



The Chairman's Corner

by

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Suddenly it's that time of year again and on behalf of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, I would like to express thoughts for a happy and fruitful holiday season and the best of a New Year to all county residents and county staff.

Another year has flown by and it's time to celebrate all the great things that come together to make up the holiday season and the New Year. Let's set aside our daily concerns and worldly problems for a moment, shall we? This is the season where we should focus on family and friends, and the things that make up the foundations of our lives.

It's a special season -- other holidays are celebrated for a day, and then we move along. The holiday season, however, carries on for a month or so, helping to brighten things up just when the days are shortest and nights the longest.

While it can seem like the better approach, maybe even necessary, to take the easy way out and make your holiday purchases online, there are reasons it might be better to sidestep that route and head on out in the world. While I would advocate that throughout the year shoppers keep local merchants in mind, there's no time like the holidays to see what they have to offer.

Not only does a local purchase keep your money in the community, with all the benefit that has for the local economy, but there's a better than even chance that you'll stumble upon that special gift not available anywhere else. We are extremely lucky in Columbia County to have such a wide variety of small businesses offering unique selections.

Meanwhile, we should all be proud of Columbia County's rich history of providing for those less fortunate.

With that in mind, I would like to recognize the efforts of the Santa Claus Club, the oldest such club in the United States, in Valatie; the Marion Stegmann fund, which delivers gifts and food to those in need; the Edith Casey Stocking Fund, coordinated by the Columbia County Department of Social Services; and all the various organizations that collect and distribute children's toys.

Yes, there's a lot to think about at this time of year. People we miss, people we are happy to have around us, things we can do to improve ourselves ... you get the idea. Aside from that, don't forget to stop and take a moment for yourself, and remember what it is you are thankful for.