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A WARRIOR
ON ICE

PAGE 8





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(5 days prior to the Submission Deadline)

CONTENT DUE:	EDITION DATE:
December 10.....	January
January 10.....	February
February 10.....	March
March 10.....	April
April 10.....	May
May 10.....	June
June 10.....	July
July 10.....	August
August 10.....	September
September 10.....	October
October 10.....	November
November 10.....	December

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Dear Neighbors,

"I WILL HONOR CHRISTMAS IN MY HEART, AND TRY TO KEEP IT ALL THE YEAR. I WILL LIVE IN THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE. THE SPIRITS OF ALL THREE SHALL STRIVE WITHIN ME."

~ Charles Dickens

As the seasons change and the days grow shorter, we invite you to immerse yourself in the beauty of nature's rhythm. In this issue, we celebrate the spirit of the holidays, the achievements of our community, and the timeless wisdom of the natural world.

Local Heroes and Natural Wonders

CNY Flooring, a local business owned and operated by Sid Grant, continues to provide high-quality flooring solutions and exceptional customer service. We're also celebrating the inspiring story of Avery Ide, a 16-year-old Skaneateles native who has been accepted to a Division 1 college for hockey.

In Catherine McLaughlin's insightful article, "Seasonal Calendar," we explore the cyclical nature of life and the importance of tuning into the rhythms of the natural world. From the gathering of crows to the hibernation of squirrels, each season offers its own unique beauty and significance.

In our "Charity Spotlight," we highlight the work of Griffin's Guardians, a local non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families affected by pediatric cancer. In honor of Griffin Engle, a young boy who lost his battle with cancer, SUNY Cortland and SUNY Oswego will face off in a hockey game on January 18th, with all proceeds benefiting Griffin's Guardians.

Holiday Cheer and Community Spirit

Get into the holiday spirit with our delicious recipe for Christmas Brussels Sprouts perfect for sharing with loved ones. And don't miss Nicole Keator's stunning photo of the Northern Lights, capturing the magic of the winter sky.

For sports enthusiasts, we have Evan Whitley's captivating photos of the Lakers High School football team in action.

Be sure to check out our Calendar of Events for the latest updates on Skaneateles' Holiday Pride and Joy, "A Dickens Christmas."

Winter's Vital Role in Nature's Cycle

In Janice Wiles' article, "Winter: ReWilding and Seeds," we learn about the crucial role of cold winter temperatures in the life cycle of native plants. Many seeds require a period of cold exposure to break dormancy and germinate. As climate change alters winter weather patterns, it's important to understand and appreciate the delicate balance of nature.

We hope you enjoy this festive edition of Neighbors of Skaneateles and please support our Sponsors. Happy Holidays!

Until next month,

GREG ESCE

PUBLISHER
Neighbors of Skaneateles



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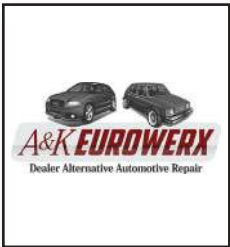
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Pick Your Plan!

Trillium Homes Inc. is now offering (2) new house plans for any home buyers to choose from. The building site is located at 3551 Millrun Terrace, Skaneateles, NY, in the well established neighborhood of Windward Estates.

This .89 acre lot is only a 1/2 mile to the village, is on public water, and is one of the last building lots left in the neighborhood.

Don't miss your opportunity to own a beautiful home in a great setting.

Craftsman



This Craftsman 2-story home offers an open and spacious floor plan. 3,450 +/- square feet of finished living space, a total of 4/5 bedrooms, 2-1/2 bathrooms, and a large front sitting porch perfect to enjoy the outdoors. At an added cost, a finished basement, and bonus room could add an extra 1,685 square feet of living space. Also at an added cost, the plan could be modified to accommodate a 3-car garage.

Cape Cod

This Cape Cod house plan has a large first floor master bedroom with a flowing open floor plan. 3,200 +/- square feet of finished living space, a total of 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 bathrooms, a 3-car garage, and still leaving space in the backyard for a pool if desired. At an added cost, a finished basement could add an extra 1,757 square feet of living space.



PROUDLY BUILT BY TRILLIUM HOMES INC.

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CNY Flooring:

A Family-Owned Business Committed to Quality

BY GREG ESCE FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH SIDNEY GRANT, OWNER OF CNY FLOORING
PHOTOS BY SIDNEY GRANT

For over a decade, CNY Flooring has been a trusted name in the local community, providing high-quality flooring solutions and exceptional customer service. Owned and operated by Sid Grant, Sid a dedicated veteran and flooring expert, CNY Flooring has built a strong reputation for its commitment to excellence.

A WIDE RANGE OF FLOORING OPTIONS

CNY Flooring offers a diverse selection of flooring options to suit every style and budget. From classic hardwood to modern laminate, stylish tile to cozy carpet, and low-maintenance LVP, their extensive inventory has something for everyone. Sid and his team personally

guide customers through the selection process, ensuring they choose the perfect flooring for their homes or businesses.

A PERSONAL TOUCH

What sets CNY Flooring apart is their personalized approach to customer service. Sid believes in building strong relationships with clients, and he takes the time to listen to their needs and preferences. He enjoys the opportunity to transform spaces and create beautiful environments that reflect his customers' unique tastes.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Sid's passion for flooring has built a successful family business that is deeply rooted in the community. Their son, Brent continues the family legacy, contributing to the company's growth and success. The Grants are also proud pet owners of two Yorkshire Terrier (Yorkies,) whose unconditional love inspires them to support local organizations like Willowdale Farm in Skaneateles and Wanderers Rest.



A HUMOROUS TALE

In a humorous twist of fate, Sid's wife, Terri, once had a comical mix-up involving two "Chucks" – her brother and an employee at CNY Flooring. The incident unfolded when Terri was on the phone with her brother, Chuck, discussing their father's health and living arrangements. As they were wrapping up the conversation, she noticed something strange: the phone number wasn't an out-of-state number, as she would expect for her brother.

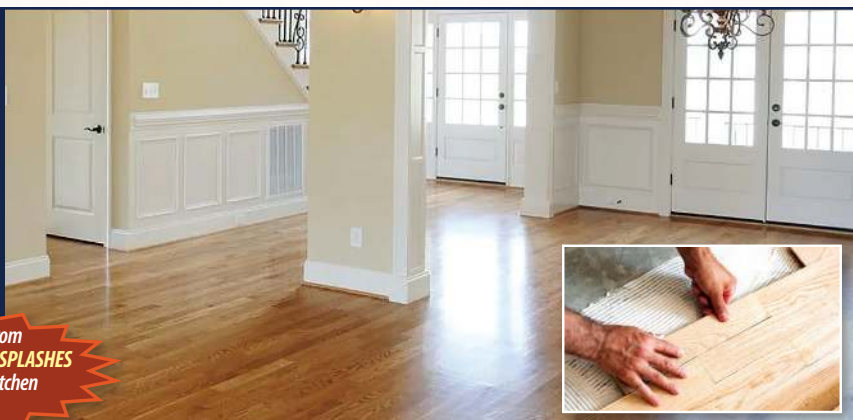


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Confused, she checked her contacts and realized she had two Chucks saved - her brother and their employee, Chuck. She called her brother back to confirm, and sure enough, he hadn't been the one she'd just spoken to.

"We all had a good laugh as we pieced together what had happened". Apparently, Terri had been talking to their employee, Chuck, thinking it was her brother. They had discussed their father's health and living arrangements, and Chuck had politely listened and agreed without realizing the mix-up.

The whole situation was quite humorous, and they still laugh about it today. It's a reminder to always double-check who you're speaking to, especially when discussing important matters.

A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Beyond providing quality flooring services, CNY Flooring is committed

to giving back to the community. As mentioned the Grants support local organizations such as Willowdale Farm in Skaneateles and Wanderers Rest in Canastota, demonstrating their dedication to animal welfare and environmental conservation.



If you're looking for a reliable and experienced flooring company, CNY Flooring is the ideal choice. Contact them today to schedule a consultation and discover the difference a family-owned business can make.



"We had hardwood floors put in by CNY Flooring a few weeks ago. The floors look great. Everyone was very friendly and professional. Would recommend them to anyone!"
 — Holly R.

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The Greek word Athenaeum means: a repository of knowledge. Our Athenaeum is the home of our residents who each have their own experiences and wisdom to share. The Athenaeum of Skaneateles is an intimate Peregrine Senior Living community offering individualized care for your loved one. Known affectionately in the community as the "big yellow building up the hill," The Athenaeum was once a large mansion that has been converted into a licensed adult home with single rooms, giving our building a homey feel and a comfortable atmosphere.

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BREAKING BARRIERS!

SKANEATELES' OWN RISING STAR IN WOMEN'S HOCKEY!

BY HEATHER BRUNO

PHOTOS BY THE IDE FAMILY AND JAMES PELUSO

Neighbors of Skaneateles is thrilled to share an inspiring story emerging from our beloved Skaneateles community. Matt and Kelli Ide's 16-year-old daughter, Avery Ide, has just achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving acceptance into a division 1 College for hockey. This achievement not only highlights her relentless dedication and passion for the sport but also brings attention to the growing opportunities for young female athletes in our community. As she prepares to embark on this exciting journey, we believe her story of perseverance and achievement can inspire other young girls in Skaneateles and beyond to pursue their dreams, no matter how

challenging the path may seem. We are happy to share her journey, the support she's received from her family, coaches and teammates, and the impact this honor could have on future generations of female athletes in the village of Skaneateles.

Avery grew up playing for the Skaneateles youth hockey team since she was 5 years old. Avery's father, Mathew, is a full-time skills coach and a college coach at Oswego. He built an outdoor rink in their backyard where she learned how to skate, sporting her first pair of ice skates at just 2 years old. Brother, Jack - a Skaneateles freshman plays hockey too.

2022 was the year Avery scored 2 goals in the semifinals to propel



her team to a state championship for Skaneateles. She was in 8th grade!! She has won 2 more state championships since then with Bishop Kearney Selects in Rochester as a high school junior to focus on their elite hockey program where she trains intensively. “I came up 1 loss short of a national championship last year, falling to Shaddock St Mary’s, a team we beat last year in the regular season, and we also beat them this season as well. A National Championship is a goal we have as a team and something we work towards every day! “

She grew up skating for Skaneateles with Nora Curtis, another Skaneateles native with major hockey accolades. Nora will be attending Cornell next year. Nora and Avery still work out and help each other when they are home in Skaneateles. There hasn’t been a girl who has gone on to play D1 hockey that has lived in Skaneateles in 30 years! It’s great for the younger girls to see it can be done. Skaneateles has a rich tradition of hockey and now the girls are getting some high-profile recognition. Avery’s style of hockey is gritty and super physical. She is very quick to the pucks on offense with keen eye-hand coordination. And in playing defense, Avery had only 16 goals scored on her in over 70 games last year and that included penalty kill. This was a big attracting factor for the colleges, she doesn’t allow her team to get scored on.

“Nora is 2 years older and has always been a role model of mine. We push each other

Continued on page 10



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Nora Curtis, Avery's fellow inspiration on ice
- at the top of their game!

Continued from page 9

very hard. If you watched us compete and train together you would have no idea that we are such great friends. So, the fact that we have both committed to playing Division 1 hockey at such great programs has been a dream come true!"

Avery had 14 schools call her on the 1st day of NCAA recruiting and committed to Providence College Friars 2 days later. She had some great schools call with offers. She chose Providence for many reasons. It was a dream school of hers. She loves the coaching staff, hockey dorm and facilities. They play in the Big East division against team rivals like Boston College and Boston University. And she loves the school and Rhode Island. Plus, the facilities for the athletes are mind blowing, according to Avery.

"Providence likes that I am super physical, not afraid to block shots, win the battles in the corner, and I certainly don't like my team to get scored on. I almost wear that as a badge of honor.

It's tough to beat a team you can't score on, as a defenseman you should take care of the D zone 1st and then create your offense. The women's game of hockey has got increasingly physical especially at the college and pro level and I welcome that. I was the only girl on and all boys team my whole career until I got to 8th grade which I think helped me learn the physical side of the game and become even stronger on my skates. The Providence coaching staff were honest about what they loved about my game and the areas they want me to build on as a player. When you play at nationally ranked Bishop Kearney, you have the pressure of playing in front of a lot of college coaches no matter where you are playing. They are at our practices as well sometimes. There can be pressure to perform for sure with that many eyes on you, but our Coach Jake Anderson reminds us that pressure is a privilege! The facilities at Providence for the hockey players are like nothing I have ever seen. In the locker room there is a lounge with

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Avery and Jack's parents, Mathew and Kelli Ide, met in Georgia where Kelli is from. Mathew was visiting a friend. They have been married for 25 years. The birth of their children equates to their best memories.

"I am a full-time skills coach and college hockey coach. I have had a few offers to coach college in other states but love this area. Kelli is a real estate agent for Micheal DeRosa Exchange. Jack's dream is to be a pilot. Avery wants to play pro hockey in the PWHL after college. She enjoys English and has an interest in political science. We also enjoy playing golf together as a family when Avery is home." - Mathew

Sandy is their Goldendoodle family mascot. Mathew jokes that she is his favorite child. Avery and Jack grew up on the Corner of State Street and Austin - just 5 houses from the Allyn Arena rink. The Ide family thinks Skaneateles is a dream community, their friends come visit and they can't believe this town exists, it's a storybook town.

food and recliners and TV's. They have one of the nicest work-out facilities anywhere. They have a recovery lab for the players with sleeping pods, hot and cold tubs, massage chairs, you name it - it's in there. And the rink is state of the art, I feel blessed and honored to even step on the ice there with the rich tradition Providence College has maintained all these years."

"We love our neighbors and town and feel blessed to be a part of it." Avery expresses much gratitude to her support team, her family, and coaches. Skaneateles cheers on her continued success and dedication to the exciting sport of hockey.

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WINTER: REWILDING & SEEDS

BY JANICE WILES, PHOTOS BY JANICE WILES



Not everyone loves winter, but native plants sure do. In fact, without good cold winters, which are increasingly rare thanks to climate change, native

plants could have trouble reproducing. That's because their seeds have a genetic feature called seed dormancy that tells the seeds not to germinate even when conditions are viable. In essence, dormancy keeps a native seed from sprouting on a random warm stretch in February. Instead, our native seeds

need between 30-90 days (depending on the species) of CNY winter weather to break the dormancy and get on with life. No cold stretch, no seed viability, and as we all know, it can be all downhill from there.

And then there are the plants themselves, who try to stay busy during the winter because it can be very cold outside. In dense meadows their remaining foliage, stems, and fallen leaves cover the ground and slow runoff year-round. Their roots open compacted ground and allow water to seep downward. And their stalks provide homes for insects and small animals to lay eggs or nestle in and sleep (lots of dormancy themes here, and oh yeah, please leave the stalks in place until springtime!). And of course, before the plants go dormant, they give the world seeds.

Seeds!

At Go Native! perennials seeds are critical to our mission: ReWild the watershed, enhance pollination and purify water that flows into the lake.

We collect seeds. We gather them from multiple plants in our plots, and when we can find them, we gather from wild populations.



Late fall seeds on a Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



Winter meadow



Stiff-Leaved Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)



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We are careful to not overharvest, taking at most 5-10% of the ripe seed. We gather them in labeled paper bags to dry, examine samples to see if the seeds look intact (ie not eaten by insects) and we clean them.

In the wild seeds will lie dormant in cold moist soil until conditions are right for germination. We mimic mother nature's demands by putting seeds through "cold moist stratification", a seed treatment that unlocks dormancy so that seeds will be ready for germination when we put them in a warm sunny hoop house space in April.

When spring comes, we plant these hearty perennial natives with their deep roots into the ground around the lake, making more gorgeous gardens and meadows and ultimately more seed generation and ReWilding!

All are welcome in this quest!

So, here's hoping we have a good cold winter to keep this cycle of dormancy alive.

Happy Holidays and in 2025 and beyond, more healing of our soils and water in this place we live and love.



ReWilders cleaning seeds at the Skaneateles Brewery/Last Shot Distillery, October 2024



Spring germination in a 75 degree hoop house.



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BY KRISTI KRIEGER, PHOTOS BY KRISTI KRIEGER

Griffin Engle was a little boy that passed away at the age of 7 from Pediatric Cancer. He was a little boy with big brown eyes, a contagious laugh, a zest for life and a passion for the game of hockey. In memory of Griffin and to benefit the organization named after him, two local NCAA DIII college men's teams will square off against one another on January 18th at 5:00pm at the Allyn Arena in the Skaneateles Community Center. The SUNY Cortland Red Dragons will play the SUNY Oswego Lakers with all proceeds going directly to the local, non-profit Griffin's Guardians, to help them fulfill their mission within our community.

Griffin's Guardians, assists families in 17 counties near to us, even extending assistance into Pennsylvania. They provide financial aid for families through their Project 20 program, where every child diagnosed receives \$1300 for each year they are in treatment. Project 20 helps pay for medical bills, travel expenses and household bills. Griffin's Guardians also creates fun events for the siblings through their Grace's Sibling Sunshine program, and provides family portraits through EVERett Lasting Memory program. These are just some examples of how Griffin's Guardians directly impacts the children and their families that are experiencing the trauma of Pediatric Cancer.



SUNY Cortland Coach Joe Cardarelli and SUNY Oswego Coach Ed Gosek came up with the idea of this charity game, so that their hockey players could give back to the community using their athletic talents. Immediately, the players were on board to make this

hockey game a unique and fun experience for all, knowing that Griffin was passionate about the game of hockey.

The community has shown amazing support for this hockey game, offering sponsorships to offset the cost of the game. Blaze, the Red Dragon will be there cheering on his Cortland players and is excited to meet all the hockey fans! We hope that you will also come cheer on the two college teams in their quest to help Griffin's Guardians and the young heroes that are battling cancer. Let's give those little warriors and their families hope for tomorrow!



Tickets are \$5 per person or 5 tickets for \$20 and they can be purchased at www.griffinsguardians.org

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Christmas Brussels Sprouts Recipe

BY HEATHER BRUNO

This recipe fits so well with other traditional holiday side dishes! It's a perfectly flavorful and beautiful presentation for Christmas, New Year's Eve or any other holiday!

INGREDIENTS

- 12 oz. Brussels sprouts, ends trimmed and cut in half
- 2 tablespoons good quality olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 - 6 slices of bacon cooked crisp and chopped
- 1 cup pecans
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries

DIRECTIONS

1. Start by cooking the bacon in a preheated oven of 400 degrees for about 20 minutes, turning often. After the bacon has cooked, drain the fat, let cool and break it up into small pieces.
2. Next, prepare Brussels sprouts cut in half by tossing them with olive oil and salt - spread out on a baking sheet cut side down. Roast the Brussels sprouts in a preheated oven at 400 degrees for about 25 minutes. Turn them

over during the last 5-10 minutes of roasting for even browning. You can save time by roasting the bacon and Brussels sprouts together in your oven on two separate trays.

3. Toast the pecans by lining a baking sheet with parchment paper. Add pecans in one layer. Toast for approximately 5 minutes in a preheated 350 degree oven until they 'toast' in color.
4. Soak dried cranberries briefly in hot water by bringing a water pot to a



boil. This will plump them up, make them juicier and softer. Drain thoroughly.

5. In a large serving bowl, combine roasted Brussels sprouts, warm chopped cooked bacon, toasted pecans, and soaked dried cranberries. Toss together. (If making ahead of time, add pecans only when you

are ready to serve to make sure they are still crunchy). If desired, add one tablespoon of olive oil to mix with the salad. You can also drizzle with a reduced balsamic glaze or your favorite balsamic vinaigrette based salad dressing. Season to taste.

Haefele Design

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OUR COMMUNITY

A Gift From the North

BY NIKKI KEATOR, NIKKI'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Back in October, we were all given the gift of the Northern Lights. This was taken in Spafford from my yard. The colors of the Northern Lights or the Aurora Borealis, the lights are created when the sun's energized particles slam into the atmosphere. The magnetic field redirects the particles to the poles. The lights are usually seen more consistently much further north, but on October 11th, we were given a gift.




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SEASONAL CALENDAR

BY CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR, BALTIMORE WOODS NATURE CENTER
PHOTOS BY BALTIMORE WOODS NATURE CENTER



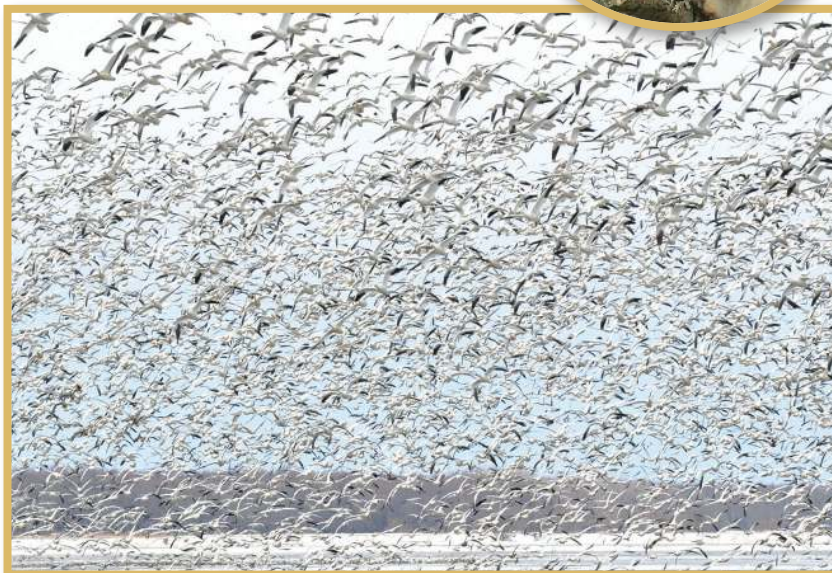
Do you have a calendar? Not the calendar we typically use with days of the week and holidays to keep track of the time passing, but one in tune with nature's cycles? I do. One of those natural moments that I appreciate that doesn't come with a date is when the crows congregate in fall. I start to hear their calls and

notice their large groups (or murders) flying as I walk my dog when I arrive home in the evening. It typically starts mid-October, almost at the peak of when the leaves change color and ends once the trees are bare. I've grown to appreciate what arrives each season. Nature works with the seasons to be most successful.

Right now, you see the squirrels going crazy hiding food for the upcoming winter months. Animals reproduce during certain times of the year for the best success for their young. Plants grow in spring as the weather warms and the sun is out for longer periods of time. As humans we should be more in tune with nature than we are. We have changed into a society where we work year-round and get whatever food we want at the store. However, people still do things seasonally. Have you gone pumpkin or apple picking in the past few months? Perhaps you notice you are craving different fattier foods that would help to keep you warm during the winter months. Our bodies are looking to prepare for a hard winter, just like the squirrels are preparing for the upcoming months. It's interesting to see how even though we may not need to prepare as the wildlife does, our bodies are almost hardwired to prepare for winter months.

As nature prepares for the cold, I hope you take the time to think about what you notice each season. Do you look forward to when house finches come to your yard in the evening during the month of August, or the call of frogs as the ice starts to melt in March, or the swarms of snow geese?

Observing what nature repeats each year can help you connect with what you see every day. We don't need to look at the date to know what is happening. Our bodies know what to prepare for already just as birds know when to fly and squirrels know when to hoard food.




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SKANEATELES HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

BY EVAN WHITNEY, PHOTOS BY EVAN WHITNEY

The Skaneateles H.S. Football Team wrapped up an excellent season in November that saw the Lakers fall just short of the Sectional Championship game. Skaneateles finished the season 8-2.

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December '24

CALENDAR of EVENTS

December 1

Cookies and Cocoa at Skaneateles Community Center
10:30am-12pm

December 6

Candlelight Christmas Tours
Seward House Museum
33 South Street, Auburn
6pm

December 7

Dickens Christmas in Skaneateles
12-4pm

December 8

Holiday Traditions Open House at the Seward House Museum
12-4pm

December 14

Holiday Gingerbread House Making @ Skan CC
10-11:30am

December 15

Mr. Fezziwig's Christmas Ball
Skaneateles First Presbyterian Church, 97 E Genesee Street
6-8pm

December 20

Winter Solstice Hike at Baltimore Woods
7-8:30pm

December 24

Dickens Christmas - Christmas Eve
12-2:30pm



Neighbors of Skaneateles is pleased to announce your future events, special occasions, and opportunities to gather. Email brittanirogers@bestversionmedia.com to be published in our Calendar of Events.

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Happy Holidays!

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PHOTO CREDIT: SKANDRONE