

Town of Rensselaerville

Newsletter

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

Volume 17, Number 10

October 2006

Letter from Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg

Last month the Planning Board and the Land Use Committee invited town residents to participate in one of three workshops held simultaneously at Medusa, Preston Hollow and Rensselaerville firehouses. In addition, survey questionnaires were mailed out to all residents in an effort to identify common areas of interest among people in the various hamlets. The result was that 110 people attended the three workshops and 525 people responded to the survey. Our town really cares about this special place we call home. So do I.

In every one of the three work sessions the number one issue listed was the currently high local tax rate -- 30 mentions. The next three important issues were: (1) a lack of retail stores -- 24 mentions; (2) poor road maintenance -- 19 mentions; and, (3) a lack of cell service and a lack of high speed internet service -- 16 mentions. We are taking all these issues very seriously and focusing on developing positive solutions to each one of them.

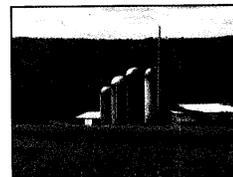
During my campaign and every day since I have been in office, one of my primary goals has been to stretch each tax dollar both by increasing government efficiency and cutting costs by emphasizing the need for more competitive bidding before approving town purchases of goods and services. This will continue during the current budgeting process and during the next three years. You, the taxpayer, and a lower tax rate are among my primary concerns. I do not want to merely keep local tax rates flat, I want very much to reduce them.

The overwhelming workshop and survey response issue for lower taxes strikes a pre-existing personal bias as you have seen in my relentless efforts at cutting costs and increasing efficiencies and services, such as promoting new collaborative ways of buying services, materials and supplies. We will continue that effort with added vigor because, once again, that is what you told us you want also -- and this government works for you. You say you want it, and it becomes our (the elected officials') responsibility to find ways to achieve it. We expect to get our road department to live within it's budget next year and the board will help them do so with a very rigorous analysis of progress every 30 days. We expect a lot from ourselves so that we can give you, the taxpayer, more for your taxes. We absolutely expect our teammates in every office

(continued on page 15)



Cooksburg



Medusa



Potter Hollow



Preston Hollow



Rensselaerville

THE RENSELAERVILLE 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

Thank you to all those people who came out to support the library at the annual Lawn Party. Special thanks go to Richard Ballinger, even though the day was too wet to all us to hold the festivities in his garden, to the Palmer House staff for the wonderful food and to all of our friends and neighbors who also brought goodies.

First Friday Movies are back. Beginning on Fri., Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Conkling Hall with a special presentation of Academy Award winning adventure film Anthony Adverse. Starring Frederic March and Olivia de Havilland, this film is an engrossing tale, loosely based on the life of Vincent Nolte, a friend and kindred spirit of John James Audubon, of an orphaned boy who grows into manhood without knowing his real origins, and all the adventures he has to go through before finding himself. Admission is \$2. Don't miss this movie – the perfect precursor to the World Premiere of the PBS film John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature on Oct. 21.

Beginners and experienced knitters of all ages are welcome to a Knitting Workshop with expert knitter Joann Eckstut on Sat., Oct. 7 from 2-4 p.m. at the library. Bring along current projects to work on or bring #7 needles and worsted weight yarn like Patons classic merino 100% wool, Canadiana 100% acrylic or Décor 75% acrylic/25% wool, all available at JoAnn's Fabrics in Northway Mall, and at Alfred's at Stuyvestant Plaza, to start a beginner project at the workshop. Email or drop off questions in advance for Joann to answer at the workshop. Refreshments will be served.

Childrens Storytime is back – every Thursday beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Rensselaerville Playground or Conkling Hall, depending on weather.

For those who have stayed away from the library due to difficulty navigating our old steps, welcome back. We now have a new ramp entrance to the right of the main entrance. Don't hesitate to ask the library staff for assistance.

Have you received your new library card? The library is issuing all existing and new cardholders new library cards. These cards will have special bar code that will enable card holders to access from any computer the Upper Hudson Library System Catalog to request materials from other libraries, and have them sent to Rensselaerville, download free audio and ebooks, get full text articles from magazines and newspapers from around the country, and also access special homework help sites for all ages and grades. The library will be holding special tutorial sessions to show patrons all of the wonderful features

Pancake Breakfast Oct. 8 in Rensselaerville

The Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company will serve a pancake breakfast Oct. 8 from 8-11 a.m. at the firehouse. A free will offering will be accepted.

Folding Chairs Missing

The Town of Rensselaerville Fire Department is missing 20 of its folding chairs. If you have them, or know where they are, please call Sal Santo at 797-3521 or 943-5140 and he will come to pick them up. The company is sure it was an oversight.

...Library

available to you with your new library card, so come and get one today.

Fall has arrived and the library is starting to plan the Annual Greenery Sale and Market to be held on Sat., Dec. 16. If you are interested in volunteering, or interested in being a vendor, please contact Rebecca at the library.

The next library board of trustees meeting is Tues., Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. (Note the change in date due to the Jewish holiday.) The board regularly meets on the first Monday of every month.

The next Friends of the Rensselaerville Library meeting will be Mon., Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Join us or call the library and ask to be put on the email list.

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

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Printing & Publishing
(518) 797-3425



Conkling Hall – What's On October

October 6: Rensselaerville Library First Friday Film at 7:30 PM.

October 7: Sixth Annual Chili Cookoff. Starts at noon. Spend an afternoon tasting the best the Chili Cooks have to offer. Choose from a variety of chilis—traditional, vegetarian, white, wild card—the cook's imagination will take us to new frontiers. Judging done by a panel of cooking professionals and by "People's Choice". You get to vote too.

October 8: RHDA presents the Rensselaerville Revue at 2:00 PM: Townwide Talent on the Stage. This event has always been a grand success and is the major fund-raiser for the Rensselaerville

Halloween Fun in Medusa

The Medusa Volunteer Fire Company will be open from 4-9 p.m. with plenty of candy and Halloween activities for children and teens on Halloween, Oct. 31. We hope to see your family there!

Town Business Directory

The Town of Rensselaerville would like to update the Business and Services Directory. Please review the Directory on the Town Website and if your business is not listed and you would like it to be included, or if your business is listed and you would like to have it deleted at this time, please call Kathy Hallenbeck at the Town Hall at 239-4225 or Wayne Woodward at 797-3283.

Fire Prevention Week Observed

The Tri Village Volunteer Fire Company has planned an open house Tues., Oct. 10 in observance of Fire Prevention Week.

Childrens' activities are planned, as well as hands on activities and demonstrations. Refreshments will be served. Fire numbers are available.

Annual Variety Show Oct. 8

The Rensselaerville Historic District Association will present its annual variety show Oct. 8 at 4 p.m. at Historic Conkling Hall. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Anyone interested in performing can contact Dave Bryan at 797-3707 or by email at ddrb1253@aol.com.

Historic District Association.

October 18: Noon. Senior Harvest Luncheon. Treat yourself to a delicious luncheon and enjoy the companionship of friends and neighbors. All seniors are welcome. \$4.00 to defray the cost of food. Bring desserts to share.

October 20: Noteworthy's Coffee House starts the new season at 7:30 PM. Kate Blaine will be here with her guitar, voice and original songs. Come and enjoy music and fellowship. Beverages and desserts for sale.

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.

Veterans Honored Nov. 12

Clark White American Legion Auxiliary Post #589 will host an afternoon reception on Sun., Nov. 12, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Bell's Hotel, County Route 351, Rensselaerville, in observance of Veterans Day.

All veterans of the town are invited so that we may honor and thank you for your dedicated service to your community and country. Come share your memories with us. Bring memorabilia of your experiences. We would especially like to honor the veterans that served during the Korean conflict and Vietnam. The community is also invited to help us thank these men and women for serving their country.

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 .m.
Wednesday Prayer & visitation 8:30 a.m.

† Presbyterian Church
Main Street, Rensselaerville
Worship: Sunday, 11:30 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.

Harvest of Fall Activities at HCRC

The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC) is already busy with a flurry of fall activities: Back to School program for 2006 has been completed, although we do continue to replenish supplies for students throughout the year.

A huge thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to the school supply drive.

This past summer, a local 4-H group planted and maintained four raised bed gardens for HCRC. We were able to provide our food pantry families with fresh green beans, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini. Next growing season, consider growing an extra row for the food pantry.

HCRC is in the process of preparing for a fundraising event Oct. 28 – a Haunted Hilltown Halloween will be a family event at the Berne Town Park from 4-9 p.m. Activities will include Haunted Hayrides, pumpkin painting, costume contests for children and adults (judged by the Old Men of the Mountain,) a catapult tossing contest and other games.

There will be music under the pavilion, a bonfire after dark, food and beverages for sale

including soup from the witch's cauldron! Admission is \$2 per person which includes one ticket for a hayride.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

HCRC, in partnership with the Helderberg Kiwanis, will coordinate the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets to families. Members of St. Bernadette's Church, Berne, annually prepare and deliver cooked Thanksgiving dinners, with all the trimmings, to those unable to prepare the meal themselves.

HCRC begins to coordinate its annual winter holiday program in September. We expect the need to be greater than ever this year. HCRC's Christmas program,

designed to assist families struggling with economic hardship that leaves limited resources for providing clothing and gifts for their children during the December holidays, is a collaborative effort of schools, religious organizations, community groups, agencies and individuals.

Anyone interested in sponsoring a family for the holidays is asked to contact HCRC at 797-5256. Our Christmas Store is well-stocked through the clothing drive held each November at St. Pius' Church in Loudonville. HCRC also coordinates the distribution of the Times Union Fund for the Elderly to seniors living in the Hilltowns. Our Extra Helpings food buying club is open to all regardless of age or income.

New 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. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and 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.

October's Extra Helpings regular menu, for \$20, includes 1.5 pounds of bacon-wrapped pork medallions, 2 pounds of breaded chicken tenders, 3 pounds of Italian sweet sausage, 1 pound of 90% lean beef patties, 20 oz. peeled butternut squash, and 3 pounds of apples.

Special #1, for \$10, 5 pounds of sliced white American cheese.

Special #2, for \$6.75 is 10 pounds of fresh chicken leg quarters.

Special #3, for \$30 is the meat box, which includes 2 pounds of pork roast, 3 pounds of 90% lean ground beef, 3 pounds of stew beef, 1.5 pounds of breaded chicken tenders, 2 pounds of maple breakfast sausage links. Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.

Please note: Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by October 5 for pickup on October 24. HCRC distributes Extra Helpings at the Rensselaerville firehouse from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and St. Bernadette's Church, Berne, from noon to 1 p.m., (please note the new time) and St. Lucy's Church, Altamont, from 3:30-5 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.



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

August Planning Sessions Report

The Town of Rensselaerville held public input planning workshops in August simultaneously at all three firehouses in the town. The sessions were hosted by LaBerge Engineering, planning consultants, who are compiling information gathered from public input through surveys and meetings. This information is needed to update the 1990 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Through surveys, meetings and workshops, residents have the opportunity to voice their opinions about what direction they want their town to grown in. After the information is analyzed and prioritized, the planners will have a better idea of the positive and negatives and what the people want. More than 100 people attended the workshops.

The Land Use Committee meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the month. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

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.

Senior Corner

Conkling Hall Luncheon

A harvest luncheon is slated for Wed., Oct. 18 at noon. The cost is \$4. Attendees are invited to bring desserts to share. If enough interest is shown, this may again become a monthly event. Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 for information.

Senior Citizens Club

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Medusa Firehouse at noon. \$1 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.

Senior Van

Tuesday – Bryants Center, Greenville

Thursday – Cobleskill (WalMart)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – Available for travel to doctor appointments

Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 regarding scheduling and/or arranging for van pick up.

Hiawatha Grange Lunches

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 a.m. and 1 p.m. for information and reservations.

Audubon Conference in Rensselaerville

In celebration of their 75th anniversary, the E. N. Huyck Preserve will host a conference on John James Audubon in Rensselaerville on Saturday, October 21, 2006 from 1 to 9 p.m. at the Rensselaerville Institute Conference Center.

For conference details, biographies of the presenters and roundtable panelists, and registration information, go to <http://www/huyckpreserve.org/> or e-mail audubonconference@huyckpreserve.org or call 518-797-3105.

The conference, "John James Audubon and His America Revisited in Film and Conversation", will feature presentations by experts on the artist's life, his paintings and his writings, and a roundtable discussion on the Octavos, a unique collection of Audubon's prints and natural history writings. Many people do not realize that the man was a prolific writer who described in minute detail the descriptions and habits of an enormous number of birds and animals he observed in the wild. Complete sets of Octavos are becoming increasingly rare due to their being broken up to sell the prints; in the process the detailed texts of Audubon's observations of nature are being destroyed.

As part of the conference, the world premiere of a new PBS American Masters Series documentary film, "John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature", will be shown by the producers, the award-winning team of Larry Hott and Diane Garey. They are associated with Ken Burns, the film maker who produced several public television documentaries including one on the Civil War and one on the history of baseball. After the film, Hott and Garey will answer questions from the conference participants.

Optional activities include an early morning bird walk Sunday, October 22, and exploring the E. N. Huyck Preserve.

Potter Hollow Celebrates 200th Birthday

More than 250 people helped celebrate Potter Hollow's 200th birthday on September 10 at the Cotter Equestrian Center in the middle of Potter Hollow hamlet. It was a beautiful, sunny day and a mixture of ages and a variety of activities blended to make it a very memorable, interesting and fun day.

A 21-foot family tree of the Haskin/Haskins family attracted much comment and many visitors stopped to see if their names were on the tree. Several people added their family information and others, including the great grandson of Potter Hollow native Potter Palmer, found the names of their ancestors on the tree. Beatrice Haskin Mattice, town historian of Conesville, presided at the family tree and showed visitors where their ancestors' names were. She also had photo albums and scrapbooks on exhibit.

Potter Palmer IV and his fiancée Erica Meyer came all the way from Chicago to participate in the festivities. He also visited the Potter Hollow Cemetery to photograph gravestones of his ancestors and the Potter Hollow Union Church, which was built as a Quaker Meeting House and no doubt is where his great grandfather, the first Potter Palmer, worshipped.

The first Potter Palmer was born in Potter Hollow in 1826 and went to Chicago as a young man where he established the dry goods store which later became Marshall Field's. He also built the famed Palmer House Hotel there. Although he was a Quaker, during the Civil War he loaned vast amounts of money to the government because he believed in the Union. When the Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed much of the city, he financed the rebuilding

of a great many buildings. Later he filled in the swampy area near the lake and today Lake Shore Drive and the area around it are an important part of the city.

Potter Hollow was established in 1806 by Samuel Potter and Timothy Potter. Samuel was not only an ancestor of Potter Palmer IV but also of several Potters living here today, one of whom, Lloyd Potter, was master of ceremonies and presided at the microphone making announcements during the celebration Sunday afternoon.

Potter Palmer IV was introduced and said he was happy to be a part of the hamlet's celebration and having seen the hills and the beauty of the surrounding countryside he wondered why his ancestor ever left the area for the very flat Chicago country.

A representative of the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society announced that the Society has ordered a historical marker to be placed somewhere in Potter Hollow acknowledging Potter Palmer I with the following text:

POTTER PALMER,
BORN 1826 IN POTTER
HOLLOW, WAS A CHICAGO
MERCHANT, BUSINESS
LEADER, ENTREPRENEUR,
FINANCIER, AND
BUILDER OF THE PALMER
HOUSE HOTEL IN CHICAGO.

ERECTED BY
RENSSELAERVILLE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY 2006

The Bicentennial celebration included live music by the Ghost Riders, volleyball and other games for kids, a wheelbarrow race, demonstrations by weavers and spinners and

by Marty Milner, the Hilltown Blacksmith, on an antique forge and anvil. Some of Marty's antique tools were made by the late Palmer Bates, a Potter Hollow blacksmith, and were used by Ray Reed who was a blacksmith there after Palmer Bates died.

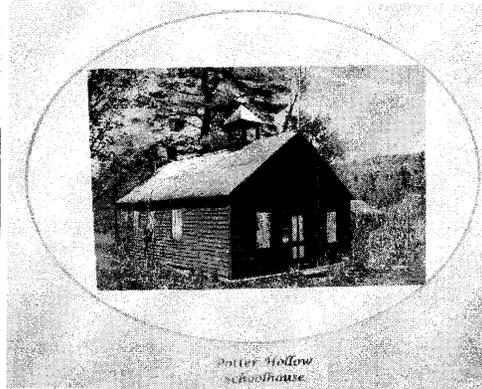
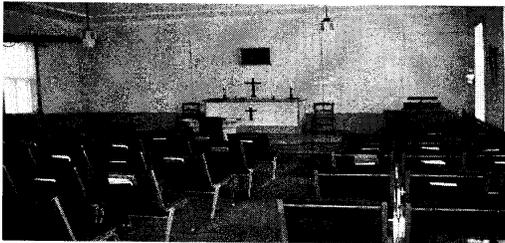
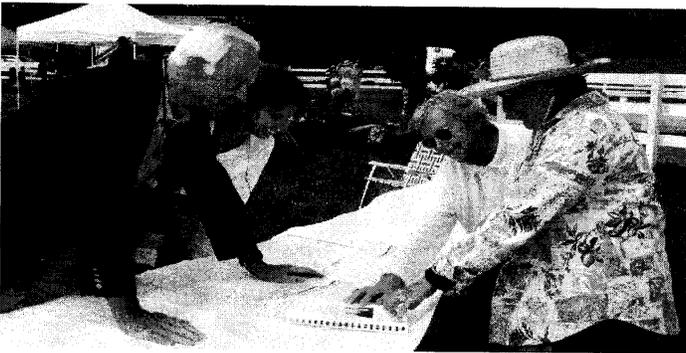
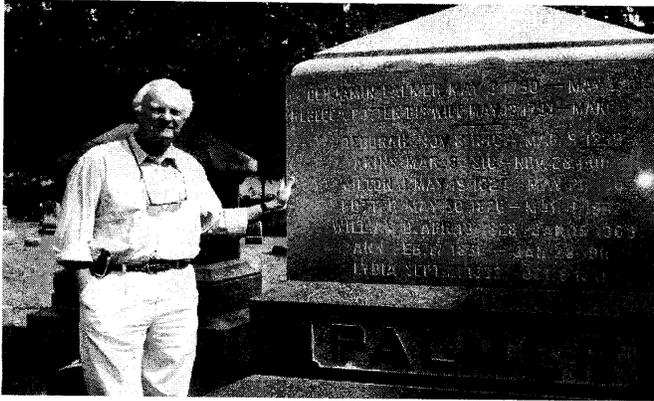
Donated food included hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken curry, salad, veggies, cookies and cake. Exhibits by the Town of Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance and the Rensselaerville Library and the Rensselaerville Historical Society attracted visitors.

The Preston Hollow postmaster was on hand to apply a special postal cancellation to envelopes and postcards, showing a drawing of the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse and the phrase "Home of the Potter Hollow One Room Schoolhouse and Potter Palmer". The limited collectible cancellation will be available until October 9.

The cancellation/postmarks are free, but must be applied to a first class stamp. To obtain a cancellation by mail, send a stamped envelope enclosed in another stamped, self-addressed envelope and send it to Bicentennial Postmark, Preston Hollow Post Office, 2930 Route 145, Preston Hollow, NY 12469-9988.

Chairperson of the Potter Hollow Bicentennial was Sue Lynch who several years ago suggested holding this event in 2006 when she noticed that the welcome sign at the hamlet's entrance said it was founded in 1806.

Many others, of course, were on the planning committee and dozens of volunteers of all ages helped make the day a success.



***Potter Plamer IV at the
Potter Hollow Bicentennial.
Bottom left is a rare look at the
Potter Hollow Union Church.***

*Potter Hollow
schoolhouse*

Author Encourages Rensselaerville to Plan for Open Spaces

By Suzannah Lessard

I have enjoyed a second home in the township for three years only, and though I love the place dearly do not presume to know it as long term residents do. Rather, I speak as one who has been writing a book about change in the American landscape generally in the last fifty years and the kinds of issues we face as a nation where land use is concerned. I have tailored those thoughts to our local situation of course, but I offer them not as recommendations but as a set of reflections, some of which might be of use as the town develops a vision of its future.

In the course of writing my book I have come to see all landscapes as revealing the work we do—how we make our living on the planet and our relation to each-other as we do so. It is, essentially, an economic view, to which I came the hard way: my inclination was to see landscape in more emotional and even mystical terms. But it became inescapable to me. Two major realizations followed. First, that the attempt to recapture or preserve the landscapes of the past—the reflection of past economies and societies—is fundamentally flawed. (You get a museum, rather than something living.) Secondly I realized that when the work of America passed from industrial work—making things—to services and various kinds of work of the mind, work was no longer shaping the landscape. Place, no longer a part of the process, became almost purely, an amenity. How we developed land became almost completely a matter of choice.

This disappearance of the work related parameters in

the formation of landscape has placed a very heavy burden on the planning profession. Its as if planning has been asked to become God—asked to make it all up. Planning has not responded to this *carte blanche* with a wealth of ideas to date. Essentially, the profession has come up with ideas that entail capturing the landscapes of the past: building imitations of old fashioned towns such as Celebration, Florida; setting urban growth boundaries to maintain the old formation of city-country, preserving rural landscapes. These are all worthy ideas, indeed any idea, under present circumstances, is better than no idea because a free-for-all when there is no invisible economic hand at work shaping the landscape results in the chaos we call sprawl. But these measures do not really amount to an imaginative response to today's social and economic conditions.

The relevance of this disappearance of shaping forces to the Rensselaerville Citizens' Planning Committee is that you are facing an unprecedented task without much help. You could come up with almost anything. (I exaggerate, of course, but you get my point.) This is stressful. It might be helpful to just acknowledge that.

It seems very important to me that we stretch our imaginations in planning to encompass the truth of current economic actualities.

The first is that we live in a global economy that by definition penetrates and defines place everywhere. If we don't acknowledge that we live in illusion and cannot be effective at planning.

The unit of the global economy in America is the Metropolitan area, something that is neither city or country: Rensselaerville, for better or for worse is in the Albany Metropolitan area and will be most effective in arriving at a plan if it imagines itself in that way.

The truly contemporary landscape, the one that directly reflects economic truth, is sprawl. Nearly everyone agrees that sprawl is horrible and the idea of raw sprawl overtaking Rensselaerville is also a horror. However, there is a subtle point I would like to make here that I think is important. The forces that create sprawl are here to stay. Rather than simply trying to "keep sprawl out," which is, in my view, impossible, might it not be better to look at what those raw forces are and work with them, shape them, create something good with them. Aspects that can be seen as potentially good, or that can be worked with for good are:

The pattern of sprawl is fundamentally decentralized. The eighteenth century pattern was decentralized. In itself a decentralized pattern is not a bad thing.

Because its decentralized a wide variety of land uses are possible. Farming, for example, is viable in the spread out landscape of the regional metropolitan economy. This was not true in the suburban landscape. A variety of residential living styles is also possible as is the inclusion a variety of economic levels.

In fact, there is an aspect of sprawl that is fundamentally democratic. One of the great paradoxes of fighting sprawl is

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that it creates exclusive enclaves for the wealthy. This is the paradox of planning in the age of place-as-amenity. You don't want development to run the show, but if you control it entirely you can end up with a kind of exclusivity that pushes out people who have lived in a place for generations, and you get homogeneity.

On the other hand the tendency of the global economy is to create a greater and greater gap between high and lower economic levels.

This tendency encourages the creations of wealthy enclaves at the expense of people with ordinary incomes. The job of planning, surely, is to mitigate that tendency rather than exacerbate it.

The hardest thing for us to grasp, imaginatively, about this new decentralized pattern, is that within it the built world is oceanic, surrounding "natural areas, while the natural areas are "islands" requiring highly intentional maintenance and protection.

This reverses the age-old concept of landscape—it used to be country that surrounded villages and towns—but it can be worked with imaginatively once accepted.

In this inside out world, it ought to be the natural world that is the focus, rather than the built world. Design around open space, in other words, and let the built world fall into place around that.

Following on this, the greatest benefit of our post industrial era in which work no longer is connected to place is that the conflict between economic prosperity and care for the environment is dissolved. Contemporary work can be anywhere so therefore there is no economic reason whatsoever for not designing around ecological

and environmental considerations. In fact, areas that protect their environment do well economically because today's hi-tech workers won't move to an ugly, abused place.

In fact, in the absence of the old hand of the economy, it seems to me that ecology provides planning with the patterns it needs to begin to re-imagine landscape in the post industrial age. Many models exist for doing this but they are not fashionable at the moment. They were developed in the sixties and the seventies when there still was a conflict between jobs and environment and therefore seemed overly idealistic.

Were I to think about what I wanted for Rensselaerville purely as a person who spends summers and weekends year-round here I would spontaneously say "I want it to stay the same. I love the old rural landscape—that is why I am here." But if I think about it as the writer and citizen who has been forced to engage with the subject on a deep level, I know that staying the same is impossible and that the effort to do so can, in fact, be quite destructive.

When the un-savable thing is "saved," it becomes artificial—something else altogether, a kind of illusion and nice as those illusions can be, they just don't seem to be desirable to me when I peak behind the surface to their true meaning.

If I think about it as a true lover of Rensselaerville, therefore, rather than as a vacation homeowner with a special interest in preserving certain illusions, I know that the best thing for Rensselaerville would be for it to re-imagine itself—to work with change toward something new. Generally speaking I hope the plan will be founded on ecological and environmental principles, that it will seek to ensure the continued

economic diversity of the town without which there is no true community; that it will invite some light industry to provide employment to local people and their children, and just enough growth in population to generate economic energy—for example, to allow some small businesses such as the Palmer House Café to flourish rather than wither; and that as far as building patterns are concerned that the plan encourage invention and experiment, adhering only to ecological considerations as an absolute, because we just haven't figured out yet what the new patterns are going to be.

Lets have some cluster, lets have some spaced out; perhaps even a zone where anything goes—where you can put up a trailer or start a business, with health and safety—and ecology—being the only restricting factors.

I am not advocating drastic change here: the truth is that the 1989 plan still stands up and good can serve, surely, as the basis of the new one. The biggest change that I am advocating, really, is how we imagine the town, based on a new awareness of how the drastically world around has changed, even since 1989, and the forces that outer world brings to bear on us. (I found in my travels that no place is exempt from the effects of those forces.) Allowing that re-imagining to take place entails loss: an old world many of us love is indeed disappearing. But that is a loss that no one can forestall. Furthermore, the kind of re-imagining that I advocate dissolves certain differences that otherwise can be bitter. For community is never a club of like-minded people—its essence is that it includes people who are very different. There is no intolerance greater than that based on treasured illusions.

September Town Board Minutes

Supervisor Nickelsberg convened the meeting and the roll was called:
All were present including 35 interested citizens.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on August 10, 2006, were approved.

TRANSFERS

From	To	Amount
Contingency	Records Management	\$ 86.94
Contingency	Newsletter	\$1,585.62
Medusa Youth Program	Medusa Park	\$ 762.76
Contingency	Planning Board	\$1,600.15

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Mr. Zimmerman read a letter from the Crystal Lake Association Inc. concerning their support for land use planning. The letter included the background of the Association and comments from the members.

Sal Santo alleged that the author of the report in the last newsletter is not licensed in NYS. And that it was flawed. Mr. Santo also alleged the report on the dam at Lake Myosotis was flawed because it did not recommend setting up a monitoring network to detect dam movement. Based on the preliminary inspection we don't have a dam problem at Lake Myosotis but we do have one at the holding pond for the hamlet's drinking water. Supervisor Nickelsberg suggested that he talk to the Huyck Preserve.

Mr. Santo asked if any official of the Town has any relative that works for Lamont. Supervisor Nickelsberg responded the only person that I know is Allyn Wright's wife. Mr. Santo asked did Allyn make any recommendation on anyone that you picked? Supervisor Nickelsberg responded none.

Ed Hoffman from Cheese Hill Road wanted to know if the town board was going to recommend disciplinary action against Highway Superintendent Jon Chase. The taxpayer's money was just dumped down the drain to redo Cheese Hill road. He asked why do we go to the engineers after the fact? Why don't we go to the engineers first? We spent a lot of money dumping this gravel on Cheese Hill, Travis Hill Road and Niles Road and only 3/4 of Arnold Road is done.

Paul Molloy, read a letter into the minutes about Arnold Road. The Town Board hasn't had any conversations with Jon Chase about Arnold Road.

Sheila Whiteford asked since her house was destroyed why her taxes have gone up again? The State requires property be assessed as it is on March 1. For example, if your house burns down on February 28th it can be taken off the tax roll. If it burns down on March 2 it stays on the roll.

Legislator Gordon announced the County Legislature approved changes to real property tax exemptions for both senior citizens and people with disabilities. Now it is set up on a scale for the next 5 years. The opportunity is there for the Town to adopt that same 5-year schedule.

Attorney Ryan, on the Right To Farm Law the Planning Board passed a resolution at its meeting last Thursday approving support of that law. A letter in support will be sent to the Albany County Planning Board.

Jeff Pine complimented the newsletter, and then reported he did some research on interest we made last year. He found that there is about a \$900,000 unexpended fund balance. The State recommends around

10%. Will it be returned to the taxpayers? Supervisor Nickelsberg responded we will address that issue at the end of the fiscal year. He asked if we have had an audit and Nickelsberg responded we should have one in the next 30 days.

Councilman Chase pointed out that one fund transfer for \$1340.00 to Digital Quill did not match the bills. A motion passed that the board find out why the figures don't line up and the board withdraw the motion concerning the transfer.

Vouchers
 The General Fund - \$26,195.73;
 Highway Fund - \$11,594.13;
 Lighting Districts - \$509.84;
 Sewer District - \$169.20;
 Water District - \$787.03.
 Total Warrant - \$39,255.93.

By motion these bills were approved to be paid.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that we have a new policy. We are not going to read the letters in the meeting – instead, writers who wish to are encouraged to come read their own letters at the meeting. Letters will continue to be put in the record and made available for anyone to read.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Account Balances as of 8/31/06:
 Agency & Trust - \$20,321.73;
 General - Checking - \$110,425.86;
 General - Money Market - \$107,8340.86;
 Highway - Checking - \$45,875.74;
 Highway - Money Market - \$104,775.21;
 Lighting - \$5,298.45;
 Sewer - \$235,604.87;
 Water - \$31,827.47
 CD-H - \$101,925.87;
 CD-H - \$70,767.18;
 CD-H - \$70,767.18;
 CD-G - \$150,000;
 CD-G - \$150,000.00;
 CD-G - \$342,882.67;
 Total - \$1,548,303.09.

He pointed out in response to questions that we have changing balances as interest rates change. It will be very hard to project interest income accurately between now and the end of the year. It appears to be \$44,000 as opposed to the \$21,000 we made last year. We doubled what we had last year.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Jon Chase reported that:

Niles Road - has drainpipe in the road and fabric was placed in around 40% of the road as needed throughout the 1 1/2 miles of road. Ten inches of crusher run was placed on the top of the existing road. Then fabric placed where it was needed and calcium put down to harden the road. He stated when we blacktop that road it will be guaranteed to last for ten years.

Chase reported that it costs \$92,000.00 a mile to prepare a road for blacktop.

Cheese Hill Road - put 8 to 10 inches of crusher run on a mile, ground it and put calcium in it. The ditches are not done. There will be no top put on that road this year. There is nothing wrong with that road for the winter. We have to put new culverts in and drainage.

Nickelsberg stated you understand that we have had complaints from a number of citizens that they have significant adverse economic impact because of the shorter life of their tires and other problems with their cars, chipping, and denting on Pond Hill, Kenyon, and Tanglewood Roads. The fact is leaving these roads in this shape is something that the citizens of this town are objecting severely to and have for the 8 months of letters. We want you to spend the \$250,000.00 better.

Arnold Road - It needs to be engineered to change the intersection. The engineering of that design has to be done; the State is going to help with their part because half of that is in their right-of-way. We are trying to work so that we don't have to purchase land to make the intersection safe. We need an engineer. We need one to work with the State. The State owns most of the property. There is an estimate from one of our contractors that says Arnold Road needs \$50,000 more to be completed.

Supervisor Nickelsberg stated that if we go along with this additional expenditure of \$137,000.00 we are going to be that much over the budget and asked Chase to explain again why that is. Superintendent Chase stated it cost \$92,000.00 per mile.

A motion was approved for \$137,000 or less to complete those two roads with funds coming from the additional CHIPS highway aid and from the highway department's truck & equipment existing budget.

TOWN CLERK REPORT - AUGUST

The Town Clerk reported that total money received in the month of August was \$2773.17. The Town Clerks report for the month of August was accepted.

RENSELAERVILLE WATER DISTRICT

The Rensselaerville Water District had a problem with the chlorinator and a boil water order was issued by the Department of Health on September 7, 2006. As soon as the chlorinator is working the boil water order will be lifted. The small containment dam needs some fixing. The Water District is working on that and the overflow issue.

USED-OIL FURNACE UPDATE

Supervisor Nickelsberg reported that a special meeting has been set for October 5, 2006, 7PM to open bids. We need to check to see if the tank out by the recycling center where oil is to be collected needs special licenses and construction. Attorney Ryan will check with DEC.

PART TIME WORKER UPDATE

At our next board meeting we will see whether we complete the town building and salt shed refurbishment using part-time town employees or an outside firm.

BEAUTIFICATION

Work is progressing repairing and improving town buildings.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Vernon Husek reported that data collection is nearly complete. We have results from the three visioning workshops and the household survey. The planner has not provided the analysis yet. There is a public meeting to be held here at the Town Hall on September 30. The draft vision statement will be available and the result and analysis of the workshops held and the household survey results will be discussed. There were 525 responses to the household survey that is over 37% response rate indicating a very high level of public interest

in the plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Nickelsberg made a motion that we endorse Lisa Kelly to start a welcome wagon committee and report to us in 30 days as to how she is going to configure it at which time we can add additional comments. Motion passed.

She is going to try and enlist the local merchants and maybe they might be able to help in this effort. Councilwoman Dorman pointed out that in other municipalities this has always been considered a community project and not a governmental project.

LEGAL REPORT

The Town Board will receive a copy of the memorandum on a town manual to review over the next month.

2007 BUDGET MEETING

There will be a budget meeting on October 5, 2006 at 7:10 PM after we open up the Use-Oil Furnace bids.

MEDUSA FIRE DEPARTMENT – NEW MEMBERS

Ted Rice and Pat Rice were added to the Medusa Fire Company

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Steve Wood spoke on the cost of the roads saying that the projected cost of doing those roads is supposed to be presented to the Town Board at the time the superintendent submits his budget. It is very confusing to figure out what it cost to fix Niles Road, Arnold Road. If you prep a road the cost will vary according to what type of land you are going over. If you have all these reports together then people will not have to keep going over this process meeting to meeting. For this new budget you have to insist that you have the projected cost and final costs in writing so everyone can understand it. Niles Road will not last ten years.

Theron Raines spoke on Kenyon Road, he heard tonight that roads are supposed to last for ten years, he has been living on Kenyon Road for eleven and a half years and nothing has been done, only patching in places. It is a dangerous road. I hope that something will be done to it.

Sheila Whiteford presented plaques for Bob Bolte and Steve Wood in recognition of the outstanding, unselfish donation of their time and equipment to help people in need. Sheila Whiteford said: "I don't have the words to describe how I feel about you guys; you're the best, and you are my hero's. I thank you."

Sal Santo, expressed concern about the roads and the money we spend on them. People who live on them just have to understand, you moved to the country. You have to understand that you are living on rural dirt roads and they are going to get mushy, you are going to have to be careful. This is just something that I think the Board needs to consider.

Town Board approved a motion to approve the Albany County Right To Farm Law

David Lewis, dairy farmer commented he thought we had a \$1,300,000 highway budget but less than 1/4 of that that goes on roads.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM,

Summary by Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg

Naturally Valuable

By Audrey Kropp

When I think of the reasons why Rensselaerville is unique and special, the first one that comes to mind is the Huyck Preserve. Throughout its history, the Huyck Preserve has had the ability to enrich the lives of many people in a variety of ways.

Land preservation is the foundation of the Huyck Preserve and the basis of the preserves' unique capacity to enhance peoples' lives. The Huyck Preserve exists as both an institution and a landscape. Natural landscapes provide many benefits to humans, generally termed ecosystem services.

The Preserve helps provide these services by preserving natural ecosystems. As an institution, the Huyck Preserve further expands the benefits of preservation by integrating it with education and research. The Huyck Preserve plays many important roles in society and enhances the landscape and character of Rensselaerville.

The value of natural ecosystems has been a major topic of discussion under the current pressures of development. In the past, the assessment of ecosystems has been based only on the economic value of products or goods that can be obtained from that ecosystem. This view does not wholly represent the real value of ecosystems and services they provide.

Natural ecosystems are increasingly being evaluated based on the other ways they serve to improve the quality of life. Natural ecosystems actually provide a wide range of services to humans. In addition, the

absence of ecosystems can result in substantial costs in property damages and loss of life. In the case of the Huyck Preserve, the preservation of 2,000 or more acres of natural ecosystems adds considerable value to the Rensselaerville landscape.

The most basic services ecosystems provide include purification of air and water, which are essential to life. On more complex levels, natural landscapes play a role in moderating climate change and maintaining biodiversity.

In Rensselaerville, the same services are brought to people by the pristine ecosystems maintained on the Preserve. In addition, experiencing nature has been found to directly improve physical and emotional well being. The Huyck Preserve allows people to directly experience the benefits of nature by providing the public access to it.

Growing up in Rensselaerville, I have experienced first hand the positive effects of being able to explore nature on the wild lands of the Preserve. I can recall many fulfilling memories on the preserve and deeply appreciate the rare beauty of it.

The truly unique part of the Huyck Preserve is that it also functions as a biological research station. It is the only privately funded research station in the northeast and one of the oldest. The Huyck Preserve is also the only field station located in the Helderberg region.

Therefore, the preserve is the only place in the region dedicated to conducting research on natural systems. Being one of the oldest research stations, the Huyck Preserve has developed a legacy of data. Long term data are rare and

invaluable to the understanding of how the environment is changing over time.

People come from all over the world to conduct research at the Huyck Preserve. Scientific study at the Preserve has generated hundreds of publications in popular magazines and journals. The Huyck Preserve is an ideal place to learn about scientific study because of its strong background in research. In turn, education is one of the most significant ways the Huyck preserve enriches peoples' lives in the area.

At public events and symposia people have the opportunity to meet and learn from accredited scientists. Similarly, local students visiting the Preserve get the chance to experience first hand how science is applied in the real world. The Huyck Preserve helps expose people of all ages to math and science and encourages the pursuit of careers in those fields.

Participating in Huyck Preserve events and education programs helped develop my appreciation for nature, and my interest in a career in science and biology.

A rewarding part of working at the Preserve has been the opportunity to work with and learn from such diverse and dedicated professionals.

The mission of the Huyck Preserve is preservation, research, education and recreation. The components of the mission build off of each other and work together making the Preserve the progressive institution that it is.

Preservation is the main platform which makes it possible to perform the high quality

(continued page 21)

...Supervisor Letter

(continued from front page)

to increase their efficiency – especially the road department where its focus must be on new ways of lowering our annual road cost of approximately \$13,000 per mile down to at least that of our neighbor, Berne, which is approximately \$10,000 per mile. Collaboration is one of the key ways to accomplish this.

If Berne can do it, so can we. We are strong believers in collaboration with our neighboring towns, county and state entities. If you have any suggestions, please pass them to us.

You will find the excellent effort led by Mike Breslin, our County Executive, on inter-municipal and county cooperation and collaboration a very productive exercise -- one in which we will continue to be very much involved.

Schools, roads, services, insurance, material and supply purchases are just a few of the ways to collaborate and reduce our taxes while enhancing our lives.

We told you we cared about these issues and you responded very positively during the campaign and during the past 9 months. More importantly you responded overwhelmingly during the workshops that you really care about lowering taxes -- together we have a chance to do so.

There have been negative responses to our changes and naysayers trying to keep the old ways going.

But it is clear that the old ways were very expensive with built-in inequities and so have become overwhelmingly unpopular. This becomes obvious to anyone who cares to analyze the facts.

Food Drive Cooperative Effort

The three Town of Rensselaerville Fire departments – Medusa, Rensselaerville and Tri-Village – have planned a food and supplies drive for Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC.) The event will run from Sept. 16-Oct. 14.

HCRC currently assists about 300 families in the area. With the cost of heating fuel and other items on the rise, now is the time to lend a helping hand to those facing hardships this winter.

Items needed include non perishable food items (please, no expired dates,) laundry supplies (detergent, softener, etc.,) personal hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.)

Dropoff locations are at the Hilltown Café, Route 353, Rensselaerville; Medusa Post Office; Preston Hollow Baptist Church, Route 145, Preston Hollow; and Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Rd., Medusa.

Join your friends and neighbors for an OLD TIME TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY DANCE

(Singing Square Dances, Waltzes, Round Dances,
Contras, more)

Saturday, October 28

7:30 p.m. at Conkling Hall, Rensselaerville
(66 Methodist Hill Rd. next to Presbyterian Church. See reverse for directions.)

Caller/Instructor:

Paul Rosenberg

Musicians:

"FireFlies"

Sue Mead, Jim Mead,
Jim Broden, Patricia Kernan



All Dances Will Be Taught – No Partner Necessary

\$ 7.50 admission, \$6.50 for Historical Society members, \$5.00 for teenagers, \$2.00 for children age 12 and under

Sponsor: Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society
and Community Arts Grants, a program funded through the State and Local Partnership
Program of the New York State Council on the Arts and The Arts Cluster of the Capital Region
For Information Call 518-792-3164

Town Has Vision Statement

The town Land Use Committee has prepared a draft vision statement that will guide the comprehensive plan prepared for our town. It incorporates your comments at the visioning sessions held in August and responses from the recent town wide household survey. We welcome additional comments. They can be sent to:

*Land Use Committee
Rensselaerville Town Hall
87 Barger Road
Medusa, NY 12120*

Town of Rensselaerville Draft Vision Statement October 10, 2006

OVERVIEW

The Town of Rensselaerville is treasured by its residents as a place where landscape, history, and community are tightly intertwined.

For over 200 years, Rensselaerville has been distinguished by its location in the special environment of the Helderbergs. Settled after the American Revolution, as part of the Van Rensselaer patroonship, the Town was incorporated in 1792, and quickly grew into a typical arrangement of small commercial centers – hamlets, surrounded by farms. This agricultural settlement pattern survives to this day. It is a prized aspect of town life that we are committed to preserving.

Our quality of life is the guidepost we use to direct our community decision-making process, as defined by the valued attributes of rural character; active, sustainable agriculture; scenic beauty; cultural and historic richness; a healthy environment; diverse housing resources; and economic opportunity.

The Town of Rensselaerville is committed to protecting the land and preserving our heritage of small densely populated hamlets surrounded by large parcels of open spaces.

Vision Themes

Land Use

We value and protect the Town of Rensselaerville's rural character. The Town's land is distinguished by a well-defined, traditional settlement pattern consisting of small hamlets surrounded by agricultural lands, forests and open space. The Town has an extraordinary stock of historic buildings, many unpaved roads and scenic by-ways, beautiful open vistas, hills, woodlands, streams, and creeks with natural habitats that provide rich biodiversity. The hamlets and the natural and working landscape give the Town its rural quality and sense of place, shape its culture and community, help define its attractive quality of life, and thus contribute to its economic vitality.

We seek to recognize these essential qualities identified and embraced when our Town adopted its first Comprehensive Plan in 1989. Fulfilling the promise of that Plan, we acknowledge new challenges by maintaining up-to-date zoning laws and subdivision regulations, to continue preserving our rural character while planning for rational orderly growth and protecting our quality

of life.

We identify locations appropriate for residential and commercial growth, and for open space, agriculture and environmental conservation priorities. We seek to encourage agricultural activity. We implement new land use planning and zoning tools and update these tools on a regular basis. We accomplish this vision in a fiscally responsible manner, limiting costs to our citizens, and encouraging growth that is both fiscally and aesthetically beneficial to the Town.

Economic Development

The Town of Rensselaerville has a healthy economy consistent with its rural character. The town understands that its quality of life is the critical factor in attracting and retaining desirable businesses and appropriately growing our local economy. Our policies and regulations acknowledge and support both our traditional and emerging agricultural sector as well as locally owned and operated businesses, our arts community, and a significant number of entrepreneurs, including those who use technology to create employment for themselves. The commercial development that has taken place is concentrated in and around the hamlets, and in existing commercial areas. New businesses are designed to fit into the town's aesthetic, and small, "one of a kind" businesses are the norm. As a result, their environmental impact has been kept low and their visual appeal is consistent with the town's historic, rural character.

The Town is committed to creating a business environment that serves to encourage the kind of economic activity that will best benefit the citizens. Retail stores serve immediate, local needs. The Town has partnered with surrounding municipalities and local business organizations to encourage and nurture start-ups so that people can find local employment. Town-wide high-speed Internet access permits a high level of entrepreneurial activity, telecommuting, and essential support for local businesses. Other infrastructure improvements promote business activity while fitting within the context of the Town's built history and rural character.

As a result of the strength and diversity of this economic activity and responsible, planned growth, the Town has stable finances. It benefits from several significant revenue streams, is not overly dependent on the property tax levy, and is not burdened with unplanned expenditures.

Infrastructure

The Town recognizes the role roads and bridges play in rural character. It understands that well-engineered maintenance must be consistent with the rural and agricultural uses for which the roadways are intended. It works to ensure that new or reconstructed roads and bridges respect the rural character while meeting the practical service needs of the residents. Existing roads and bridges are maintained and new ones are constructed and maintained consistent with our rural character.

Traffic is managed and controlled. Wastewater and storm water needs, including road salt runoff, are addressed in cost effective ways that demonstrate an understanding of the historic, rural character. Infrastructure is not an agent for driving further development.

Alternate ("green") energy sources that provide a net benefit to the Town are sought and encouraged.

The Town works with the hamlets and other regional governments to strengthen their working relationships and to develop more effective, coordinated infrastructure planning, especially transportation services, drinking water and waste water systems. Regional cooperation is also an agent for upgrading and improving emergency medical services.

The Town handles its household waste disposal according to environmentally sound principles. The recycling center is unobtrusive and state-of-the-art. Like all Town buildings, it is considerate of our community's historic character and well maintained.

High speed, robust telecommunication technology is available Town-wide for personal, commercial, and especially emergency services use.

Farming

Rensselaerville has made a long-term commitment to being and remaining an agricultural community and we make every effort to honor this commitment.

By identifying and preserving the Town's farmland, we protect open rural space, natural resources, and the agrarian, social roots that make Rensselaerville a special place to live. We continue to commit Town resources to the long-term preservation of farmland and encouragement of agricultural activities.

Farming and ag-related business can be a significant part of Rensselaerville's economy. The town is recognized as a farm-friendly community. Policies and procedures reflect this status and facilitate rather than hinder farming operations as businesses.

We believe in the importance of healthy, fresh agricultural products that are locally grown and produced. We work, often in partnership with other agencies and organizations, to insure a sustainable local agriculture distribution network for our town.

Housing

The residents of the Town of Rensselaerville – both full-time and part-time -- enjoy its beauty, and are appreciative of the personal relationships that are a hallmark of the small town social structure. Open rural space and farms characterize our Town, leading to hamlets containing homes on small lots. We achieve our desirable social atmosphere by maintaining our tradition of hamlet-style communities. New subdivision and development is encouraged in these designated concentrations; outside of the hamlets, it respects the rural surroundings and does not negatively impact the open space, view sheds, or the historic character of the community -- maintaining the historic physical relationships of hamlets, open space, forests and streams.

Housing needs for all economic strata and age groups, especially affordable housing and senior housing needs, are met through planning, adaptive use of existing buildings, and responsible development. In the interest of public health, housing and commerce is closely situated to encourage walking within the community. Public transportation is available wherever possible.

Natural Resources

The Town of Rensselaerville is rich in natural resources. Its residents and visitors know, respect, and protect the land, water, air, wildlife, rural character, scenic views, and its mineral, groundwater, and surface water resources. Our natural resources are an essential part of our rural character, quality of life, and economic viability. Protection and wise stewardship of those natural resources through preservation of natural habitats, careful management of land / water resources, and conservation of existing agricultural lands is a priority for the Town.

Historic Character

Rensselaerville cherishes its long and proud history. The residents, through many of their civic / volunteer organizations, work hard to retain our community's historic character because we recognize, as did our predecessors, the importance of our rich, rural, agricultural heritage. We value the special beauty and splendid, historic landscapes; all of which continue to attract people to our town and contribute to the value of our property and to our quality of life.

The Town's extraordinary number of historic buildings -- some on the State and National Registers of Historic Places -- scenic roadways, places of worship, burial grounds, stone walls, and streams are integral to its beauty, sense of place, sense of community, economy, and attraction as a visitor destination and residential home market.

Residents and businesses are supportive of adaptive reuse of historic structures and of new residential and commercial development that minimally impacts historical, architectural and rural character. We support the traditional settlement pattern of our hamlets, farms, open spaces

and beautiful country roads and byways. The Town continues to encourage the identification and maintenance of the built symbols of our heritage, including barns and other buildings.

We have historical societies that assist our local schools in educating our young and advising new residents about our historic character so that they too can appreciate and be better stewards of this important aspect of our community.

Recreation

The Town of Rensselaerville values recreational activities for its residents and visitors. They make use of the many and diverse opportunities available within the Town: baseball, basketball, tennis, and other activities at hamlet parks in Preston Hollow, Medusa, and Rensselaerville; bird watching and hiking on State lands or on the E.N. Huyck Preserve; fishing in the Ten Mile Creek and many other places; cycling, jogging, or walking along our roadways and trails; equestrian activities; and, as permitted, hunting, snowmobiling or ATV activity on public and private lands. Our youngsters enjoy many recreational programs provided by the Town, public schools and other public and private organizations. Residents also benefit from other regional opportunities available nearby such as golfing, skiing, and boating and ice-skating on area lakes and ponds. We especially value the town's rural character and those recreational activities that allow everyone to appreciate its natural beauty. The recreational emphasis in Rensselaerville is compatible with the town's rural character, minimizing many negative environmental impacts and, more importantly, promoting an appreciation of the land.

**Nursery, Gift Shop,
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Wed~Fri 9 - 5 Sat & Sun 10 - 4

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**A HAUNTED HILLTOWN
HALLOWEEN**

Saturday, October 28, 2006
BERNE TOWN PARK

Hayrides
Customs Contests
Pumpkin Painting
CATAPULTS!
Food for sale
Music
Games
Prizes
**Hotline and
CREEPY STUFF**

4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Admission \$2.00 per person
Includes one free hayride ticket.
All proceeds benefit the
**Hilltowns Community
Resource Center.**
A part of the admission cost,
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non-perishable food items
to donate to the food pantry.

For information call
797-5250.

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- Cynthia Willis
- Dick Sabol
- Dave & Mary Bryan
- Ben Bryan
- Emily Bryan
- Bill & Kathie Quackenbush
- Virginia Carter
- Joann Eckstut
- Tim & Linda Miller

You know what we think.

...Naturally Valuable

(continued from page 14)

a landscape and an institution working towards its mission the Huyck Preserve makes a significant contribution to Rensselaerville and its residents.

The Preserve has certainly played a role in enriching many aspects of my life and many others I know. Since its beginning the Preserve has had a positive impact and without it Rensselaerville would not be the unique and special landscape that it is.

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PAUL MOLLOY





Town of Rensselaerville
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Medusa, NY 12120
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(518) 239-4225

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LOB, Albany, NY 12247; 518-455-2800
Assem. John McEneny, 104th Dist.
LOB, Albany, NY 12248; 518-455-4100
County Legislature, 39th Dist.
Alexander (Sandy) Gordon, 872-2602
144 Beebe Rd., Berne, NY 12023
Albany County Highway Dept.
239-6715, 239-6710
Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911
Social number— 797-3218
Tri-Village Fire Company, 911
Social number— 239-6780
Medusa Fire Company, 911
Social number— 239-6166
Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911
Information number— 797-5233
Albany County Sheriff, 911, 765-2351
State Police, Rensselaerville & Hilltowns
911, 477-9333
Town Board Meetings
Second Thursday, 7 p.m.; Working meeting
Tuesday before regular meeting, as needed.
Town Justice Court
Mondays, 7 p.m.
Planning Board
First and third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals
Second Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Building Inspector/Zoning Officer
Thursday, 8-10 a.m., 7-9 p.m.
Town Clerk's Hours
Monday – Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, 1:30-7:30 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m.-noon
Supervisor's Hours
Seven days a week, by appointment
Assessors' Hours
Thursday, 6-8 p.m.
Assessors' Clerk Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings
Dog Control Officer
Cheryl Tefft-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