

Teddy Bear Picnic to feature Bluey and 'Stuffie hospital'

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 Cassiella and Amarantha Trainor, right, are pictured with Critters Hot Spot at last year's Teddy Bear Picnic. (Provided photo — Nicole Trainor)

LAKE PLACID — This year's Teddy Bear Picnic, which takes place on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Agnes, has some exciting new additions. These include a "stuffie hospital" where kids can have minor (real or imaginary) repairs done on their stuffed animals, caricature art provided by Joe Ferris and an appearance by Bluey.

Saratoga Party Adventures will be sending a Bluey character in costume. Kids will have the opportunity to have professional photos taken with Bluey.

There will also be ice cream from the Local Scoop Ice Cream Cart. Music will be provided by ADKaraoke.

The Teddy Bear Picnic dates back to the early 1990s, when it was first organized by Kiwanis at the Hillcrest Village Park, now known as Kiwanis Teddy Bear Park. After 2017, the Rotary Club has continued the tradition, with a short hiatus during the coronavirus pandemic.

Now the picnic is organized by the Lake Placid Middle-High School Interact Club, the youth service club sponsored by Rotary. Nicole Trainor, the advisor of the club, said students this year reached out to local businesses and helped coordinate guests for this year's event.

"Interact had to approve the character coming to visit, the ice cream vendor and all of the smaller pieces — contacting people to find out if they would be available to come to the event itself," Trainor said.

The Interact Club has some other events planned for this coming year. There will be a blood drive at the Shipman Youth Center on Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with no appointment needed. The club will host another blood drive in March.