

# Town of Rensselaerville

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

# Volume 19, Number 10

#### October 2008

		August Town Board Minutes Summary
Inside this issue:		The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 14th day of August, 2008 at 7:10 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Nickelsberg and the
Library News	2	roll was called with the following results: PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg, Councilwoman Marie Dermody, Coun- cilman J. Robert Lansing, Councilwoman Sherri Pine, Councilman Gary Chase, Superinten- dent G. Jon Chase, Attorney Joseph Catalano, Town Clerk Kathleen A. Hallenbeck.
Conkling Hall	3	There were 27 interested citizens present.
Senior Corner	4	MINUTES A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the minutes of the Regular Meet- ing held on July 10th, Work Meeting – July 8 <sup>th</sup> , Special Meeting – July 1 <sup>st</sup> as corrected, Special Meeting – August 5 <sup>th</sup> , Emergency Meeting – August 6th, 2008; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Pine. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.
Extra Helpings	5	<b>TRANSFERS</b> – A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to make the following trans- fers: from A1990.4 contingency account to the following accounts: A5010.4 Highway Super- intendent - \$929.74 and A1430.4 Personnel - \$1,121.37; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.
Church Services	6	ABSTRACT – 2008-08 - VOUCHERS A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to pay all signed vouchers; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Council- woman Pine. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.
Code of Ethics	9	CORRESPONDENCE Letters were received from the following:
Board of Ethics	11	NYSDOT putting speed limits on the following roads: Camp Medusa Road – 45 MPH, Gifford Hollow Road – 40 MPH and Niles Road – 45 MPH. Mr. Heath commending Jon Whitbeck, Recycling Coordinator, for the excellent job he does. Letters are available to be viewed at the Town Clerk's office.
Volunteer News and Events	18	<b>REPORTS</b> Reports were received from the following: Supervisor Nickelsberg, Superintendent Chase,
Contact Information	21	Town Clerk Hallenbeck, Attorney Catalano, and Building Inspector Overbaugh. Council- woman Dermody spoke about Procedure for Reports and made the following motion: A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody that elected officials who are not present at a meeting, those of us who sit at this table, but a report is needed, that a report be pre- sented in writing so that it can be read into the records; 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Nickelsberg. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.
		Superintendent Chase reported the following: the resurfacing of Smith Road and Knowles Road will be completed by Tuesday, weather permitting. Several culverts have been replaced on Bates Hollow Road. They have been ditching on Engle Road and should be finished shortly. They will finish ditching and installation of crusher run on Tanglewood Road. Albany County will mark the roads for the speed limit signs next week. Thank you to everyone who called in rain-related problems. Thanks to Marie Dermody for help for researching and installing the new computer. FEMA was discussed at length.
		(Continued on page 15)

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### Library Bookmark

Thanks to everyone for another successful Summer Reading Program! This year, we had over 50 registered participants. All the children in the "Catch the Reading Bug" program were entered into a drawing for an extra special prize. Congratulations to Ari McNeeley for winning tickets to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, and to Nathaniel Wallis for winning free passes to the Zoom Flume Water Park. In the "Metamorphosis" program for teens, participants got one chance to win a range of prizes for every two hours that they read. Congratulations to Amber Case, Zoe Hutchins, and Anna Kelly for winning free movie passes (compliments of Regal Entertainment Group), to Nipu Berger for winning free passes to the Zoom Flume Water Park, and to Kerry Brown and Amber Case for winning gift certificates to the Greenville Booksmith.

**Join us for our new season of First Friday movies,** kicking off at **Conkling Hall on Friday, October 3 at 6: 30P.M.** with the Tim Burton classic, *The Nightmare Before Christmas.* Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown, stumbles upon Christmastown and is so taken, that he urges the residents of Halloweentown to put on their own version of Christmas. Run time: 76 minutes. Rated PG for some scary images.

Join us at the Library on **Friday, October 31 at 6:30P.M.** for a special **Hallow-een Party!** We will celebrate the holiday with all sorts of games, stories, and food. This event is open to all ages. (**Please note:** The Library will close at 6:00 P.M. in preparation for this event and reopen at 6:30P.M.)

Attention to all our little crafters! Please join us **every Saturday at 11:00A.M.** for a **Story Time and Craft.** All materials will be provided. For our more mature crafters, the **Knitting and Handiwork Circle** meets **every Tuesday night from 7:00-9:00P.M.** Call the Library at 797-3949 for more information.

Attention all *Dungeons and Dragons* fans! The Library invites you to join others **every Friday from 6:00-9:00 P.M**. to play this classic game. New players are welcome; no experience is needed. Dice will be provided, and players are welcome to bring their own maps. For more information, contact the Library at 797-3949.

Are you interested in being a Friend of the Rensselaerville Library? This volunteer organization has been an asset to our Library in the past, and we would love any new members who wish to join. The Friends help to run events, parties, clean-up days, and anything else where we could use an extra hand! Please contact the Library at 797-3949, or by email at rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us. if you are interested.

Visit the Library on the web at <u>www.uhls.org/rvll\_library</u>. We are currently reworking our website. In the meantime, you can continue to visit the site to check out our catalog, order items you would like, and renew any you may have out from the comfort of your own home. You can also keep apprised of upcoming events at the Library.



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

Library Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 AM to Noon, 4:00 -9:00 PM Thursday & Friday: 4:00—9:00 PM Saturday: 9:00-1:00 PM www.uhls.org/rvll\_library

The next **Library Board meeting** is on **Monday, October 20** at 7:00P.M.



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### Conkling Hall—What's On In October

**Saturday, October 11**: The Chili Cookoff Returns!!! Chili Cookers, sign up now: see our website at <u>www.ConklingHall.org</u> for entry form. Chili eaters should show up at 12:00 noon to sample the selection and vote for "People's Choice" winner.

**Sunday, October 12:** RHDA (Rensselaerville Historic District Association) presents the RENSSELAER-VILLE REVIEW. Our annual opportunity for music and a variety of talent: spoken word, instruments and vocal. An afternoon of interpretation, improvization and irreverence. Refreshments will be available. Starts 2:00 PM. Adults \$10, Children 8-16 \$5., children 7 and under, free.

**Wednesday, October 15**: Senior Luncheon: Autumn Celebration. Delicious food served at 12:00 PM, \$4.00. Desserts welcome.

**Friday, October 17**: Noteworthy Coffeehouse presents The Red Headed Strangers. Featuring our own

John Rice. They will present original music with hints of country and delta blues, and driving melodies with evocative images of trains, sin and love lost. Door open at 7:00 PM, music begins at 7:30 PM. Admission \$10. Coffee and snacks available.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER: **Saturday, November 1**: Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers and the Cajun Band return. A return hit. A wonderful evening of music and dance. Beer, wine, beverages and food will be available. Admission: \$15.00. Doors open 7:00 PM for food. Music to follow.

**Pilates: Saturdays 9 - 10 AM.** Mat class. Strengthen your abdominals, gain long, lean muscles and work with good alignment. Appropriate for all levels. **Yoga, Tuesday 9 - 10:15 AM.** Move, breathe, and relax. Good for what ails you. Open to all. Please call Sarah Nelson Weiss 239 6825 for more information.

You can contact Conkling Hall at



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

(518) 797 3459 or read our website on www.ConklingHall.org We send out frequent e -mail announcements/ reminders about our events. If you wish to be added to the list, please give us your email address at <u>ConklingHall@earthlink.net.</u>



# Voter Registration Day

The Albany County Board of Elections is holding two registration days at the Town Hall.

October 7th-4:00-8:00 PM

October 11th-1:00-9:00PM

Anyone with questions should call the Albany County Board of Elections at 487-6060.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has changed their meeting day to the *first Tuesday of the month* at 7:00PM

### Senior Corner

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

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

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

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

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





# **Come and Celebrate**

Bessie Bryan turns 90

The family is hosting an Open House on October 11, 2008 from 1:00-5:00PM At the Westerlo Reformed Church Hall

Help us make this a special day for a very special lady....



Your Presence is requested, Your presents are not POST OFFICE INFORMATION

Rensselaerville: 797-3231 Medusa: 239-4826 Preston Hollow: 239-6111



Tim Lippert (518) 797-3610

www.CatskillPaint.com tim@CatskillPaint.com

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# Extra Helpings Food Buying Club — Available to Everyone

Extra Helpings is a program of the Regional Food • Bank of Northeastern New York and is offered to • the community through The Hilltowns Community • Resource Center (HCRC) in Westerlo. The program • is open to all individuals regardless age or income. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and the menus being offered. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings will still Special #3: \$32.00 be published one month in advance. October's Extra Helpings menus are as follows:

(Please note the slight increase in regular menu and meat box prices.)

#### October's Regular menu: \$21.00

- 1.5 lbs. Bacon-wrapped Pork Medallions
- 2 lb. bag Chicken Tenders .
- 1 lb. pkg. Sirloin Steak Tenders •
- 2 lbs. pre-seasoned Meatloaf Mix .
- 3 lb. bag Apples
- 20. oz. Peeled Butternut Squash

Special #1: \$ 13.00

5 lb. Block Sliced American Cheese

Special # 2: \$ 15.50 PASTA BOX

18 oz. Stuffed Shells

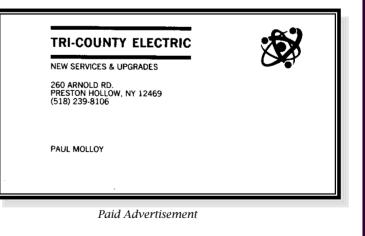
- 12 oz. Sun-dried Tomato Stuffed Shells
- 12 oz. Spinach Stuffed Rigatoni
- 13 oz. Lg. Round Ravioli
- 16 oz. Tri-color Tortellini
- 13 oz. Potato and Cheese Pierogi
- 18 oz. Manicotti
- 2 gts. Casa Visco Spaghetti Sauce

MEAT BOX

- 2 lbs. **Pork Roast Netted**
- 3 lbs. Stew Beef (3/1 lb. pkgs.)
- 3 lbs. Ground Beef (3/1 lb. pkgs.)
- 2 lbs. **Breakfast Sausage Links**
- Chicken Tenders (2/1.5 lb. pkgs.) 3 lbs. (Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.)

PLEASE NOTE: Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by *October 7TH* for pick-up on October 28, 2008. HCRC distributes Extra-Helpings at the Rensselaerville Firehouse from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. and at St. Bernadette's Church in Berne from 11:30 to 12:00 p.m. on delivery days. The pick-up site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra-Helpings or other Hilltowns Community Resource Center services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is P.O. Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.





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

**Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church** Summer Session Worship - 11:00AM Coffee Hour following Mass

*United Church of Christ* Medusa, 239-6119 Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM

## Church Services

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

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

Potter Hollow, 734-5106 Worship: Sunday - 9:00AM Bible Study and Prayer Group Wednesday—6:30PM

# The Rensselaerville Institute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 2, 2008 Contact: Dayle Zatlin Eric Mower and Associates (518) 462-0318 dzatlin@mower.com

# WORLD-FAMOUS RENSSELAERVILLE INSTITUTE & MEETING CENTER NAMES NONPROFIT STRATEGIST C.T. O'DONNELL PRESIDENT & CEO

# *Williams, 38-Year Institute Head, to Focus on Consulting to Nonprofits and Investors*

**RENSSELAERVILLE, N.Y. (September 2, 2008)** – The Rensselaerville Institute & Meeting Center, known for its significant impact on improving the human condition, has hired Charles (C.T.) O'Donnell II, Ph.D., to be president & CEO effective Oct. 1, 2008. A distinguished nonprofit leader, his goal will be to lead the Institute to increase human gain by bringing its outcome tools to nonprofit investors and implementers worldwide.

Dubbed by the *Wall Street Journal* "the think tank with muddy boots," the Institute, a nonprofit, independent organization has provided international counsel and programs related to critical issues and corporate challenges since 1963. For decades, its outcome tools have been used to dramatically increase the effectiveness of government, foundation and nonprofit organizations working on pressing social issues such as poverty, education and healthcare.

The Institute's legacy of lively intellectual dialogue dates back to the classic "Country Forums" held on the property since 1924. It has hosted such notables as U Thant, Isaac Asimov and other world leaders to improve focus, enhance bonding and achieve exceptional productivity.

O'Donnell brings more than a quarter century of successful nonprofit CEO leadership experience and has consistently realized strong operational results and mission-driven growth.

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# The Rensselaerville Institute

the think tank with muddy boots

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"The Institute is so fortunate to have Dr. O'Donnell to take us forward," said Peter Gerry, a member of the Institute's board, and the Search Committee chair. "He brings strategic and administrative experience, and his passion for mission-driven success is renowned throughout the non-profit world. He is a consummate professional."

The Institute helps investors such as foundations, government and individuals, as well as nonprofit organizations, achieve tangible outcomes on their social, educational and healthcare missions. In addition to consulting on outcomes, the Institute operates School Turnaround, an academic improvement initiative that effectively breaks the cycle of underperformance and dramatically increases academic results. The Institute's Community Sparkplugs Program identifies and supports volunteer leaders at the grassroots level with outcome tools aimed at improving communities. Together, they offer a current testimonial to the "hands on" results focus of the Institute's outcome consulting framework for investors and communities.

Prior to joining the Institute, O'Donnell served as president and CEO of KidsPeace National Centers, a 125year-old, 2,400-employee nonprofit with \$170 million budget and 65 centers across America. He spearheaded several successful strategic planning processes that enabled that organization's leadership to significantly expand its high quality services to new and diverse populations and grow the KidsPeace footprint nationally.

O'Donnell has a strong international network and a reputation for convening and collaborating. He serves on multiple national boards, including Families International and the Child Welfare League of America. He has authored or contributed to numerous books, magazines and periodicals, and is quoted frequently in the national media.

O'Donnell holds a Ph.D. in business and technology from Capella University, a master's and 6<sup>th</sup> year Advanced Graduate Studies psychology degree with national certification from Duquesne University and a bachelor's degree from Wheeling Jesuit University. He also has completed the SPINM Nonprofit Management program at Harvard Business School.

Hal Williams, president for the past 38 years, has made many major contributions to the Institute. Among them are his consulting work with major foundations; development of "outcome tools" to help investors and receivers of funding define, achieve and verify accomplishment from grants, gifts and contracts; discovery of "sparkplug" energy, found in individuals who lead community change by example; and creation of the School Turnaround program. Williams will become a senior fellow of The Rensselaerville Institute and will focus on writing, speaking and consulting.

Twenty-seven miles from Albany, N.Y., The Rensselaerville Institute & Meeting Center is known worldwide as a priceless and powerful place for negotiations, strategy/development, team building, training, growing ideas and the place to go for "meetings that matter." The Institute's meeting center specializes in small meetings for groups of 25 to 80.





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# The Town of Rensselaerville Wants YOU!

Do you consider yourself above reproach in terms of independence and integrity? If so, the Town of Rensselaerville encourages you to apply for a seat on the newly created Board of Ethics. The duties and responsibilities for the Board of Ethics are more completely outlined in another section of this newsletter. However, some basic, pertinent information includes the following:

- The Board of Ethics will be a five-member board appointed by the Town Board.
- Each member would serve a maximum term of five years, with the first appointees serving for staggered terms of one to five years so that only one term expires each year.
- The Board of Ethics will render advisory opinions to the Town Board based on the Rensselaerville Code of Ethics pursuant to a written request from a municipal officer or employee.



Please refer to Schedule A of the Code of Ethics published elsewhere in this newsletter for the full text of the document.

Letters of interest should be sent to Kathy Hallenbeck, Town Clerk, at 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY 12120, and received no later than Friday, October 31, 2008. After this date, meetings will be scheduled to interview applicants for these very important positions.



# A Resolution Establishing Standards of Conduct for Officers and Employees of the Town of Rensselaerville

(1) BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of section 806 of the General Municipal Law, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. It is the purpose of this resolution to promulgate these rules of ethical conduct for the officers and employees of the Town of Rensselaerville. These rules shall serve as a guide for official conduct of the officers and employees of the Town of Rensselaerville. The rules of ethical conduct of this resolution as adopted shall not conflict with, but shall be in addition to, and prohibition of article 18 of the General Municipal Law or any other general or special law related to ethical conduct and interest in contracts of municipal officers and employees.

#### (2) Definitions

(a) "Municipal Officer or Employee" means an officer or employee of the Town of Rensselaerville, whether paid or unpaid, including members of any administrative board, commission, or other agency thereof. No person shall be deemed to be a municipal officer or employee solely by reason of being a volunteer fireman or civil defense volunteer, except a chief engineer or assistant chief engineer.

(b) "Interest" means a pecuniary or material benefit accruing to a municipal officer or employee as the result of a contract with the municipality which such officer or employee serves. For the purposes of this Resolution, a municipal officer or employee shall be deemed to have an interest in the contract of:

- -- his/her spouse, minor children and dependents, except a contract of employment with the municipality which such officer or employee serves.
- -- a firm, partnership, or association of which such officer or employee is a member of employee.
- -- a corporation of which such officer or employee is an officer, director, or employee.
- -- a corporation, any stock of which is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such officer or employee.

(c) "Recusal" means that the official may not deliberate, vote, or participate in any way in that matter before the Town Board, the Planning Board, or the Zoning Board of Appeals. The official must disclose his/ her conflict and remove himself/herself from the Board during such deliberations.

#### (3) Standards of Conduct

Every officer or employee of the Town of Rensselaerville shall be subject to and abide by the following standards of conduct:

(a) <u>Gifts.</u> S/he shall not directly or indirectly solicit any gift or accept or receive any gift having a value of twenty-five dollars or more, whether in the form of money, services, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, thing or promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him/her in the performance of his/her official duties or was intended as a reward for any official action on his/her part. For the purposes of this chapter, "gifts" shall exclude gifts from family members, attendance at local social events such as holiday festivities, benefits available to the general public, functions that officials routinely attend (such as chamber of commerce events), and events or activities that fulfill a public purpose.

(b) S/he shall disclose to his/her immediate supervisor all gifts given and accepted under the value of \$25.00 and all gifts attempted to be given but not accepted over the value of \$25.00, however innocent, from donors other than family members. S/he shall disclose any attempt at criminal corruption. Gifts received by supervisors or department heads should be disclosed to the Town Board.

(c) <u>Confidential information</u>. S/he shall not disclose confidential information acquired by him/her in the course of his/her official duties or use such information to further his/her personal interest.

(d) <u>Representation before one's own agency.</u> S/he shall not receive or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered to any matter before any Town agency of which he is an officer, member, or employee or of any municipal agency over which s/he has jurisdiction or to which s/ he has the power to appoint any member, officer, or employee.

(e) <u>Representation before any agency for a contingent fee.</u> S/he shall not receive, or enter into any agreement, express or implied, for compensation for services to be rendered in relation to any matter before any municipal agency whereby his/her compensation is to be dependent or contingent upon any action by such agency with respect to such matter, provided that this paragraph shall not prohibit the fixing at any time of fees based upon the reasonable value of the services rendered.

(f) <u>Disclosure of interest in legislation</u>. To the extent that s/he knows, thereof, a member of the Town Board of the Town and any officer or employee of the Town Board, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in *(Continued on page 10)* 

# A Resolution Establishing Standards of Conduct for Officers and Employees of the Town of Rensselaerville

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the discussion or gives official opinion to the Town of Rensselaerville on any legislation before the Town of Rensselaerville shall publicly disclose on the official record the nature and extend of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest s/he has in such legislation.

(g) <u>Investments in conflict with official duties.</u> S/he shall not invest or hold any investment directly or indirectly in any financial, business, commercial, or other private transaction which creates a conflict with his/her official duties.

(h) <u>Private employment.</u> S/he shall not engage in, solicit, negotiate for, or promise to accept private employment or render services for private interests when such employment or service creates a conflict with or impairs the proper discharge of his/her official duties.

(i) <u>Future employment.</u> S/he shall not, after the termination of service or employment with the Town of Rensselaerville, appear before any board or agency of the Town of Rensselaerville in relation to any case, proceeding, or application in which s/he personally participated during the period of his/her service or employment or which was under his/her active consideration.

(j) <u>Appearance of impropriety.</u> An official should avoid circumstances that compromise his/her ability to make decisions solely in the public interest or create an appearance of impropriety.

(k) <u>Town Property and Resources.</u> No employee may use Town-owned property, assets, or any resources for personal purposes or profit or to benefit any person. Use of these resources is restricted to the conduct of official business, for the benefit of all residents and to further an authorized public purpose.

(l) <u>Nepotism.</u> Spouses and other family members of the Town official may not serve in appointed positions whose duties conflict or appear to conflict within the scope of duties of the official. They may not serve on a commission, board, or body of which the official is a member.

(m) <u>Subordinates.</u> No official shall solicit political contributions from subordinates or request that they attend political functions or engage in any political activity.

(n) Incompatible Positions – Judicial Standards. An official is prohibited from:

- -- holding more than one position with the Town when one is subordinated to the other.
- -- holding more than one position with the Town when the duties of the positions conflict.

(o) <u>Inducement of others.</u> A municipal officer or employee shall not induce or aid another officer or employee of the municipality to violate any of the provisions of this Code of Ethics.

(p) <u>Recusal.</u> A Town official shall promptly recuse himself/herself from acting on a matter before that official or board on which official sits when faced with the above conflicts.

(q) <u>Board of Ethics.</u> A Board of Ethics is hereby established pursuant to §808 of Article 18 of the General Municipal Law to be composed of five (5) members, none of which may be officers or employees of the Town. The members of the Board of Ethics shall be appointed by the Town Board to serve for a maximum term of five years and shall receive no salary or compensation for their services as members of such Board. The first appointees to the Board shall serve for staggered terms of one to five years so that only one term expires each year. The powers and duties of the Board of Ethics shall be those set forth on Schedule A annexed to and made a part of this Resolution. Members of the Board of Ethics shall be subject to this Code of Ethics.

(4) <u>Filing of Claims.</u> Nothing herein shall be deemed to bar or prevent the timely filing by a present or former officer or employee of the Town of Rensselaerville of any claim, account, demand, or suit against the Town or any agency thereof on behalf of himself/herself or any member of his/her family arising out of any personal injury or property damage or for any lawful benefit authorized or permitted by law.

(5) <u>Distribution of Code of Ethics.</u> The Town Clerk of the Town of Rensselaerville shall cause a copy of this Code of Ethics to be distributed to every officer and employee of the Town of Rensselaerville within 30 days after the effective date of this resolution. Each officer and employee elected or appointed thereafter shall be furnished a copy before entering upon the duties of his/her office or employment.

(6) <u>Penalties.</u> In addition to any penalty contained in any other provision of law, any person who shall knowingly and intentionally violate any of the provisions of this Code of Ethics may be suspended or removed from office in the manner provided by law.

(7) <u>Effective date.</u> This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by resolution on the 14th day of August, 2008.

# A Resolution Establishing Standards of Conduct for Officers and Employees of the Town of Rensselaerville

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### Schedule A Town of Rensselaerville Code of Ethics

#### Powers and Duties of the Town of Rensselaerville Board of Ethics

- A. The Board of Ethics shall have the powers and duties prescribed by Article 18 of the General Municipal Law and shall render advisory opinions to the municipal officers and employees of the Town of Rensselaerville, pursuant to a written request, with respect to Article 18 of the General Municipal Law.
- B. The Board shall render advisory opinions to municipal officers and employees with respect to the Rensselaerville Code of Ethics pursuant to a written request by a municipal officer or employee. In no event shall the identity of the municipal officer or employee be disclosed.
- C. An advisory opinion regarding this Code of Ethics shall be provided to the person requesting same. Opinions shall be forwarded by the Board of Ethics to the Town Supervisor and Town Councilpersons of the Town of Rensselaer-ville following the rendering of such opinion.
- D. In addition to the other powers and duties granted to the Board of Ethics, the Board shall have the authority to receive from any person a written complaint questioning the compliance of any Town officer or employee with the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board of Ethics may prescribe a form for such complaint. The Board of Ethics may on its own motion conduct an inquiry of an officer or employee's alleged non-compliance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics upon receipt of substantial, reliable evidence, including, but not limited to, documents, written material, or other forms of proof. The Board of Ethics shall also have the power to initiate complaints as a result of information discovered during the course of its duties.
- E. The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby empowers the Town of Rensselaerville Board of Ethics with the authority to take testimony under oath recognizing that false statements given under oath will be forwarded to the Albany County District Attorney for possible criminal prosecution.
- F. The Board of Ethics may promulgate its own rules as to its forms and procedures and shall maintain appropriate records of its opinions and proceedings in compliance with State laws. All such rules and regulations shall be in compliance with applicable State laws, shall guarantee due process and shall be reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney. The procedure for receipt and investigation of complaints shall be as follows:

**Receipt and Investigation of Complaints** 

(1) The written complaint must be signed, must include the individual complainant's address, and set forth reasonable detail and documentation, if any, of the facts alleged to constitute the violation(s).

(2) The written complaint shall be filed with the Board of Ethics. Upon receipt of said complaint, the Board of Ethics shall acknowledge receipt to the complainant and forward the complaint simultaneously to the officer or employee who is the subject of the complaint and the Town Attorney.

(3) The Board of Ethics shall then conduct a preliminary analysis of the complaint and determine in writing whether there is probable cause for the complaint. In the event that the Board of Ethics should find no probable cause for the complaint, the complaint shall be dismissed by the Board of Ethics *sua sponte*. Such dismissal shall be decisive and binding with respect to the matter or matters set forth in the dismissed complaint. The Board of Ethics shall then notify the complainant, the officer or the employee who is subject of the complaint and the Town Board of the disposition of the complaint.

(4) In the event that the Board of Ethics should find probable cause for the complaint, the Board of Ethics shall forward to the Town Board a copy of its probable cause decision together with any information and documentation acquired by the Board of Ethics regarding the complaint.

(5) The Board of Ethics shall then conduct an investigation and hearing on said complaint within a reasonable time period not to exceed 90 days.

(6) Upon the request of a majority vote of the total voting membership of the Board of Ethics, the Board may require the attendance of necessary witnesses and the production of documents and other materials pertinent to the investigation.

(7) The officer or employee who is the subject of the complaint shall have the right to be represented by counsel at any required appearance before the Board of Ethics.

(Continued on page 12)

# A Resolution Establishing Standards of Conduct for Officers and Employees of the Town of Rensselaerville

(Continued from page 11)

(8) A copy of the transcript of the testimony of the officer or employee, who is the subject of the complaint, shall be provided at no cost to the officer or employee.

(9) The Board of Ethics may require a written sworn response from the officer or employee who is the subject of the complaint in lieu of an appearance before the Board of Ethics.

(10) After the complaint has been filed and prior to any investigation undertaken of a complaint before the Board of Ethics, no member of the Board of Ethics or any of the Board's authorized agents may communicate directly or indirectly with any party or other persons about any issue of fact or law regarding the complaint, except that:

(a) the members of the Board of Ethics may obtain legal advice from the Town Attorney/Deputy Town Attorney or special counsel as the case may be, and

(b) the members of the Board of Ethics may discuss the complaint among themselves;

(c) if any person attempts to influence a Board of Ethics member regarding the pending complaint, the Board member shall report the substance of the communication to the Board of Ethics at the next regular meeting of the Board of Ethics; and

(d) failure to comply with this paragraph shall be deemed to be cause for removal of that member.

(11) At the conclusion of its investigation and hearing on said complaint, the Board of Ethics shall then furnish the complainant, the officer or the employee who is subject of the complaint, the Town Attorney, and the Town Board of the disposition of the complaint and its recommendation for action made to the Town Board.

G. All actions, decisions, and recommendations of the Board of Ethics shall be by majority vote of the entire membership.

H. The Town of Rensselaerville Board of Ethics shall have such other powers and duties as shall be provided by or pursuant to Article 18 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

I. To the extent allowed by law, the Town of Rensselaerville Board of Ethics shall be subject to the New York State Freedom of Information Law and to the Open Meetings Law.

J. Discussions held in Executive Session shall remain confidential and will not be disclosed.

K. The complaint, records, and other proceedings related thereto shall remain confidential until the Board of Ethics makes a recommendation for action to the Town Board or dismisses the complaint.

L. The members of the Board of Ethics shall have the right to obtain opinions from qualified people other than themselves provided that the majority of the members of the Board of Ethics agree with such a course of action and the names of the individuals involved in the complaint are withheld.



# ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd FROM 11:30 AM TO 2:00 PM THE MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL



# **AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

# ADULTS - \$9.50 CHILDREN AGES 5-12 - \$4.50 UNDER AGE 5 - FREE





# **ALL ARE WELCOME**

#### Town of Rensselaerville

# **Radical Systemz**

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# **Authorized dealer**



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# August Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 1)

Supervisor Nickelsberg reported on the cost of fuel and what are we going to do to help our seniors. This was discussed at length. FEMA and SEMO fund accounts were discussed a length.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to secure the services of an auditor to try and find the \$200,000 plus of FEMA money that is somewhere in the budget; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

Town Clerk Hallenbeck reported the funds collected for the Town Clerk's Department and the Water and Sewer Departments.

Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh reported on the work done on the tower owned by American Tower.

Attorney Catalano reported on the tower owned by American Tower. They have not responded to the town's request concerning the items that are in disrepair. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Nepotism Law was discussed at length.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to have Attorney Catalano give a written opinion on the letter that we got back from the Attorney General addressing the ethics and nepotism issue that we have in front of this town; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Supervisor Nickelsberg – AYE; Councilman Chase – NA; Councilwoman Dermody – NA; Councilman Lansing – AYE; Councilwoman Pine -NA

Maintenance: The Town Board is waiting for an opinion concerning this issue from Civil Service.

Assessing Department: There were no assessors present; the Town Board discussed REVAL.

**CURRENT EVENTS** – August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Conkling Hall the kids will be putting on a play.

#### Pearson Road Culvert

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine authorizing Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign the Stream Disturbance permit application for NYS Department of Conservation; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously passed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2008 – ALTERNATIVE MEMBERS OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LAW. A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody that we adopt Local Law No. 2 of the year 2008, a local law entitled "Alternate Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals Law," as presented at the Public Hearing; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Supervisor Nickelsberg – NA; Councilman Chase – AYE; Councilwoman Dermody – AYE; Councilman Lansing – AYE; Councilwoman Pine - AYE

#### CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics was presented at last month's meeting and, since there was a lot to digest, it was decided to allow the public a month to look it over and make comments in writing to the Town Board.

One e-mail was received. The Town Board held a lengthy discussion concerning the Code of Ethics and Board of Ethics.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to adopt this resolution; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Supervisor Nickelsberg – NA; Councilman Chase – AYE; Councilwoman Dermody – AYE; Councilman Lansing – NA; Councilwoman Pine - AYE

Councilwoman Dermody moved recommending Supervisor Nickelsberg take this document and modify it and present those modifications and see if we will accept them;  $2^{nd}$  by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously accepted.

#### MYOSOTIS LAKE DAM

Mr. Chad Jamison, Executive Director of the EN Huyck Preserve, spoke about the spillway at the Myosotis Lake Dam. The emergency plan needs to be updated. The Preserve, Town Board, and Water Committee will meet to discuss the spillway issues.

# August Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 15)

#### RENSSELAERVILLE WATER DISTRICT

The Rensselaerville Water/Sewer Committee submitted a report of what they have been doing. They have interviewed one of the three engineering firms for repair of the impounding dam. There was a leak in the system; the leak was found and repaired. The leach field for the sewer system will be mowed.

#### WASTE OIL FURNACE

A 1000 gallon oil tank has been secure; the tank needs to be placed on a pad, a roof over it and installed.

#### SENIOR EMPLOYEE

One person has submitted a job application for the job. The person would like to work inside. The ad will be put in the newsletter again.

#### CPA

An RFP for a CPA will be put in the paper. This is a position for an as-needed basis.

#### UNION NEGOTIATIONS

The Town Board went into Executive Session to discuss Union negotiations.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - MEETING DATE CHANGED

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to change the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting from the second to the first Tuesday, 7 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

#### VERIZON DRIVE

Verizon is putting a cell tower up on the Rensselaerville Institute's grounds. The road needs to be named for 911 purposes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to name the road that the Verizon tower will be located on, Verizon Drive; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

#### 2009 BUDGET

Department heads need to submit their budget request.

HALLL OF FAME

Supervisor Nickelsberg would like to have nominations for two people for the Hall of Fame by the end of September.

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS MANDATORY TRAINING

Six election inspectors need to go to mandatory training for the Board of Elections at Saint Rose. They would like to know if they can use the van and will the Town pay for the gas.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg authorizing the election inspectors to use the van or bus and we pay for the gas to go to this mandatory training; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously passed.

#### KING LANE CONTRACT/INGALLS ASSOCIATES.

The Town Board discussed the contract for King Lane and the need for a big excavator to place the large stone on the slope.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody authorizing Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign the

contract with Ingalls & Associates for the King Lane Project; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg that Superintendent Chase be authorized to rent an excavator under State contract for the work placing the large stone on the hill on King Lane; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

#### COM DOC

Information was received from ComDoc concerning a lease on a large copy machine that would enable the Town to do the newsletter in house at a saving of \$206.00 a month. The Town Board discussed this issue and would like to have ComDoc come to a meeting to answer questions and go over an RFP.

# August Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 16)

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#### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Audience comments brought up for discussion were needing drivers for the bus or van during the summer lull of drivers, the Equalization Rate, the newsletter, Superintendent Chase's new computer, the arrival of the new pickup, what shape are the trucks in for winter, fire wall and records room, the transfers done tonight, FEMA funding, CPA and helping the seniors with fuel this winter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck, Town Clerk

NOTE: Full Town Board Minutes can be found on the Town website (<u>www.rensselaerville.com</u>) or at the Town Hall.

# Town Hall will be closed on October 13th in observance of Columbus Day





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

SEPT. 20th OCT. 18th NOV. 15th Dec. 20th JAN. 17th FEB. 21st MAR. 21st APR. 18th

# MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY Free Will Offering

A

### Volunteer News and Events

### Medusa Volunteer Fire Department

Company Meeting: Monday, October 6th, at 8:00 PM

Drill & Work Meeting: Monday September 13th and September 20th at 7:00PM

Special Events: Election Day Buffet—5:00-7:00PM Cost: \$8.00 Adults; \$4.00 Children 5-12; Free for Children under 5

> Annual All you can eat Turkey Dinner Sunday, November 2nd, 11:30-2:00 PM Cost: \$9.50 Adults, \$4.50 Children 5-12; Free for Children under 5

# **Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department**

Join us for another season of saving lives and homes in your neighborhood!! Calls as of September 10<sup>th</sup> : 35

#### October:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 7pm Ladies Battalion
- 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm Company Drill
- 11<sup>th</sup> END Food Drive
- 12<sup>th</sup> 8am-11am <u>Pancake Breakfast</u>
- 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm Company Drill
- 25<sup>th</sup> 7am 12pm Red Cross Blood Drive
- 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Company Meeting
- 31<sup>st</sup> <u>Halloween Party</u> Come join the fun!!!

#### **Special Events:**

- 10/12 Come join us for "Glen's famous pancakes", served with: Eggs YOUR way and Sausage or Ham (Free will donation)
- 10/31 Halloween Party R'ville Fire Department and R'ville Library... This was a huge success last year with Palm readings, refreshments and ghost stories. It was a BLAST for all ages. Come in costume for more fun!!
- 11/1 11/22 TOY DRIVE to benefit families served by the "Hilltown Communities Resource Center". Please GIVE GENEROUSLY.....

### **Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Department**

Company Meeting: Wednesday. October 1st at 8:00PM

# Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance Department

Company Meeting: Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00PM



November:

1<sup>st</sup> - <u>Begin TOY Drive for HCRC</u> 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7pm Company Drill 5<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Ladies Battalion 10<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Company Drill 22<sup>nd</sup> - <u>End TOY Drive</u> 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm Company Meeting

# The Lee Shaw Trio to Perform at the Rensselaerville Meeting Center on October 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Rensselaerville, NY (September 10, 2008)

On October 18, 2008, the Lee Shaw Trio will perform in the Guggenheim Auditorium at the Rensselaerville Meeting Center, 63 Huyck Road, Rensselaerville, NY. A reception for Ms. Shaw precedes at 6:30 PM and the performance begins at 8:00 PM.

At this special performance, "From New York to New Orleans," Lee's swinging, exciting, acoustic jazz piano will feature one of the most important influences in jazz: the blues. Lee will select a few of her favorite tunes and share stories and memories of past performances. She will be joined by Rich Syracuse on the bass and Jeff Siegel on the drums.

The reception for Ms. Shaw will be next to the performance hall, at the Huyck House estate, starting at 6:30 PM. The Meeting Center's gourmet chefs will serve hors d'oeuvres before the concert. Tickets for the reception and concert are \$20 for adults and \$18 for students, and there will be a cash bar.

The 180-seat Guggenheim Auditorium is the perfect place to hear this intimate, acoustic performance. The audience will be treated to a marvelous evening of America's music, jazz, with a performer who has been a part of that music's rich history and who continues to create new and exciting performances!

The Lee Shaw Trio has been performing for forty years, and has shared bills with the likes of Anita O'Day, Dinah Washington and Sarah Vaughn. Recent performances have included the Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Festival and the Saratoga Jazz Festival. This fall, her trio returns to World of Basses in Reutlingen, Germany for The Lee Shaw Festival.

A native of Ada, Oklahoma, Lee Shaw has lived in the Albany area for the last three decades. She will also be honored this year at the University of Art and Science in Chickasha, OK where she is one of 10 'highly successful woman' who graduated from the school.

The Rensselaerville Meeting Center is 27 miles south of Albany on NYS Route 85.

To reserve your seat, please e-mail <u>frontdesk@rmeetingcenter.com</u> or call 518.797.5100 ext 612. Unsecured seats will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information on the Rensselaerville Meeting Center see <u>www.rmeetingcenter.com</u>.

For more information on The Lee Shaw Trip see <u>http://www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk\_id=75026</u>





# **ALL ARE INVITED**

# FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE TRI-VILLAGE VOL FIRE CO, INC.

**PRESTON HOLLOW, N.Y.** 12469

OCTOBER 7, 2008 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS FURNISHED FUN & GAMES

# **HANDOUTS & GIFTS**

# **BRING THE YOUNG ADULTS**

**Rensselaerville Fire Departments Food Drive** 

The three Town of Rensselaerville fire departments — Medusa, Rensselaerville and Tri-Village — will hold their <u>annual food and supplies drive for</u> the <u>Hilltown Community Resource</u> <u>Center.</u> This event will run from Saturday <u>9/15/2007 through 10/13/2007</u>.

Hilltowns Community Resource Center (Catholic Charities) 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 are:

Non-perishable food items (Please, no expired dates) Laundry Supplies (detergent, softener, etc.) Personal hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, etc.)

Drop off Locations are as follows:

Hilltown Café, # 26 Rt. 353, Rensselaerville Medusa Post Office Building, Medusa Preston Hollow Baptist Church, Rt. 145, Preston Hollow Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Rd., Medusa





#### Volume 19, Number 10

<u>Town Board Meetings</u> Second Thursday 7:00 pm

Working Meeting Tuesday 7:00 pm before regular meeting

Town Justice Court Mondays 7:00 pm

<u>Planning Board</u> First and third Thursdays 7:30 pm

> Zoning Board of Appeals First Tuesday 7:00 pm

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

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

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

> <u>Assessors' Hours</u> Thursday 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

<u>Assessors' Clerk Hours</u> Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning

> Dog Control Officer Cheryl Baitsholts 518-797-5201

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

Water/Sewer District Meeting First Thursday 7:00 pm

## Important Contact Information

Town Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg

Town Clerk & Collector Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

> <u>Town Justices</u> Victor LaPlante, Victoria Kraker

Attorney for the Town Joseph Catalano

Deputy Town Attorney Jon Kosich

<u>Councilpersons</u> Gary Chase, Marie Dermody, J. Robert Lansing, Sherri Pine

Building Inspector <u>& Code Enforcement Officer</u> Mark Overbaugh

<u>Assessors</u> Jeff Pine, Peter J. Hotaling, Jr., Donna Kropp Rachel Chase, Clerk II

> Highway Superintendent G. Jon Chase

<u>Planning Board</u> Muriel Frasher, Chairman Rebecca Platel, Secretary

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

> Deputy Town Clerk Dee Andrus

> > <u>Bookkeeper</u> Patricia Britton

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

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

> <u>Assem. John McEneny</u>, 102nd Dist. LOB, Albany, NY 12248 518-455-4100

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

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

<u>Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911</u> Social Number - 797-3218

<u>Tri-Village Fire Company</u>, 911 Social number - 239-6780

<u>Medusa Fire Company</u>, 911 Back up emergency number, 943-9010 Social number - 239-6166

<u>Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911</u> For Information - 518-797-5233

> <u>Albany County Sheriff</u>, 911 518-765-2351

State Police <u>Rensselaerville and Hilltowns,</u>911 518-477-9333

#### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

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

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Town of Rensselaerville 87 Barger Road Medusa, New York 12120

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