



## Cazenovia youth lead Winter Fest planning

By Richard Palmer

CAZENOVIA - For the second consecutive year, Project Cafe, a group of high school students, is planning and coordinating the annual Cazenovia Winter Fest, to be held Thursday, Feb. 9 - Sunday, Feb. 12.

The youth group took over after the Winter Festival Committee disbanded. The group is headquartered at Common Grounds, where it meets regularly to plan events. Senior Kara Wright is president.

The event includes days full of family-oriented special activities and events such as snow sculptures, a talent show, family ice-skating, a fishing derby, art show, sleigh rally and plenty of food.

Advisor is Kurt Wheeler, a Cazenovia High School teacher and village trustee. Project Cafe will sponsor several of its own events, while other programs are being planned by various other community groups.

"It's a great opportunity young people to be involved in the community," he said. The group also coordinates Fourth of July activities, including the parade. "These students really take a leadership role in the community," Wheeler said.

A community-wide talent show will be held at the high school auditorium Friday night, which has been held for about 25 years and has become a local tradition. Proceeds benefit the school's scholarship program. "The interesting thing about the festival is it is a series of independent events carried out by various organizations," Wheeler said. During the opening event Friday night, Feb. 9, a festival king and queen will be chosen.

The festival will kick off with the opening of an art exhibition and reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 12 Mill St. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 12 Mill St., Cazenovia.

The work of many local artists will be on display sponsored by Cazenovia Arts. The community is invited to meet the artists at the opening reception. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Meanwhile, the Cazenovia Community Band will be in concert at the high school auditorium.

**On Saturday, Feb. 11, the "Chilly Chili 5K Walk/Run," a sanctioned 5K run and walk, will begin at 10 a.m. in front of the Cazenovia Middle School. The walk will begin at 10:10 a.m. A chili cook-off will the race at the Lincklaen House. Cazenovia Jewelry is sponsoring the event.**

Another highlight of the weekend will be a juried snow sculpture contest which will be held throughout the village as well as on the Cazenovia College campus. "This is a big community-wide event," Wheeler said.

The works of registered entrants will be judged by a committee of local people. Local churches and other non-profit organizations will be participating. The Cherry Valley Carriage Association will be offering sleigh rides.

Saturday night will feature free public entertainment at Common Grounds, and a community gourmet lunch at the same spot on Sunday.

As of press time, much of the festival program was still in the planning stages. For further information call the Cazenovia Chamber of Commerce at 315-655-9243 or periodically check their website at

[www.cazenoviachamber.com](http://www.cazenoviachamber.com).