

WINDOW BOX VISITOR – A walking stick visits a window box of flowers still blooming in warm November weather on Clear Lake. Patrick Leary photo

Auxiliary Unit 821 sets meeting for Nov. 19

Clayton – American Legion Auxiliary Unit 821 will meet Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m., to vote on non-mandatory taxes and to discuss upcoming events in the village.

The winner of the lottery raffle in October was Deanne Cline. The next raffle is Sunday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m., after the Queen of Hearts. Tickets are $20 for four to the first 25 people for a total of 100 tickets. The winner will receive $100 worth of NYS Lottery scratch-off tickets and a $100 bill.

Membership renewals were sent out from national in mid-September. Dues should be paid before Jan. 1, 2027. The cost remains $32 for 2027 for senior members and $11 for junior members. The goal for unit membership is 364. So far 201 members have paid, including 20 new members.

To apply for auxiliary membership, visit the Post or go online to deptny.org.

Infrastructure grant proposals sought

1000 Islands – Jefferson County has announced the launch of its third round of municipal project solicitation under the New York State Empire State Development (ESD) County Infrastructure Grant Program.

Municipalities throughout the county can submit proposals for infrastructure projects that will strengthen local communities, encourage private investment, support housing opportunities and advance long-term economic growth. The program is an opportunity for the county to partner with the towns, villages, and city to identify and advance infrastructure improvements that might be difficult to undertake with local resources alone.

Through the program, ESD provides funding for small- and moderate-scale infrastructure projects that support economic development, housing creation, tourism and community enhancement. Eligible projects can include water and wastewater improvements, streetscape enhancements, infrastructure supporting new housing or business development, and other public investments that contribute to a community's economic vitality.

Grant awards can provide up to $1 million for infrastructure projects, with awards of up to $1.5 million available for projects supporting the creation of at least 10 housing units. A minimum 50% non-ESD funding match is required.

Municipalities interested in participating must submit proposals to the county for consideration. Submissions are then evaluated and subject to state approval.

The request for proposals, including submission requirements and evaluation criteria, are available at https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/69610/bo/bo-search.

Thousand Islands Christian Church

Plessis
Rev. Eric Zapp
Rev. Edward Madden

Plessis – Sunday, adult and children's church, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, 6:30 p.m., Men's Bible Study.

For information, visit tichurch.org or call 315-482-6756.

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Letters to the Editor

Neighbors defending 'vision' for Carleton Island

The near-unanimous opposition of Carleton Island's property owners to the proposed commercial campground is not a routine neighborhood dispute. Under the Cape Vincent Joint Comprehensive Plan, this unified opposition is a direct, live application of the town's own planning policies.

Our Comprehensive Plan does not define the Island District (Zone I) in the abstract; it defines it explicitly by the people who live there, mandating that the town "discourage any type of development that would diminish or degrade the unique rural community lifestyle these islands provide to their owners." When a supermajority of those very owners state that a high-density transient development disrupts their community fabric, their consensus serves as the primary benchmark for measuring the project's impact.

Furthermore, the plan officially recognizes that island properties "do not want or need elaborate infrastructure development," prioritizing large-lot seasonal residential use instead. By opposing a commercial venture that requires complex wastewater, docking and emergency logistics, the neighbors are actively defending the self-reliant, low-impact infrastructure model the town promised to protect. Under the State Environmental Quality Review process, local boards are legally required to evaluate impacts on existing community character. There is no clearer indicator of a clash with community character than the unified resistance of the entire surrounding neighborhood.

The island owners are simply asking our leaders to enforce the plan as written. The Planning Board and Town Board must recognize that this neighborhood consensus is the plan's vision in action, and reject a project that directly threatens the integrity of Zone I.

Mary Jordan
Cape Vincent

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