

Newsletter

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

Volume 18, Number 3

www.rensse-laerville.com

March 2007

Land Use Plan Meeting March 3

A public hearing on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan is set for March 3 at 1 p.m. at the Rensselaerville Town Hall. in Medusa.

February Town Board Meetings Minutes

Town Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg will be available at town hall prior to Town Board meetings from 6:40-6:55 p.m., to discuss any issues or concerns.

Present at the February Town Board Meeting of the Town of Rensselaerville were: Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg, Councilman Gary Chase, Councilwoman Myra Dorman, Councilman J. Robert Lansing, Councilwoman Sherri Pine and Attorney William F. Ryan, Jr.

There were approximately 66 interested citizens present.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter were received from the following:

Marie Dermody – concerning a letter sent to the Greenville Press on the article that appeared in the January 26, 2007 issue to correct some misrepresentations in the article pertaining to the December Town Board meeting; John Pszczola – concerning Knowles Road and the petition submitted January 6, 2006; Alfred Heath – concerning Jon Whitbeck, Recycling Co-Ordinator and what a good job he has been doing; and an unsigned letter. Letters need to be signed so that the board can verify them and proceed with action on any requests. (All correspondence is available to be viewed at the Town Clerk's office).

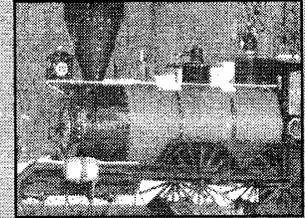
REPORTS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Nickelsberg reported the following:

We have \$1,470,100.85 in 12 accounts. We are watching closely, we are interested in the ability of the stock market to cut down what we have to pay for pensions, we are interested in the local economy and its growth because the more it grows the more we get as our share that comes to the County and

(continued on page 7)



Cooksburg



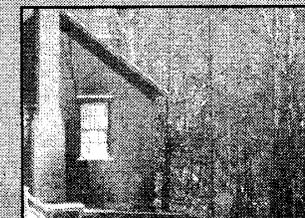
Medusa



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

The library wishes to extend a big thank you to all of the patrons who returned overdue materials during amnesty month in February. You help in recovering our collection was, and continues to be, greatly appreciated.

Even while we are recovering our old collection, we are creating room for the new materials that are continually being added, and we would love your help. The library is looking for willing volunteers to help us weed out old materials. We are tentatively scheduling a volunteer weeding event for either Sat., March 24 or Sun., March 25. One of these dates will be chosen in the coming weeks, depending upon patron interest. There will be a sign up sheet at the circulation desk for those who wish to help. First Friday movies continue with *Flushed Away* at Conkling Hall Fri., March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

This animated film is the story of Roddy (voiced by Hugh Jackman,) a decidedly upper crust society mouse who lives the life of a beloved pet in a posh Kensington flat. When a sewer rat named Sid comes spewing out of the sink and decides he's hit the jackpot, Roddy schemes to rid himself of the past by luring him into the whirlpool. Sid may be an ignorant slop, but he's no fool, so it is Roddy who winds up being flushed away into the bustling sewer world of Ratopolis.

There Roddy meets Rita (Kate Winslet), an enterprising scavenger who works the sewers in her faithful boat, the Jammy Dodger. Roddy immediately wants out, or rather, up: Rita wants to be paid for her trouble; and speaking of trouble, the villainous Toad (Ian McKellen) – who royally despises all rodents equally, making no distinction between mice and rats – wants them iced, literally. The Toad dispatches his two hapless hench rats, Spike and Whitney, to get the job done. When they fail, the Toad has no choice but to send to France for his cousin – that dreaded mercenary Le Frog. Admission is \$2 per person and \$1 for children under 10; rate PG.

The library is still issuing new library cards to all existing and new cardholders. The special barcode on the back allows patrons to access the Upper Hudson Library System catalog online,

Lasagna Dinner March 13

A take out lasagna dinner will be served Tuesday, March 13, from 4-7 p.m. at the Rensselaerville Firehouse, Route 85. The event is sponsored by the Trinity Episcopal Church for their Outreach Program.

Clerk's Office Closing

The Rensselaerville Town Clerk's Office will be closed on March 16 for a Town Clerks' meeting.

. . . Library

and request materials from other library (they can be sent to the Rensselaerville Library for your convenience.)

Cardholders can also access free audio and ebook downloads, full text articles from newspapers and magazines, and homework help sites designed for all ages. If you haven't yet gotten your new library card, wait no longer – stop by and get one today.

The next library board of trustees meeting will be Mon., March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Library Staff: Candy Wilson, interim director; Barbara Bolster Barrett, associate librarian; Katie Barker, aide.

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Printing & Publishing



Rensselaerville, NY

Conkling Hall – What's On March

Friday, March 2: First Friday Movie Night at 7:30 PM. Adults \$2 / Children \$1.

Friday, March 16: Noteworthy Coffeehouse presents singer and dobro-steel-slide guitarist **Kevin Maul**. He's performed with Soul/Blues icons The Holmes Brothers and has shared the stage with people like Newgrass hero Tim O'Brien, voodoo blues king John Mooney, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Vince Gill, Chet Atkins, dobro master Jerry Douglas, and the Everly Brothers. He's

been a frequent guest, along with Robin and Linda Williams, on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio program. Show starts at 8 PM, \$5 cover. Beverage and treats available at a nominal price.

Saturday, March 17: The Gift of Gab: An Evening of Irish Humor and Music. Short stories and staged readings of one-act plays by Irish authors and playwrights, directed by Richard Creamer. Irish music by local fiddlers. Doors open at 6:30 PM for corned beef

sandwiches, desserts, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. Performance at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15; \$13 for members. Additional cost for food and beverages.

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

Clam Chowder Served in Medusa

Clam Chowder will be served at the Medusa Firehouse on March 2. A lunch will be served or the chowder can be picked up – from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Manhattan or New England chowder will be available at \$5 per quart. To preorder or for late pickup, call 797-3455.

HEAP Offers Heating Help

HEAP is now available at Cornell Cooperative Extension CHOICES at Faith Plaza, Route 9W, Ravena. Please call 756-8650. The initiative is funded by Albany County Department of Social Services.

Fuel Assistance Outreach dates are scheduled at Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30-3:30 p.m., March 1 and May 3.

Children's Playgroup Thursdays 12 - 3 for children 0 to 5 years old. A fine opportunity to meet other children in our area. Call Sara Nelson Weiss for information: 239-6825.

Add to Committee List

Douglas Story is a member of the Rensselaerville Water/ Sewer Committee, as well as Tim Miller, Jack Long, William McChesney, Dale Dorner and Richard Platel.

CHICKEN BAR-B-Q, Take-Out Only
Rensselaerville Fire Company – Route 85, Rensselaerville

Saturday, March 24, 2007

4:30-6:30 pm

\$10 per Dinner

Call Kathy Wank 797-9292 or Rose Kuhar 797-3360
 Pre-sale Tickets Available – Quantity of Dinners are Limited

Get 'em while they last! Tasty BBQ Chicken!

Maple Festival Canceled

The Medusa Annual Maple Festival will not take place this year.

The Medusa Fire Company has had such bad luck with the weather that people are not willing to take the chance to attend as

vendors. Also people from the community and beyond hesitate to attend when the weather is so unpredictable or poor.

So the fire company has decided to do something

different this year.

A tentative pleasant day-long event is planned for June 9. The event, which will feature a chicken barbecue, is still in the planning stages.

Breakfasts in Medusa Planned

All you can eat breakfasts are planned from 7-11 a.m. at the Medusa Firehouse.

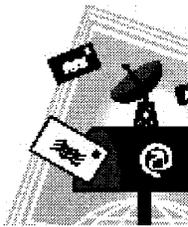
A free will offering will be accepted. Breakfasts are slated for Feb. 17, March 17 and April 21.

Refuse/Recycling Hours

The Rensselaerville Refuse/Recycling Department Hours are Saturday and Wednesday from 7 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Please display your permit. If you do not have one, one can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

Please cover your refuse, so that it is not left on someone else's property. No sheet rock or shingles will be accepted.



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

March Extra Helpings Food Club

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 of age or income. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings is published one month in advance.

March's Extra Helpings regular menu, for \$20, includes a Bavarian holiday ham, one pound of kielbasa, 90 percent lean ground beef, two dozen fresh eggs, one pint of grape tomatoes, and a cantaloupe.

Special #1, for \$17.25, eight pounds of fresh spiral-cut ham; Special #2, for \$16 includes four cans of tuna, peanut butter, two pounds of rice, peas, cut green beans, fruit cocktail, elbow macaroni, macaroni and cheese, and corn. Special #3, for \$30, is the meat box, which includes cranberry and apple-stuffed pork chops, honey-mustard flavored chicken breast, beef patties, maple breakfast sausage links, and chicken patties. Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.

Please note: Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by March 5 for pickup on March 27. HCRC distributes Extra Helpings at the Rensselaerville firehouse from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; St. Bernadette's Church, Berne, from noon to 1 p.m.; and St. Lucy's Church, Altamont, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on delivery days.

The pickup site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra Helpings, or other HCRC services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is PO Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC

NEW SERVICES & UPGRADES

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

PAUL MOLLOY



Irish Eyes Will Be Smilin' on St. Patty's Night

A wee bit O' Ireland will come to the Hilltowns when Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville presents "The Gift of Gab: An Evening of Irish Humor and Music" on Saturday, March 17. Local actors and residents will read humorous short stories and perform staged readings by Irish authors J. M. Synge, Sean O'Casey and Samuel Beckett under the direction of Broadway actor and director Richard Creamer. Area fiddlers will play Irish tunes to get the feet tappin'.

Delicious corned beef sandwiches, Irish soda bread, beer (Irish, of course), wine and non-alcoholic beverages will

Scleroderma Support Group Formed

My name is Charlotte Berkner and I have Scleroderma.

Scleroderma is a collective tissue and autoimmune disease.

Scleroderma's literal translation is "hard skin" because the first symptom noticed is a hardening and discoloration of the skin of the fingers. It can also develop into a devastating disease, affecting function of the body organs such as blood vessels, the lungs and the kidneys.

According to the Scleroderma Foundation, there are approximately 300,000 people with scleroderma in the United States. Statistically, approximately three to four times more women than men develop the disease. Scleroderma can develop and is found in every age group.

I have started a support group for collective tissue and autoimmune diseases (scleroderma, lupus, RA).

All persons with these or if you know someone with any one of these and would like to be a part of our group please feel free to call me at 239-6907 or write me at 1322 CR 403, Greenville, NY 12083.

be available for sale before the performance to put everyone in the right mood.

This promises to be a fun evening and a great way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Conkling Hall's doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for food and beverages. The performance will start at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15; \$13 for

members, at the door. Food and drinks are extra.

Conkling Hall is located at 8 Methodist Hill Road, Rensselaerville. Call 518 797 3459 or e-mail ConklingHall@earthlink.net for more information. Directions to the Hall and information about other events are at www.conklinghall.org.

2007 Rabies Clinics Slated

A rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets has been arranged by the Albany County Department of Health at the Berne Highway Garage, Route 443, Berne, 11-4 p.m. Sat., March 24.

Other clinics are planned June 5, 4-7 p.m., Bethlehem Town Park; Sept. 8, 1-4 p.m., Colonie Village Hall; and Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m. Green Island Public Works Garage.

All dogs, cats and ferrets must be on leashes or in carriers.

A record of prior vaccination will be required for a three year immunization. If no record is presented, a one year vaccination certificate will be issued. All clinics are open to any Albany County resident. Please direct questions to 447-4620 or 447-4625. Saturday clinics are 1-2:30 p.m. for cats and ferrets, and 2:30-4 p.m. for dogs. Tuesday clinics are 4-5:30 p.m., and 5:30-7 p.m. for dogs. Donation is \$5 per animal.

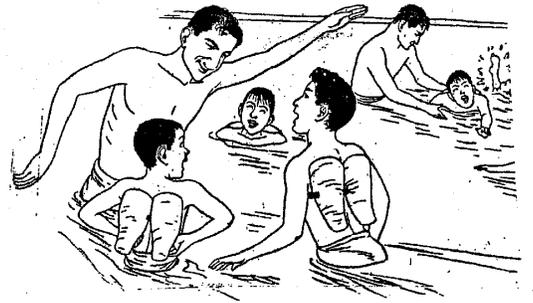
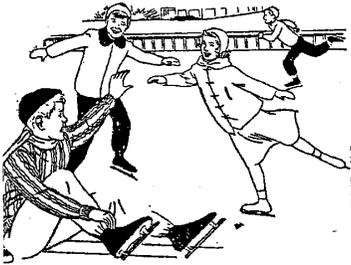
Church Services About Town

† 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.

† 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.



JAN. 28, 2007

TO THE RESIDENTS OF RENSSELAERVILLE;

A small group of interested parents have been gathering information to develop a sports activity program for all school-age children of our town.

We are exploring the YMCA of Bittleton, which has an amazing array of opportunities that might be available to our young people. Other local school districts may have facilities and programs they would like to share.

The responsibility of transportation and supervision will be a major topic as well as funding and scheduling.

If you and your family are interested, watch for a questionnaire in the mail very soon.

If you have suggestions.....

---Call --- Marion Cook - 239-6270
(Evenings)

---Call ^{or} Myra Dorman - 797-3996
E-Mail - MYRA13@POL.COM
Fax - 797-9711



Affordable Hilltown Senior Housing

Meeting

March 3, 2007, 10:30 AM

At

**Rensselaerville Town Hall
87 Barger Road
Medusa, NY 12120**

Speakers

Jeff Thomas

Mike Vincent

Linda Carman

Town of Rensselaerville History Notes

Hunting for Descendants of Borthwick, Weidman, Wageonheizer, Becker, Ball, Grippen, Mollenhopf, Moody and Bassler

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society

An antique Bible full of names of Rensselaerville people who were born, married, and died in the early 1800s to mid-1950s has been sent to the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society by Shelley Cardiel of Washington State.

Her hobby is acquiring old books with genealogical information in them and searching for families descended from the names in these old records, then letting the descendants have the books which have records of their ancestors.

She has asked our help in locating descendants who might want to own this old Bible with its handwritten family records

Most old Bibles like this one have several pages, usually in the center of the book, where owners can write their family's vital statistics. This Bible has four pages filled out with information about people with the following names: Leggett, Ball, Becker, Borthwick, Weidman, Wageonheizer, Bassler, Mollenhopf, Moody, Grippen. If any readers of the

Parlor Talk Slated March 18

Circle the third Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. for Parlor Talks sponsored by the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society.

The March 18 topic is "Blacksmithing" with demonstrations by Marty Milner at the Town Building. There is no charge to attend the talks and refreshments will be served.

Rensselaerville town newsletter are interested in seeing the Bible or might be interested in owning it, please call Historical Society genealogy research volunteer Marion Williams at 797-5016.

Much of the information in the newly-acquired Bible is already in the Historical Society's records and we have copied the information which was new to us.

This will be helpful to researchers who visit the Historical Society's research room or who contact us by letter or e-mail, searching for information about their ancestors. We have 13 file drawers and 62 looseleaf notebooks of genealogical records as well as many acid-free boxes of photos and other papers. We also have seven looseleaf notebooks of deeds and leases which contain records of land transfers dating back to the late 1700s.

The Bible apparently belonged to a member of the Borthwick family, a name well-known in Rensselaerville. The

annex to the Rensselaerville Library was the home of a Borthwick family and one of the Borthwick women who lived there was the librarian at one time, when she was a teenager. She was the youngest librarian ever recorded in New York State.

Among other names in the Bible Ms. Cardiel sent us is Joseph Leggett who had no descendants. He was a prominent citizen of Rensselaerville and we have a whole box of papers which were given to us when he died.

Another name is Ada Ball which is a name which a correspondent asked us about just last year.

The Bible is a Holman's edition printed in 1872. The earliest entry which is written in the family record section is the birth of Joseph Wageonheizer on February 28, 1802 and the latest entry was the death of Ellen Weidman Leggett on October 18, 1956.

For information about joining the Historical Society (it's only \$5 for an individual and \$10 for a family) or volunteering on one of its projects, please contact David Bryan at 797-7307. To add information to our records about your house or property, please call Irene

... February Board Meetings

(continued from front page)

the State. We doubled our surplus last year, and we are looking to increase it this year. Our goal is to exceed what was done last year in reducing taxes. We have several things that we can look into to cut expenses. He and Nancy Class, bookkeeper, met with the Bank of Greene County, which gave us a plan to increase our interest income by \$18,100, relative to what First Niagara gave us in the first 12 months. We like those numbers but they need to go back and get the numbers higher. Meanwhile we will talk to other banks and make sure the best possible set of interest that exist in the marketplace is something that we can get. He will be meeting with the insurance company that is investigating giving us the same coverage across the board that we are getting for \$40,000 or less. The same will be explored for the town's workmens comp. and the liability policies. We look to continue to do that with everything that we buy. We have a number of things that we will talk about later tonight relative to other things that we are going to do that further define what we spend money on and how we can increase services on at the same time, while we are increasing the surplus and decreasing taxes.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Supervisor Nickelsberg read the following report for Superintendent Chase:

1. Plowing and sanding roads throughout the Town as needed.
2. Cutting brush and tree limbs as needed throughout the Town.
3. Installing a new clutch assembly in truck A
4. Repairing the charging system on the grader
5. Welded three plows where needed
6. Routine maintenance on equipment.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg not to accept this report, 2nd by Councilwoman Dorman, Supervisor Nickelsberg AYE, Councilman Chase NA, Councilwoman Dorman AYE, Councilman Lansing AYE, Councilwoman Pine AYE.

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that we want every mile, every road, everyday of every hour itemized on this sheet of paper not six general statements.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – JANUARY

Collected for the month of January in the Town Clerk's Office, \$857.50, paid to the Supervisor - \$831.86, Albany County Treasurer – dog license - \$14.92, paid to Ag. & Markets – dog license - \$6, ENCON – sporting license - \$4.72. Sewer Rents collected - \$7553.23, Tax Collection paid to Supervisor \$1,198,101, collected to date 75% of the total tax revenues.

OLD BUSINESS

CAMP CASS

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that we don't normally read letters that are submitted to the Town, we incorporate them in the minutes. However we had a real tragedy occur two years ago and we are keenly interested in making sure nothing like that ever happens again. We are going to make an exception for this letter. This letter is anonymous, and because it has been an on-going problem, and it was felt it was necessary to advise the town.

"This is to the Town of Rensselaerville, the surrounding areas, Alexander Gordon, Senator Breslin, Assemblymen Jack McEneny,

At the January meeting of the Town of Rensselaerville a petition was presented regarding the OCF known as Camp Cass, as the petition states this facility must be held accountable for their actions or lack of. I am the victim of the rape which was also beaten and held hostage all night at knife point and kidnapped into Albany. That occurred on December 28th ... " (To read the remainder of the letter, please refer to the complete town board minutes on the town website (www.rensselaerville.com) or at town hall.) More than 500 petition signatures accompanied this letter.

Councilwoman Dorman, she would like the Town to pass a resolution demanding that OCF accept responsibility and held accountable.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to pass a resolution making Camp Cass and its organization accountable and totally responsible for everything that occurs in our Town relative to our citizens. Councilwoman Dorman said it is not entirely the fault of the people of Camp Cass, it is also the state agencies, they have higher responsibility and they should be included in this resolution.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dorman that the Town Board at this time should pass a resolution demanding OCFS accept responsibility and be held accountable for this incident and any other incident that happens in the community. Unanimously passed.

Supervisor Nickelsberg introduced Ed Ausborn, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services, Tim Kelso and Mike Ross from Camp Cass and the Office of Children and Family Services, who gave information and answered some questions concerning Camp Cass. They spoke about the anticipated new security measures, recently installed security and alarm systems, and future plans for the Camp Cass population, such as the 13-16 year age limit and type of crime committed. The alert network and call list was described, and its system process

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and range. The audience asked questions, made suggestions and asked about procedures for change and the process for reclassification of the site.

Ausborn said it was his responsibility to supervise all the residential facilities in New York State., including Camp Cass. We have tried to make contact with the community and I don't think we have done a great job on that. I came here tonight to try to address the concerns of the people, and I will try and answer your questions and explain to you what we are doing at Camp Cass and what we are doing about the security at Camp Cass, the plans are for Camp Cass in terms of population that we serve and our future plans as well. Mr. Kelso is going to talk about security. We are not really in a position to comment on what went on at Camp Cass except to say that the event that happened at Camp Cass, our staff, our commissioner, and the Governor feel bad about what happened up there as well as everybody in this room. We will try to take steps to correct the situation to prevent these things from happening again.

Mr. Kelso spoke about the security placed in the Camp in the last two years, since this incident happened. We installed 32 security cameras throughout the facility and outside the facility. With those 32 cameras comes 4 different places to monitor with the cameras on the inside, and we have the option to back things up and save things to a disk. We have updated the standard operating procedures. We put a new entry, where all the staff enters, double key coded on each side. We do counts four times a day, morning, lunch time, dinner time and before bedtime and we do two irregular counts on every shift. We also count the kids every hour. All the movements throughout the facility are cleared by the AOD and the administrator, so the kids know where they are and where they are moving to. There is supervision in the kitchen. A newly-assigned security check list has been created for each shift. Once a year, we do a review of different facility records come in and we evaluate the process of the facility to make sure everything is being done in an orderly fashion. We have installed 12 new electric light poles outside with 17 lights on, which eliminate the whole outside of the facility. Those are a few of the major things that we have done.

Ausborn described the population at the Camp right now. We have allowed the children in there to finish the programs at the Camp, and stopped admissions about five weeks ago. When the children finish their program they leave. We are putting a new population in our facility starting sometime next week. Those children will be 13 to 16 years of age, and their first experience in a residential program within our agency. This is a 25-bed facility, and we will bring in 4 or 5 boys a week until we reach quota. In the future, we have two projects underway that we are going to move forward with. We are installing a perimeter security fence this spring. It is a limited secure standard fence. Drawings were available for people to review. We feel confident that the fence will take care of a lot of the concerns of the community. The second thing planned, which will be done sooner, is the call alert network. We have contracted with a company to provide a call alert system. We will be able to reach out to everyone in the community, and put mailers out to everyone who lives within a three mile radius of Camp Cass and ask them if they want to be on this call alert network. This is a phone blaster system - if an event happens at that facility, we make one phone call and that service calls every number, pager or cell phone and make you aware of what has happened in that facility. There is an 800 number attached, which will allow you to get updates and also a return call on it when that situation has been resolved. If something has happened, you will know within 2 minutes from the time that the call goes in, and the call will be placed to your home and a return call will be made to tell you that the situation has been resolved. For the people that live outside of the three mile range, we will put advertisements in the newspaper, media and posters up. Anyone who wants to go to that list we will put them on it. The call list is updated, confidential and there is no cost to you. We hope this will be done in the four to six weeks. We hope this will get the confidence of the community back.

Bob Bolte said that Cass has 35 employees, costing about \$50,000 per employee, which is \$1,750 million dollars divided by 25 kids, which totals \$70,000 each, and that does not include food, heat, electric, building, maintenance, administrative fees and so on. I heard you spend \$33 million on a gym, this fence is going to cost 2 million seven hundred. There is a 30-year life expectancy of the fence and the gym, which comes up to \$213,330 a year. We have no cell phones up here because we can't have cell phone towers. The cost of the fence and gym cost us \$78,533 per kid. We spend about \$18,000 educating the good kids. I find it appalling that we would spend this kind of money on criminals when we don't spend it on our good kids. With the lack of communication up here this is why we don't want the Camp Cass up here. We have a good use for the camp - if you take these kids and put them in Camp Tryon, this community would love to have that camp

turned over to us so we can offer our youth and our people something up there and we would utilize it for the good kids.

David Baitsholts said that with these locks, you said you did it in the last two years, you had another guy walk off, which has been a common occurrence since I have been a kid. Were they in effect when this other kid walked out of Camp Cass and broke into someone's house and stole a car? You were using that alarm system and checking the kids four times a day. Also, will personnel monitor the fence and monitor the cameras? Kids getting out it not something that just happened overnight, it has been going on for a long time. I do not want a mailing because the time you get the mailing the kid is wherever he wants to be. I would rather have a phone call.

Mr. Ausborn said the call alert system that we are putting in is an instantaneous phone call to you, the way that we are going to generate the list is send a mailer to you asking if you want to be on the list. It is about a two minute delay from the time we make the call. When you have a residential facility, and you have troubled children, you are right, things are going to happen. Our answer to try and deal with that is to secure that property with a perimeter security fence, we feel that will take us close to solving the issue of kids getting away from us, taking off, and breaking into homes. We don't want that to happen here, we think the fence is the answer to that.

Councilman Chase said he is also a NYS Corrections Officer, and knows about the PAB and PAS systems. He wondered if you have PAS systems for the civilians that work there. If someone pushes the button it sounds an alarm.

They all have radios and alarm system, and a list of who has the radios and where they are, so we can respond immediately. When someone pushes the button it sounds an alarm.

Councilwoman Pine said the Hilltowns' lack of good communications, with three different phone companies, Middleburgh which is private, Oak Hill and Albany, is a concern and will this call system cover three different phone companies? Ausborn said yes it will - whatever the customer is using you can get on the system. Councilwoman Pine said during the last breakout they tried to do the reverse 911 system and it didn't work. Mr. Ausborn will make sure it will work.

Councilman Chase asked if you have an projected time limit for this fence, with have 25 kids moving in there shortly. Mr. Ausborn said we hoping that we can start the fence early in the spring, sometime in May, and anticipate that the fence will be up and running in about five to seven months. Supervisor Nickelsberg said you are funded, certified, you are permitted and ready to go. Ausborn agreed.

Ken Cooke asked what class is in Camp Cass - a misdemeanor, a felony, a sex offender, adults, kids, and how high does the offense for the person coming in go to? Ausborn said the State agency is responsible for the juvenile population, with 31 facilities statewide, they are all different level of security.

Mr. Cooke asked that if you put this fence up, does that mean that the type of offense coming in will be greater. Ausborn said no.

Mr. Tomczak said at the last meeting the Sherriff's Department was here and they didn't know what type of criminal was in there, and we thought since they are responding to situations up there that they should know what to expect. What is the top offense that is in there?

There was a meeting two weeks ago at Camp Cass and we discussed this issue and decided we would begin a dialogue with the Sherriff's Department concerning what types of information we could provide to them that would make their job easier.

For children placed with the Office of Family Services through the family courts, the court decides the offense that the child is placed with. The children that we are going to put at Camp Cass are children that have been involved in misdemeanor crimes, who have been involved in property crimes, who have no history of person type crimes, and do not have a history of running away.

In regard to the alert system, will it work in priority so that it will work in a circle from the Camp out? I live next to the Camp, and I don't want to be called last. Ausborn said the call will happen for everybody at the same time, simultaneously. Mr. Ausborn explained how the system works, and will state what is going on at the camp.

Mr. Tomczak asked how will you advise the community of changes that occur there, of improvements. Confidence is something that needs to be keep ongoing. Ausborn said we have talked about inviting additional people from the community to sit on the Board to come into the facility and work with us, talk to us about

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what we are doing in the facility. We have been talking about taking a more active roll in the community. Get on the Town Board agenda quarterly to answer questions. We have a web site, and people can send us questions. The reason I am here tonight is because we are greatly concerned about the lack of confidence that this community has with us.

Mr. Tomczak said he stopped at the facility three time and spoke with the Administrator and Assistant Administrator and his questions were not answered because of internal regulations. That is not a good neighbor or a good public servant policy. I hope that this can be dealt with and improved.

Joan Johnston asked what assurance exists that the type of population going in there will not change when the new fence is up? Ausborn said one ingredient that the level of security has is constraint in terms of the type of crime that we place a child in that facility. No, based on the type of crime, the number of instances, we have a security system that tries to do a good job of screening those kids.

Marion Cooke asked what happened in the case with the kid getting out if you had security cameras. Ausborn said that child did not get through our security in that facility, he broke away from two staff members and outran the staff. He was a young kid that could outrun our staff and that is one of the problems we are trying to stop with putting up the fence. We are trying to do everything we can to prevent anything else happening up there.

Steve Wood, none of the previous people that went through the Camp have been violent offenders, like the kid that stole the car and assaulted on of our citizens here. The rumor is that there have been violent offenders there. Ausborn said there are not violent offenders in there, like rapists, murders, and kids with other heinous crimes.

Mr. Parker asked if it isa fact that you don't know what violators are in there, because the courts protect them? They just give you cursory advice as to what these kids did, and you don't have everything because the records are sealed. Ausborn said we have access to all history, placement, crimes, which have been documented. That doesn't mean that everything that a child did is recorded. I'm not saying that the records are 100% accurate. We have probation reports, mental health reports, pre-sentencing reports, all the information from other placements and court files. We have a complete file on the children coming in.

Elliston had a record of prior sexual assault before he was sent to Cass and you knew it.

Mr. Bolte asked how many people from these facilities end up going back to the facility, what is your return rate? Ausborn said his purpose here is not to discuss that tonight, but to talk specifically about this facility, this community and about the things that we are doing. If you would like to engage in that conversation, you give me a call and we will get back to you. This a huge topic, there is a lot of things we can cover. When I leave here tonight that everybody had an opportunity to ask a question and get an answer.

Mr. Bolte asked why are we bring these people in before we build the fence, why are we subjecting our people to these people if we need a fence before we build a fence? Why can't they stay in another facility until they get the fence up?

Vernon Husek said the original rational for establishing a facility in the Town of Rensselaerville was that the kids had the opportunity to be out in the country, and interact with the community in a number of ways. That changed. What is the rational for bringing NY City kids up to our community and keeping them up here, and where the police at a minimum need 15 to 20 minutes to respond when we call them for emergencies? How can you justify all of this expense for so few people, and why isn't there consolidation of facilities that will eliminate this facility in a rural community that isn't equipped to handle emergencies like these? Ausborn said we have been working on regionalization placement, and four years ago we 30 % of the kids coming into our agency were regionally placed. Close to their homes and close to the community and closer to their families. Now they are up to 75%. We talked about this at the meeting we had a couple of weeks ago at Camp Cass. These program models have been successful for a lot of the kids, not 100%, but there are a lot of kids that have gone through these programs who have ended up going back to their communities and becoming a productive citizens, paying taxes, started jobs. These kids have changed their lives around. I don't see these kids as throw away kids, lock them away and forget about them. A lot of kids have done really well. The program we have has had a marked effect on some of these kids, and we think they are worth maintaining. If we can turn one, two or three kids lives around and they can become productive members, and have a fulfilling life and contribute to mankind, then somebody has done a good job with them, what ever the

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cost is.

It is worth somebody else's life, if they break into someone home and ruin someone else's life, is it worth it, but if you save one or two of these kids it is ok, sorry about your life? What is my life worth to you? Ausborn said that is why we are investing in this security fence.

Mrs. Johnston said she thought that the fence would solve the problem, but after hearing the discussion, she does not want Camp Cass here. She does not think it belongs here and we are spending a lot of money up there. How do we go about getting it out of here? Ausborn said you will have to talk other people, the state legislators, the Governor - we have no control over those decisions. Mrs. Johnston said those kids are sent up here and they are sent back to the same environment that they came out of, how is that going to change anything?

Councilwoman Pine asked how far away will the kids come from, is it NYC or Albany? Ausborn said geographically, we try and keep the kids close - from Albany. Councilwoman Pine said Albany is only 30 miles away, they can break out and do what they want. When I was growing up, the kids came from NY City, and they did not break out because they were afraid of getting lost in the woods. Kids from Albany know Route 85 ends in Rensselaerville, and if they get to 85 they know they will be almost home. Maybe the regional should be worked a little differently so these kids can't walk home.

Councilman Chase, what does Camp Cass actually do for the kids? Ausborn said Camp Cass offers a full school program, accredited by the Stated Education Department, and a vocational program. We also do a lot of counseling with the kids, family unification, and try to see what the issues that go this kid in trouble, and try to get kids to think reasonably. Are other camps different? Ausborn said there area lot of the same issues, different populations, some take older kids, some take younger kids.

Councilman Chase said the concern tonight is if you put a fence up and start putting more and more security, this will re-classify this camp. If you re-classify the camp, down the road 10 or 15 years, a different type of offender be brought in? Ausborn said it could, 10 or 15 years down the road I cannot guarantee you anything.

Bob Bolte said you just got rid of the shop equipment up there, why can't the kids use this - you need something to teach these kids and you go and throw it away.

Mr. Kelso said the main thing that young people are going into is food services, which is offered to them, from Cornell University. When they complete the course, they get a certificate. We also teach greenhouse items, gardening and flower services. These programs are state accredited programs. It allows these kids to get jobs in places like Walmarts and Price Chopper.

Sue McChesney asked if there was a good generator there so it the power goes off the security system doesn't go down. Ausborn said we have a good generator that will run the whole facility, and it is immediate as soon as the power goes off.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Supervisor Nickelsberg reported that the Town is negotiating with American Tower and are committed to putting the infrastructure for internet connection and cell towers in our community in a way that can't be seen and won't spoil the rural appearance character.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Allyn Wright reported that the Land Use Committee are working on the zoning rules and moving on to sub-division regulations.

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

Attorney Ryan reported that the revised CLUP has been drafted and is on the webpage since February 2nd, available at the Town Hall, the Library and it has been submitted the Albany County Planning Board for the public's review. The next step is to wait for their comments to comment on the draft, which should be by mid February. Under Town Law, there is a 10-day notice that must public in order to have a public hearing on adoption of the plan. The Board discussed having the public hearing for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan on February 26, possibly on a weekend day or a couple of evenings during the week. Vernon Husek mentioned that hard copies of the 300-page CLUP are in the Library, the Town Hall, on the internet and on disk. Supervisor Nickelsberg said the moratorium is over April 27th, and in order for us to get all this accomplished, there are stringent time elements to adhere to.

WASTE OIL FURNACE

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Supervisor Nickelsberg made a motion to put the RFP into the paper and to move forward with the waste oil furnace and installation. Attorney Ryan said that the used motor oil is not hazardous waste according to the NYSECON. The refuse department and others will be asked to volunteer for the removal work. Councilman Chase had a letter from Tom Reynolds who is in charge of solid waste for NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He described the law and procedures for installing a waste oil furnace. Attorney Ryan said that you can make a motion to put it out to bid and he will research this paperwork from the State.

A motion was made by that we put it out to bid and we follow the necessary procedure, 2nd by Councilwoman Dorman, Supervisor Nickelsberg AYE, Councilman Chase NA, Councilwoman Dorman AYE, Councilman Lansing AYE, Councilwoman Pine AYE.

PROCUREMENT POLICY

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dorman to accept the Procurement Policy as revised, 2nd by Councilman Lansing, Supervisor Nickelsberg AYE, Councilman Chase NA, Councilwoman Dorman AYE, Councilman Lansing AYE, Councilwoman Pine NA.

SENIOR AND YOUTH PROGRAM

Marion Cooke reported that she spoke to the YMCA, and we cannot have a membership pass that can be passed around. A questionnaire is being developed to ask how many people would be interested in attending. Kevin Crosier will be sending information on the Berne-Knox school program, which is a two-week program for children. Berne-Knox will pick up the children living in the district. Cooke said she has information coming from a federally funded program, which has a minimal wage 20-hour week. Determined by income - if the child is eligible for the school lunch program, they can work in this program. They must first determine how many people are available to supervise this program.

NEWSLETTER

Attorney Ryan mentioned at the last Board meeting the first amendment of the constitution was discussed, and he was asked to draft a resolution outlining the details discussed. The resolution states that as long as the Town Board offers advertising space for sale in the town newsletter, the town should not reject any proposed advertisement on the basis that the advertisement reflects a political viewpoint.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to accept this resolution, 2nd by Councilwoman Dorman. Unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to appoint Dorothea Cotter to the Planning Board.

At this point, Charles Howard James said he had a prepared statement to submit, but was not recognized by the Town Board, and asked to speak instead during the designated audience comment period.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

SPECIAL CONTINUATION OF TOWN BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 22

The Town Board held a Special Meeting on February 22 at 7 PM in order to finish the New Business on the Agenda of the February 8 meeting. Present were: Supervisor Nickelsberg, Councilman Chase, Councilwoman Dorman, Councilman Lansing, Councilwoman Pine and seven interested citizens.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to appoint Dorothea Cotter to the Planning Board to full fill the unexpired term of time Lippert (term 2/22/07 to 12/31/08, 2nd by Councilman Chase. Unanimously passed.

RENSELAERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY – 2007 MEMBERSHIP LIST

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company membership list for 2007, 2nd by Councilwoman Dorman. Unanimously passed.

CLEANING OF TOWN HALL

One bid was received for the cleaning of Town Hall, from Bucci Property Management, 5981 SRT 81, Greenville, NY. After a lengthy discussion of the options, the Town Board decided to go with the monthly cleaning package and the floor polishing package.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept the bid from Bucci Property Management for the cleaning of Town Hall for the monthly cleaning for \$85 a month with a one year agreement, 2nd by Councilwoman Dorman. Unanimously passed.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWN RESOLUTIONS

Councilwoman Dorman reported that she attended the business meeting of the Association of Town Meeting, and only one or two of the resolutions were not accepted. She will have this information for the next Town Board meeting.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Items for the Highway Department – culvert pipe, sand, salt, stone, etc., road oil, fuel oil, diesel oil, heating fuel, contract on each heating unit (also to include the Library, Fire Houses, Ambulance Building) tires, tools and automotive equipment, building materials, cement. After a lengthy discussion the Town Board decided not to have tools and automotive equipment, building materials and cement on this list to go out for bid.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to go out for bid for stone, sand, salt, road oil, heating fuel, heating contracts on the burners, (fire companies, ambulance, library) fuel oil, diesel fuel, gas, culvert pipe, tires, etc., these bids to be opened at a Special Meeting of the Town Board on March 22, 2007 at 7 PM, 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. Unanimously passed.

TOWN INSURANCE

March 12th our general liability insurance and automotive insurance will expire, and insurance representatives will be at the March meeting to go over the submitted proposals. Supervisor Nickelsberg is also looking into health insurance and workmens comp.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislator Gordon mentioned that he has learned that there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of Children and Family Services and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and since Camp Cass is going to put a perimeter fence this document has to be re-visited. It is the perfect opportunity for the Town to do a resolution concerning what we would like done with the Camp. The Memo was done in 2003, and is a 10-year contract, but in order to put the fence up, it must be changed.

Albany County Legislator Sandy Gordon asked if his sister still works at Camp Cass. He replied yes, part time. He was then asked if he could objectively represent the community on this issue and the petition with 500 signed names, if he was related to someone who works for the facility. He was then asked if he had heard one positive comment on Camp Cass remaining open. He did not answer. It was then stated he does not represent the community by making positive comments on the better and most recent Camp plans.

SALT & SAND

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dorman to charge \$1 for three 5-gallon pails of salt or sand, on the honor system, and the funds can be deposited in the mail drop at the front door of the Town Hall, second by Councilwoman Pine. Unanimously passed.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

The Town Board discussed different ways of handling audience comments: Supervisor Nickelsberg suggested coming in on Board meeting night and having a general discussion/audience question period - 15 to 30 minutes before the meeting. This will be tried at the next Town Board meeting. Five minutes will be allowed at the end of the meeting per person to speak. The final changes to the agenda will be made by 1:30 pm on the day of the meeting, and we will try to contact anyone taken off the agenda.

Under audience comments discussed were the issue of the plowing of the churches and the comprehensive land use plan.



We would like to thank all of you who have supported Susan's Adopt a Troop Program, through the Middleburgh VFW Post 2161. With your help she has been able to (and will continue to) send packages to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait for the last 3 years.

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

~Elmer Davis

God Bless You, God Bless America, and God Bless Our Troops!!!

David Lewis and family

Michael Benedict

jazz vibes



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 Greg Hostash; Roswell Eldridge; Roger and Bonny Gifford; James Walker
 Robert Scardamalia; Bill & Barbara DeMille; Tom & Marion Frowein
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Government for a redress of grievances.

"ABRIDGING": To reduce or lessen in duration
(source: Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary)

-Courtesy of C.H. James

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 LOB, Albany, NY 12247; 518-455-2800

Assem. John McEnany, 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—797-3233

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 Telft-Baisholts, 797-5201

Town Refuse Station Hours
 Wednesdays, 7 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
 Saturday, 7 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

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

Rensselaerville Fire House

