being in high school? What do you like the least about being in high school, and what would you like to change if you could?

Three students reported that what they like best is being able to make independent decisions, more than in middle school, or “anywhere else at this age” outside of school. (For example, students may create their class schedules for the coming year independently, as long as they meet the basic requirements for graduation. They may choose any additional courses as electives, according to their interests.) Two other respondents liked seeing their friends at school.

The students were asked what they like least about high school and what they would like to see changed. Their answers were varied:

Having to wake up early.

The length of class periods (70 minutes); possibly adding more class periods of shorter duration.

Less homework for 12th graders, because most have already been accepted to college and “can relax a little bit.”

We always need passes to go anywhere, including signing into bathrooms.

Less work should be given, or allow more time to do the work.

To sum up, it appears to this writer that things have changed considerably since many of us went to high school. Saratoga Springs High School sounds like an exciting place to be, with a multitude of interesting courses and activities from which the students can choose. With its large, sprawling building and beautifully maintained grounds and sports facilities, it looks as if our neighborhood kids are very lucky to attend this school, even if it does mean getting up early!

~ Submitted by Laurie Wellman

A very special “Thank You!” to Ms. Olivia Howe, a Water’s Edge lifeguard and a student at Saratoga Springs High School, without whom this article would not have been possible. Olivia contacted the students who agreed to respond to this survey, distributed the surveys to them, and collected, collated, and prepared the survey responses for the writing of this article. I also want to thank all of the students for taking the time to respond to my questions.

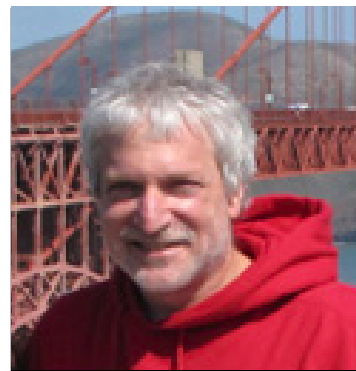
Community At Work: Architectural Control Committee

If, at any time in the past 20 years, you have had reason to call on the Architectural Control Committee (ACC), the name Linda Tokarchuk is one you will certainly know. After 10 stellar years as the ACC Chair and 20 years of exemplary service, Linda has stepped down from her leadership role, turning the reins of the ACC to another good neighbor, David Fingerhut.



Linda Tokarchuk

As the new Chair, David Fingerhut is a solid replacement to continue the smooth workings of the ACC. David has been on the Committee for six years and is known for his reasonable solutions to meeting both the needs of the community and those of homeowners requesting changes to their properties.



David Fingerhut

From David's perspective, the ACC is an opportunity to contribute to the well-being and sustainability of the community, while allowing individual tastes to emerge within HOA guidelines. Commenting on his new role, David states, "I look forward to working with the members of the Committee and with homeowners, as they enhance their properties, and in doing so, enhance the entire HOA environment and our neighborhoods."

Welcome, David, to your new role, and thank you for taking on this responsibility. And, a hearty thank you to Linda for a job well done in enhancing the role of the ACC over the past several years.

~ Submitted by Connie Sullivan

"My Word"



Guess the Water's Edge Word of the Day!

All of the letters around the edge of the photo appear once in a word describing Water's Edge. Put them in the right order and you have guessed the "Water's Edge Word of the Day". Place the letters in the correct order on the red dashes below to spell out the word of the day.

Now that you've guessed the "Water's Edge Word of the Day", how many three (i.e. art, car), four (i.e. rent, teal), or five letter (i.e. front, after) words can you create from this word? Anyone find a six letter word?

Create your list (three, four, five letter words or more) and submit them to the Water's Edge HOA office with your name(s) by April 20th and be announced as the winner(s) in the summer *Inside Edge* with a wonderful summertime prize attached to your "My Word" award certificate! The whole family can join in the fun! See your family's name in the next issue of the Inside Edge!

SEE THE WORD OF THE DAY ANSWER ON PAGE 14

Water's Edge Amenities at a Glance

The recreational amenities we enjoy as residents are among the primary benefits of living in our community--a statement made all the more true with the expansion and renovation of our clubhouse. To facilitate your usage--and enjoyment--of these amenities, the News-letter Committee thought it would be helpful to prepare the following charts—one for indoor amenities and one for those outdoors.

Indoor Amenities	Hours	Reservation Required	How to Reserve	Time Limits/Number of Guests	Fee
Fitness Center	5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	No	N.A.	N.A.	No
Party Room/ Kitchens	5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Yes	Call HOA Office	N.A.	Yes
Pool-Laps	5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Yes	HOA Website	30 minutes	No
Pool General	5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	No	N.A.	N.A.	No
Hot Tub	5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	No	N.A.	13 person maximum	No
Racquetball	5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Yes	HOA Website	Up to 90 minutes per day or 4.5 hours per week	No
Tennis	5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Yes	HOA Website	Up to 90 minutes per day or 4.5 hours per week. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., each resident is permitted to bring one guest to play. After 12:30, there is no limitation.	No
Pickleball	5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Yes	HOA Website	Up to 90 minutes per day or 4.5 hours per week. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., each resident is permitted to bring one guest to play. After 12:30, there is no limitation.	No
Basketball	5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Yes	HOA Website	Up to 90 minutes per day or 4.5 hours per week. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., each resident is permitted to bring one guest to play. After 12:30, there is no limitation.	No
Outdoor Amenities	Hours	Reservation Required	How To Reserve	Time Limits/Number of Guests	Fee
Picnic Grove	5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Yes	Call HOA Office	Groups up to 100. Groups of 75 and over require prior Board approval.	Yes
Pool	7:00 a.m. to dark	No	N.A.	N.A.	No
Tennis	5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Yes	Website	Up to 90 minutes per day and up to 4 ½ hours per week. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., each resident is permitted to bring one guest to play. After 12:30 p.m., there is no limitation on the number of guests a resident may bring.	
Pickleball	5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Yes	Website	Up to 90 minutes per day and up to 4 ½ hours per week. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., each resident is permitted to bring one guest to play. After 12:30 p.m., there is no limitation on the number of guests a resident may bring.	No
Basketball Court	5:00 a.m. to dark	Yes	Website	N.A.	No
Bocce Court	8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Yes	Website	Two sixty minute sessions per household per day.	No
The Tent	11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Yes	Call HOA Office	Groups up to 100. Groups of 75 and over require prior Board approval.	Yes
Marina	24/7	Yes	Call HOA Office	Boat slips are open May-October. Each of the slips in the marina is deeded to someone who owns a home in Water's Edge/The Woodlands. Use of the marina is limited to owners and other Water's Edge/Woodlands residents who may privately arrange to rent a slip from an existing owner.	Yes
Kayak Rack	24/7	Yes	Call HOA Office	January-December	\$50
Kayak Launch	24/7	No	N.A.	One launch available.	No
Fire Pit	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Yes	Website	Reservations are for the full four-hour time slot. First-time users must attend a one-time tutorial at the HOA office, to be held any M-F between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.	No

Not Just Horsin' Around!

Horses are serious business in Saratoga Springs, including right here in Water's Edge. As home to several notable trainers, jockeys, and owners, we have ample reason to be proud of those we call our neighbors, including the residents we congratulate here.

First, kudos to **Ramon and Sharon Dominguez** who, earlier this year, were appointed to the Board of Directors of Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga ("THS"), a non-profit organization that provides sanctuary for retired racehorses that, in turn, are instrumental in providing equine-assisted psychotherapy services to children, adults, and veterans, in addition to offering a variety of other programs for the larger community.



Ramon Dominguez

Venezuela-born Ramon is a Hall of Fame jockey with nearly 5,000 career wins--160 of them in graded stakes. Since retiring as a jockey in 2013, Ramon's dedication to the sport has been reflected in his leadership role as President of the New York Race Track Chaplaincy and his support of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Funds.

Ramon's commitment is mirrored by

that of his wife, Sharon, who grew up amidst horses; her mother had a riding stable and her father trained Standardbreds where they lived in Delaware. Like Ramon, Sharon has dedicated both her time and talents in the field of communications by supporting the Backstretch Employee Service Team (BEST), the New York Race Track Chaplaincy, and the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Funds.

Established by two psychotherapists who recognized the value of working with horses for people with mental health issues, THS has become a unique community resource in the short time since its founding in 2018. In addition to providing a nurturing place where patients

receive customized treatment, the "farm" has also become the site of special events like weddings, a unique space for yoga classes, and a popular location for corporate team-building events.



Sharon Dominguez

Speaking fondly about the farm, Sharon takes particular pleasure in relating how her commitment to Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga has combined with her commitment to the Charlton School for Girls. At Sharon's suggestion, several of Charlton's students are currently building tack boxes in shop class for each of the THS horses. Later this spring, when completed, the boxes will be placed at each of

the paddocks, storing such often-used items as brushes and fly spray. Such collaboration is a real source of pleasure for Sharon, who says, "It's such a great, cool thing" to do.

"Horses make the world a better place," Sharon adds, with conviction. "I've been fortunate to spend my entire life around them, and I love being part of an organization that helps enrich people's lives through the connection with horses."

Ramon echoes her sentiments, stating, "The power between the horses' and the humans' connection makes THS' mission a clear win-win situation for everyone involved."

We couldn't agree more!

~ Submitted by Ilene Angarola

At A Glance

This column was created for the newsletter to provide readers with short, but important, updates on issues of interest to the community.

“The Inside Edge” Celebrates its Third Anniversary!

It is hard to believe but, with this Spring 2025 edition, our neighborhood newsletter is about to begin its fourth year of publication. Beginning in the Spring of 2022, the newsletter, published four times a year, has featured ongoing updates from our HOA Board presidents, and Property Manager Bob Lane; stories about the history of our community, including an amusement park, a disco, steamboats, trolley cars, rowing crews, and others; a look forward to our building and grounds renovations; local news of our brand new fire/EMS facility; special features about members of our community, including a jockey, a horse trainer, an author, and a bakery and café owner, among others; write-ups and photos from our parties, picnics, concerts, and other community events; and many other features too numerous to include. We thank the members of the community who have shared their encouraging comments, and we invite our readers to give us suggestions for future articles. A complete set of the newsletters is archived and may be read on the Water's Edge website, thanks to Austin Lane.



Future of Snake Hill Decided

Local land trust Saratoga PLAN (Preserving Land and Nature) held an informational Zoom meeting with updates on the future management of Snake Hill on February 26th. In the meeting, Executive Robert Davies shared that PLAN's focus would be centered on education and resource protection using an adaptive management approach.

The management goals are to:

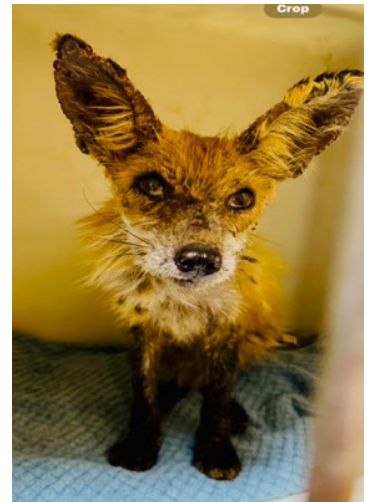
- Provide the public an opportunity to experience Snake Hill with small groups of visitors
- Maintain a wild place that can be seen from many locations along Saratoga Lake
- Make sure that Snake Hill visitors, neighbors, and surrounding communities can safely access, park, and enjoy Snake Hill
- Ensure Saratoga PLAN and its partners have the capacity and appropriate programming for public access

Snake Hill is currently closed to the public as PLAN addresses invasive species, including Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and other stewardship challenges. PLAN is also collaborating with the Town of Stillwater, Saratoga County, and New York State on planning and permitting requirements. Public access is expected to begin in 2026 and will be limited to small groups participating in Saratoga PLAN or partner programs and volunteer events, as conditions allow.

For those who would like to view the recorded Zoom meeting or view the accompanying slide deck, please visit saratogaplan.org/snakehill. If you would like to receive email updates on Snake Hill, please email annag@saratogaplan.org to be added to PLAN's Snake Hill e-mail list.

Neighborhood Fox is Safe!

We are a community of many talents. Recently, our neighbor Holly Vegas successfully partnered with North Country Wild Care to catch the roaming female fox that had been on the run in our neighborhood for far too long (at least nine months). “Cunning as a fox,” this animal evaded capture until Holly and North Country Wild Care were able to trap it. “Crescent,” as the fox is has been named, is now on the way to rehabilitation, a process that will take about two months. While many thought the fox was rabid, it actually had a case of sarcoptic mange that made it look unkempt, unhealthy, and, to some, dangerous.



How was the fox captured? First, North Country Wild Care, a licensed wildlife rehabilitation agency, and Holly, set up a feeding station, where Crescent came to feed three times a day, until she was comfortable with the location and routine. A cage was then set up nearby, and the fox was captured. The animal was actually quite timid during the rescue process.

The animal will be returned to wild life in Warren County, because Saratoga County has a considerable population of wild life infected with mange. Our thanks to Holly and the North Country Wild Care for saving this animal's life and returning it to full freedom in the wilds of Warren County. The North Country Wild Care is a nonprofit agency and appreciates donations from the general public to preserve wildlife. The agency works with all types of creatures, including squirrels, rabbits, deer, skunks, opossum, bobcats, foxes, chipmunks, porcupines, birds of all kinds including hawks, eagles, owls, and more. To learn more, visit its website at <https://northcountrywildcare.org>.

It is important to the community to know that while we live in an area where wildlife thrives and can be appreciated, from deer to rabbits to skunks to foxes, any unusual or unexpected behavior of any animal should be reported so that an immediate response can be offered in order to keep the community and the animal safe. At the same time, we can enjoy all that nature has to share with us.

~ Submitted by Laurie Wellman,
Anna Gomez Domenech, and Connie Sullivan.

And Another Thing . . .

"And Another Thing..." is a column that appears in each newsletter to inform HOA residents of scheduled events in our community.



Spring Brunch

Our annual Spring Brunch, featuring omelets fashioned by the Omelette King, was held on Sunday, April 6th.

While enjoying fabulous omelets and other delicious breakfast foods, participants entered the spring raffle and enjoyed the camaraderie of our wonderful community. Children delighted in special gardening activities and an amazing egg hunt. Kudos to Kathy Evans for another wonderful community event in our newly renovated clubhouse.



Gardening Committee

With the snow finally melting, it is an ideal time to turn our thoughts towards planting! We also have the opportunity to start seeing some green shoots from the hundreds of bulbs planted last fall. The Gardening Committee

will be hard at work beautifying the community and making it an even more delightful place to live. The first meeting of the committee this year will be at the HOA clubhouse on Sunday, April 14th, at 6:30pm. If you are not currently on the committee and have an interest in enhancing our community, contact Molly Corbett now at mcorbett21@nycap.rr.com.



Silent Book Club (Page Turners)

Participate in Water's Edge/Woodland's "silent" book club, "Page Turners," on May 8th from 3:00

-5:00 p.m. At a silent book club, community members get together to relax for 45 minutes of quiet, uninterrupted reading among friends, with a book of their own choice (any length, hard copy, paperback, electronic) and any genre (novel, history, short story, etc.). At the end of that time, each individual shares a brief statement about the book they are reading. Afterwards, participants enjoy light refreshments. Everyone is welcome! Page Turners is scheduled bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month in May, July, September, and November.



Patriotic Picnic

The Patriotic Picnic celebration has been set for Saturday, July 5, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Food will be served from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a array of barbecued foods, from hamburgers to

sausages to hot dogs, as well as a vegan option. Community members are invited to provide "pot-luck" side dishes and desserts, resulting in a wide selection of food options. In this annual lakeside event, community members have the opportunity to mingle and enjoy the music of Jeff Walton throughout the afternoon. The fee for guests is \$5.00. Please let Kathy Evans at kathyevans530@gmail.com by July 1 if you plan to participate.

La Vie Parisienne

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Opera Saratoga at Universal Preservation Hall on Saturday, June 28th, when we will attend the La Vie Parisienne performance. We have community member John Zizzoa member of the Opera Saratoga Board to thank for this opportunity What a wonderful way to enjoy a stellar performance.



The Opera Saratoga Package includes:

- Exclusive wine party in the Opera Saratoga lounge prior to the performance. (Wine/other beverages provided by Opera Saratoga and hors d'oeuvres provided by Water's Edge/Woodlands residents.)
- 10% discount on the regular price of La Vie Parisienne tickets using Code WATERSEGE when using the Proctor's website or calling Proctor's.
- Complimentary reception courtesy of Opera Saratoga in the Opera Saratoga lounge during intermission.

If you purchase tickets, please let Connie Sullivan know at jcsul@aol.com. We are maintaining a list of participants so that we can notify individuals of details and arrangements prior to the event.

Annual Meeting

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Water's Edge/Woodlands on Saratoga Lake Homeowners Association, Inc. will be held in person and over zoom on July 5, beginning at 9 a.m. Members in good standing as of June 30, 2025 will be entitled

to vote. All homeowners are encouraged to attend in person or on-line. Business can only be conducted at the Annual Meeting if there is a quorum present on-line or by proxy (51 percent of authorized voting homeowners). If you are not able to attend, it is important that your ballot/proxy is received by the date of the meeting. Every effort should be made to submit an electronic ballot to the HOA office by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 4, 2025 in order to conduct an efficient meeting. Details regarding voting and participation will be sent to all community members by the HOA office prior to that date.



~ Submitted by Connie Sullivan

The Inside Edge

A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter for Residents of Water's Edge/Woodlands/Spencer's Landing

HOA Board of Directors

Rich Hand, President
Molly Corbett
Kathy Evans
David Guillet
Mark Navin

Newsletter Committee

Connie Sullivan, Co-Chair
Laurie Wellman, Co-Chair
Ilene Angarola
Stacey VanMarkwyk
Paul Hein, Layout

Special thanks to Austin Lane for ***all his assistance***.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to the HOA office at hoawatersedge@nycap.rr.com
Please put Newsletter in the subject area so that correspondence may be forwarded to the correct person.

THE WORD OF THE DAY ANSWER (FROM PAGE 9):

LAKEFRONT