



KARYES

Lakonia



Karyates Association's News Bulletin

Issue number 44

Spring 2025

Carnival and Clean Monday celebration in Karyes



The two-day celebration of the last Sunday of Carnival on March 2 and Clean Monday on March 3 in Karyes was celebrated with great participation.

On Sunday afternoon, the big bonfire was lit in the central square, where, to the sounds of music, the Karyes Cultural Club and the Local Community had ensured, with the kind sponsorship of the Municipality of Sparta, that there was souvlaki, wine, tsiouro and juices for everyone.

The weather was good, with no wind at all and people enjoyed, among other things, the release of hot air balloons in the night sky.

The next morning, Clean Monday, the weather was rainy and so the two beautifully decorated tables with the Lenten food and the laganas were placed outside the "Melios" and the "Cafepoleio" coffeshops.

Throughout the three days, there were many visitors to the village, the guesthouses were booked and in the taverns both in the main square, as at the Rachi square, it was difficult to find a spare table.

The Karyates Association annual "Vasilopita" dance

Together
We keep moving forward!



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HAVE WE PAYED OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

Dear patriot,

The Karyates Association for over half a century serves its purposes thanks to your love and support. To achieve its goals, the only thing that asks from you is the annual membership fee of

€ 5.00 or US\$ 5.00

Anyone may pay that small fee, "digitally" through internet banking.

The bank account number (IBAN) is:

GR 560110 662 00000 66200 228709

SYNDESMOS TON APANTAHOU KARYATON SWIFT (BIC) ETHNGRAA / NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

The same account is available to anyone for donations and any financial support desired for the purposes of the Association. Regarding the Newsletter, although the cost of postage is high, it will be sent FREE OF CHARGE. However, every contribution helps us cover the costs and gives us strength to keep going.

*With Patriotic greetings,
The Karyates Association Board of Directors*

The Karyates Association Board of Directors announces its intention to proceed

**in the rental
of his property plot
area of 9 acres
near the chapel of Agia Barbara,**

Anyone interested
may contact the Association
via the email address

karyates.association@karyes.gr

The Karyes' linguistic idiom at the Cambridge University

A significant step for promotion of the of Karyes culture

The **Deputy Doctor of Linguistics, Mr. Theodoros Lyriotakis**, who hails from Karyes as he is the great-grandson of Dimos Devekos and Dina Kontaloni, after on-site collection of oral material carried out in the summer of 2024 in the village and subsequent linguistic analysis, submitted a proposal for the presentation of part of his research at the **17th International Conference of Greek Linguistics**.

His research work entitled: *"Sibilant palatalization in southern Modern Greek: evidence from the dialectal microvariety of Karyes (Arachova)"* was accepted, following a review by an International Committee, and will be presented as an oral presentation at the conference, which will be held at the **University of Cambridge from 23 to 26 September 2025**.

As he himself stated in a relevant communication he had with the Editorial Team of our Bulletin: *"It is a great honor for me that at such a large, well-known conference I will be given the opportunity to analyze a particularly productive phonological phenomenon of the dialectal microvariety of Karyes, a linguistic microvariety that had not received the necessary attention from the domestic and international linguistic scientific community."*

Symbolic march for the two-year anniversary of the Tempi train accident



On Friday, February 28, 2025, as part of the mobilizations for the completion of 2 years since the fatal train accident, a symbolic march of the village's residents took place from the Karyatis stadium to the Central Square. On Sunday, March 2, 2025, after the end of the divine service in Agios Andreas, a memorial service was held with the care of the Parish for the victims of the accident in a particularly emotionally charged atmosphere and with the attendees holding candles in their hands throughout its duration.

OVERSEAS CLUB NEWS

Message of Mr. Sarantos N. Kaperonis, President, Adelphotis Arahoviton Karyae

February 20, 2025

Dear Fellow Arahovites and Arahovitises,

Happy New Year! I hope this new year brings health and happiness to you all. I'm writing with updates from the Adelphotis Arahoviton Karyae, looking back at 2024 and ahead to an exciting 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delayed communication these past few months. Maria and I were blessed with the arrival of our third child, Fay Kaperonis, in November, and with the holidays, I haven't had a chance to send an update.

Looking Back at 2024

Last year began with the Adelphotis swearing in a new 15-member Board of Directors. This new board took on the significant responsibility of guiding the Adelphotis for the next two years. Building on the momentum of the centennial celebration, the board established clear goals, including membership growth, engaging events for all ages, increased communication, and youth involvement with hopes of revitalizing the Adelphotis.

We are pleased with the progress made in 2024. Membership nearly doubled from 75 in 2023 to over 130, the highest in over a decade. We hosted two events: the Saint George Picnic and our annual Panigiri in June. The Panigiri, our largest event, was attended by over 200 people, with a wonderful and refreshing presence from our youth. Sadly, our annual August Picnic was canceled in honor of Nicholas Copsis, son of Peter and Pam Copsis, who tragically and unexpectedly passed away.

The Adelphotis also launched its first website, www.karyaeagastonia.com, providing easy access to the organization's latest news, event details, contact information, scholarship/financial aid applications, park photos, and convenient online payment options.

Improvements were made at Karyae Park, including new kitchen equipment, renovations to the chapel, and landscaping enhancements. The board also approved renting out the park to interested parties to improve the organization's financial standing.

The Adelphotis Calendar for 2025

Building on the success of 2024, we look forward to another exciting year. The dates for our three annual events are:

- **Sunday, April 27th – Saint George's Picnic and General Assembly**
- **Saturday, June 21st – June Panigiri with LIVE MUSIC by Endasi**
- **Sunday, August 17th – August Picnic**
-



REQUEST

Those who wish to receive this news bulletin via e-mail, please inform us by sending your e-mail address at our e-mail address:

karyates.association@karyes.gr

WOULD YOU WISH TO BE ADVERTISED IN OUR NEWSPAPER?

Contact us at 0030-6974-720909 or at the email:

karyates.association@karyes.gr

Plot for sale area 1,234 sq.m. with licence to build in Kokkinorahi, Lakonia

Information on the telephone number +30-6986-835-980 or at the real estate office 5 Star Realty, 78 Leonidou str. Sparti tel. +30-697-710-5639, +30-27310- 22635 or email info@5starrealty.gr.

The annual “vasilopita” dance

On **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, the Karyates of Attica met at the annual dance of the **Karyates Association** in the music center "To Palataki in Kallithea". The participation was once again great and the patriots found the opportunity to meet and have fun with live Greek music.

The following text is from the **Secretary** of the Karyates Association Board of Directors, **Mr. Charalambos (Harris) Konstantopoulos**.

Another successful year for the Karyates Association was celebrated. We thank everyone who attended once again the **Vasilopita Annual Dance**, as well as those who for objective reasons at the last minute were unable to be with us.

We thank the **president of the Karyates Community**, our beautiful village, for his message. We also thank all the **village's Clubs and Associations** and the **Brotherhoods from overseas** for the excellent cooperation we had last year and which we promise to continue at the same high level in the coming year.

A year that will be brilliant, since the **building of the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre** will be delivered to us. A large project, but we believe, worthy of the history of Karyes, Arachova of Laconian Parnon. A project that is a beacon of love from generations of the past and present to those who come.

The Karyates Association, as the **representative body of the people of Karyes from all around the world**, has had the good fortune to be managed, from its foundation until today, by people with a **remarkable scientific background**, as well as **serious business activity** that had been united by a common element: the **sincere love** for their beloved village and that naturally led them to **volunteer**.

As a result of the above and without **substantial financial resources**, but by **mobilizing its members** and **consistently and professionally claiming state funding**, from its foundation until today, it has managed to offer work both:

- on a **material** level (design, initial construction, maintenance and complete renovation of the Caryatids Monument, maintenance of statues of Gods, creation of the Karyes Memory and Culture Centre, etc.),
- on a **cultural** level (publishing books, albums and a quarterly bilingual free newspaper, organizing a multitude of cultural events, operating the Karyes website, etc.) and
- on a **social** level (supporting the elementary school and providing financial assistance to patriots whenever requested).

A voluntary project that in financial terms amounts to **many hundreds of thousands of euros** and always trying to avoid participating in controversies, always looking at the big picture and respecting all those who volunteer for the good of the place.

This project of the Karyates Association has resulted, thanks to the cooperation of the Karyes Local Community, the local Clubs and the village's entrepreneurs, Karyes today to have become a shining example for the entire mountainous Peloponnese.

We are committed to continuing even more dynamically with your aim. The best is yet to come.



Greeting message from the Karyes Local Community president Mr. Panagiotis Mentis

Happy New Year to all the Arachovites/Karyates of all around the world!!!

On behalf of the Local Community of the village, we wish you a year full of health, prosperity and success for each and every one of you!

Always organize beautiful events and unite the Arachovites from all over the world.

And this year we all proceed guided by our love for our beautiful village.

Friendly greetings
With respect, President **Panagiotis Mentis**

All the previous news bulletin
are at your disposal
in digital form at WWW.KARYES.GR

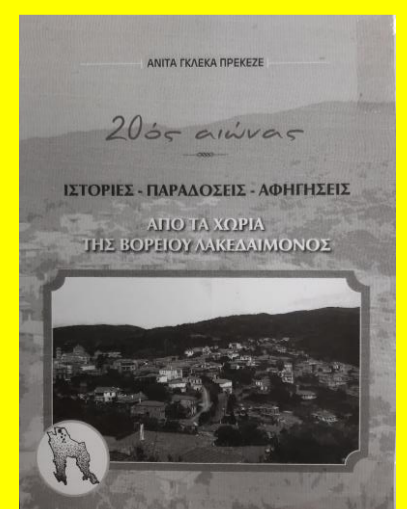


Availability of Annita Gleka-Prekeze's book "20th century, Stories, Traditions, Narratives from the villages of North Lacedaemon"

This book, which was published two years ago, with the kind sponsorship of the Municipality of Sparta and our expatriates **Panos and Voulas Kopsiaftis**, is the work of the well-known author **Anita V. Prekeze (née Glekas)**. The author dedicated this book to the **Karyates Association** whose she has been a key supporter for many years.

The first edition was sold out, since the books became literally rapturous and well-loved. The Association proceeded to a **second edition**.

Copies of this important book can be obtained from all members of the Board of the Association. More information at tel. **0030-6985-120559**, or at karyates.association@karyes.gr



The memorial service for the repose of the benefactor Georgios Th. Skiouris and the new administration at the Skiouris Foundation



On **Sunday, January 19**, in Karyes, after the Sunday Divine Liturgy at the Church of Saint Andrew, a **memorial service** was held for the repose of the benefactor **Georgios Th. Skiouris**. This year is a pivotal one for the course of the **Skiouris Foundation**, as the participation of several members of its administration has been completed.

In this context, **Mr. George Devekos** (left), **Theodoros Mendis** (right) and **Mr. George Diamandouros**, who participated for several years ex officio as presidents of the Karyes Local Council, the "Karyatis" Sports Club and as Director of the Karyes Primary School respectively, were awarded an honorary plaque, as well as **Mr. Vasilios Voukidis** as a permanent member.

In their place were the new president of the Local Council, **Mr. Panagiotis Mentis**, the new president of the Sports Club, **Mr. John Mentis** and **Mr. Charalampos Konstantopoulos**, while another position will be filled by a representative of the Primary Education of Laconia until the re-operation of the Primary School.



The wish for the Primary school reopening



Afterwards, the graduating students of the Karyes Primary School were awarded. It is everyone's wish that similar awards will be repeated in the future with the reopening of the school, initially as a Kindergarten and then as a Primary School since there are quite a few preschool children in the village.

Also present at the event was the MP of Laconia, **Mr. Davakis**, whose contribution was decisive in the request of the Karyes community that the closure of the Primary School be characterized as a "suspension" and not as a "abolition".



The "vasilopita" cut ceremony of the Karyes Parish

On the same day, after the awards ceremony, the **cutting of the New Year's (vasilopita) pie of the Parish of Karyes** took place on the ground floor of the Community Hall.



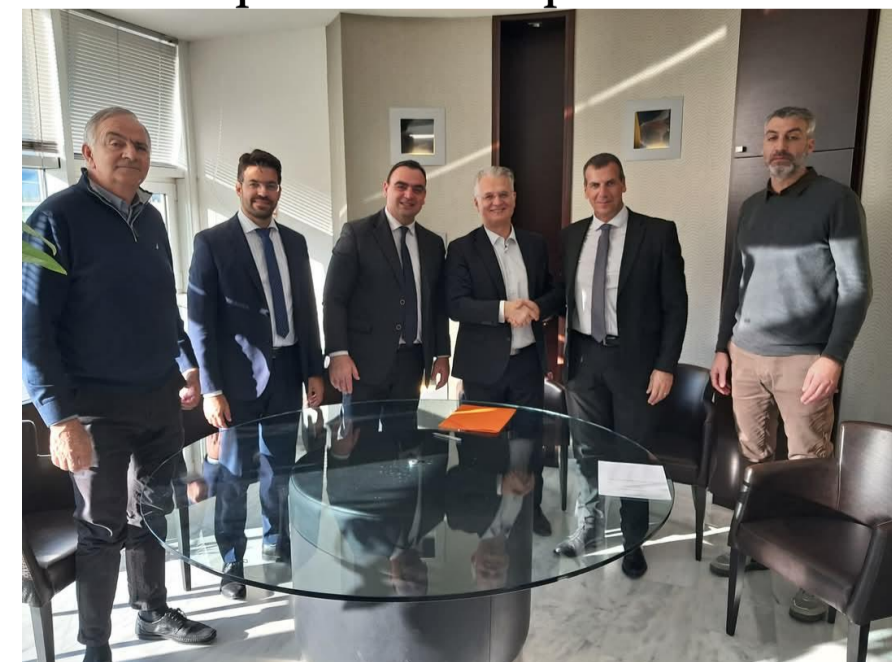
Present were the president and members of the Karyes Local Council, the presidents of the Karyates Association **Mr. Micheal Repoulis**, of the Sports Club, **Mr. Ioannis Mentis** and several members of the Board of Directors of the Karyes Clubs.

The priest of our village, **Archimandrite Fr. Leontios**, in his brief greeting, thanked those present, wished everyone a happy new year with health and gave a brief review of the activities of the past year.

All those present enjoyed coffee and delicacies from the Local Community, the Parish of Karyes and from the village Clubs.



One step before the implementation: The construction of the path to the Caryatids monument



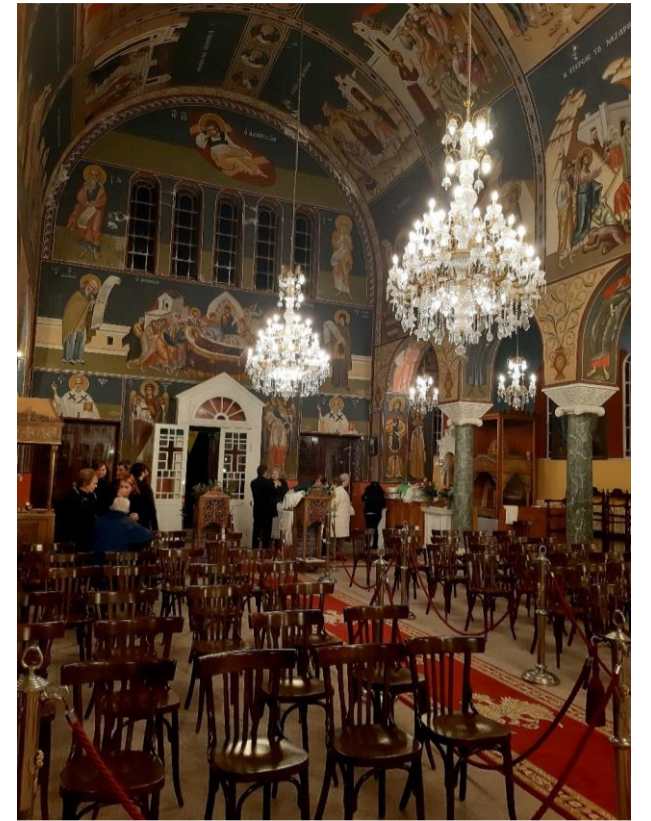
The **Mayor of Sparta, Mr. Mich. Vakalopoulos**, and the **Regional Governor of Peloponnese, Mr. Dimitrios Ptochos**, signed a Program Agreement on **Thursday, December 12, 2024**, for the **construction of a path to the Caryatids monument**.

The aim of the project is to provide safer and better access to the Caryatids monument, to increase visitor numbers and to create a walking route connecting the two sights of Karyes, namely the monument in question, which is a donation from the Karyates Association, with the statue of the Goddess, which is a donation from the Municipality of Athens.

The total budget for the execution of the project amounts to € 74,400.00 and its financing is provided by the Technical Program K.A.P. of the Regional Government of Laconia.

Present at the signing of the Program Agreement, which took place at the offices of the Region in Sparta, were the **Deputy Regional Governor of the Regional Government of Laconia, Mr. Theodoros Veroutis**, the **Deputy Regional Governor for Spatial Planning and Real Estate Management, Mr. Spyridon Tzinieris**, the member of the Regional Council, **Mr. Panagiotis Tzinakos** and the **Deputy Mayor for Planning and Entrepreneurship of Sparta, Mr. Panagiotis Tritakis**.

The new renovated indoor image of the Karyes main Church



Those of us who have had the opportunity to attend church in Karyes in recent months, we enjoy a much more beautiful image.

The impressive, in any case, Karyes' main Church, after the completion of the external works, which we mentioned in previous issues, has now been reformed internally as well.

In particular, oil painting work was carried out in the areas where there was no hagiography at the expense of Mrs. Frederiki Prekezes, and at the same time new curtains were installed. The psalters were also moved to the sides of the Church. Overall, the result is impressively beautiful.

Many tourists and visitors in Karyes

Tourist traffic in Karyes was increased both in the fall and winter compared to last year. Every weekend, the visitors to the beautiful village were many. In fact, even on the coldest weekends there was no decrease in traffic. Visitors generally consisted of four main categories:

- Visitors from neighboring cities who systematically choose Karyes as a nice option for a day trip, both for themselves and for their families, in order to enjoy their coffee or their meal in the very cafes and taverns.
- Visitors from Athens or other more distant cities who choose Karyes, either as a destination for a day trip or as a reference point for an excursion to Parnonas mountain, since there are beautiful human and natural monuments (Caryatids Monument, Panagia plane trees, Clock, School, Sakali spring). These visitors come both by car and by bus, while many of them choose to stay for a second or even third day in some of the guesthouses.
- Hikers who come to Karyes to walk the Caryatides Trails or the European E4 trail and who almost always come by bus through tourist offices and associations through organized excursions.
- Patriots who live in Athens or other cities and decide to spend a nice weekend, either alone or by bringing their friends to get to know their beautiful village. To these we should add corresponding weekend visitors who have houses in neighboring villages, since Karyes is always able to offer excellent options for coffee, meal and walks.



Many tributes for Karyes at the Greek press

The continuous tributes in the Greek press contributed to the readership of Karyes as a place of pan-Hellenic tourist interest this year. It is no exaggeration to say that almost every week there was a tribute to Karyes on some major site.

Whether it was a reference to the beauties of the village and the nature that surrounds it, or presenting Karyes as a point for a necessary stop and exploration when visiting Mount Parnon, or as a special reference to some of the village's businesses that impress visitors with the investments they have made, but also their professionalism that is always combined with the elements of traditional Greek cuisine.

The "Vamvakou Revival" program by the "Stavros Niarchos" Foundation

Special mention should also be made of the large-scale program of revitalization of the village of Vamvakou, "Vamvakou Revival" by the "Stavros Niarchos" Foundation.

This ambitious program, supported by a foundation with enormous resources by Greek standards, has benefited several residents of neighboring villages (including Karyes) with a multitude of actions such as agricultural and livestock development programs, the operation of a kindergarten, etc.

At the tourist level, through the many activities aimed mainly at families and young people every weekend, there is a high level of traffic and all these visitors pass through Karyes. A passage through the village is therefore created, something that existed for example for many decades in the village of Agios Petros, with visitors to the Monastery of Holy Virgin of Malevi who, in order to visit the monastery, necessarily passed through this village.

Karyes, which of course cannot be compared to Vamvakou, since it is a much larger village with many coffee shops, taverns and trade businesses, can only benefit from this program.

However, we believe that the Karyes clubs should, in a more institutional and organized manner, communicate with the program's authorities in order to identify and plan joint actions for even better results.

ADELPHOTIS ARACHOVITON "AI KARYAE" – TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA

Greetings - report for 2024 from the Board of Directors



Greetings to all our Karyates/Arachovites brothers and sisters around the world.

We are all a very proud group of people. Proud of our beautiful village of Karyes, even those of us who were not born there but are connected through blood, family stories and wonderful memories. The Toronto Board of Directors of the Adelphotis was particularly active in 2024, as in previous years, with events that brought patriots and friends together.



The events

The "Macaronada" dance



We kicked off the year with our annual "Macaronada," where we enjoyed great food, great music and dancing, and our tradition of dressing up in Apokriatika/Halloween costumes to compete for the best costume awards.

This year, a special guest was Jim G. Diamandouros and his beautiful wife Georgia, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary wearing the suit and wedding dress from their wedding day! We were so lucky to have them celebrate this event with all of us.



Maintenance and beautification works and events at "Karyes" park

The next event was the **annual opening of the summer season of the park "Karyes"** in May. Where we enjoyed each other's company with great food, conversation and wonderful weather.

The spring weather attracted many people to the park on a **weekly basis**. Some prepared and planted a huge garden, others cleared the forest of fallen trees, others cut grass and planted flowers and trees.

A new project in the park took place in the middle of the summer. We set up two beehives to produce some **honey**. It was something new and exciting for us and the honey we collected tasted great. We thank our members and non-members who did all the work.



At the WEB SITE WWW.KARYES.GR
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ANNOUNCEMENT / INVITATION

Are you involved in the arts (painting, music-song, dance, theater, photography, video, floristry, crafts)? The Karyates Association invites you to contact us in order to present your work to our compatriots and to the visitors of our village in the summer, either through an exhibition of your creations, or through a cultural action.

Contact now at the Karyates Association email address karyates.association@karyes.gr, or at the phones (+30) 6944-784563, 6974-720909.

ADELPHOTIS ARACHOVITON "AI KARYAE" – TORONTO ONTARIO CANADA



Then, our annual **Summer Festival ("Panighiri")**, which always takes place on the **last weekend of July**.

The day began with the Divine Liturgy in our beautiful chapel.

Then the grilled dishes that had been cooking since the morning awaited us: bbq lamb, chicken, kontosouvli, kokoretsi, souvlaki and many more! All this accompanied by Greek music and of course there was a lot of dancing!! and everyone had a great time.

Then, followed by our annual Autumn "**Roasted Corn**" Event in **September**, where we roast corn and add all kinds of foods and desserts.



The Christmas Party

Our last event each year is the children's Christmas party, where we gather to watch Santa Claus bring smiles to all the children with wonderful gifts!



Another successful year, and many more to come!

We wish everyone health and happiness in 2025!

If you are planning a trip to Toronto, schedule it at one of our events so you can meet a large group of Karyatie/Arachovites!

The President and Board of Directors

of the Arachovite Adelphotis "AI KARYAI" Toronto Canada



Σύναξη Καρυατών Μελβούρνης
Κυριακή 23 Μαρτίου 2025 και ώρα 3.00 μ.μ.
86 Carrington Road Box Hill

**Karyates gathering in Melbourne Australia
On Sunday, 23 March 2025**

The gathering will take place at
86 Carrington Road Box Hill



SOCIAL NEWS

On January 31, 2025, **Panagiotis Zafirakos** passed away at the age of 92, in Melbourne Vic. Australia

Our sincere condolences to his family.

Announcement

of the Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprise of Sparta
(D.E.Y.A.S.)
to the President of the Local Community of Karyes Mr. Pan. Mentis
regarding the quality of drinking water

According to a relevant announcement of **January 29, 2025**:

The local Community of Karyes is supplied with water from springs and a borehole at the location "Monachogourna". Our Service carries out extensive checks on the water for human consumption in Karyes, at all points of the water from the water source to consumption. The samplings we carry out per year exceed the required frequency as defined by the Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) D1(d)/G.P. 27829.

More specifically, based on the volume of water supplied to the Karyes water supply zone, while the above J.M.A. provides for four (4) samples per year to check the parameters of group A, our Service during the previous year conducted twenty-one (21) samples to examine the parameters of group A, at consumer taps.

In addition, this water has been tested for radioactivity parameters, as defined by the relevant legislation, as well as for all parameters B and C of J.Y.A. D1(d)/G.P. oi. 27829.

From the extensive tests that we have carried out and continue to carry out, it appears that the water for human consumption of the Local Community of Karya is safe and healthy as it meets the terms and conditions of J.Y.A. D1(d)/G.P. oi. 27829. The results of the tests are posted on the website of D.E.Y.A.S. in the Water Supply header (analysis results - water analyses).

The announcement is signed by the head of the Sparta wastewater treatment facilities, **Mr. Georgios Lazaras**, and the General Manager of the Sparta Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company, **Mr. Elias Trakakis**.

Owners' obligation regarding branch cutting

According to a relevant announcement by the **Municipality of Sparta**, the Municipality informs property owners that **tree branches, native vegetation, etc. are not allowed to protrude from private plots and estates, which prevent the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles.**

Owners are requested to cut them and remove the cutting products and deposit them within the boundaries of their farms and plots and not in public areas.

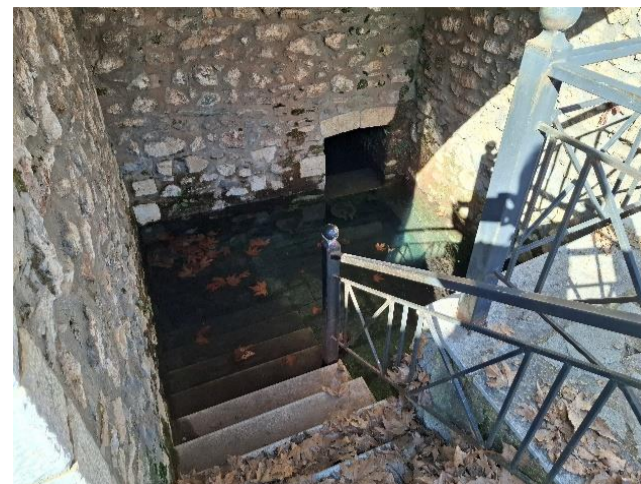
The announcement concludes by stating that in case of non-compliance, the Municipality will proceed voluntarily where it deems appropriate with the relevant work, reserving the right to initiate criminal and civil proceedings provided for by Law.

Donations for Karyates Association

In addition to the annual contributions, we receive, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, true to what we have promised, we publish the significant financial donations that the Association receives. Therefore, we would like to thank:

Mr. Kokokios George – Tripolis € 100
Ms Goumeni Maria - Karlsruhe Germany € 100

Winter Captions



Finally enough water at the "Panaghia spring"!



Green field outside of the St John Parish at the Community Clock "Roloj" : Opportunity for the goats!



The Caryatids monument shines in the winter sunshine!

The "heart" of Greek Motorsports will beat in Karyes



On March 15 and 16, the first race for the Panhellenic dirt rally of racing cars 2025, the well-known **Rally Sprint Molon Lavé**, will be held in Sparta and Karyes.

The 12-kilometer race route on Mount Parnon, according to an announcement by the organizers, "after last year's record participation, has proven to be interesting and particularly popular with drivers. It offers fast, technical and very spectacular sections that require skill and experience from the athletes who, with their efforts, will satisfy the many spectators who flood the route every year. The wide variety of turns for the size of the route, the good road surface with its variations was also commented on by world-class co-driver Denis Giraudet, who participated in the race last year. In addition to those who will claim the 2025 Dirt Cup, the race is also offered as a 'warm-up' test for the contenders of this year's Panhellenic Rally Championship. The clubs A.S.S.O.A.A. and ARTEMIS, together with the Municipality of Sparta, are organizing the race that counts towards the **Panhellenic Dirt Cup** and the **Panhellenic Dirt Cup of Antiques cars**. We would like to thank the Region of Peloponnese and the Community of Karyes for their assistance."

According to the program, on Saturday, March 15, the Administrative and Technical Control will take place at the Administrative Office in the city of Sparta from 12.30 to 16.00, followed by a Ceremonial Start in the central Square of Sparta at 19.00. The Service Park will be located at the Karya stadium and the regrouping will take place in an area adjacent to the stadium.

On Sunday, March 16, the race will start from the Service Park and shortly after leaving Varvitsa at 10.00, the start of the first racing stage of the special route will take place. The race will be completed in three timed stages. The awards ceremony will take place two hours after the end of Parc Ferme in Karyes central square.

KARYATES ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

For information E-mail: karyates.association@karyes.gr