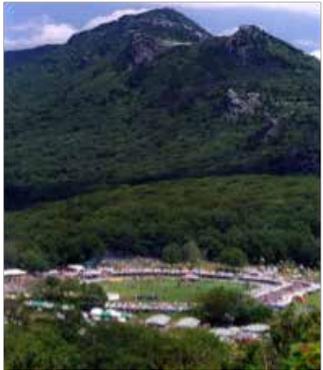


GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES DRAWS HUGE CROWDS FOR 63RD EDITION: JULY 13-15, 2018

Melodious bagpipes, astounding athletes, graceful dancers, rocking Celtic music and a spectacular highland setting make this colorful celebration of Scottish culture one of the most highly acclaimed games in the country.

Grandfather Mountain is a mountain, and a North Carolina state park near Linville, North Carolina. At 5,946 feet, it is the highest peak on the eastern escarpment of the Blue Ridge Mountains, one of the major chains of the Appalachian Mountains. The Blue Ridge Parkway passes by the south side of the mountain. Grandfather is a major vacation attraction in the winter and the summer – winter for skiing and summer for



[continued](#) ▶





GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

(continued)

camping, hiking, canoeing, and fishing. Many families plan their summer vacation around the week of the Highland Games.

So we Kennedys returned to the Mountain in full force this year. Convening the two tents were

Samantha Dodson, Nick Payton, and Chris and Sue Kennedy. Brilliantly assisting were Glenn Kennedy, Sherry Short, Karen Kennedy, Suzanne and Harrison Huff, and Bruce and Connie Nunley. We had over 75 people visit the tent and signed up 10 new members. Our new members include: Anne Salamon from Cedar Rapids

Iowa, Karen Kennedy Rutledge from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Thomas Sherrill from Blowing Rock NC, Kristin Kennedy from Orange Park FL, Nathaniel Ramsey and his mom, Kim Brackett, from Blowing Rock, NC, Brooke Rone from Catawba, NC, Rick and Kim Hageman from Spruce Pine NC, Kevin Kennedy from Fairfax, NC., and David Kennedy from Raleigh N. C. We welcome them all and look forward to visiting with them at future highland games.

A special thanks goes out to the Atlanta Curling Club for lending us a curling stone and brooms to display at the tent. The curling stone was a

huge draw for us. We made many new friends as we discussed curling stones and their connection to the Kennedys and Ailsa Craig's blue hone granite.

Submitted by Tent Conveners Samantha Dodson and Nick Payton Chris and Sue Kennedy



New Members Rick and Kim Hageman



New Member Kevin Kennedy



New Member Karen Kennedy Rutledge



New Member Anne Solomon



New Members Nathaniel Ramsey and Kim Brackett



New Member David Kennedy



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It has been a HOT summer here in New England. With record heat and a new record for most days over 90 degrees (since they started recording weather items), I have not done as much as I would like to do. My travel has been more to the beach or camping. Even camping in New Hampshire it was hot last month. In a few days, I am heading on a cruise to Bermuda where I am sure it will be HOT. I am looking forward to the New Hampshire games on Sept 21 where I am hoping it will NOT be hot, maybe just pleasantly warm.

I have not traveled to many games in July, as I needed to be home for a while. In the months of September, October and November I will be traveling to several games and I am now ready and looking forward to it. I hope to see many of the Kennedys at all the games! Also, starting in October, I will be taking over as the Master in my Masonic Lodge and that will start keeping me even busier than this year already has been.

Please remember that our AGM is earlier next year. We will be in Loch Norman, Huntersville, NC for the games

on April 12-14, 2019. Look for more information coming out in a few months on our website and here in the Gazette.

Please visit our website and remember – we have Kennedy items for sale. New Kennedy Challenge Coins should be coming out in December, so watch for them!

Please visit and support the Kennedy tents at the following games: we will be at New Hampshire Games (Loon MT) Sept 21-23 and Ligonier Games, PA Sept 23; Stone Mountain, GA Oct 22-23; Charleston, SC Nov 3; Moab, UT Nov 2-4; Clover, SC Nov 11; and Mt Dora, FL Nov 17.

If anyone wants to set up at Scotland CT, I cannot make it this year. Please let me know and I will help you get ready for the one-day games!

My very best to all of you and stay cool!
Leo Kennedy



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A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA

Writing for the Gazette always gives me a good reason to look back over the past few months to see what we have been up to. It has been a busy time.

In early May, Anne and I attended a function at Dumfries House where we had the enormous pleasure of meeting His Royal Highness Prince Charles, we had a chat about the paintings that he has on loan from me and then we discussed the farming activities on both of our Estates. This was followed by an audience with the actress Dame Judi Dench, which we all found most entertaining. She was the opening speaker at the Boswell Book Festival. The Festival was again very busy and had the benefit of the start of a glorious spell of weather which brought people out after a very long winter.

Later in May Anne and I, having taken the ferry from Cairnryan to Belfast motored down past Limerick in Southern Ireland to the delightful village of Adare, from there we drove round the coastal portion of Ring of Kerry. This is a beautiful route affording spectacular views of both the coast and the mountains. Our next stop was Kinsale on the south coast from where we visited Lismore House and Gardens, one of the Duke of Devonshire's properties. The trip to Southern Ireland was in fact a pilgrimage for Anne to visit the memorial stone bearing the name of her Great Great Uncle, John Kelly, who in 1914 along with thirteen others effected a most daring rescue of the crew from a ship that had foundered on the rocks near Fethard on Sea. Of the fourteen crew of the lifeboat only five survived the atrocious weather, Anne's forebear being one of them. However all of the foundered ship's crew were saved from drowning however one died from exposure. It was very moving to see the memorial, and to talk to villagers whose lives and families had been affected by the tragedy so long ago.

We sailed from Dublin to Holyhead on Anglesey, then crossed the Menai Strait to Wales via the wonderful bridge built in 1826 by Thomas Telford, the highly acclaimed Scottish engineer. While in Wales we went to the top of Mt. Snowdon and visited some of the sights in the Snowdonia National Park.

In June, Anne and I attended the Royal Highland Show where, assisted by our son Archie, I judged the Dairy

Competition. There were a great many first class cheeses, ice creams and butters, however with Archie's help it was agreed that Grahams Dairy Butter should be the outright winner.



The Maybole Gala was held on a gloriously sunny day where Anne and I did our usual duty of driving in the family Rolls Royce the Gala King and Queen from the Carrick Academy school down to the playing field where the event is held. From the school we are piped down Maybole high street as we follow the Maybole Pipe Band. We then had the pleasure of crowning the Gala King and Queen.

The following day we were invited by the Bentley Drivers Club to join them for a days motorsport at the Rest and Be Thankful, this is a very steep and winding old military road between Loch Lomond and Loch Fyne. The old road has been bypassed by a newer route cut into the hillside which leaves it available for motorsport. My Bentley is away having some work done to the interior so we took the Rolls Royce, which gave a very good account of itself until the final run up the hill. Just as we reached the top of the hill where the finish line is, the engine cut out. This caused great guffaws from the Bentley drivers, however once they had laughed themselves out, we had a go at finding out what was wrong. On close inspection and with the help of a mechanic from the Automobile Association, our national breakdown service, it turned out that the eighty four year old condenser in the distributor had finally given up, this was replaced in double quick time and the old car was running quite happily again.

We had our annual picnic on Ailsa Craig on a very sunny afternoon in July, however the tides were not with us. Our guests were keen to climb to the top of the island but the skipper of the boat felt that there would be too little water for him to get back to the landing pier by the time they were up and back down. So they just went as far as the castle and back. When we were setting off from the pier to come home we could feel the hull of the boat bumping off the rocks on the sea bed!

We were all together as a family to attend the wedding of my nephew Christian Drummond to Holly

continued ►



A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA

(continued)

White. The marriage was held at Castle Meyers near Auchtermuchty in the Kingdom of Fife. It was a super day, the reception started outside in the sunshine in the beautiful castle garden, where we all had champagne and Canapés, this was followed by the wedding breakfast after which we danced the night away. Archie and Kitty had come up from London by train for the event, and all too quickly had to return south to their work.

Anne and I visited Iceland for a few days in August, it is a fascinating country making great use of its endless natural geothermal heat, even piping it under the streets and pavements of Reykjavik to stop them icing up during their long winters. The thermal pools are very relaxing and as warm as a bath, some we were warned were so hot that

they would scald. We hired a car and motored to near a glacier and then on to see some vast waterfalls, geysers and volcano craters. Reykjavik itself though quite small is attractive and has a splendid cathedral. The only downside is that everything costs twice the price compared to the UK.

On the farm it has been a strange year, the spring was cold and wet so the crops were sown later than I would like. This was followed by heat and drought so the young plants struggled to find moisture, and now that we are ready to harvest the rain has come, too late to do any good and is now making harvesting very difficult.

I will end by wishing you all a pleasant Fall.
Ailsa

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

MEMBERS OF THE KENNEDY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, I am pleased to serve as Chaplain of our Society. A brief background on my immediate family. My Grandfather and Grandmother relocated from Scotland to the New Jersey, Connecticut, area, about 1915. My grandfather was also a boxer in the John L Sullivan style, with simple unpadded kid leather gloves. Grandfather first traveled to USA as a teenage cabin boy and immediately moved west and lived in the mountains and as told by his sister returned to NY, in his early twenties, in Buckskins, then returned to Scotland, married and returned to the US. My Grandparents had four children, now all deceased. Today their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren live currently in Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Michigan, & Nebraska. My wife

Marcia and I are remarried and have a combined seven children, 15 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

This leads me to a great grandchild in KS. At nine months of age Kaleena was diagnosed with a rare cancer having tumors attached to her bones and a blood disorder. Kaleena is two years old this October and has undergone numerous chemo treatments, MRI and scans over the past year. A port in Kaleena's chest for chemo is a heart breaker.

GREAT NEWS, the recent MRI shows the tumors are gone. Thank God and our prayerful thanks to our Lord and Savior. She is clear at this time but must undergo six month and yearly follow ups, we are told for her lifetime, due to the possibility of recurrence.

I believe our Lord listened to our family prayers and church prayer lists and was with Kaleena through her ordeal. Her parents have always been upbeat and with strong faith throughout and Kaleena seems happy... Blessed.

I believe we all can contribute, even if in a small way, to spread GOD's WORD and GOD's LOVE.

I wish you all a Blessed Day, Year and Safe Travels. Planning to attend AGM in 2019 in NC, and hope to meet many of our extended family.

GOD BLESS,
Tom Kennedy, Society Chaplain



KSNA's FRANK CANADA FIGHTING WILDFIRES OUT WEST

KSNA member and Titusville Fire & Emergency Services "Kennedy" Honor Guard Captain Frank Canada recently returned from a life-changing experience helping fellow firefighters battle huge wildfires in the West.

Frank, tent convener for the Central Florida Highland Games, went through intense training to prepare himself to serve as a wildland firefighter. He was deployed to Idaho, joining nearly 350 firefighters from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries on the Mesa Fire in the Payette National Forest. The devastating wildfire had burned tens of thousands of acres and was believed to be human caused.

When he got the call, Titusville Fire Command (Titusville, Florida) told him, "Yeah, you have our blessings, go show the young bucks how it's done." Frank packed up his gear and flew out immediately.

Once on the ground, it was right to the front lines of the Mesa Fire, at that point raging 37,000 acres. "On the side of a mountain, digging a trench for miles and miles, hours and hours on end, you have the ability to put a fire out with just a hand tool," Canada said. Hard work is not a stranger to this former Marine, and the deployment was for "14 hour days, 14 days straight. The smoke and flames became so thick it was almost unbearable. Our eyes watered and noses ran constantly. I turned to keep the smoke out of my face as it was getting hard to breathe. While I was turned away from the flames I could feel the wind and heat on my back."

And when each day was done, it was obvious how hard Frank and his colleagues were working. "So dirty, so tired, so worn out, by 10 pm all was quiet within the ICP (Incident Command Post). Everybody was asleep. Not a sound could be heard," Frank said. At the 5 a.m. wake-up call, the firefighters were back at it again.

If called again, would Frank go? Absolutely! "My stuff is packed, and I'm ready," he said. His wife, Suzanne, totally supports him and is quite prepared to take care of things at home while he's gone. Their son, Trevor, is also a wildland

firefighter out of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville, Florida. Trevor was deployed during the same two weeks, just one state away in Oregon. At the time of this writing, Trevor is in the middle of another deployment on the western fires, this time for 21 days, and Frank is ready to go again sometime in September.

NOTE: The Kennedy Society congratulates Frank and Trevor on their dedication to helping put out the fires out West. They are truly "wild and mighty Kennedys"!



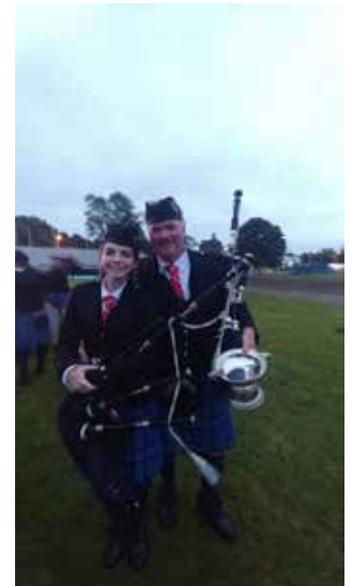


WORLD PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

According to an article on iheart.com the radio broadcasting site it appears that the city of Dunedin, Florida has a bit more to boast about. The beautiful town is now home to the World Champion Grade 2 pipe band. The competition held in Glasgow Scotland August 18th -19th produced competitors from around the globe 214 bands from 13 countries competed. The City of Dunedin competed with 11 other pipe bands in their division and ranked first in every place, leaving them the celebrated champions for 2018. City of Dunedin also competed in the Grade 2 Qual 1 division and placed 6th out of 12.

The City of Dunedin Pipe Band started in 1964 for young adults who were still studying at schools within the district. Dunedin now has a Scottish arts program headed by Pipe Major Lain Donaldson and Drumming Director Eric MacNeill, which has expanded to encompass programs for Dunedin Middle School, Dunedin High School, and adults within the community. All members are volunteers and donate their time and efforts as they compete across the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. During these competitions they not only act as ambassadors for the city of Dunedin, but for the state of Florida.

Congratulations to all the men and women of The City of Dunedin Pipe Band!



Pipe major Lain Donaldson and Madison

(Youngest in the band at 16 years old)



MIDDLE TENNESSEE HIGHLAND GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

Dale and I had an opportunity to attend the Fourth Annual Middle Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival on September 8, 2018. The Games were held at the Hermitage, which is the historical museum, grounds and former home of President Andrew Jackson, located in Nashville, Tennessee. Event organizer, Andrew Ward, was on hand to personally welcome the estimated 8,000 attendees this year, and a portion of the ticket proceeds went to their partnering charity, Operation Restored Warrior, and the educational mission of Andrew Jackson's Hermitage.

This year, their impressive Clan Village included 45 Clans and two Societies in attendance, with Clan Campbell being the Honored Clan of the Day. There were 35 individual Food and Celtic Craft Vendors, which included our very own Heelan Hound (Past President Paul Key and wife Ann's business.) A full day of Heavy Athletic Competitions was scheduled, in addition to Sheep Dog, Weaving and Celtic Cooking Demonstrations. There was a children's zone and live petting zoo, and a total of 14 talented groups of entertainers were lined up in three tents to entertain guests throughout the day. Local Pipe and Drum Bands, Highland and Irish Step dancers from Nashville and Knoxville joined a variety of Celtic Rock Bands and folksingers in the mix.

With such a strong Scots-Irish presence in Tennessee, it was fantastic to experience a true Celtic and country fusion here in the Deep South. We especially loved how they laid bales of hay strategically in front of each venue, for resting on while enjoying the days entertainment, and how the common attire for the day, included donning both a kilt and a cowboy hat.

I would highly recommend adding Middle Tennessee to your "must see" list of Annual Highland Games and Celtic Festivals, It's definitely worth the trip! By the way, when making your plans, be sure to include their Friday night Celtic Rock Concert, and Sunday mornings Kirkin' of the Tartans!

Submitted by Lorraine Kennedy VanFossan





UNICORNS AND SCOTLAND

Most people here within the United States know the national bird, state bird, and some even know the state trees and flowers. For us it is something that we connect with being native to the area in which we live. Most countries of older origins don't necessarily have National animals because of them being native to the areas. England after all has the lion, and while large cats were at one time native to the area, what we know as lions were not wild species found there. Instead, National animals were more often chosen for what they represented.



Scotland in that aspect is no different, well except they didn't select an animal that one could find at a zoo. Scotland has always had a love for myths and legends, their rich and diverse history shows through even today in their national animal. The unicorn, was selected back in the 1300's because it was believed to be the natural enemy to the lion. Of course, the lion was the national animal of their neighbors in England. The Celtic symbol of purity, innocence and power was first displayed on the royal coat of arms by William I, and in the late 15th century coins were minted with the image of a unicorn. All manners of artistic works throughout the middle ages and into the present time incorporated the unicorn as it represented chastity, purity and at the same time an untamable strength and masculinity.

Today in Scotland there is no shortage of unicorns, at least not in culture or art work. It seems the earliest still standing unicorn to be seen is actually a pair of them. The coat of arms for Scotland was two unicorns as seen at Rothesay Castle (right), it's believed to have been carved sometime before the 15th century.



This coat of arms remained until 1603 when the Union of the Crowns took place due to King James VI of Scotland Succeeded Queen Elizabeth I of England joining the two countries. Great Britain as a joined country was still legally a century off so a new coat of arms was created. Replacing the Unicorn on the left with the English lion.

It also created a very hostile union of the countries and spun off a popular nursery rhyme among the people attempting to adjust to the new combined countries.

'The Lion & The Unicorn'

The lion and the unicorn
Were fighting for the crown.

The lion beat the unicorn
All around the town

Some gave them white bread
And some gave them brown

Some gave them plum cake
And drummed them out of town



King George III coat of arms seen at St Gile's Church in Bredon, Worcestershire.

Considering the history of our beloved Scotland, the culture there, and the symbolism of the unicorn, I have to say it makes perfectly good sense to me. Hopefully, you've found this as entertaining and enlightening as I have.

Submitted by: Samantha Dodson



HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS OF SCOTLAND

Here in the United States the mention of Halloween brings up the nostalgia of trick-or-treating, elaborate costumes, fall festivals and haunted house attractions of all shapes and sizes. So how does Scotland celebrate?

- **Neep Lanterns** – While American’s typically use pumpkins to carve jack-o-lanterns. It was originally turnips or ‘neeps’ used in Scotland, although today some in Scotland use pumpkins as an alternative.
- **Guising or ‘galoshin’** – Children would dress as evil spirits, and visit the homes of neighbors. However, before receiving a treat of some sort they had to do a ‘trick’ such as singing a song, reciting a poem, or telling a joke before being awarded with some sort of goodie.
- **Treacle scones** – Scones were hung by a rope from a tree, those who were playing would have to take a bite from the scone without using their hands. In some instances the scones would be coated in some sweet so that it was even messier for the one competing.
- **Nut burning** – This tradition was for those engaged, on the night of Halloween, the couple would toss two nuts into the fire. If they smoldered peacefully the marriage would be a pleasant one, if the spat, popped, and sputtered it would be an unhappy marriage.

SPIRITS IN DISGUISE
THE SCOTS TRADITION OF 'GUISING' SAW KIDS GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR DRESSED UP AS A GHOST OR SOME OTHER SPOOKY CHARACTER TO RECEIVE TREATS AFTER SINGING SONGS, TELLING JOKES OR RECITING POEMS. DISGUIISING CHILDREN WAS BELIEVED TO BLEND THEM IN WITH THE ROAMING SPIRITS.

REVISITING THE OLD HAUNTS
AN EMPTY CHAIR AND A PLATE OF FOOD WOULD BE SET OUT TO WELCOME ANY SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WHO MIGHT PASS THROUGH

Light my fire
EVIL SPIRITS HATE LIGHT SO BONFIRES AND LANTERNS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH Halloween

Who will I marry?
PEEL AN APPLE IN A CONTINUOUS STRIP AND THEN TOSS IT OVER YOUR SHOULDER – THE SHAPE OF THE APPLE SKIN WHEN IT LANDED WOULD REVEAL THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR FUTURE SPOUSE'S NAME.

HALLOWEEN TAKES ITS NAME FROM all hallow's eve,
THE DAY BEFORE THE CHRISTIAN FEAST OF ALL SAINTS DAY. IN SCOTLAND, HALLOWEEN OVERLAID THE MUCH OLDER CELEBRATION OF...

Sambhain, the Celtic new year
...WHEN THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WERE BELIEVED TO ROAM THE EARTH.

A STICKY END
A POPULAR HALLOWEEN PARTY GAME INVOLVES TRYING TO EAT SCONES SPREAD WITH TREACLE SUSPENDED ON A STRING. THE KID'S HANDS ARE TIED BEHIND THEIR BACKS AND BLINDFOLDED SO STICKY FACES ALL ROUND ARE GUARANTEED, WHICH IS WHY ANOTHER POPULAR GAME IS...

Nuts about each other
AT HALLOWEEN, ENGAGED COUPLES WOULD EACH THROW A NUT ON A FIRE. IF THEY BURNED QUIETLY THEN THE FUTURE MARRIAGE WOULD BE HAPPY. IF THE NUTS SPAT AND HISSED THEN IT WOULD BE STORMY.

bookin' for apples
KIDS HAVE THEIR HANDS TIED BEHIND THEIR BACKS AND TRY AND BITE APPLES FLOATING A BASIN FULL OF WATER. HEY PRESTO. CLEAN FACES ALL ROUND!

No porkies here
EATING PORK OR PASTRIES ON HALLOWEEN WAS ILLEGAL, THANKS TO THE WITCHCRAFT ACT OF 1735
This was only revealed 60 years ago!

TRADITIONALLY, SCOTLAND HAD LOTS OF HALLOWEEN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS – SOME QUITE DARK – THOUGH NOWADAYS, 'TRICK OR TREATING' FUN HAS OVERTAKEN MANY OF THESE. BUT WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN NEXT OCTOBER 31ST, BE SURE THE OLD GHOSTS WILL STILL BE LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER!

VISITSCOTLAND.COM / HALLOWEEN



WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE WILL BE A KENNEDY TENT SEPTEMBER 2018 - APRIL 2019

September 21-23	New Hampshire Games at Loon Mountain Lincoln, NH
September 22	Ligonier Highland Games Ligonier Games, PA
October 7	Scotland, CT (Searching for a Convener)
October 20-22	Stone Mountain Highland Games Stone Mountain, GA
November 2-4	Scots on the Rock Moab, UT
November 3	Scottish Games and Highland Gathering Charleston, SC
November 10	Clover Highland Games and Scots-Irish Festival Clover, SC
January 19-20	Central Florida Games Winter Springs, FL
March 9	Panama City Beach Scottish Festival Panama City Beach, FL
March 23 - 24	Saltwater Highland Games Little River, SC (near Myrtle Beach)
April 6	Dunedin Highland Games Dunedin, FL
April 12 -14	Loch Normon Games Huntersville NC –AGM

A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

A donation was received from Patricia Maclean Carr. Her father was Hugh Maclean Kennedy, Chief of the Kennedy Society from 1978 to 1986. Hugh was co-founder of the Kennedy Society of North America and the second Chief of it. He left this world in 2000 and now sits in the Celestial Lodge.

The donation consisted of multiple books of Scottish history and stories as well as letters and correspondence to the Lord Ailsia. Papers on the Kennedy Society and eagle feathers were also in the collection.

If you are a Tent Convener (or want to be!) these books can be sent to you for display items and add to your tent kits. Please let me know your needs and we can help you.

My thanks to Patricia for her wonderful donation.

Leo



The
Kennedy Gazette
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 41 ISSUE 3

DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE:
DECEMBER 1

Please submit copy and pictures for the winter issue no later than December 1st.
Submittals, comments and questions may be sent to:

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