

Chamber's Holiday Promotion Urges Downtown 'Rediscovery'

BY JARED THAYER
A holiday celebration designed to encourage area residents to "rediscover" shopping in Potsdam has been planned by the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber's community-wide promotion will feature a "Deck the Halls" contest between community businesses, which have been asked to help promote the holiday spirit by decorating the outside of their establishments. Local residents will be asked to vote for the most impressive decorations from Dec. 2 through the 16th. Businesses are being asked to decorate for the holidays after Thanksgiving. The winner of the contest will be announced before Christmas.

Special Events
Dec. 11 marks the highlight of the Chamber's holiday promotion. Marie Breitenbach, executive director of the Chamber, has led the organization of various holiday activities, including special programs by the Potsdam Museum and the St. Lawrence County Historical Association.

Santa Claus will arrive Saturday afternoon by horse drawn sleigh with a police escort. According to a North Pole source a carriage will be reserved for Santa if there is a lack of snow. He will appear downtown and in the shopping plazas, and will be available later in the day for pictures with children.

In recognition of the holiday celebration no tickets will be issued for parking meter violations on Saturday, Chamber sources said.

The Lions Club will donate a large Christmas tree which will be placed in Ives Park at the end of Market Street. The Lions will also conduct a Christmas Tree sale.

Local Boy Scouts are making 30 two-foot wreaths which will be mounted on light poles throughout the village.

Outdoor lights will be strung with funds donated by Zonta, Rotary, American Legion and Delta Chi Delta. The Potsdam Beautification Committee will distribute evergreen door sprays to add to the Christmas atmosphere.

The Roxy Movie Theatre will hold a special holiday matinee of "The Secret of NIMH." The special \$1 admission will be the Roxy's Christmas present to the community, the Chamber said.

Holiday Stroll
Area residents are invited to take a holiday stroll through the village on Saturday to view the decorations. Carolers will be out throughout the day. Local restaurants will be offering lunch and dinner specials.

A candlelight program will be presented in Hosmer Concert Hall at Potsdam College at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday.

Other Events

The Potsdam Public Museum will offer a presentation by the Potsdam College Drama Department of scenes from "Winnie The Pooh" at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 2.

The Silas Wright House and Museum in Canton will hold a Candlelight Reception and Exhibition Opening from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 4. The Governor's Mansion will be fully decorated for the holiday season and the exhibit "Northern Trilogy: An Orientation to St. Lawrence County History" will be premiered. The Canton High School String Ensemble will provide music.

Dec. 5 the Potsdam Public Museum will open its Christmas exhibit of Norman Rockwell Christmas items, wind-up toys and the Schoenhut Circus from 2 to 4 p.m. Peg McLennan, harpist, will provide musical entertainment.

At the Silas Wright House Dec. 5 there will be pantomime by the Grasse River Players Youth Theatre under the direction of Vivienne Conjura. Reservations are not required but would be appreciated at 386-2780. The skits will illustrate Victorian

children's stories as they are read, and will be presented at 2:30, 3:15 and 4 p.m. A festive Christmas brunch will be held from 11 to 12:30. Two sittings will be held costing \$9 for members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations may be made by calling 386-2780.

On Dec. 6, Ms. Laura Lynne Scharer of Watertown will present slides and lecture summarizing her years of research on Victorian Christmas.

The lighting of the Potsdam village Christmas tree will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 9. A reception will follow at the museum featuring music under the direction of Joseph Liotta.

Friday a procession of lantern-wielding carolers accompanied by brass ensembles under the direction of Norman Hesser will wind their way through Canton Streets. The procession will end at the Wright House for hot beverages.

The Potsdam Girl Scouts will hold a caroling party Dec. 12 and meet at the museum afterwards for refreshments.

Chamber Notes Holiday Events

"Deck the Halls" contest — vote for the most impressive outdoor decorations, Dec. 2-16, shopping hours. (Many stores will be open Friday evenings.) Potsdam business establishments. Ballots and boxes have been distributed throughout Potsdam.

Holiday Stroll — invitation to area residents to view decorations. Carolers will be strolling throughout the village, Dec. 11, shopping hours. Potsdam business establishments, free parking — all day everywhere.

The arrival of Santa Claus by horse-drawn sleigh, Dec. 11, 1 p.m., downtown, 1:30 p.m. Ames/Big N Plaza, 2 p.m. Potsdam Plaza. Santa will be strolling throughout stores in the three locations.

Holiday Movie Matinee — "The Secret of NIMH." All matinee tickets — \$1. Dec. 11 noon, 2 p.m., Dec. 12, 2 p.m. Roxy Theater, 20 Main St. Lions' Club Christmas Tree Sale — Starting Dec. 11 Saturdays noon-6 p.m., Sundays noon-6 p.m., Mon.-Fri. 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Potsdam Industrial Center, parking lot, Outer Market Street.

Christmas Story Hour and Film — Dec. 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Potsdam Library.

Christmas Ornament Workshop, sponsored by the Potsdam Museum. Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Community room, Racquette Acres. Restaurant lunch and dinner specials — Dec. 11, Participating restaurants.

Violin Christmas Concert — Dec. 11, 1 p.m. Potsdam Museum. Christmas Festival — Dec. 2-12, Potsdam Museum. Community Candlelight Program — Dec. 11, 8:15 p.m., Hosmer Concert Hall.

Ornament Workshop Set

The Potsdam Museum is again offering a workshop on the making of Christmas ornaments. The workshop will be held in the museum on Dec. 7 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Klara Lovass-Nagy will teach a form of decoration in felt embroidered with simple patterns based on traditional Hungarian designs. An ornament can be completed in an evening.

Radmila Zuman will instruct in the making of Christmas tree ornaments in walnut shells. These are made with a self-drying bakers clay formed by snipping with scissors and can be completely finished in an evening. The subject suggested is a sleeping mouse but participants can use their imagination for creating animals, fruits, vegetables, stars or other Christmas symbols. These are based on the traditional Czechoslovakian ornaments.

A limited number of participants can be accommodated. Reservations can be made by calling 265-6910. The cost is \$3.50 per person.

The first event in the Potsdam Museum Christmas Festival is a special treat for children. The drama department at Potsdam college will present scenes from Winnie-the-Pooh. This will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 2. This is open to children of all ages and their parents without charge.

Negotiations Continuing For P-H Paraprofessionals

PARISHVILLE — Negotiations toward a new contract are continuing between the Parishville-Hopkinton Central School District and the Paraprofessional Organization representing nine teacher aides in the district.

Meribeth Planty, president of the paraprofessionals' group, said Tuesday morning that no agreement has yet been reached on a new contract.

Ms. Planty spoke to the school board at its Nov. 15 meeting. The old contract expired in June 1982.

The school board approved its 1983 budget calendar on the 15th, setting May 24, 1983 as the date for its annual meeting, with voting on a school budget to follow on the 25th.

Q And A Session Set With Dr. Plane

Clarkson College students and the general public will have an opportunity to ask questions of Clarkson President Robert Plane at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 7 in the ERC commons, on the Clarkson campus.

The question and answer session was proposed by Nancy Reese, feature editor of The Integrator, Clarkson's student newspaper.

Ms. Reese said that Dr. Plane has expressed a wish to meet with more students to exchange ideas, and she noted that if the Dec. 7 session is a success, more such meetings will be held.

Topics for the session will include the cost of education, Clarkson's plan to provide its students with personal computers and how that will affect students, and the change in New York State drinking law and its effects on students, Ms. Reese said. Any question pertinent to the school may be asked, but questions must be in good taste, she said.

Holiday Events Are Scheduled

The following holiday activities have been scheduled for the Potsdam Public Museum:

Dec. 2 — Scenes from "Winnie The Pooh" by the Drama Dept., Potsdam College, at Potsdam Museum, 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 4 — Silas Wright House and Museum, Canton, Candlelight Reception 6 to 9 p.m.

Dec. 5 — Opening of Christmas exhibit at Potsdam Museum, 2 to 4 p.m. Peg McLennan, harpist.

Dec. 6 — Silas Wright House and Museum, 7:30 p.m., Laura Lynne Scharer — Christmas as a Victorian Phenomenon.

Dec. 7 — Christmas Ornament Workshop at the Potsdam Museum, 7 to 10 p.m. Reservations call 265-6910.

Dec. 8 — Christmas Ornament Workshop for children up to 10 years of age and parents 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Dec. 9 — Potsdam Village tree lighting 7 p.m. Music in the museum under direction of Joseph Liotta, sponsored by Business and Professional Women.

Dec. 11 — Suzuki violin students in recital, 1 p.m.



VOLUNTEERS — Potsdam's United Way campaign will get a boost in the form of volunteer assistance from Elizabeth Peters, left, of Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority and Melissa DeRose, of Reachout. The two are among the volunteers who will complete business solicitations in the village. (Betsy Baker photo)

Incidents Involving Fraternity Members May Be On Rise

Nov. 7 was a typically quiet Sunday in Potsdam, so there was nothing unusual about three fraternity brothers deciding to crash a nearby sorority house party to liven up their evening.

But what may have begun as a good time soon turned ugly when the uninvited guests were allegedly asked to leave at about 2:25 a.m. When they refused, a fight allegedly ensued and when it was over two bartenders at the party were reported to have been severely beaten — one badly enough to be transported by rescue squad to Syracuse for medical treatment.

Sigma Delta Fraternity brothers Patrick DeCastro, 21 of Whitesboro; Michael Parker, 21, Whitesboro; and Edward Kameb, Jr., 23, a Sigma Delta alumni from Massena were charged last Wednesday with second degree assault, third degree assault and burglary second degree. Another Sigma Delta brother, Michael Sexton, 21, of Poughkeepsie was charged with trespassing.

Sexton was released on his own recognizance, while the others were released after posting \$1,500 bail each. Incidents involving fraternity members have become more frequent and more violent in recent months, according to Potsdam Police Chief Clinton Mattot. But he quickly added that this is something the village has seen before and inevitably will see again.

"If this type of thing continues," Mattot warned, "we're going to have to take a hard look at where it's coming from and the reasons for it."

Since Oct. 1, village police reported that they have received seven disorderly conduct complaints, two criminal mischief complaints, one complaint of sexual abuse, three noise complaints, two complaints of causing a disturbance, one complaint of larceny and two trespassing complaints — all involving fraternity members — in addition to the assault and burglary complaints lodged against the three Sigma Delta brothers.

Chief Mattot stated that for the most part these incidents involve only a small number of the people who are a

part of fraternities and sororities in this college town.

And one single incident can undo what Clarkson College Inter-Fraternity Council President Randy Bennett described as "a very good year" for community/fraternity relations.

"If we're aware of a greater degree of severity than is expected," Bennett said, "then, yes, it's time to come down on it."

Bennett stated that he has not been made aware of a great deal of problems involving fraternity members, but he added that the IFC would get involved if that were the case.

Chief Mattot also stated that he favored the fraternities policing themselves. "I'm kind of surprised that this type of thing is going on," Mattot said. "They've been doing such a fine job policing their own organizations." Mattot lauded the efforts of fraternities in curbing problems which in the past have surrounded the beer blasts which the organizations sponsor.

However, he warned that if violence involving frat members escalates, he would not hesitate to put pressure on the colleges to see that something is done. "We certainly don't intend to let it go on," Mattot said.

The IFC, according to Bennett, has already met in regard to the Sigma Delta incident and has rendered a decision on the matter. Bennett declined to say what that decision was because of the pending court cases.

According to the IFC president, the executive board of the IFC investigates whether or not the frat in general was responsible for the action and if the incident was in violation of fraternity conduct in general. The IFC does not hold hearings on individual frat members and can not expel anyone from a fraternity.

Bennett said that he is considering writing letters to all the fraternities informing them of the problem. "At least we can try to calm everyone down," he said.

North Country May Lead Economic Recovery: Speaker

By JOHN FRIOT

CANTON — Stating that "the North Country may lead in the recovery of the economy," Edmund J. Keane Jr., president and chief executive officer of Key Bank of Northern New York N.A., feels that "President Reagan is not receiving the credit he should be — Reaganomics, if you will, is working."

Keane and Victor J. Riley Jr., president and chief executive officer of Key Banks, Inc. addressed approximately 250 persons Tuesday morning during an economic breakfast at Canton Agricultural and Technical College's Chaney Dining Hall.

The 90-minute program dealt with various economic issues on national, state and regional levels. The breakfast and program was sponsored by Key Bank of Northern New York N.A.

Keane said he was "excited" by what the future holds in store for northern New York and the rest of the state. "One of the exciting things a bank can do is encourage jobs and industry," Keane said, noting that Key Bank recently closed on a loan for the industrial park in Massena.

"We like to be known as an involved bank," he said. "I guess you could say we're nice guys to know."

Economic Outlook

Keane said he has "a good feeling" about the economic outlook ahead. "The North Country may lead in the recovery of the economy. Take the Watertown area for instance, real estate is moving and more cars are being sold when compared to other parts of the nation and the state. That is a good indication, especially when we have always trailed in economic recovery."

"I really feel good about the future," he said. "Inflation, which I think is the key to the whole thing, is under control and things are going to get better."

Keane said that he felt that inflation would be under control for at least another two years, noting that a change in the presidency would have a definite impact on future controls.

Interest Rates To Drop?
"I think you will find that interest rates will go lower than what they are now," he said "we could very well have a single digit prime rate within six months. There is some concern that this may happen too fast."

"President Reagan is not receiving the credit that I think he should be receiving," Keane said. "What we are seeing across the nation is an affirmation of Reaganomics, if you will, and it is working."

Workers Reject Union 32-21

BY JIM MURPHY
By a decisive margin, the employees at the Elm Street Super Duper have voted not to be represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

In elections held last Thursday, employees at the market voted 32 to 21 in favor of not being represented by the union. Eleven votes, not counted in the final tally, were challenged by the union. That challenge, however, became academic when it was determined that even if all the votes in question were in the union's favor, the result of the election would not change.

Union representative Bruce Meyers, stated Friday that chances are very unlikely that the results of the election would be challenged, despite pending unfair labor practice charges filed by the union against management.

Those charges, filed by the UFCW weeks ago, stated that management had cut the hours of employees who were part of the in-house organizing committee. Management had countered that hours of all employees had to be cut because the 30 day

recognitional picket, which the UFCW had set up in front of the store, had hurt business.

The National Labor Relations Board is expected to rule on the matter sometime this week, but Meyers stated that he doubts that even a favored ruling for the union could overturn the decision. The NLRB is also expected to officially sanction the election results this week.

Attorney David Cubley, representing store owners Joseph Dwyer and Charles Trippany, would not say that management was surprised by the decision of its workers, despite the fact that the union had reportedly signed 85 percent of the store's employees to union authorization cards. "It's common that unions inflate those things," Cubley said.

Cubley did say that management was very happy with the election result.

Key To Loss
Meyers stated that Edward Ricker, a Michigan-based labor consultant hired by the store's owners to advise management, was a key to the union's failure. Meyers called Ricker a "union buster" who used intimidation and scare tactics to sway the store's employees.

"The reasons that brought the workers to want to be represented in the first place have not been corrected," Meyers said.

He added that the workers also might have simply become fed up with being bullied by the charges, rebuttals and counter-charges of both sides.

The union must now wait a year before initiating any more attempts at unionization at the store.

United Nations Service Planned

CANTON — "Reinvigorating the Mandate of Dunbarton Oaks" will be the topic of guest speaker Dr. Robert Wells of the St. Lawrence University government department, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton on Nov. 28.

A special United Nations Sunday service will be held at 10:45 a.m. to focus attention on the problems of and a need for a strong United Nations.

Dr. Lewis Weeks, Potsdam, who is the Unitarian Universalist United Nations contact person in the Canton church will conduct the service, which is held annually.

Area Meetings At A Glance

TUESDAY

Potsdam Central School Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 23 in the high school cafeteria.

MONDAY

St. Lawrence County Legislature, special meeting, 7 p.m., Nov. 29 in the county court house, Canton.



THE MARKETPLACE — Exterior facade work completed, work on the interior of The Marketplace, 26-28 Market St. is now continuing. The new building, a replacement for one destroyed by fire in January 1980, is part of a federally funded downtown improvement program. (Betsy Baker photo)