



The Lyme Light



A publication of the Lyme Community Foundation,
"To enhance and support the community through cooperation, learning and enrichment."
Town of Lyme, NY.

November-December 2020

www.lymecommunityfoundation.org

Volume 22, Issue 9

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT

REMINDER TO VILLAGE RESIDENTS - NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION VOTE - NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The Village of Chaumont referendum vote for dissolution will take place on November 3, 2020 at the Town of Lyme/Village of Chaumont offices located at 12175 State Route 12E, Chaumont, NY 13622. Polls will be open from 6AM-9PM.

All registered voters of the Village of Chaumont are encouraged to vote. Residents who would like to vote via absentee ballot should contact the Village Office at 315-649-2900.

Information regarding the Dissolution study and Implementation Plan are available via the Village's website: www.villageofchaumont.com or by contacting the Village Office.

Town of Lyme Update

In keeping with Governor Cuomo's executive orders for local municipalities to enforce the mandates regarding the COVID-19, we remind everyone that the wearing of face masks indoors in public places is imperative. We have received complaints of people not wearing face masks in the Town of Lyme Water Facility. Even though we try to clean the facility regularly, we ask that everyone wear a mask when in the facility so as not to exhale possible infectious droplets which may contain a virus that could infect other people. Remember, the masks are not so much to protect you, as they are to protect others. Please show that respect to your fellow residents.

We have been asked if the town plans on putting together a committee for the development of the new Town of Lyme Veterans Memorial Park. The

requirements of the R.E.D.I. funding call for certain shoreline resiliency improvements, infrastructure and economic development criteria to initially be met. This work will begin in the Spring of 2021. Once that work has been completed, the park will be ready for the second phase of development. We are still looking at the possible enhancements that were presented to you, our residents, when we first sent out the information for the referendum vote. Those enhancements, which we call the Harris Plan, because it was proposed by former Councilwoman Anne "Boo" Harris and her husband Mike, are still on the table along with any other ideas that come up. Most likely, once we are ready for the second phase, a committee will be assembled to work on the future development of the park.

We wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy Halloween, Thanksgiving & Christmas.

November & December Programs at the Copley House

All classes will follow New York State and the Lyme Community Foundation Board of Director's guidelines. Appropriate masks will be provided and worn during class (no buffs or bandanas).

Hand sanitizer is to be used and temperature will be taken upon entering the Copley

House for classes. HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Nothing is lovelier than planning for the upcoming holiday season. Beautifully decorated gatherings, delicious treats enjoyed together and well-told

Programs at the Copley House continued on pg 2.

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family stories make the best holiday memories. Lyme Community Foundation Program Committee is happy to offer a few opportunities to make those memories even better.

Visit lymecommunityfoundation.org/events for more details or to register for any of the following classes.



How to Tell Your Story - Nov 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 7 PM with a fee of \$50 for the 4 sessions. Local storyteller, Tanya Roy will be offering this hybrid class as session 1 and 4 would be in-person at The Copley House and session 2 and 3 would be via Zoom. Minimum age for students is 18 years old.

Paint and Sip - The Thirsty Painters will be visiting The Copley House in November 19 from 6 to 9 PM with a delightful holiday painting project. This will be a "Bring Your Own Sip & Snack" event. Fee is \$55 per person. The link to sign up will be on the LCF website under the Events tab.

Holiday Baking Class: Pies - November 21, 10 AM - Noon at The Copley House kitchen. Class fee is \$20 per student. SC State Fair blue-ribbon baker, Laura Oakes, will share her secrets for making the perfect crust with pumpkin and apple fillings from scratch.



Christmas Wreath Workshops - November 30 and December 1, 6-9 PM for \$40 per student at the Copley House (two separate classes). Rhonda

Hall-Allen is back with her very popular wreath-making workshop. This holiday tradition sells out fast so don't hesitate to sign up. Fresh greens, dried flowers, ornaments along with a hand-tied holiday bow will garner compliments on the perfect wreath you made yourself.

Holiday Baking Class: Cookies - December 19, 10 AM - Noon at The Copley House kitchen. Class fee is \$25 per student. Laura Oakes will oversee hands-on instruction in making 3 traditional Christmas Cookies; Nut



Horns, Frosted Sugar Cookie Stars and Shortbread Snowballs. Bakes will be shared to take home.

Kids Christmas Craft Day - December 12, Choose one of two sessions. 10 AM – Noon or 1-3 PM at The Copley House for a fee of \$15 per student. Kids ages 7-10 will be invited to create 3 projects – an ornament for their home, a gift to give and a treat to take home and enjoy. This day of fun will be facilitated by members of the LCF Program Committee.



It may be a difficult year but it is our hope that your family has much to be thankful for this holiday season. As always, we welcome hearing from you about what you like, what you'd like to see and of course any suggestions about our programs. Please contact Laura Oakes at oakeslauraj@gmail.com. Follow the Lyme Community Foundation Facebook page often for class additions and changes.

Visit lymecommunityfoundation.org/events for all of the details or to register for classes.

Program Committee:

Laura Oakes: OakesLauraJ@gmail.com – Program Manager
Kathie Carr: kacarr140@gmail.com - Co-chair
Darien Frederick: darien.b.frederick@gmail.com - Co-chair
Kris Mangone Sharon Spaker Beth Wagenaar



A Message from the President

What a beautiful fall we have had here in the North Country. Since I wasn't able to get to the Adirondacks to see the fall foliage I decided to just take a drive around the area to look at all the beautiful colors. I stopped at numerous locations and took pictures of scenery where the trees were just so bright with red, orange and yellow leaves. It literally takes your breath away. All I could think about is that I am so thankful that I live here and not in an area that isn't fortunate enough to have all four seasons. I have also really enjoyed seeing pictures posted by friends and family of their trips to view the beautiful fall landscapes. We are truly blessed to live where we do!!

It is also so interesting living on the river watching each season as people put in their boats then take out their boats. The kayaks no longer go by my house, but the duck hunters and some fishermen seem to push it right to the very end of the season. Soon there will be snowmobiles and cross country skiers going up and down the river. I only wish our summers were longer, but I have just learned to appreciate every single day we were able to spend on the water. At this point I just look forward to next summer when we can all be out on the lake together again.

With the cold weather arriving it is more important than ever to support our local businesses. This pandemic has caused so many hardships for people, but if we continue to support businesses we hope they will be able to survive the tough winters we have here in the north country. We hope you will all stay healthy, stay home if you are sick and continue to wear your mask.

Continue to visit Lyme Community Foundation's Facebook page and website to see all of the upcoming workshops and events. Thank you all for your continued support!!!

Deanna Lothrop

Lyme Community Foundation President



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All of us at the Lyme Free Library would like to express heartfelt gratitude and thanks to our volunteers, patrons and donors for their generous support.

Libraries provide the energy that fuels the imagination; our library opens windows to the world and inspires us to explore, achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. We thank all of you for your continual support, enthusiasm, dedication, and passion that help us remain steadfast and purposefully driven with making a difference in the lives of our residents.

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New Books at the Library

Take a break from the holiday rush with a popular fiction title from our library collection. See our latest additions at lymefreelibrary.org.



Free Downloads for kids!
lymefreelibrary.org

Giving Back to our Community

Looking for a way to give back to your community? Give the gift of reading this winter. We will be collecting new children's books until December 10th. The books will be distributed to children ages 1 to 12 in the Town of Lyme during the Holidays.



Library Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Changes/cancelations will be posted on our website: lymefreelibrary.org.



CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

November 18

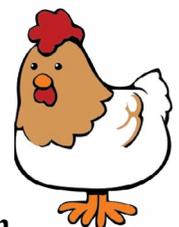
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Lyme Garden Club

Before Christmas trees were decoration for the holidays, they were fragrant evergreens that served as a source of joy during the harsh winter months. Later, evergreen trees were displayed and embraced in coordination with the winter solstice as a reminder of warmer months to come. Live Christmas trees continue to be popular and bring joy to the season. When choosing a Christmas tree, your first consideration is usually how it looks- nice shape, color and can the branches carry the weight of the ornaments. However, if you don't want your tree turning into a pile of needles before the holidays, look a little more closely at your choice of trees. The following are popular evergreens suitable for use as freshly cut Christmas trees:

Balsam fir is usually the most reasonably priced and abundant cut tree. The needles are dark green with a slight silvery cast. Balsams have short, flat needles that are long-lasting. These trees are very fragrant when first cut.

Colorado Blue Spruce is hard to miss with its beautiful blue hue. It's a popular Christmas tree because it rarely sheds its needles. But they are sharp, so be careful. Stiff branches hold ornaments well and they have a perfect pyramid shape.

Douglas fir is a beautiful, full, dark green to blue evergreen. It holds its needles well and has a long-lasting fragrance. These trees are favored for their perfect conical shape and fullness.

Fraser firs have natural conical shapes and the branches curve slightly upward. They also have a wonderful scent that is retained well after being cut.

Scotch pines have stiff branches with ridged, 1 inch long, bright green needles that hold for weeks. They also have a nice lasting aroma. (www.thespruce.com) (www.countryliving.com)

Once you decide on a tree, you will need to cut about one inch from the bottom of the trunk before putting it in the stand. Be sure the cut is straight and level so your tree will stand up straight. The most important thing to remember after putting your tree up is to keep it well-watered. Your tree can absorb as much as a gallon of water or more during the first 24 hours after it is cut, and a quart or more each day thereafter. Mist the tree branches daily with a spray bottle of water. The water from

the base will rarely make it very far up a tree. Do not use any additives. (www.farmersalmanac.com)

After the holidays, your tree can serve as shelter for the birds and other animals outside. If you do not have the space outside for your tree, please dispose of it according to your town's rules. The Lyme Garden Club wishes everyone a happy holiday! If you have any questions, contact lymegardenclub@earthlink.net.



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Lyme Heritage Center - The First Lady of Lyme

By Julia Gosier, Lyme Heritage Center

This article originally appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of the Bulletin of the Jefferson County Historical Society.

If you walk into the Lyme Town Clerk's Office today, you will see technology. Computers, phones, filing cabinets, and fax machines. Most town clerks' offices are similar today, but not so long ago, they were quite different. Reba Yott is a perfect example of a town clerk from earlier times.

Reba Mason married Victor Yott in 1939. They spent their married life as tenant farmers near Three Mile Bay. After less than nine years of marriage, Victor became very ill. They moved to a tiny rental house in the village. Victor died that same year, leaving Reba with three small children, ages 5, 3, and 2 years old. With no means of support, Reba, who had a teaching certificate from the Dexter Training Class, began substitute teaching. She never drove or owned a car, so she rode the bus to school every day.

lived near Three Mile Bay, came to her rescue. He sold her an acre of land, probably for a dollar. She decided to give it a try.

The Democrats won a big victory that year and on January 1, 1956 Reba began her thirty-year career.

The town board meetings were held at her kitchen table and notes were taken by hand. Before the meeting began, the children were hustled up the stairs and reminded to be quiet. The smell of tobacco smoke and coffee wafted up the stairs. The board members munched homemade cookies or doughnuts.

First Lady of Lyme... continued on pg 7.



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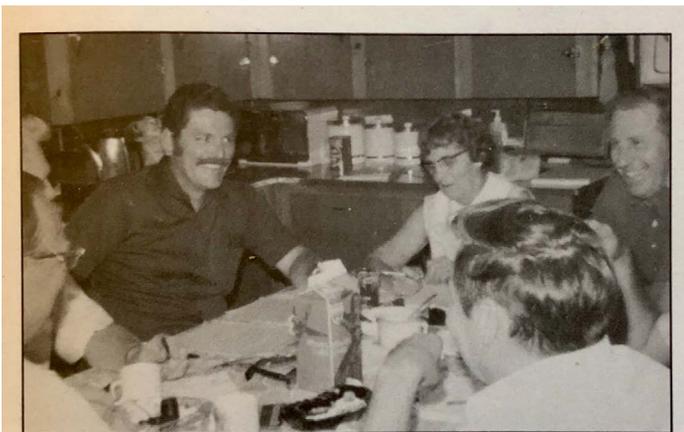
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Your story lives on.



(1-r.) Dick Rogers, Rylan Hillick, Don De Laurier, Reba Yott, Larry Stumpf, Francis Chavoustie

The house Reba and her children lived in was old and cramped, with no running water or indoor bathroom. The family had also taken in four foster children from the area. A phone was out of the question. Two tiny bedrooms upstairs were all the sleeping space available for the whole family.

In 1955 Paul Bourcy, a 29-year-old Democrat, decided to run for Town of Lyme Supervisor. He asked Reba to run for Town Clerk. She didn't like campaigning and she didn't want to take the job away from a man. Martin Hayes had been Town Clerk for 18 years. The extra money would really help the family, but Reba wondered how she could run for an elected office. She was not a landowner, a prerequisite for holding office. Sylvester Halliday, a successful farmer who



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Reba didn't have regular office hours. Her office was always open. Fishermen frequently arrived at 6:00 AM looking for licenses. Weekends were always busy. All her correspondence was handwritten. She never owned a typewriter or a calculator.

After a few years, with help from her devoted brother, she bought a larger, better house. The Town Board was concerned about the money and records kept in her kitchen. They bought a very large old safe and put it in her woodshed. The highway crew had to rebuild the entrance and reinforce the floor to get it inside. But Reba still kept her most frequently used books in the oven of the old stove no longer used for cooking.

When the town meetings were moved to the new town building in 1974 she still kept her office in her home. She retired in 1986 after 30 years as "The First Lady of Lyme."

"Reba kept great minutes," said Paul Bourcy. "She kept us focused on the job at hand. She's surely in heaven right now, 'cause if she isn't, I'll never make it."

Reba Yott, 1911-2004



(l.-r.) Dick Rogers, Rylan Hillick, Don De Laurier, Reba Yott, Larry Stumpf, Spence Donald, Francis Chavoustie

A special thank you to the friends and family of Reba Yott who shared their memories with me:

- Ann Bourcy (daughter)
- Alton Mason (brother)
- Paul Bourcy (former supervisor)
- Kent Wiley (former board member)
- Gordon Torrey (former supervisor)
- Helen and Dick Schreiber (former assistant clerks)

To become a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society, please visit <https://jeffersoncountyhistory.org/>. To become a member of the Lyme Heritage Center, please send a \$10 donation to P.O. Box 285, Chaumont.

We appreciate your support!

Lyme Heritage Center UPDATE

The Lyme Heritage Center is now the proud owner of the old Grange Hall in Three Mile Bay. For the past 11 years we have rented a space which is one-third of the bottom floor. Long ago we out-grew this area. This purchase is very exciting, but now we have the responsibility for the care and upkeep of this historic structure. The community has been supportive of our efforts in the past and we will be asking again for your help.

It was unfortunate, but unavoidable, that we have not been able to keep regular visiting hours this year. Hopefully next year, with our additional space, we can go back to monthly programs, and welcome researchers and visitors. In the meantime if you wish to visit the Center, one on one, call Shirley at 315 - 649 - 5780 or Phyllis at 315 - 778 - 5180

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Thursday: 2-9 PM
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Friday: 2-9 PM
Saturday: 12-9 PM
Sunday: 12-8 PM

Lyme Food Pantry

Fall is here and the Pantry building is being prepared for winter. As you can see, a porch roof has been added and 2 sides will be enclosed to help keep out drifting snow. Also the old roof has been re-shingled and insulation put under the floor for added warmth.

Preparation for the Annual Christmas Food Baskets and gifts for the children under 16 is being planned. Applications will be taken at the Chaumont Presbyterian Church next to the Pantry. Sign up is open to area Lyme residents. Mark your calendar for filling out applications - Saturdays November 7, 14, 21, and December 5 from 1-3 PM. Those residing at Bay View Manor can register with the manager. Distribution will be December 19th.

Due to the very generous SUPPORT of the community, the Pantry is able to assist those in need in the Lyme area. Call 315-649-2424 on Wednesday for Thursday pickup.

Food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, or monetary donations (especially in October and November for Christmas) are greatly appreciated. Mailing address is Lyme Food Pantry, PO Box 176, Chaumont, N.Y. 13622.

In 2020, January - September, 155 families received assistance. The need is increasing, as 10 new families have been added in the past 2 months!

As always THANK YOU for helping to feed those in need.

Harriet's Angels



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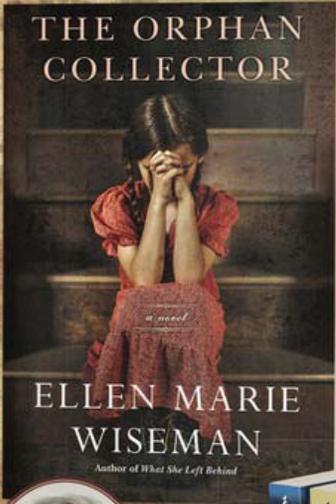
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Thank You to Mark Ahlheim

The Lyme Community Foundation would like to thank Mark Ahlheim for his service to the board. Mark recently resigned as a board member and he will be greatly missed. Mark helped the foundation by being on the buildings and grounds committee and he volunteered at various foundation events. We know that this isn't good bye forever because we know that Mark will be back to help out next year when it is time to make his famous Tom and Jerry's for the Holiday House Tour. Thank you again to Mark and we hope to see you again soon!!

Town of Lyme Transfer Site

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| HOURS: | Wednesday: 9 AM - 4 PM |
| Sunday: 9 AM - 4 PM | Thursday: Closed |
| Monday: Closed | Friday: 9 AM - 1 PM |
| Tuesday: 9 AM - 1 PM | Saturday: 9 AM - 4 PM |

The Lyme Light

| Publication month | Article submissions |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| January/February | Friday, December 4 |
| March/April | Friday, February 5 |
| May | Friday, April 9 |
| June | Friday, May 7 |
| July | Friday, June 4 |
| August | Friday, July 9 |
| September/October | Friday, August 6 |
| November/December | Friday, October 8 |

PLEASE NOTE: Article submissions should be about 350 words or less (one column). For longer submissions, please check with lymelightnews@gmail.com.

Submissions/changes AFTER the due date are not guaranteed to be in that month's newsletter.

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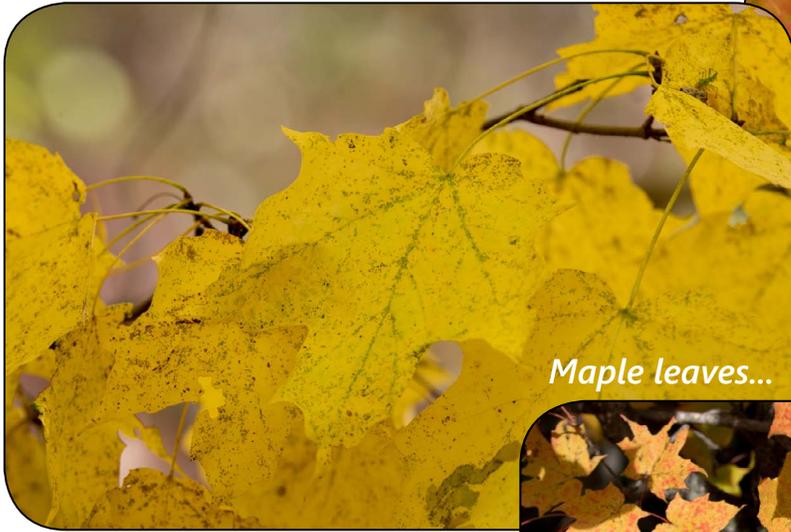


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Sights of fall into winter in the Town of Lyme.

All photos by Julie K. Covey/Covey Images



Maple leaves...



in all their colors..



Poison Ivy showing its colors.

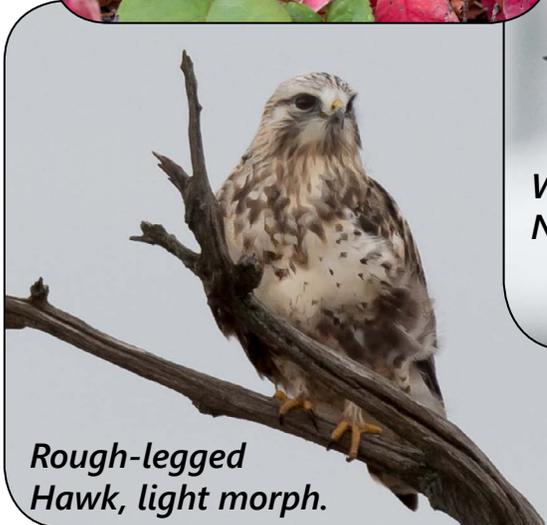


White-breasted Nuthatch.



Waxing moon this fall.

Light's on the right, getting bright.



Rough-legged Hawk, light morph.



Black-capped Chickadee

| NOVEMBER 2020 | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--------|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Return to Standard Time  (fall back 1 hour) | 7PM - Copley House - Virtual - How to tell your Story | 2020 Election & Dissolution vote | | | | 1-3PM - Food Pantry Applications |
| | 7PM - Copley House - How to tell your Story | | Veterans Day | | | 1-3PM - Food Pantry Applications |
| | 7PM - Copley House - How to tell your Story | | 3PM - Chicken & Biscuit Dinner - TMB Methodist Church | 6-9PM - Copley House - Thirsty Painters - Paint & Sip | | 10 AM - Copley House - Holiday Baking Class: Pies 1-3PM - Food Pantry Applications |
| | 7PM - Copley House - Virtual - How to tell your Story | | | <i>Thanksgiving</i> | | |
| | 6-9PM - Copley House - Christmas Wreath Workshop | | | | | |

The calendar of events listed here is a general guide. Please check with the respective organization in regards to possible changes in dates and times.

To submit events for the calendar, please send them to lymelightnews@gmail.com. Thanks! - Lyme Light News editor

| DECEMBER 2020 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|------------------|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 6-9PM - Copley House - Christmas Wreath Workshop | | | | 1-3PM - Food Pantry Applications |
| | | | | | <i>Hanukkah</i> | 10 AM & 1PM - Copley House - Kids Christmas Crafts |
| | | | | | | 10 AM - Copley House - Holiday Baking Class: Cookies Food Pantry Distribution |
| | ❄️ First Day of Winter ❄️ | | | | <i>Christmas</i> | |
| | | | | | | |

Lyme Community Foundation

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November-December Lyme Light Word Search

Words found below are found in this newsletter.

K Z H A N D W R I T T E N S T D Z M
I E C Q W R E A T H M N J P Y E R F
H K U P A R K P I E S B A K D C E C
O L K M A S K V V I L L A G E O F R
L S E A S O N S T R E E I Z R M E A
I U S Y P R O G R A M S M H X M R F
D H T C T F D D B A S K E T S U E T
A V O L U N T E E R S V C Q U N N S
Y E R E P A I N T M X I L O M I D R
L Z Y R K D H C O O K I E S Z T U T
E Q J K R O W N E R S H I P G Y M U
T A S H O P P I N G F R Z V L Z J X

Words to find are:

BASKETS
CLERK
COMMUNITY
COOKIES
CRAFTS
HANDWRITTEN

HOLIDAY
MASK
OWNERSHIP
PAINT
PARK
PIES

PROGRAMS
REFERENDUM
SEASONS
SHOPPING
STORY
TREE

VILLAGE
VOLUNTEERS
WREATH