



# Town of Rensselaerville

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

Volume 20, Number 2

February 2009

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## December Town Board Minutes Summary

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held their Regular Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Nickelsberg and the roll was called with the following results:

**PRESENT WERE:** Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg; Councilwoman Marie Dermody; Councilman J. Robert Lansing; Councilwoman Sherri Pine; Attorney Joseph Catalano; Deputy Highway Superintendent E. David Potter; Town Clerk Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

**ABSENT:** Councilman Gary Chase; Highway Superintendent G. Jon Chase

Due to an ice storm, the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting for December 11, 2008, was rescheduled to December 15, 2008.

There were 22 interested citizens present.

### PEARSON ROAD CULVERT PROJECT - BIDS

Attorney Catalano mentioned that the bids were opened at 6PM for the Pearson Road Culvert Project by Mr. Francis Bossolini of Ingalls & Associates. Mr. Bossolini mentioned that bids were advertised for, 20 sets were sold; we received 8 bids. The apparent low bid was from Dan's Hauling and Demolition for \$298,000.00. Mr. Bossolini will review all the bid packages and make a recommendation to the Town Board at the January meeting of the lowest responsible bidder. Mr. Bossolini announced that bids were received from Dan's Hauling & Demo Inc., Schoenecker Construction, Carver Construction, Steven Miller General Contracting, Del Signor Blacktop Paving Inc., James H. Molay, Inc., Rifenburg Contracting Corp., and Pol-lard Excavating.

The contract is expected to be executed in March with work to begin in June.

### PUBLIC HEARING - LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF THE YEAR 2008 - A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION ON REAL PROPERTY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON LIMITED INCOMES"

The one for disabilities, it says it has to be certified. What if the person doesn't have enough credits to receive it? Councilwoman Pine, you have to go in and apply and the assessors will let you know if you qualify or not.

Attorney Catalano mentioned that the Town has to follow State Law. You have to check with the Assessors on this law.

Is it just social security disability or other social security benefits that qualify?

Attorney Catalano was not sure. What other would apply?

Railroad disability?

Attorney Catalano, this would apply.

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that we will check on your questions and won't vote on this tonight.

(Continued on page 13)

## Library Bookmark

The Board of Trustees and the Staff of the Rensselaerville Library would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us in our recent fundraising campaign. It is the support of our generous community that allows us to continue to provide new materials and services to all of our patrons throughout the greater town of Rensselaerville. Thank you!!

**First Friday movies continue:** Please join us at **Conkling Hall on Friday, February 6 at 6:30P.M.** for *City of Ember*. Two teenagers race against time to find clues that will unlock the ancient mystery of a city's existence. Featuring Bill Murray and Tim Robbins. Run time: 95 minutes. Rated PG for mild peril and some thematic elements.

Stop by the Library on **Saturday, February 14 from 11:00-1:00** for a special **Valentine's Day Party!** There will be story-telling, crafts, valentine card-making, and games to help get into the spirit of the holiday. Call the Library at 797-3949 for more information.

Come help the Library celebrate the upcoming 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson's famed voyage up the river that now bears his name! In honor of this milestone year, we have received a UHLS/LSTA 2008-2010 grant entitled *Explore Your Shore*. Upcoming events connected to this grant include:

- **Family Scrapbooking on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00P.M.** All parents and kids are welcome to come together with your photos and personal embellishments (ticket stubs, maps, etc.) of an event and learn to scrapbook your memories together.
- **Float Your Boat on Saturday, February 21 at 11:00A.M.** Come and listen to some stories about water and boats, and then build your own out of tin foil. See who can build the strongest! This event is for kids and their parents together.

For both of the *Explore Your Shore* programs, pre-registration is required. To register for either or both, stop by the Library during operating hours, or call the librarian on duty at 797-3949.



Staff:

Candy Wilson, Director;  
Katie Caprio, Assistant;  
Barbara Husek, Assistant;  
Zachary Wellstood, Page

### Library Hours:

**Tuesday & Wednesday:**

**10:00 AM to Noon, 4:00**

**-9:00 PM**

**Thursday & Friday:**

**4:00—9:00 PM**

**Saturday: 9:00-1:00 PM**

[www.uhls.org/rvll\\_library](http://www.uhls.org/rvll_library)

The next **Library Board meeting** is on **Monday, February 16th at 7:00P.M.**



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### POST OFFICE INFORMATION

Rensselaerville: 797-3231

Medusa: 239-4826

Preston Hollow: 239-6111

**Conkling Hall—What's On In February**

**Friday, February 6 at 6:30 pm:** First Friday Film Series: *City of Ember* (2008). For generations, the people of the City of Ember have flourished in an amazing world of glittering lights. But Ember's once powerful generator is failing ... and the great lamps that illuminate the city are starting to flicker. Starring Tim Robbins and Bill Murray. Rated PG. Runtime: 95 minutes. Co-sponsored with the Rensselaerville Library. Adults: \$2, Children: \$1. Refreshments available or bring your own.

**Friday, February 20:** Noteworthy's Coffeehouse. Relax to the lovely voice of Courtney Blackwell. "...sweet, sweet sounds from this prolific singer-song writer. She is rising, go see her now so you can say I saw her when..." Monty Roberts, *The Hilltown Gazette*, Wilkes Barre, PA. Doors open at 7:30 PM. Music begins

at 8:00 PM. Suggested donation: \$10. Coffee, tea, and desserts available.

**Pilates:** Saturdays 9-10 am Mat class. Strengthen your abdominals, gain long, lean muscles and work with good alignment. Appropriate for all levels. Open to all. Please call Sara Nelson Weiss 239-6825 for more information.

**Yoga:** Tuesdays 9 - 10:15 am. Move, breathe and relax. Good for what ails you. Open to all. Please call Sara Nelson Weiss 239 6825 for more information.

**You can contact Conkling Hall at 518 797 3459 or read our website at [www.ConklingHall.org](http://www.ConklingHall.org).** We send frequent email announcements/reminders about our events. If you wish to be added to the list, please give us your email address at [ConklingHall@earthlink.net](mailto:ConklingHall@earthlink.net).



Methodist Hill Road  
Rensselaerville, NY  
(518) 797- 3459



**Town Hall will be closed on  
February 16, 2009  
in observance of President's Day**



**THANK YOU BOB, ...**

for volunteering your time to install the new toilet & entryway bulbs. We appreciate your interest in our Town & workplace.

Thank you from the Front Office.



**EXTRA TAX COLLECTION HOURS**

January 31, 2009 and February 28, 2009  
10 AM to 2PM.

No late fees during the month of January  
1% late fee during the month of February  
2% late fee during the month of March



If you have any questions, please contact  
Kathleen A. Hallenbeck,  
Town Clerk/Collector

518-797-3798 or 518-239-4225

## Senior Corner

**Need Information?** Elder Source Line (447-7177) has information about Senior Services to help in a variety of ways. Call between 8:30AM-12:30PM Monday through Friday. Call for free assistance with housing options, insurance counseling, benefits and entitlements, community resources, adult daycare, and caregiver options. This program is funded by United Way of Northeastern New York and Senior Services of Albany Foundation.

**Senior Citizens Club:** We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Medusa Firehouse at noon. \$1.00 is collected. ALL senior citizens are invited to join the club. Please bring a covered dish to share and/or dessert. Members need to bring their own plates and utensils. Coffee is provided.

## Discussion Board Added to Website

A discussion board has been added to the Town website. It is intended as a forum for citizens to discuss issues effecting the Town, to share information regarding local events, and anything happening locally.

Posts are viewable by everyone and only requires creating a username and password if you wish to post a message. Files can also be loaded to facilitate sharing information between individuals and groups.

Shawn Styer  
Rensselaerville.com Webmaster

**Senior Van:** Tuesday: Bryant's Center, Greenville Thursday: Cobleskill (Wal-Mart) Monday, Wednesday and Friday: Van is available to travel to doctor appointments. Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 regarding scheduling and/or arranging for van pick up.

**Helderberg Senior Services:** Lunches are served Monday through Friday at noon for \$3.75. The Grange would appreciate one day advance notice. Call Marie at 797-3652 between 9:00AM-1:00PM for information and reservations.

**We need volunteer drivers!!!!** If you have a valid driver's license and could volunteer a couple hours of your time now and then, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathy Hallenbeck, Town Clerk, for more details.



## Wind Study Committee



Our Wind Study Committee is beginning their work and invite you to participate.....

- Come to meetings as you can. The meeting schedule is posted on the town website. Click on the Wind Study Committee link
- Offer your suggestions during or after the meeting. You can contact Noel Abbott, Committee Chairman, at (518) 239-4717 or email: [noel@surferz.net](mailto:noel@surferz.net) or any other committee member. The roster is posted on the town website.
- Stay informed any way that works for you. Clear and short meeting minutes will be posted on the town website in a timely manner.
- Receive the meeting minutes by email. Email Noel ([noel@surferz.net](mailto:noel@surferz.net)) to receive the meeting minutes as soon as they are finalized.

All thoughts, comments, and suggestions are welcome.

Noel Abbott  
Windy Study Committee

**Extra Helpings Food Buying Club — Available to Everyone**

Extra Helpings is a program of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and is offered to the community through The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC) in Westerlo. The program is open to all individuals regardless age or income. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and the menus being offered. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings will still be published one month in advance. February's Extra Helpings menus are as follows:

- February's Regular menu: \$21.00**  
 2.5 lbs. Beef Bottom Roast  
 3 lbs. I.Q.F. Boneless Chicken Breast  
 1 lb. Sweet Italian Sausage Links  
 1 lb. Pkg. Hamburger  
 1 bag Red Seedless Grapes  
 1 bag Broccoli

- Special #1: \$ 13.00**  
 5 lb. block Sliced American Cheese

- Special # 2: \$ \$ 20.00 PASTA BOX**  
 8 oz. Stuffed Shells  
 12 oz. Sun-dried Tomato Stuffed Shells  
 12 oz. Spinach Stuffed Rigatoni  
 13 oz. Lg. Round Ravioli  
 16 oz. Tri-color Tortellini

- 13 oz. Potato and Cheese Pierogi  
 8 oz. Manicotti  
 2 qts. Casa Visco Spaghetti Sauce

- Special #3: \$32.00 MEAT BOX**  
 2.5 lbs. Beef Chuck Pot Roast  
 3 lbs. I.Q.F. Boneless Chicken Breast  
 3 lbs. Rope Sweet Italian Sausage (2/1.5 lbs.)  
 3 lbs. Pepper Steaks  
 2 lbs. Bulk Breakfast Sausage (4/8 oz. rolls)  
 (Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by **February 5th** for pick-up on February 24, 2009. HCRC distributes Extra-Helpings at the Rensselaerville Firehouse from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. and at St. Bernadette's Church in Berne from 11:30 to 12:00 p.m. on delivery days. The pick-up site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra-Helpings or other Hilltowns Community Resource Center services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is P.O. Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.



**All You Can Eat  
 BREAKFAST  
 7 TO 11 A. M.**

**FEB. 21st  
 MAR. 21st  
 APR. 18th**

**MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY  
 Free Will Offering**



### *Church Services*

#### ***Preston Hollow Baptist Church***

Route 145, Preston Hollow,  
239-6544  
Worship: Sunday - 11:00AM

#### ***Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church***

Summer Session Worship - 11:00AM  
Coffee Hour following Mass

#### ***United Church of Christ***

Medusa, 239-6119  
Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM

#### ***Trinity Episcopal Church***

Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville,  
797-5395  
Holy Eucharist & Church School Sunday  
11:00AM

#### ***Potter Hollow Union Church***

4824 Potter Hollow Mountain Road  
Potter Hollow, 263-4478  
Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM  
Coffee Hour & Sunday School—11:30AM  
Call for Bible Study and Prayer Group



### ***Matching Grant Received***

Trinity Episcopal Church Rensselaerville has received a \$5000 matching grant from New York Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Program to conduct an existing conditions survey of the Church Building which will serve as a base to determine preservation and improvement efforts required for future generations to use and enjoy this historic structure. A local match has also been received and a nationally recognized Conservation Architect has been retained to perform the survey. Once the survey is completed, the Vestry will present options to the congregation for improvements. The Church building was erected in 1815 and it is the goal to secure funding to implement the improvements in time for the Bicentennial celebration in 2015.

### ***Neighbors to the Rescue***

On November 17th, a 60-foot silo collapsed on the Lewisdale Farm, leaving behind approximately 560 tons of debris. With only 2 phone calls made, over 20 people showed up on the 18th to help in any way possible. This includes the Town of Rensselaerville Highway Department, S. W. Wood Construction, Pearson Excavation, Operator Bob Bolte, and others too numerous to mention. Through organized chaos, the debris was cleaned up in 8 hours. Although our insurance claims have been denied and the silage is a loss, we are thankful no injuries were sustained.

We are extremely grateful to our friends and neighbors who came as far as 40 miles to assist with the cleanup. Without your time and equipment, it would not have been possible.

David, Vanessa, Becky, and Susan Lewis  
Lewisdale Farm



## Summary of Town of Rensselaerville Planning Board Minutes December 4, 2008—7:30pm

Present: R. Bates; A. Wright; M. Fraser, Chair; F. Stettner; R. Welsh; R. Amedure; R. Platel; J. Kosich  
Absent: D. Cotter

Meeting called to order by M. Fraser at 7:33pm.

Motion to approve 11/08 minutes made by A. Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Bates

Motion to approve 11/20 minutes made by R. Welsh; 2<sup>nd</sup> by F. Stettner

### Minor Subdivision SBL 149-1-18

Final Plat submitted with existing housing envelope shown. Public hearing closed and SEQR (neg. dec.) completed at the 11/20/08 meeting. J. Kosich prepared the resolution -- read by R. Welsh. R. Welsh made a motion to approve the minor subdivision; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Wright. All were in favor; none were opposed and the motion was carried. Resolution signed. R. Platel will send a copy to applicant. Mylars and paper maps stamped and signed.

### Pre-application conference for **lot line adjustment 011-2008** on **SBL 149-1-16** —

Applicant proposes to annex two pieces of her land to neighboring property owners of SBL 149-1-6 and SBL 149-1-5. Discussion about amount of road frontage the applicant will retain. Both parcels to be annexed are clearly marked by stonewalls. Any questions or comment from the Board? Proposal improves existing lot configurations. Applicant submitted aerial photo. Applicant needs to submit applications, copies of deeds of all three parcels, copies of surveys of parcels, scale drawings; proposed language for deeds submitted.

Question from audience member about a tax merger.

There was no further business. Motion to adjourn was made by R. Welsh; 2<sup>nd</sup> by F. Stettner at 8:18pm.

Submitted by Rebecca Platel



## The Palmer House Café

Main Street Rensselaerville, NY

(518) 797 3449

Open for dinner & drinks Thurs. – Sun. @ 5 PM

Join us for Michael Benedict & his Jazz Band's CD Release Party on  
Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Music starts @ 6:30 ~\*~ Special Tapas Menu ~\*~ Drink Specials ~\*~ \$5 cover**

*Reservations appreciated, but not necessary.*

### NEED HELP PAYING YOUR HEATING BILLS?

The following Fuel Assistance Outreach dates have been scheduled:

- 02/02/09 Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm
- 02/05/09 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- 02/18/09 WIC, Lutheran Church, Berne, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 03/02/09 Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm
- 03/05/09 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- 03/11/09 Hilltown Family Center, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm
- 03/12/09 Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm
- 04/02/09 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- 04/06/09 Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm
- 04/15/09 WIC, Lutheran Church, Berne, 9:30am-12:30pm
- 05/07/09 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- 05/04/09 Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm
- 05/13/09 Hilltown Family Center, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm
- 05/14/09 Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm

**Cornell Cooperative Extension/CHOICES**  
**Faith Plaza, Route 9W**  
**Ravena, NY 12143**  
**756-8650**

**\*You can apply any day between 8:30am-4:00pm at CHOICES**

### News from Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer

Mark Overbaugh, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, reports that he has started his continuing education courses for 2009. The office is working on contacting residents for renewing permits for on-going building projects. We ask that residents notify this office if a project is complete and they have not yet filed for a CofC (Certificate of Completion) or CofO (Certificate of Occupancy).

In addition, the Zoning Department continues to work on zoning violations. Mark is also working with the Zoning Review Committee. Permit activity can be found in the Town Board summary minutes for December.



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## 2009 Appointments

Town Attorney - Joseph Catalano  
 Deputy Town Attorney - Jon Kosich  
 Town Veterinarian - Dr. Dianne Biederman  
 Civil Defense Coordinators - Brian Wood, David Chase  
 Civil Defense Coordinator - Gerald Wood  
 Deputy Highway Superintendent - E. David Potter  
 Water Treatment Officer, Sewage Treatment Officer - Tina Shaver  
 Deputy Water Treatment, Sewage Treatment Officers - Garrett Platel, Delwin Shaver  
 Water Committee Member - Jack Long (1/1/09 - 12/31/14)  
 Clerk 2 to Assessors - Rachel Chase  
 Dog Control Officer - Cheryl Baitsholts  
 Refuse/Recycling Officer - Jon Whitbeck  
 Substitute Refuse/Recycling Officer - Ronald Bates, Arthur McCulloch  
 Historian - Irene Olson  
 Planning Board Member - Dorothea Cotter (1/1/09 - 12/31/15)  
 Planning Board Chairman - Muriel Frasher  
 Planning Board/Zoning Board Secretary - Rebecca Platel  
 Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer - Mark Overbaugh  
 Zoning Board of Appeals Member - Roger Gifford (1/1/09 - 12/31/13)  
 Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman - Alden Pierce  
 Registrar of Vital Statistics - Kathleen A. Hallenbeck  
 Deputy Town Clerk, Tax Collector/Registrar - Dee Andrus  
 Court Clerks - Gail La Plante, Lynette Terrell  
 Records Inventory Clerk - Dee Andrus  
 Senior Employee - Ronald Bates  
 Engineer to Town - Tabled  
 Clerk to Highway Superintendent - Joyce Chase  
 Clerk to Building/Code Enforcement Officer - Rachel Chase  
 Town Accountant - Tabled  
 Newsletter Coordinator - Nancy Class  
 Assistant to Newsletter - Georgette Koenig  
 Senior Services Coordinators - Ann Vogel, Clara Potter  
 Assistant Senior Services - Arthur Pizzigati  
 Constable - Richard Simons  
 Mileage - \$.585  
 Official Newspaper - Altamont Enterprise  
 Depositories - The Bank of Greene County  
 Meeting Date - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7 PM; Work Meeting - Tuesday before the second Thursday  
 Financial Report - due 60 days after the close of business  
 Association of Towns Meeting in February - Delegate: Gary Chase; Alternate: Sherri Pine  
 Wages and payment schedule adopted



THANK YOU  
 TO THE PATRIOTIC AMERICAN  
 WHO ANONYMOUSLY REPLACED  
 OUR FLAG AT THE TOWN HALL ~  
 It is greatly appreciated!

## Hilltown Market & Natural Food Co-op Lives

A rejuvenated board and motivated community have made the difference in leading us through what was a challenging November and December. Thank you to all the helping hands. As winter moves on, we'll continue to need your support to survive through these lean times. We're now fully run by working member volunteers. As the store - *your store* - moves into its third year of existence, we can proudly lay claim to the title of Food Cooperative.

The store is well-stocked and new brand names are sitting on the shelves beside tried and true favorites that were there previously. We are striving to satisfy our diverse community's needs, desires, and hopes for your local corner grocery store. We're working to transform the community's requests into action. Come in to shop for local milk, eggs, cheeses, meats, onions, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, and more. You can even special order bulk and case products at a 10% discount.

Should you want to volunteer, join a committee, join the board, become a paid member, or share your comments on the Hilltown Market Co-op, feel free to call the store (797-3144) or email board president, Justin Behan, at [justinlakebehan@yahoo.com](mailto:justinlakebehan@yahoo.com). Comments and suggestions are also welcome at our board meetings. The board meets next on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm. Contact a board member if you wish to attend.

Our winter hours are: Mon - Weds 1-7. We are closed Thursday. Fri 9-7, Sat 9-5 and Sun 10-1. Come enjoy shopping with our friendly member workers - your friends, family, and neighbors helping to keep local food and local business alive.

## It's A Quagmire! Bring Them Home Now

**John & Nancy La Rocca; Mark La Rocca & Nina Nsilo Swai; Tim Lippert;  
Tom & Kathy Mikulka; Sonny & Sue Shufelt; Michael & Gail Benedict;  
Jeff & Sherri Pine; Justin Mikulka & Elise VanAllen; Kerry McFarland;  
Robert and Beth Whiteman; Gordon & Elise Enk; Richard & Nadia Creamer;  
Sue & Jay McChesney; George & Carolin Dempsey; Richard & Mary Ann Ronconi;  
Greg Hostash; Roswell Eldridge; Roger and Bonny Gifford; James Walker;  
Robert Scardamalia; Bill & Barbara DeMille; Tom & Marion Frowein;  
Cynthia Willis; Dick Sabol; Dave & Mary Bryan; Ben Bryan; Emily Bryan;  
Bill & Kathie Quackenbush; Virginia Carter; Joann Eckstut; Tim & Linda Miller;  
Wayne & Charlene Teter; Kevin & Katherine Ceroala; Rich & Linda Snyder; Robert Mitchell and  
Cecile Gleason; Jenny Shufelt; Greg & Diane Bischoff; Helen Tworkov; Gordon & Tracy Benson;  
Dian Ryan; M. Steven Dickerson; Kathy Daniels; Phil Sheehan and Nancy Ortner.  
**Groups and Organizations:** The Chatham Peace Initiative; Veterans for Peace (Hudson Valley); NY Veterans Speak Out; Olean Area Coalition for Peace and Justice; Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace; Troy Peace Action; Upper Hudson Peace Action; Women Against War; Veterans for Peace (Chapter 10, The Tom Paine Chapter); Schenectady Neighbors for Peace; Vietnam Veterans Against the War; PaxChristiMi.org;  
Michigan Peace Works; Vietnam Veterans for America**

Say it out loud if you think it. +++++ Thank You To New York Civil Liberties Union

*Paid Advertisement*



**US Census Test  
Saturday  
January 31, 2009  
11:00 AM & 1:00 PM  
Rensselaerville Town Hall**

**Please call the phone number below to reserve your place.**

The 2010 Census - A Great Way to Earn Extra Money NOW

Please note that the US Census Bureau is recruiting NOW to hire thousands of temporary part-time census takers for the 2010 Census in the Capital District. The pay is good (\$11.00 - \$18.75, depending upon the job), the hours are flexible, and the work is close to home.

**CALL 866-861-2010 to apply.**

The Census practice test is available here:

[http://www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Pratice\\_Test.pdf](http://www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Pratice_Test.pdf)

Census taker jobs are excellent for retirees, college students, persons who want to work part-time, persons who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community.

Every 10 years, a census of our population is conducted. The results help determine your representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent in your community on things like roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. As a census taker, you'll play a vital role in making sure that everyone is included.

All census takers must be able to speak English, but bilingual skills in English and other languages are needed in communities that have a large number of residents who speak a language other than English. If you have such skills, we encourage you to apply.

Besides good pay, you'll have flexible hours, paid training, and the chance to work within your own community. You'll earn a place in history, as well as work experience you can add to your resume.

For further information, go here:

<http://www.census.gov/2010census>

## Valentine's Day Breakfast Ideas



Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut shapes out of your breakfast pancakes. Serve with a knob of butter, a drizzle of maple syrup, and some red berries.

Make a heart-shaped fried egg, placing a metal cookie cutter into your greased frying pan and breaking the egg into it.



Cut a heart shape from the center of a slice of bread using a cookie cutter. Melt a knob of butter in a frying pan, then place the bread into the pan. Break an egg carefully into the hole and fry them both together, turning carefully when the egg is nearly set.

Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut hearts out of your morning toast, and spread thickly with strawberry jam.

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**Authorized dealer**

## YOU'VE GOT CHOICES *When it comes to TV Programming*



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100 CHANNELS  
**\$39.99/mo**

**ADD dishHD™**  
for just \$10/mo

**3 MONTHS FREE PROGRAMMING**  
with 24 month commitment

**BETTER THAN TV®**

**BEST HD DVR FREE UPGRADE**  
36.99/mo DVR (model Pro-5000)

- Shows up to 800 hours\*\*
- View all recorded shows from 2 rows\*
- Pause, record, replay your favorite shows

### SIX REASONS WHY DISH Network TV Is The Best TV

- 1** DISH Network has the best value in satellite TV entertainment with the lowest all-digital price nationwide...every day!
- 2** DISH Network has the best sports and movies in HD with over 70 of the most popular HD channels available today and more to come.
- 3** DISH Network has the best HD DVR with the largest recording capacity in the industry. cnet.com review 10/3/07
- 4** DISH Network is the leader in product innovation with consistent breakthrough technology.
- 5** DISH Network is #1 in customer satisfaction beating cable 7 years in a row.\*
- 6** DISH Network has the best offers available in satellite TV.



\*According to the 2007 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) ranks for the U.S. largest Cable & Satellite TV providers; Charter Communications, Comcast Communications, Cox Communications, DIRECTV and Time Warner Cable. Tied with DIRECTV for the highest ACSI score in 2007. \*\*300 hours recording time based on 720 model receiver. †3 Months Free offer requires participation in Digital Home Advantage with 24-month commitment and qualifying programming, including America's Top 100 or higher, DishLATINO or higher, DishHD package or a select qualifying International package. Customer receives three credits of \$9.99 each, applied to the first, fourth and seventh months of service. Customer must maintain qualifying programming service to receive all three credits. Digital Home Advantage: Requires 24-month qualifying programming purchase (minimum of DigiFAMILY, Social Security Number, valid major credit card and credit approval). Qualifying service is required prior to end of 24-month period; a cancellation fee equal to the lesser of \$240 or \$110 per cancelled month of service will apply. Equipment must be returned to DISH Network upon termination of qualifying service. Limit 4 times per account. Monthly package price includes an equipment rental fee of \$6.00 or \$2.00 for first receiver, based on selected model. A monthly equipment rental fee of \$6.00 or \$2.00 will be charged for each receiver beyond the first, based on selected model. A \$5.00/mo. additional outlet programming access fee applies for each additional receiver. Fee will be waived monthly for each receiver consistently connected to Customer's phone line. HD programming requires HD receiver and HD television (sold separately). Customer must subscribe to qualifying HD programming or a \$200/mo. HD Enabling fee will apply. Lease upgrade fee may apply for select receivers. Offer ends 2/28/08 and is available in the continental United States for new, first-time DISH Network residential customers. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local and state sales taxes may apply. Where applicable, equipment rental fees and programming are billed separately. All DISH Network programming, and any other services that are provided, are subject to the terms and conditions of the promotional agreement and Residential Customer Agreement, available at [www.dishnetwork.com](http://www.dishnetwork.com) or upon request. Local channels not available by satellite, are only available to customers who reside in the specified local Designated Market Area (DMA). Local channels may require an additional dish antenna from DISH Network, available for sale or upon request. Local channels not available at time of initial installation. Social Security Numbers are used to obtain credit scores and will not be released to third parties except for verification and collection purposes only or if required by governmental authority. All service marks and trademarks belong to their respective owners.

Paid Advertisement

## December Town Board Minutes Summary

*(Continued from page 1)*

Councilwoman Dermody, why won't we vote on this tonight? Something that is already in place, it is the income levels are changing. Whether or not a particular individual can or cannot be included should not keep us from considering everybody else. Hopefully everybody who needs it can qualify for it.

**PUBLIC HEARING - LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF THE YEAR 2008 - A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "PARTIAL TAX EXEMPTION ON REAL PROPERTY FOR COLD WAR VETERANS"**

Supervisor Nickelsberg said thank you fellows and ladies, we appreciate you. We would be a lot less without you.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF THE YEAR 2008:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to adopt Local Law No. 4 of the year 2008, a local law entitled "Partial Tax Exemption on Real Property for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities;" 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Nickelsberg.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF THE YEAR 2008:** A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to adopt Local Law No. 5 of the year 2008, a local law entitled "Partial Tax Exemption on Real Property for Cold War Veterans;" 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the minutes of the Town Board Work Meeting held on November 12, 2008; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the minutes of the Town Board Regular Meeting held on November 13, 2008; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to make the following transfers;

FROM	TO	Amount
A1990.4 General Contingency	A1320.4 Independent Auditing	\$ 980.31
A2770.1 Unclassified General Fund revenues	A1640.01 Ambulance Charge Income	38381.24
A1640.4 Central Garage	A1990.4 General Contingency	1308.24
A1990.4 General Contingency	A5010.1 Sup. Of Highways	3433.38
A1990.4 General Contingency	A5010.4 Sup. Of Highways	357.47
A1990.4 General Contingency	A1670.41 Newsletter	690.36
A1990.4 General Contingency	A3520.4 Dog Control	1798.38
A1220.4 Supervisor	A1430.1 Personnel	830.52
A1990.4 General Contingency	A1430.1 Personnel	899.34
DA599 Appropriate Fund Balance Highway	DA5142.4 Snow Removal	1557.03
DA1990.4 Highway Contingency	DA5142.4 Snow Removal	4632.29
A7510.1 Historian	A7510.4 Historian	500.00
A599 Appropriate General Fund Balance	A1930.4 Legal & Professional Fees	10472.58
A4540.5 Ambulance	A9040.8 Ambulance Work Comp.	5600.00
A1060.8 General Medical Insurance	A9050.8 Unemployment Insurance	515.00

2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**NEW ACCOUNTS:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to created a new revenue account DA2680.03- Insurance Recovery-Highway Fund - \$27,640.00 and add to DA51302.03 Machinery Equipment - \$27,640.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to create a new revenue account - DA3521.03 and add to this new account CHIPS Highway Improvement Funds - \$259,018.24. New appropriations - DA5112.2 CHIPS Project Permanent Improvements - \$143,044.35 and DA0879.3 Highway

*(Continued on page 14)*

## December Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 13)

Improvement Reserve - \$115,973.89; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.  
A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

### **WARRANT 2008-12, VOUCHERS**

The General Fund -\$21409.62; Highway Fund - \$54,802.19; Water District - \$1,383.16; Sewer District - \$98.90; Lighting District - \$926.13; FEMA - \$26,091.51; Agency & Trust - \$4,416.48

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to pay all signed vouchers; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Letters were received from Alice Schloen and Maryanne Overbaugh concerning their interest in service on the Board of Ethics. Written requests have also been received from Dianna Hinchcliff and Georgette Koenig.

Councilwoman Dermody will write an article for the newsletter to see if we can get more people interested in volunteering for this position.

### **REPORTS**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** David Potter, Deputy Highway Superintendent, reported that the highway department has all the roads open from the ice storm. They have been working on the FEMA project on Kelly Road; part of that is done.

Supervisor Nickelsberg asked where the money for Pearson Road comes from.

Attorney Catalano, some of it will come from road repairs and some of it is a FEMA project.

Supervisor Nickelsberg, it will come from capitals repairs.

The fund is about \$199,000.00.

Supervisor Nickelsberg asked how close they were in finishing the FEMA projects.

David Potter, it is very close to being done.

Attorney Catalano mentioned that, before they award the contract for the Pearson Road Project, the Town Board must be sure that they have the money to pay for it.

Supervisor Nickelsberg asked if there is fabric under Tanglewood Road and does it have macadam on it and is it in jeopardy for the winter?

Deputy Superintendent Potter mentioned that there is fabric under the road, it does not have macadam on it; this is scheduled for the spring. The road is pretty flat and some ditching is needed up toward the top. It is good for the winter.

Supervisor Nickelsberg asked about the town trucks at the restaurant in Rensselaerville; he has received complaints about this. Why don't they bring a flask of coffee to drink? Ask Superintendent Chase to consider this issue of coffee breaks.

Deputy Superintendent Potter mentioned that if they are working up in that area, they stop and get their coffee for their break. Deputy Superintendent Potter will bring this to Superintendent Chase's attention.

Supervisor Nickelsberg would like a motion to accept the fact we would like Superintendent Chase to talk to the people on the roads to make sure the breaks were confined to the time allowed and that we would try to have their coffee breaks on the job.

Councilwoman Dermody talked about the contract issue. She would like Superintendent Chase to implement that suggestion and see where it goes before we mandate it.

Supervisor Nickelsberg talked about the sharing of municipal services in Rensselaer County. This can be done in Albany County. Discussed was the consolidation of services in the towns in the County of Rensselaer.

Mr. Bolte, did the town get a bill for the Rensselaerville Water District for the work done by the Highway Department? Why is our highway department doing the work for the Water District? We taxpayers should not pay for this. The Highway Department should get reimbursed for this work. If something isn't done, he is going to the Attorney General. The law says special districts pay their own bills.

(Continued on page 15)

## December Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 14)

Attorney Catalano mentioned that it is the responsibility of the Chief Fiscal Officer (Town Supervisor) to send a memo to the highway department to get a bill and send it to the Water District. Supervisor Nickelsberg will write this letter.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** Supervisor Nickelsberg spoke about the 2009 budget and that he wanted a flat budget but they did not succeed. The budget is up about 5%. He would like to cut expenses wherever he can in the budget. He would like to have a committee of people from the Town working on where to make cuts in the budget and report their finding to the Town Board.

Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that they were fiscally responsible; they went over the budget line by line and cut the best they could. Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that we have to be careful; we just got a memo concerning an item that we used to get paid for, now we have to pay to get rid of these materials.

Supervisor Nickelsberg would like to go over the budget.

Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that they have already gone over the budget.

The following suggestions were mentioned concerning cutting the budget: cut out the cell phones, buy a water cooler and turn in the rented one, put in programmable thermostats, cut out the coffee vendor.

Are you using the waste oil furnace and why isn't the waste oil furnace running?

Deputy Superintendent Potter mentioned that they are using the waste oil furnace; he turned it off for the meeting because of the noise that the blower makes.

Mr. Bowdish asked if it is hooked up to the tank yet.

No, it is not.

Why do you buy water? If we had an emergency, how would you use this building?

Deputy Superintendent Potter mentioned that the water is being tested.

Has the Town Board has ever considered using a purchase order system for purchasing items?

The Town Board has discussed this and will check into it further, perhaps asking towns that use it for advice.

Why don't you eliminate an assessor and, if you do REVAL, have the assessors do the work instead of hiring this out?

Why don't you buy on State contract?

On item A1430.1, why is the bookkeeper getting a \$7000.00 raise? She doesn't do our payroll, double entry bookkeeping; she does less work than the other bookkeepers.

Councilwoman Dermody, the rate of pay stayed the same; the hours increased.

There is a \$10,000 increase in A5110.1, what is this for?

This is the salary for the Clerk; it was under another line item last year. She did not get a raise.

The Town has paid the same bill to Carver twice.

Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that the Board needs to see this and check into it.

FOIL was discussed concerning the vouchers and bills.

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that he is going to talk to Camp Cass about using their gym. He will also discuss with them about using their facility in an emergency; they are self-contained.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept Supervisor Nickelsberg's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**DRAFT LAKE MYOSOTIS DAM FAILURE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN:** Rebecca Platel submitted to the Town Board a copy of the draft Lake Myosotis Dam Failure Emergency Action Plan. She would like the Town Board to review this draft plan and get comments to her by the end of December.

(Continued on page 16)

## December Town Board Minutes Summary

*(Continued from page 15)*

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:** Town Clerk Hallenbeck reported the following collected for the month of November 2008. Total collected - \$7,380.25; Paid to Supervisor (fees, General Fund ) - \$227.54; Paid to Supervisor (Highway Department) - \$6095.00; Paid to Albany County Treasurer (Dog Lic.) - \$5.87; Paid to NYS Environmental Conservation (Sport Lic.) - \$1051.84.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:** CEO Overbaugh submitted three quotes for a chimney inspection camera. South Coast Equipment, 4 McLaren Suite C, Irene, CA 96218 submitted a quote for \$569.00. They also submitted a quote for an air duct video inspection system for \$695.00. Elite Deals.com submitted a quote of \$1751.99 for a RoVac black and white chimney camera and case.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the quote from South Coast Equipment, 4 McLaren Suite C, Irene, CA for \$569.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

CEO Overbaugh reports the following permits issued for the month of November 2008: 1 Building repair, 1 Accessory Building, and 1 Building New Accessory. Total collected for the month - \$81.00.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Catalano reported that American Towner is sending the structural analysis for the Tower. The tower is structurally sound. The report will be forwarded to the Building Inspector. He also mentioned that the light on the tower is out. They will check on this.

Can get American Tower to come out every once in a while to check on the tower?

Attorney Catalano, he will let CEO Overbaugh take care of this; perhaps if we write a letter to them once a year asking them to do a an inspection on the tower.

Supervisor Nickelsberg asked that he or Jon Kosich attend the Zoning Board meetings so that they always have an attorney present at their meetings. Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that two of the last four meetings there wasn't an attorney present.

Attorney Catalano will make sure there is an attorney at these meetings.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to accept Attorney Catalano's monthly report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

Gerald Wood thanked the Highway Department for their help in keeping the roads clear during a large fire in Potter Hollow.

David Lewis thanked the Town crew for all their help when their silo collapsed. Everyone worked together and got everything cleaned up quickly.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **RENSSELAERVILLE SEWER DISTRICT**

##### **TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE - UNPAID SEWER RENTS**

A Tax Anticipation Note is to borrow funding to balance out the Sewer District funds due to the fact that there are unpaid sewer rents for 2008. This will be levied onto the property owners' tax bills for collection in 2009 and the Note will be paid when the funds are received from the re-levy.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody authorizing Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign and execute this Tax Anticipation Note for \$5235.50 for the Rensselaerville Sewer District; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Nickelsberg.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

#### **RENSSELAERVILLE WATER DISTRICT**

**TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE - UNPAID WATER RENTS:** The Tax Anticipation Note is to borrow funding to balance out the water district funding for 2008 for the unpaid water rents.

*(Continued on page 17)*

## December Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 16)

A motion by Councilwoman Dermody authorizing the Supervisor to sign and execute the Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$4690.00 for the Rensselaerville Water District; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE:** The Water District has a Bond Anticipation Note that must be renewed. The amount paid his year will be \$5000.00 on the principal plus interest in the amount of \$1,035.03. The new BAN will be issued for \$16,800.00. We are waiting for the interest rate from Key Bank in order to send in the paperwork.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to renew the Bond Anticipation Note for \$16,800.00 for 2009 and authorize the Supervisor to sign these documents. (\$5000.00 will paid on the on the principal which at this time is \$21,800.00, \$1035.03 will be paid in interest); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**WIND POWER COMMITTEE:** The Town Board discussed setting up an advisory committee to work on wind facility. Noel Abbott is interested in working on this committee.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to appoint Noel Abbott Chairperson to this Advisory Committee to work on wind power; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

The Town Board would like Mr. Abbott to get some volunteers to work on the committee. Mr. Abbott mentioned that he would coordinate with the Town Board, Zoning Board, and the Code Enforcement Officer. He sees the committee as establishing the groundwork that would support the Town laws allowing the town to maintain control of its own destiny. If we have a good law, it would give landowners the tools and the information so they would understand what would make a viable agreement for them and for the Town. Appropriate groundwork would enable the Town to receive income in such a way that it would offset our tax base.

Councilwoman Dermody would like the committee to be representative of the entire town.

**CPA:** Councilwoman Pine mentioned that the CPA who works for the Town of New Scotland is interested in applying for this position as CPA for the Town; he is sending a resume.

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that Mike Torchia from the firm of Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, Hudson, NY is also interested.

These people will be contacted to do an interview before the end of the year.

### NEW BUSINESS

**FINAL MEETING:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to hold the Final Meeting for 2008 at 7 PM on December 30, 2008; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Lansing.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:** Supervisor Nickelsberg would like the Board to know his and Councilman Lansing's opinions on appointments. Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that they would listen to his opinions in an executive session on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to hold the Organizational Meeting on January 1, 2008 at 11 AM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

representative from Civil Service on Wednesday; he will have to reschedule this meeting.

**POSTAGE METER:** The current postage meter will no longer be usable after January 1, 2009 due to changes on the postal system. Town Clerk Hallenbeck compared the cost of the postage meter verses postage and envelopes from the US Postal Service. It is cheaper to use the meter.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign the contract for the new postage machine

## December Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 17)

from Hasler, Inc. for \$41.75 per month; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Lansing.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**PURCHASE ORDER SYSTEM:** The Town Board briefly discussed the use of the purchase order system for ordering and paying for materials versus the voucher system. The Town Board needs to investigate the purchase order system to see how it works. Supervisor Nickelsberg will check with the Town of Berne to see if they use this system.

**MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY - PLAYGROUND:** The Medusa Fire Company would like to purchase a shed to be used to house the equipment for the playground, they submitted three quotes. Quotes for a 12X16 foot Tall barn were received from Backyard Sheds & Gazebos Inc., Shed Depot, and TJ's Barns & Outdoor Furniture.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to accept the bid from Backyard Sheds & Gazebos Inc. for \$2900.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE:** Councilwoman Dermody read the following memo from Patricia Britton, Bookkeeper. In budget preparation meetings in November, the Town Board agreed that they would Resolve to create A Highway Equipment Reserve with \$60,000.00 as the initial Reserve utilizing the 2007 budget line item for Highway Equipment unexpended in 2007 and currently available as unrestricted Highway Checking Funds. This resolve to reserve the above funds factored in the Board's decision to reduce the Highway Superintendent's request for a \$90,000 line item for Equipment in 2009 to only a \$30,000.00 Equipment line item in the 2009 budget, as this new Reserve would provide the source funds for the difference in equipment appropriations originally requested by the Highway Superintendent.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to create a Highway Equipment Reserve and to transfer the \$60,000.00 from the unexpended highway checking fund into that new account; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Lansing.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** Comments were heard from the audience concerning the salt and sand issue, the ice storm and why didn't the Institute offer their facility for people who did not have electricity. Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that the December newsletter was the first newsletter we published in -house; the cost was \$119.00 for 1125 copies. The month before the cost to do it at a printer was \$1192.00. We have cut \$1000.00 off the cost of the newsletter.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Nickelsberg. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted;

Kathleen A. Hallenbeck  
Town Clerk

NOTE: Full Town Board Minutes can be found on the Town website ([www.rensselaerville.com](http://www.rensselaerville.com)) or at the Town Hall.

*Volunteer News and Events*

**Medusa Volunteer Fire Department**

*Company Meeting:* Monday, February 2nd, at 8:00 PM  
*Drill & Work Meeting:* Monday February 9th and February 16th at 7:00PM  
*Special Events:* Clam Chowder— February 6, and March 6 See ad on page 11  
 All You Can Eat Breakfast—See ad on page 5

**Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department**

Is that a knock I hear on the firehouse door? A volunteer? Welcome, we can always use more....  
 Total calls during 2008: 58  
 Calls as of January 12, 2009: 1

**February:**

2<sup>nd</sup> - 7pm Company Drill  
 4<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Ladies Battalion  
 9<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Company Drill  
 15<sup>th</sup> - 8sm-11 Pancake Breakfast  
 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm Company Meeting

**March:**

2<sup>nd</sup> - 7pm Company Drill  
 4<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Ladies Battalion  
 9<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Company Drill  
 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm Company Meeting  
 28<sup>th</sup> - 4pm-6 Battalion Chicken Barbeque

**Special Events - February:**

2/15 - 8am to 11 am - Pancake Breakfast - Fight Cabin Fever and Bring your Sweetheart for something Sweet on the 15<sup>th</sup>!!

**Looking into the future:**

3/28 - 4pm to 6pm Take Out Chicken Barbeque Pre-sale tickets available in February  
 4/11 - 2pm - Easter Egg Hunt

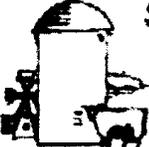
**Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Department**

*Company Meeting:* Wednesday, February 4th at 8:00PM

**Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance Department**

*Company Meeting:* Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00PM

**Thoroughbred & Trotter Horse Boarding**  
**Stall or Rough board**



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 Fruit Plant Nursery  
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 Preston Hollow, N.Y. 12469

## New Projects Announced for History and Genealogy of the Albany Hilltowns

Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Rensselaerville Historical Society

A new project is underway to document the history of the four Albany County Hilltowns and the genealogy of the people who lived there in the past.

The term "Hilltowns" is commonly used to describe four towns in the Helderberg mountains in western Albany County: Berne, Knox, Westerlo and Rensselaerville. From 1790 to 1795 these were all part of the Town of Rensselaerville.

The new project was conceived and is being developed by Berne native Hal Miller, brother of Berne's Town Historian Ralph Miller. The project consists of three parts: a book project, a Wikipedia website where anyone can add new information or correct entries that are already there, and an Internet social site where members can exchange information.

The first book in the ambitious book project will be one on the Civil War and Hilltown men who served in the Union Army. This topic was chosen because 2011 will be the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. It will tell how the war affected the towns and their families. People are being asked to write about, or at least contribute information about, their ancestors who served. Copies of photos, letters written home from the soldiers, death notices, pension requests, military papers, pictures of tombstones, family stories, etc. are being sought.

Those who had a Hilltown ancestor who served in the Civil War are being asked to post the ancestor's biography on Albanyhilltowns.com. Make sure the biography has a section on their service in the Civil War, then add a link under the Civil War page reached from the bottom of the Main Page.

Michael Grant Hait, Jr. will serve as the editor for the Civil War book. He lives in the Washington, DC area and thus has access to the National Archives. He is currently writing a book on Civil War soldiers.

The Wikipedia website Albanyhilltowns.com is focused on the history of the four Hilltowns and the families that lived there. It has pages for individual farms, houses, and families. Under Families there are pages for biographies, family stories, family history and genealogical charts. Anyone having information on these topics is invited to create and edit these pages. Biographies are proving especially popular.

The internet social site is on Facebook.com and the group is called Albany County Hilltowns History and Genealogy. After joining Facebook.com, members can post and exchange information on the history of the Hilltowns and their ancestors who lived there.

Another internet site that has information about area genealogy is the Berne Historical Project site Berne-history.org. Since Berne was once a part of the Town of Rensselaerville and the site already has many Rensselaerville families on it, the name Berne Families Genealogy has recently been changed to Albany Hilltowns Genealogy to more accurately reflect the scope of the area it covers.

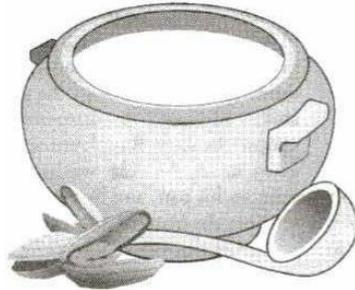
Russ Tallman who has done a lot of family research on his family and has published books on his family has agreed to head up writing and editing the sections on Rensselaerville. For additional information about these projects, e-mail Hal Miller at [halned1@gmail.com](mailto:halned1@gmail.com) or Russ Tallman at [tallman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:tallman@nycap.rr.com).

Hal Miller has uploaded a file of Hilltown men in the Civil War. Their names are listed at the bottom of the home page at AlbanyHilltowns.com and we have printed them here for your convenience. If one of these men is an ancestor of yours and you can furnish information about him, please contact Hal.

These are the surnames of the men Hal has found so far who were in the Civil War and hailed from the Hilltowns:

Allen, Ball, Barber, Barckley, Baxter, Bell, Beller, Bennett, Best, Billings, Blade, Bogardus, Boomhower, Brate, Bronk, Cary, Champenois, Chesbro, Chrysler, Clow, Condon, Cummings, Davis, Denison, Devoe, Dietz, Ecker, Engle, Filkins, Flansburgh, Flint, Gathan, Gibbs, Haight, Haverly, Hayes, Hinman, Hochstrasser, Hoose, Irons, Jones, Karker, Ketcham, Kilbourn, Lavery, Ludden, Martin, Mattice, McCulloch, McNary, Merrihew, Miller, Newberry, Osterhout, Palmer, Posson, Post, Reinhart, Requa, Resue, Sagendorf, Secor, Shafer, Shay, Shultes, Sinclair, Slade, Smith, Snyder, Stafford, Stalker, Stanton, Steiner, Stonet, Strvell, Stringham, Taylor, Van Vleek, Wagoner, Walden, Warner, West, Westfall, Wilber, Willsey, Wilson, Wnne, Wisegarver, Wood, Wright, and Zeh.

# **CLAM CHOWDER**



**AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

**FEBRUARY 6th**

**MARCH 6th**

**PICK UP AND/OR LUNCH**

**11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

**MANHATTAN OR NEW ENGLAND CHOWDER**

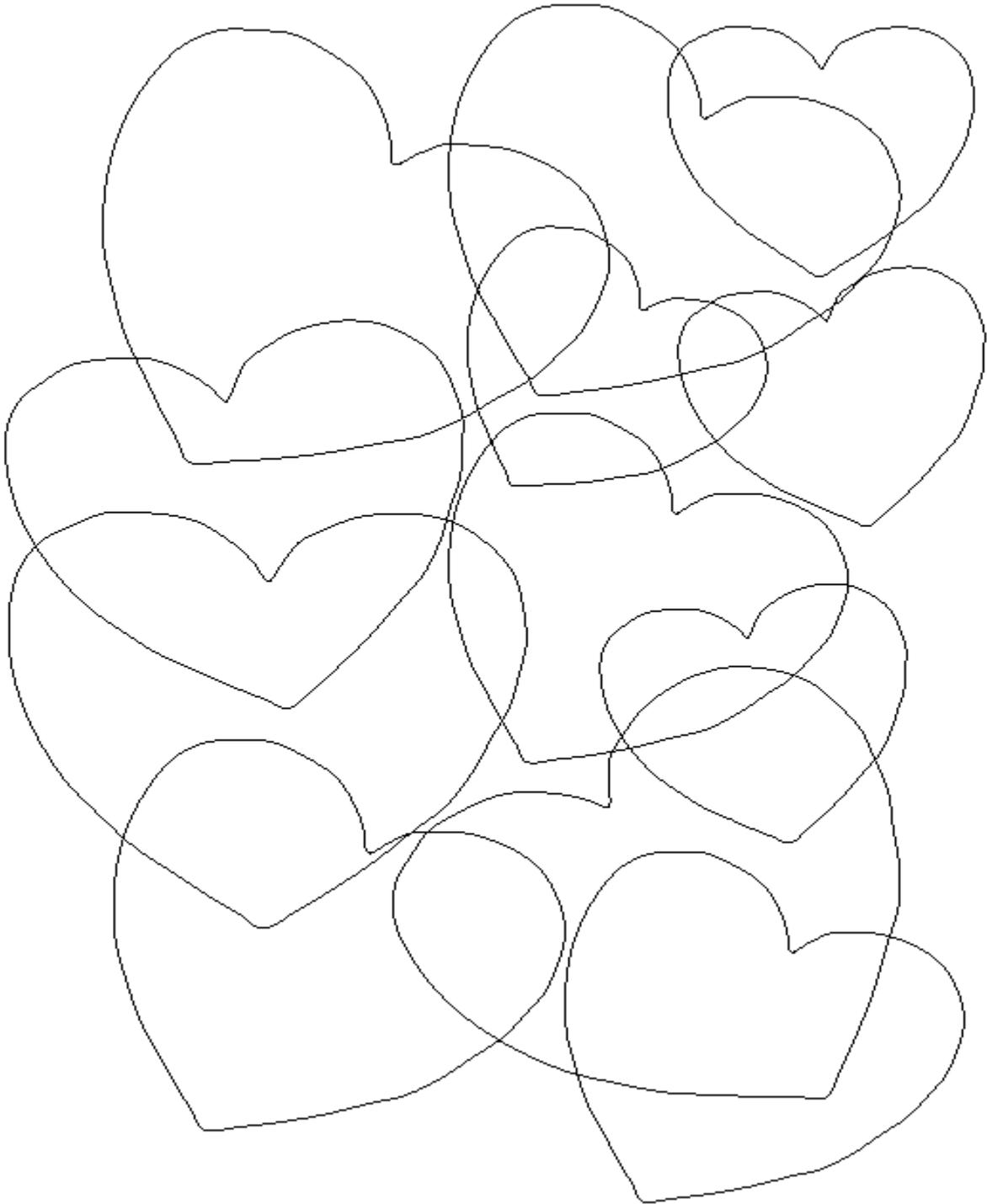
**\$5.00 PER QUART**



**PRE-ORDER OR LATE PICKUP**

**CALL 797-3455**

## How Many Hearts?



***Important Contact Information***

Town Board Meetings  
Second Thursday 7:00 pm

Working Meeting  
Tuesday 7:00 pm  
before regular meeting

Town Justice Court  
Mondays 7:00 pm

Planning Board  
First and third Thursdays 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals  
First Tuesday 7:00 pm

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer  
Thursday 8:00-10:00am, 7-9 pm

Town Clerk's Hours  
Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-3:30pm  
Thursday 1:30pm-7:30pm  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Supervisor's Hours  
Wednesdays 10am - 12 pm  
Home office 7 days 7:30am - 10:30pm

Assessors' Hours  
Thursday 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Assessors' Clerk Hours  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning

Dog Control Officer  
Cheryl Baitsholts  
518-797-5201

Town Refuse Station Hours  
Wednesday and Saturday  
7:00am-3:45pm

Water/Sewer District Meeting  
First Thursday 7:00 pm

Town Supervisor  
Jost Nickelsberg

Town Clerk & Collector  
Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

Town Justices  
Victor LaPlante,  
Victoria Kraker

Attorney for the Town  
Joseph Catalano

Deputy Town Attorney  
Jon Kosich

Councilpersons  
Gary Chase, Marie Dermody,  
J. Robert Lansing, Sherri Pine

Building Inspector  
& Code Enforcement Officer  
Mark Overbaugh

Assessors  
Jeff Pine, Peter J. Hotaling, Jr.,  
Donna Kropp  
Rachel Chase, Clerk II

Highway Superintendent  
G. Jon Chase

Planning Board  
Muriel Frasher, Chairman  
Rebecca Platel, Secretary

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Alden Pierce, Chairman  
Rebecca Platel, Secretary

Deputy Town Clerk  
Dee Andrus

Bookkeeper  
Andrea Cornwell

Town Hall  
518-797-3798  
518-239-4225  
Fax: 518-239-6339

Town Highway Department  
518-239-4225, 518-797-3798

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

Assemblyman: John McEneny,  
102nd Dist. LOB,  
Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-4100

County Legislature, 39th Dist.  
Alexander (Sandy) Gordon  
144 Beebe Road, Berne, NY 12023  
518-872-2602

Albany County Highway Dept.  
518-239-6715, 518-239-6710

Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911  
Social Number - 797-3218

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

Medusa Fire Company, 911  
Back up emergency number,  
765-5979  
Social number - 239-6166

Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911  
For Information - 518-797-5233

Albany County Sheriff, 911  
518-765-2351

State Police  
Rensselaerville and Hilltowns, 911  
518-477-9333

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Supervisor: townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com      Councilman Gary Chase: gchase@rensselaerville.com  
Town Clerk: townclerk@rensselaerville.com      Councilwoman Marie Dermody: mdermody@rensselaerville.com  
Planning Board: planningboard@rensselaerville.com      Councilwoman Sherri Pine: spine@rensselaerville.com  
Assessors: townassessors@rensselaerville.com      Newsletter: newsletter@rensselaerville.com  
Code Enforcement: codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com

Town of Rensselaerville  
87 Barger Road  
Medusa, New York 12120

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