

Town of Rensselaerville

Newsletter

The Hamlets of Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow and Rensselaerville

Volume 17, Number 5

May 2006

Letter from Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg Assessments Can Be Lowered by County Review

Our town has not conducted a town wide reassessment of property values in several years. Our three assessors were working on a "reval" but were unable to complete it in time. Without periodic "reval" inequities can and do creep into assessment rolls.

The fairness of real property taxes depends on whether similar properties are treated alike. Assessors are required by law to keep all assessments up-to-date each year. When property values change rapidly assessments can become dated, and then some property owners end up paying more than others with similar properties. To guard against that, there are steps you can take to protect yourself from an unfair assessment.

Tentative assessments for every property in town will be available by May 1st. This is public information. Come in and inspect the role. Transparency is the key to accuracy when it comes to assessments. Check to determine if your assessment differs from similar properties. If it does you can request an assessment reduction.

"Grievance Day" is Tuesday, May 23. You can appear in person, be represented by someone else or just mail the grievance form so that it arrives before May 23. It is self-explanatory and can be filled out by you. The Town Board of Assessment Review, "Grievance Board," hearings are open to the public as required by the State Open Meetings Law.

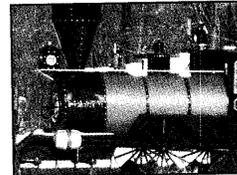
In most cases the "Grievance Board" will not make any decision the day of their hearing. After deliberation, in private, they will render a decision and notify you by mail. Their response must include a reason for their decision.

If you are dissatisfied with the Grievance Board's decision, there is a Small Claims Assessment Review option. It is available provided you own and live in a 1, 2 or 3 family home used for residential purposes. Seasonal residents may also qualify and those that don't, still have the option of filing suit to overturn the Grievance Board decision.

Most people accept the Grievance Board determination as final. That can be a mistake. We have seen 12 appeals when Rensselaerville property owners have appealed Grievance Board decisions between 1992 and 1999, the records show a 75% success rate overturning the Grievance Board decisions. The process is simple and straightforward; you do not need to hire an attorney.

When you come in to our office to review your assessment pick up a copy of the guide entitled, *How to File For a Review of Your Assessment*. All of the information you need is in that pamphlet. It will prepare you to exercise your options.

By this time next year reval will be completed. In the meantime, I have scheduled a meeting for sometime in May to help property owners understand the process and their options more fully. Come and become informed. It might save you money and make our system of assessments and review more accountable.



Cooksburg



Medusa



Potter Hollow



Preston Hollow



Rensselaerville

THE RENSSELAERVILLE LIBRARY *Bookmark*

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
10 - noon, 4 - 9:00 pm

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
4 - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY
9 - 1:00 PM

*We are closed Sunday,
Monday and Holidays.*

MAIN STREET
518.797.3949

First Friday Films – Join us at Conkling Hall Fri., May 5 at 7:30 p.m. for the family friendly documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom*. Proving that documentaries don't have to be boring, follow three groups of New York City fifth graders as they learn ballroom dances from the rumba to the tango, on their way to compete in the inner city dance finals.

And coming to First Friday Films on June 2 at 7:30 p.m. is *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe*. Based on the classic novel by C.S. Lewis. Four London children are sent to a professor's country home for protection during World War II. There they find a magic wardrobe which leads to a mystical land called Narnia, which is ruled by an evil witch. To defeat the witch, they must join forces with Aslan, the lion god of Narnia, and the great battle between good and evil.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rensselaerville Library and Conkling Hall events celebrating April as National Poetry Month. Come and browse the Annual Library Book Sale on Rensselaerville Garage Sale Day Sat., May 20 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in front of the library. Lots of newly published hardcover books and paperbacks at reduced prices.

Mark your calendars for the unofficial start of summer in Rensselaerville: The Annual Library Cocktail Party Sat., June 17 from 5-8 p.m. at the Stonecrop House, The Rensselaerville Institute. Get reacquainted with friends and neighbors and don't forget our fabulous silent auction.

Don't forget the Library will accept donations on the first Saturday of each month between 9-11 a.m. only. Donations of any size will not be accepted at any other times. If dates and times are not convenient, or if you have an unusually large donation, please contact the library to make arrangements. Please note, the library does not accept textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, condensed books or books in poor condition. Thank you for helping us build a better, and more organized library. The next donation day is Sat., May 6.

The library board of trustees meet the first Monday of every month. The next library board of trustees meeting is Mon., May 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Rensselaerville Library meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the library. The next meeting is on Mon., May 15. Join us or call the library and ask to be put on the email list.

Library staff: Rebecca Lubin, director; Barbara Bolster Barrett, associate librarian; Candy Wilson, aide.

Gifford Benefit Dinner June 3

A potluck dinner benefit for Billy Gifford is planned June 3 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Rensselaerville Firehouse, Route 85, Rensselaerville.

Bring something great to share. The event is organized by Billy's friends. For more information, call 797-3171, 797-3034 or 797-3453. Donations are for outstanding medical bills and home renovations.

Roast Beef Dinner May 13

The Annual Roast Beef Dinner and Dance Event sponsored and to benefit the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department is slated Sat., May 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar and social hour, at the Huyck Carriage House Restaurant, The Rensselaerville Institute.

Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. followed by DJ entertainment from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$30 each. Presale tickets only. Call Ardis Fritz at 797-3034.

Offices Closed May 29

The Rensselaerville Town Offices and Highway Department will be closed May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Published by **Digital Quill**
Printing & Publishing
(518) 797-3425



Planning Board Reviews Land Use

It has been 15 years since the Town of Rensselaerville has conducted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan Review. The Planning Board, in conjunction with a Citizens Committee, will review the existing Comprehensive Land Use Plan and determine whether the plan remains an accurate assessment of the Town's land use policies and goals.

The Town Board will appoint this Citizens Committee to assist the Planning Board with the land use review.

These two groups will also review the Town's Zoning Law and Subdivision Regulations. Amendments may be suggested in order to properly maintain the rural charac-

ter of the Town, while allowing appropriate development.

A questionnaire will be disseminated in the near future asking for your input regarding the future of land use in the Town.

Please take a moment or two to complete the survey. The Planning Board depends upon your input.

The moratorium was not voted on at the April 13 Town Board Meeting. It was decided at that meeting to wait until the full Board was present to vote on this important issue.

The Planning Board continues to meet the first and

third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. The first meeting of the month is business as usual. This includes the review of subdivisions, land annexations, etc. If time allows, land use review will be discussed.

The second meeting of the month is devoted to the review of land use issues.

Copies of the Town of Rensselaerville Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Law and Subdivision Regulations are available at the Rensselaerville Library. These books are also available for purchase at the Town building.

Property Revaluation Update

The Town of Rensselaerville is currently undergoing a revaluation of property assessments.

This process was started last summer and fall when property data was updated. The assessing department worked many hours towards the goal of completing the revaluation for the 2006 tax roll.

It was decided that rushing the process to meet this artificial deadline would not be in the best interest of the town.

Taking more time will allow us to complete this revaluation with better results. We all know that a poorly done revaluation can be a lightning rod for controversy.

Be assured that the time and money spent to date is well spent and will contribute to the final revaluation.

Taking the extra time will not result in any additional cost for the Town and may actually save money by avoiding the cost of defending the new assessments resulting from a poorly done

revaluation. By conducting this revaluation in-house, the assessors will save the Town many thousands of dollars over the cost that would have been incurred using a private firm as was done

in the past.

We hope to make this process as painless and professional as possible. The assessors thank you for your patience and the confidence you have shown us.

Camp Scully Camper Applications

Camp Scully, operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, is now registering for the summer of 2006.

Camp Scully is a co-ed overnight camp for children ages 7-14 and is located in North Greenbush on Snyders Lake. It includes cabins for approximately 60 children who reside at the camp from Sunday afternoon through Friday evening. Over the course of the six weeks, a total of 320 children participate in swimming, hiking, sports, boating, nature activities, canoeing, arts and crafts, low elements rope course, archery, and peer socialization. Children can choose among several activities including Red Cross swim lessons.

One-week sessions begin on June 25 and end on Aug. 11. The open house is Sun., June 11 from noon-3 p.m. The cost is \$240 per child for a one-week overnight camping. Financial assistance is available for those in need. Camper applications and brochures can be obtained by calling the camp at 453-6613, or email at campscully@ccalbany.org or write to Camp Scully Registration Office, 40 N. Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203, or call the Hilltowns Community Resource Center at 797-5256.

Paid summer internships are also available at Camp Scully. Call the numbers above for more information, or see www.ccalbany.net or campjobs.com.

Conkling Hall – What's On May

May 5. 7:30 PM. First Friday movie jointly sponsored by the Library and Conkling Hall. Call the Rensselaerville Library for information. \$2.

May 17. Noon. Sr. Luncheon. Treat yourself to a delicious luncheon and enjoy the companionship of friends and neighbors. All seniors are welcome. \$4 to defray the cost of the food.

May 19. 7:30 – 10 PM. Noteworthy's Coffee House. Local singer/songwriter Peter Michael and Tim Sweeny on mandolin will perform a special concert as part of the Noteworthy's coffeehouse series to benefit the Hilltown Market and Natural Food Co-op. The show will be held upstairs with a \$10 suggested donation. You'll hear foot stomping celtic

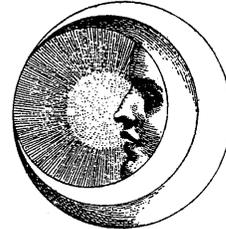
tunes as well as favorites from Peter Michael's CD. They have performed at coffeehouse 's from Caffe Lena in Saratoga to Club Helsinki in Great Barrington, MA. Peter Michael performed at Noteworthy's Coffeehouse in January '05 to a sold out house. So get there early and join these two fine performers for an opportunity to help support a great new service that is sure to benefit the entire area. Beverage and desserts for sale.

Tuesdays. 6:30 PM Tai Kwon Do Classes with instructor Frank Palumbo. Call Larry Tompkins at 797-5113.

Wednesdays. 6:00 –7:30 PM. Yoga classes on the lower level with fitness instructor Sara Nelson Weiss. \$10 per session. Call Ms.

Weiss at 239-6825 for information. **Thursdays. 10AM to 1 PM.** The Rensselaerville Playgroup for children 0 to 5 and their caregivers. Call Deb Monteith at 797-5233 for information.

Saturdays 9-10 AM. Pilates Mat Work for core strengthening and alignment with instructor Sarah Nelson Weiss. Classes will be held most Saturdays but you need to call Sarah at 239-6825 to verify that class will be held and for additional information. \$10 per session.



Menu for Extra Helpings

The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC) in Westerlo is an Extra Helpings Food Buying Club ordering site. Extra Helpings is a program from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York offering approximately \$35 worth of food for \$14 per order.

The program is open to all regardless of age or income. A menu for each month's Extra Helpings is published one month in advance.

May's menu is beef bottom round roast, sliced ham, ground turkey, sliced American cheese, tuna, chili with meat, au gratin potato mix, frozen peas, whole peeled tomatoes, fruit cocktail, lettuce, onions. Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.

Anyone may purchase the monthly special item in addition to the regular menu order, or purchase it singly. It is not necessary to purchase a regular menu offering to be able to purchase the bonus item. May's bonus item is six pounds of Italian sausage links for \$10.50

HCRC distributes Extra Helpings at the Rensselaerville Firehouse from noon-1 p.m. and at St. Bernadette's Church in Berne from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on May 23.

The pick up site must be noted with each order. Orders with payments are due at the HCRC office by May 5.

For more information on the program, or other HCRC services, please call 797-5256. The mailing address is PO Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.



United States Postal Service in the Town of Rensselaerville

Medusa Post Office
239-4826
Preston Hollow Post Office
239-6111
Rensselaerville Post Office
797-3231

April Town Board Business

The meeting opened with a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Approximately 80 citizens were in attendance. Public interest and participation in Town Board meetings has grown substantially when audience numbers are compared to last year. Highway Superintendent Jon Chase and Councilman Lansing were absent.

Minutes of the regular meeting of March 10 and the special meeting of March 9 were approved and are available on the Town web site.

A transfer of funds was approved for the attorney contract and approved bills were paid. They also will be available on the web page.

Audience comments:

Jeanette Rice expressed concern about being misquoted in the Greenville Press on her comments at the moratorium public hearing.

Mrs. Teeter pointed out that the wrong landowner had received a letter about the dilapidated building in Preston Hollow. The building inspector had provided the name and address of the owner. The error has been corrected and a letter of apology will be sent to the mistaken owner.

Bob Bolte questioned the adequacy of public notice for the moratorium public hearing. The town attorney subsequently confirmed that five days notice is adequate under law.

George Dempsey stated several criticisms: (1) late approval of the new town insurance policy; (2) an alleged shortage of oil at the fire companies; and (3) the cost of the town newsletter. Supervisor Nickelsberg addressed his concerns: (1) the town was never in danger of lapsing insurance coverage as the option was always available to renew the old policy; however, by taking the time to shop with other insurance companies the Town saved \$2,300 and obtained much better coverage; (2) the alleged oil shortage was never an issue because there never was any shortage or danger of shortage.

Before the contract expired, Supervisor Nickelsberg had contacted the president of Main Care Oil Company who agreed to extend the existing contract until other options to save money on fuel could be adequately explored.

Supervisor Nickelsberg also admonished Mr. Heath, the President of the Medusa Fire Company, for attempting to politicize the issue with misinformation on their firehouse sign; and, (3) the newsletter was discussed at length. The higher cost is justified on the basis that the expanded content keeps citizens informed about the business of the town and how their taxes are spent. Supervisor Nickelsberg related numerous expressions of support for the new format and expanded content from residents.

He stated citizens have a right to know the business of the town and the newsletter is available to all the people. Those with access to a computer can access the town web site but many older taxpayers do not have computers. Supervisor Nickelsberg reiterated his commitment to transparency in town government.

Noel Abbott expressed his support for the moratorium and his position on how controversial issues need to be resolved for the sake of town unity. David Baitsholts expressed his opposition to the moratorium.

Correspondence:

Michael and Sandra Varno indicated their support for the moratorium. Art and Janet Johnsen indicated their support for the moratorium.

Joyce Chase submitted a letter to the Town Board about what our little town used to be like. She also wrote about the criticism of her husband Jon Chase. Mrs. Chase, who is not alone, would like to see the backbiting and mudslinging stop.

Reports:

Highway Superintendent Jon Chase submitted a letter to the Board

stating he needed the Board to act on his requests for additional road materials.

Kathy Hallenbeck listed income by source received in her office over the past month.

Old business-updates:

Gerald Wood submitted a Communications Committee report indicating that the existing Pond Hill repeater tower was being upgraded with emergency communication equipment. The Sheriff's department has hired Tom Dedrick of Westerlo to install the equipment. He also reported that they may want to increase the height of the tower on that site if necessary. It was not clear from his report whether the larger tower at the top of Pond Hill Road owned by American tower had been fully considered as an option to increasing the height of the smaller tower on Pond Hill Road.

Tom Milkulka provided the Beautification Committee report and indicated that the DEC had approved using the former landfill site on Kenyon Road as a suitable location for a fire training facility.

A vote on the moratorium was postponed in anticipation of Councilman Lansing's return from a brief hospital stay. The moratorium vote will be held at a special Town Board Meeting on April 27.

Attorney Ryan will draft a local law for an increase in veteran's property tax exemption.

A discussion on highway material bids revealed that decisions had been made to purchase crushed stone from Carver Stone Co. Heating oil, gasoline and diesel fuel contracts were not yet decided. In the working meeting of April 12, Highway Superintendent Jon Chase indicated that he was completely out of culvert and that he had contacted his counterparts and found that no other hill-town, nor the County, was able to loan

(continued on Page 7)



Senior Corner

Senior Van – Currently, the van goes to Greenville on Tuesday and to Cobleskill (Walmart) on Thursday.

Doctors' Appointments – The van is available on Mondays, Fridays and the second and third Wednesdays of each month to take senior citizens to doctors' appointments in the Albany area. If you wish to use this service, please schedule your appointments accordingly. Contact Ann Vogel at 797-3376 for information and to make reservations.

Hiawatha Grange Lunches – The Hiawatha Grange serves senior citizen lunches Monday through Friday at noon for \$3.75. The senior van will go to the Grange on May 3, May 24, and June 7. Contact Ann Vogel at 797-3376 to make reservations and information. The Grange would appreciate one day advance notice if you wish to attend individually. Call Marie at 797-3652 between 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Senior Citizen Meeting – The Senior Citizens Club meets on May 9 at the Medusa Firehouse at noon (\$1). We are always looking for new members to join us. Please bring a covered dish to share and/or dessert. Members need to bring their own plates and utensils. Coffee is provided.

Senior Luncheon – A senior luncheon is held May 17 at Conkling Hall, Methodist Hill Rd., Rensselaerville (\$4). Participants are invited to bring a dessert to share.

Worship in Rensselaerville

† **Preston Hollow Baptist Church**
Route 145, Preston Hollow 239-6544
Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.

† **Potter Hollow Union Church**
Potter Hollow 734-5106
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & visitation 8:30 a.m.

† **Presbyterian Church**
Main Street, Rensselaerville
Worship: Summer Services

† **Trinity Episcopal Church**
Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville 797-5395
Holy Eucharist & Church School
Sunday 11 a.m.

† **United Church of Christ**
Medusa 239-6119
Worship: Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Refuse/Recycling Center Hours

The Rensselaerville Refuse/Recycling Department hours are Saturdays and Wednesdays from 7 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Please display your permit. If you do not have a permit, you can obtain one at the Town Clerk's office.

Please cover your refuse so that you do not leave garbage on someone else's property. No sheet rock or shingles will be accepted.

Grist Mill to Open May 27

The Rensselaerville Grist Mill will open for the summer season on Sat., May 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., beginning with a bake sale and demonstrations on an antique forge and anvil by Marty Milner, the Hilltown Blacksmith.

The mill is located at the bridge in the hamlet of Rensselaerville. Free mill tours will be available. There is no charge to visit.

On Founders Day, Sat., June 3, the mill will also be open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and after that it will be open throughout the summer from 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays, and Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. from mid-May through mid-October. Wednesdays are best days to visit for help with genealogical research.



...Town Board

(continued from Page 5)

Rensselaerville pipe because they also were out of culvert. Supervisor Nickelsberg checked with the Town of Berne the next day and determined that they were not out of pipe and that their supply of culvert pipe was more than adequate to loan Rensselaerville what we needed. He also determined that the company Chase strongly recommended charged up to 25% more for culvert pipe than culvert available under state contract.

Supervisor Nickelsberg then related to Jon Chase in an earlier town board meeting at which Chase had resisted obtaining three or more prices for motor oil as required by the new Town procurement policy instituted by the Board to save money on goods and services. Because of the "urgent need" for this oil, Supervisor Nickelsberg reluctantly approved the Shell Oil bid Jon recommended.

However, further checking the next day and over the weekend revealed that the Shell Oil bulk price submitted by Chase was higher than the per gallon price for Shell Oil in gallon containers available at Sam's Club and much higher than the bulk price available from Polsinello Fuel Inc. If the new procurement policy had been followed it would have saved the Town taxpayers over \$500.

Nickelsberg stated with emphasis that Chase would need to do the work necessary to comply with the procurement policy of the Town Board and make an effort to save the people's hard-earned tax dollars.

Deputy Supervisor Alden Pierce reported on his meeting with the Albany County and other municipal government officials to explore collaborative purchasing of common materials and working together on shared problems that could be better solved with inter-municipal cooperation.

Bids on repairing town buildings have not been forthcoming in the required number to award a contract. The Town Clerk will advertise for bids a second time.

The public hearing for the Naomi Weiner property was postponed

due to lack of quorum. The attorney will attempt to resolve the issue next week and reschedule the hearing if necessary.

A number of road issues were discussed. Supervisor Nickelsberg announced that due to the large number of complaints received from citizens regarding the condition of town roads he had formed a Citizen Road Committee to inventory town road problems, review citizen complaints and recommend appropriate repairs. The board unanimously approved Randy Bates to head this committee. In addition, David Orr, from the Cornell local roads program, will be coming to review our town roads. He will make recommendations as to how best to deal with several existing road problems that could pose possible liability issues. Legislator Gordon reported that he expects some progress soon on stream stabilization in Potter Hollow.

The flooding on Marie Winter's property of was discussed without resolution.

Supervisor Nickelsberg complemented Shawn Styer on improvements to the town web site. He called attention to a number of additions to the web page, which have made the business of Rensselaerville town government more transparent to citizens.

A meeting with grant writers was held to identify town priorities. Grant writers will apply for appropriate grants to fund those priorities. A discussion about how grant writers will be compensated revealed that the terms have not been settled. A fee basis or a percentage of the grant is the usual means of compensation for outside grant writers. Anyone with grant-writing experience or who wishes to volunteer his or her services to help the town obtain grants so that we do not have to pay outside grant writers, please let us know. Anyone wishing to be considered for grant writing is encouraged to contact the town. We have talked about the desire to get outside grant writers for some months and continue to be interested in establishing relationships with competent people.

Attorney Ryan read his letter to the Town Board providing his

review of the facts and law as well as his conclusions on conversion of public property for private uses. This issue was brought to the Board's attention last month when Vernon Husek presented a photograph of Jon Chase using the town payload to dump town sand and salt into the pickup truck of his son-in-law Roger Gifford. Attorney Ryan concluded that the New York State Constitution specifically and unequivocally prohibits converting public property for a private purpose. He recommended the town board adopt a resolution prohibiting such acts. The issue will be deliberated at the May Board Meeting.

New business

Tim Lippert presented a new zoning map that was adopted by the Town Board.

A number of firms were contacted requesting proposals for providing IT service in the town office. A local company from Greenville appears to be company offering the best overall package. It may be necessary to bid out the job before a contract can be awarded.

A number of planning Board issues were discussed. Only one response to the RFP for assistance with revising the Comprehensive Plan and zoning law was received so the bid will be advertised for a second time. It was announced that a land-use review committee would be appointed representing a broad cross-section of the town in the following week. So far approximately 17 people have indicated an interest in serving on the committee.

Milestone cable-TV has requested a meeting with the town board, purpose unknown.

Chris Heath with the Medusa fire Department requested a change in funding for the playground fund and the after school program fund. Attorney Ryan informed him that the budget was fixed and that change was not possible for this year.

Attorney Ryan also indicated that the after school program was covered by the town insurance policy but that a rider should be

(continued on Page 8)

...Town Board

(Continued from Page 7)
added to specifically identify the program.

A manual for town standard operating procedures will be prepared after reviewing the Town of Berne manual and the Town of New Scotland manual as well as the existing document written for Rensselaerville several years ago. This will help determine if it is necessary to hire a consultant to proceed with the development of a comprehensive manual for Rensselaerville.

The town accepted the resignation of Bill Bensen and approved Tim Miller to replace him on the Rensselaerville hamlet water and sewer district committee. Miller was authorized to attend a training session for operators. The Town Board approved requests to expand the committee to six people and approved the appointment of Dale Dorner to the new position.

The Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent were authorized to attend conferences in June providing information on how to conduct their town responsibilities more effectively.

Cheryl Baitsholts informed the Board that they needed to appoint a new town veterinarian. Dr. Prusser is no longer authorized to practice veterinary medicine. She recommended, and the Board approved, Diane Biederman-Brynda from Schoharie.

Steve Wood read a letter into the minutes wherein he related that Highway Superintendent Jon Chase visited the Greenville NAPA store and informed the owner that Rensselaerville would not do business with his store because he had contracted with Mr. Wood to assist in the construction of a new store. The board accepted Wood's letter and made it a part of the minutes without comment or question. The issue will be discussed at the May Board meeting when Chase is expected to be present.

Supervisor Nickelsberg described progress made with the Town policy for procuring services

and materials. He pointed out the necessity of finding ways to save taxpayers money. The policy has provided a number of notable successes toward that end.

Tom Kropp was not present to discuss the agenda item on false fire alarms.

The Hall of Fame program was discussed. An award will be made every year. Barry Cooke, the first recipient, will receive a plaque and be recognized in a ceremony to be held at Town Hall.

Supervisor Nickelsberg related the unusual success that property owners have had appealing their grievances beyond the town grievance board. Eight out of twelve people tracked since 1992 succeeded in having the town Grievance Board ruling overturned.

Joli Pizzigati questioned whether the budget for the town

newsletter was adequate. She indicated strong support for the expanded content.

Audience Comments:

Bonnie Chase Gifford complained that she was not receiving the town newsletter as soon as people with Rensselaerville addresses. She said the cost for the newsletter over a three-month period was \$5,040. She criticized the content as containing too many items that could easily be found in local newspapers and objected to including a summary of Town Board minutes in the newsletter.

Jeff Pine expressed concern that reports regarding the Association of town meetings had not been made public. The reports will be made public when they are available. Sandy Gordon called attention to propose legislation to tax standing timber. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Annual Rensselaerville Garage Sale Day Saturday, May 20 Rain - Snow - or Shine!

For the hamlet of Rensselaerville and vicinity. **Now is the time to sign up** if you would like to hold a sale at your property/location for this event. The Rensselaerville Fire Department Ladies Battalion sponsors this event. We will advertise in local and some capital district newspapers, radio, and on cable. Your sale will be listed on the map, which will be available the morning of the sale at the firehouse.

Sales should be open from 9am-4pm. The cost is still only \$10 per family. Please send your registration form and your check to RVFD Ladies Battalion, 1364 CR 351, Rensselaerville, NY 12147. If you have questions, please call Rose Kuhar at 797-3360. **Registration forms must be received by May 12.....Please!**

Refreshments and sale maps will be available at the firehouse 9am-3pm.

Garage Sale Registration Form

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Site of Sale: Road name, route number, and 911 number, miles from village, color house, etc.

Description of items for Sale: _____

Detailed descriptions will attract more potential customers to your sale.....sale items that are clean, clearly priced, and spread out for display are more likely to sell.

Founders Day Community Dance June 3

An Old Time Traditional Community Dance will be at Conkling Hall on Sat., June 3 in connection with Founders Day in the hamlet of Rensselaerville. The public is invited.

All dances will be taught and a partner is not necessary as the tradition is to dance with a

different person each dance. All ages are welcome.

The dance is from 7:30-10:30 p.m. and will feature singing squares, waltzes, contras, round dances and more. The caller will be Gail Griffith, who called the Founders Day dance in 2005. The band will be Sue Mead, Jim Mead

and Jim Broden, who have played for several community dances at Conkling Hall in the last four years. The dance is sponsored by the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society with help from a New York State Community Arts Grant from the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy.

It's A

Quagmire Bring Them Home Now

John and Nancy LaRocca
Mark LaRocca and Nina Nsilo Swai
Tom and Kathy Mikulka
Tim Lippert
Sonny and Sue Shufelt
James Walker
Michael and Gail Benedict
Dick Sabol
Gordon and Tracy Benson
Richard and Mary Ann Ronconi

Tim and Linda Miller
Wayne and Charlene Teter
Greg Hostash
Roger and Bonnie Gifford
George and Carolyn Dempsey
Roswell Eldridge
Bill and Barbara DeMille
Tom and Marion Frowein
Kerry McFarland

Land Conservancy Bird Walk

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy plans a Bird Walk in Rensselaerville on Mother's Day, May 14 at 8 a.m.

For more information, call 797-3139 or see hggpjb@msn.com.



-Is your vehicle(s) looking a little dull?

-Does your interior have any major odors or ugly stains in the carpets or upholstery?



-Do you have 2 vehicles? For a limited time, get 1 Full Detailing Package, & receive the second one for 1/2 price!

CALL FOR MORE DETAILS

Rensselaerville, NY 12147
 Phone: 518-797-3812
 E-mail: sgrob@yahoo.com

BRANDON A. SGROI
 Owner

Advertising Rates

RENSSELÆRVILLE Newsletter

2" x 3.5" \$30 (business card size)
 4" x 3" \$45 (double business card size, quarter of a page)
 5" x 8" \$80 half page
 8.5" x 11" \$150 full page

Please contact Town Hall if you have a full page to be separately inserted into the Newsletter

Cost of ad is for camera-ready copy. Any typing or graphics work will cost an additional \$15

Annual rate—pay in advance for entire year and get 12th month free!

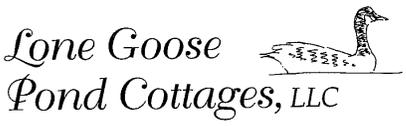
Copy due the 10th of the month preceding publication.

Bucci We even paint Aluminum Siding!
 Property Management
 & Painting

"The Right Person for the Job."

Protect and Beautify your largest investment with Professional House Painting
-Free Estimates -References Available -Insurance
 Interior & Exterior Painting

James Bucci PO Box 27
 Owner/Operator Greenburgh, NY 12147
www.JamesBucci.com Phone: 518-797-3812
James@JamesBucci.com Fax: 518-797-3812



Lone Goose
Pond Cottages, LLC

Paul J. Baitsholts & Helene G. Goldberger

(518) 797-3139
 P.O. Box 27 hggpbj@msn.com
 Rensselaerville, N.Y. 12147 www.lonegoosepond.com



Rensselaerville Realty
 LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS
FRED STETTNER
 LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

Cell 518.359.4249 260 Route 351
fred@rvillerealty.com Medusa, NY 12120
www.rvillerealty.com T 518.239.4635 • F 518.966.5998



Brandon A. Sgroi
 Owner

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
 "Making Computers & Technology Make Sense"

Computer & Technology Consulting, Training, Sales, Diagnosis & Repair

*** FREE ESTIMATES & CONSULTATIONS ***

- I sell all of the major brands of:
 - Computers, Printers, Peripherals & Audio Visual Equipment
- Network Design & Installation
 - Wired & Wireless
- High Speed Satellite Internet
- Home & Office Audio-Visual systems
 - Home Theater Design & Installations

Rensselaerville, NY 12147
 (518) 797-3812
sgroib@yahoo.com

Tutoring Services: K-8
All subjects, specializing in math

B.S., M.A., certification N-6
33 years classroom experience
Consultant for Hands-On Equations®
Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching
Who's Who Among America's Teachers



Marie Dermody
Preston Hollow, NY 12469
Phone/Fax: (518) 239-4552

TRASH REMOVAL SERVICE

Serving Rensselaerville Township
Weekly Pick-up
Residential and Commercial
STARTING AT \$20.00 PER MONTH
(tax included)
Clean-ups and other special hauling
available
Bernie Aloisi (518)239-4732

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC

NEW SERVICES & UPGRADES

260 ARNOLD RD.
PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469
(518) 239-8106



PAUL MOLLOY

Rentals
Repair
Service

WERENTALS INC.
518-966-5330
(Fax) 518-966-8121

327 Ingsalide Road
Greenville, NY 12083



MOLLOY'S GREENHOUSE

VALENE MOLLOY
2158 ROUTE 145
PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469
518-239-6141
CORNER OF 352 AND RT 145

TILE PAINTING FLOORS CATSKILL PAINT CO.

Tim Lippert 518-239-8490



Thoroughbred & Trotter Boarding

Fruit tree sales
Fruit Plant Nursery

Fields of Glory Farm
(518) 239-5902

Jim & Theresa Glorioso 232 Knowles Road
Mastercard & Visa Accepted Preston Hollow, N.Y. 12469

Sparkle Painting Company

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR • SUMMER HOME MAINTENANCE

— Complete Home Services —

- Power Washing
- Window & Door Replacement
- Sheetrock Repair
- Shingles Preserved
- Wood Repair
- Light Carpentry
- Water • Smoke • Fire Damage Repaired

Kuno Koehler
Owner

(518) 239-6252



SHAPES

FITNESS FOR WOMEN

10741 Route 32, Greenville, NY 12083
(Opposite the Drive-in)
(518) 966-4680 • Shapes8910@aol.com

No Pressure, Just Results



Town of Rensselaerville
87 Barger Road
Medusa, NY 12120
(518) 797-3798
(518) 239-4225

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MEDUSA, NY
PERMIT NO. 11

Postal Patron

Town Hall/Highway Dept.
797-3798; 239-4225; FAX, 239-6339
TDD 1-800-662-1220

Sen. Neil Breslin, 42nd Dist.
LOB, Albany, NY 12247; 518-455-2800

Assem. John McEneny, 104th Dist.
LOB, Albany, NY 12248; 518-455-4100

County Legislature, 39th Dist.
Alexander (Sandy) Gordon, 872-2602
144 Beebe Rd., Berne, NY 12023

Albany County Highway Dept.
239-6715, 239-6710

Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911
Social number—797-3218

Tri-Village Fire Company, 911
Social number—239-6780

Medusa Fire Company, 911
Social number—239-6166

Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911
Information number—797-5233

Albany County Sheriff, 911, 765-2351

State Police, Rensselaerville & Hilltowns
911, 477-9333

Town Board Meetings
Second Thursday, 7 p.m.; Working meeting
Tuesday before regular meeting, as needed.

Town Justice Court
Mondays, 7 p.m.

Planning Board
First and third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer
Thursday, 8-10 a.m., 7-9 p.m.

Town Clerk's Hours
Monday - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, 1:30-7:30 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m.-noon

Supervisor's Hours
Seven days a week, by appointment

Assessors' Hours
Thursday, 6-8 p.m.

Assessors' Clerk Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings

Dog Control Officer
Cheryl Tefft-Baishole, 797-5201

Town Refuse Station Hours
Wednesdays, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturdays, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Water/Sewer District Meeting
First Tuesday, 7 p.m.