

Town of Skaneateles

A NEWSLETTER
FOR
THE RESIDENTS
OF THE
TOWN OF
SKANEATELES

VOLUME 11

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DECEMBER 2013

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From The Supervisor

Terri Roney

It's hard to believe my second term as Town Supervisor is coming to a quick end. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve these last four years. During this time, I have had the pleasure of meeting many people in our community I would not have met otherwise. These same people help define the Skaneateles community.

With the joint efforts and support of my other Town Board members, Jim "Skinny" Greenfield, Rick Keyes, Steve McGlynn and Nancy Murray, we were able to accomplish a few things. With our conservative fiscal approach, we examined every department and worked hard to reduce costs where feasible. We were able to change the way we do business at the transfer station and reduce expenses while continuing to deliver good service to Town residents. We have built reserves to put the Town in a good fiscal position going forward.

We were also successful in moving the Western Gateway forward so that all major construction is complete. Some post-construction landscaping will be completed in the spring of 2014. We helped to reinvigorate the Stauffer Chemical cleanup in Skaneateles Falls and have been told by the NYS DEC that the cleanup will be finished in 2014 making the site developable for light industrial business use.

In addition to my fellow Board members, there are many other people who helped me to get elected and achieve the success that I did. My sincere thanks and appreciation go out to Janet Aaron, my right arm at Town Hall, and her Deputy, Julie Stenger, Bridgett Winkelman, my left arm at Town Hall who made public finance and budgeting understandable, Sue Murphy, the Town Board liaison for the Parks Department who coordinates so much, and Jim Card who taught me a great deal about roads, construction and heavy equipment. Thank you also to all of the dedicated, hard-working men and women employed by the Town of Skaneateles in their positions with the Codes Office, Court, the Transfer Station, Highway and Water Departments, Historian, Outreach, Planning and Zoning Boards, Board of Assessment Review, past board members who have shared their experience and wisdom, and the many, many volunteers who serve on one of the various Town committees or local organizations. Lastly, thank you to my husband Mark, my son Jamie and my daughter Lauren who had to put up with my crazy schedule and the demands of being a public servant.

Best wishes for much success to Mary Sennett, Jim Greenfield, Nancy Murray, Connie Brace and Clare Howard. And best wishes to the Skaneateles community for a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and 2014.



Animal Control

Matt Olszewski, Animal Control Officer



Here's the deal. Dogs are property. They belong to someone. In most situations, if you see one wandering in the street, it was either let loose intentionally, or got out accidentally. Now stay with me on this.

By intentionally I mean dog owners open their door and let the dog out. No fence or leash.

Some trust their dog to be contained by an electric fence.

A few are lowlife slugs that go to a quiet country road, toss the dog out of the car and abandon it.

Now accidentally is a little bit different.

Dog tied up in yard breaks leash and takes off.

Dog is in a fenced in yard and goes over or under a fence.

Some trust their dog to be contained by an electric fence.

So the dogs are out loose. A responsible dog owner will keep track of their dog. But once in awhile the dog goes missing and the search is on.....but you're not worried because your dog has proper license tags. You just call Town Animal Control and you are so relieved that the town has seized the dog and after paying a \$50 seizure fee, you are reunited with your beloved pet. Or better yet you have an id tag with your phone number and name on it, and the person that found your dog gives it back to you without the town getting involved.

Or you know what else could happen? Your dog could be picked up by a super-do-gooder. Not just an ordinary everyday do-gooder but a super-do-gooder. A regular do-gooder performs a task and pats themselves on the back saying what a "good person I am". A super-do-gooder takes it a bit further by going out of their way to make it inconvenient to another person. Like the one I dealt with this past summer. A women calls me and

says she saw this little dog in the road. She was concerned so she stopped and picked up the dog. She then headed towards Syracuse with the dog. I questioned her on where exactly she picked up the dog. She said Rt. 20. She seemed evasive and after several moments admitted that she picked up the dog near one of the churches next to the lake. She picked this dog up on a summer afternoon in the village, and took it to Syracuse. Really? On what planet was that a good idea? She picks up a little dog in the village and doesn't think to check with someone nearby? Then she tells me that she can't keep the dog in her hotel. Her hotel? Are you kidding me? Then she requests that I come pick up the dog. That was not going to happen. I did tell her that I would call the police and report the theft of a dog. She seemed befuddled in a low information sort of way. I told her she needed to get the dog back to the village and turn it over to the police. This story had a happy ending. The owner had contacted the village police and when the super-do-gooder returned, the dog was reunited with the owner. Oh I know, you think I am being harsh. You probably don't think I'm an animal lover. And you would be right. You see I think if your dog got out and was picked up by a passing motorist, you would hope that the person calls the proper local authorities. So please make sure your dog has a collar and tags on. Any dog 4 months or older needs to be licensed. Dogs can be licensed at the Town Hall. I also recommend that you get a tag that has your name and phone number on it. Most people would rather call you than call the dog catcher. Lets be real, I don't want to pick.

up your dog either. I am a government employee you know.

Regular readers of my newsletter writings know that I occasionally write about whom I work for. I work for the citizens and visitors in the Town of Skaneateles. I assist on various animal issues that occur in the Town of Skaneateles. Some people get confused because the newsletter gets delivered to everyone in the Skaneateles zip code. Not everyone with a Skaneateles address lives within the geographic limits of the town. I often receive calls from residents from adjoining towns looking for a lost pet. I was called by a gentleman who said that he has a Skaneateles post office box and reads and enjoys my newsletter articles. I thanked him and he went on to tell me a problem he has with his neighbor's dog barking all the time. I advised him of the local nuisance animal law. He told me that he lived in the Town of Fleming in Cayuga County. He began questioning me about the local laws in his town. I told him I didn't know and he needed to speak to officials in his town. As he goes into detail about his complaint I start to wonder why would he call me? He doesn't live in the town. The dog doesn't live in the town, not even the same county. If he reads my newsletter articles, he would know that when I get calls like this I start to think. "Hmm really, you think I care about a barking dog a couple of towns away". But you know what I didn't say anything. I was patient and listened to his complaint and gave him the best advice I could, and I patted

Continued on page 4...

McGlynn Conveys Thanks...

Councilor Stephen McGlynn



Thank you to the residents of the Town of Skaneateles for all of your support during the last 4 years. Through serving the community with the Town staff I have come to appreciate the magnitude of the work that our Town employees accomplish and accomplish with class. We are blessed to have such great people working with us.

I also want to thank Terri, Rick, Jim, and Nancy for their commitment and dedication to the Town. We faced many challenging issues during the last four years and we always debated the issues, sought out professional advice and respected viewpoints of all sides. One of my highlights is the fact that we voted 5-0 on all of the most challenging issues. We always voted with our principals in tact and an eye on the oath we each pledged to the voters upon taking office. We voted with respect for the law and the NYS Constitution.

Without the leadership of Terri Roney we could not have accomplished all that we did as a team over the last 4 years. As it is with many circumstances, only the people in the "fox hole" fully appreciate the contributions and effort Terri put forth and the sacrifices she made. Thank you Terri and I hope someday you return to elected office.



Conservation Area News

2013 was another good year for the Conservation Area. We had a very successful children's fishing derby in July with over 300 fish caught, measured and released back into the pond. Additional trails were established and marked with GPS data to be recorded on the large area maps found at each of the four kiosks. The new maps showing all of the trails were installed on November 16th.

A huge thank you goes out to Chase Design of Skaneateles and Speedpro Imaging of East Syracuse for their support in the creation of the maps. New roadside signs have been installed on Old Seneca Turnpike to indicate the main entrance to the area.

By the time you receive this newsletter we expect another safe and successful deer season will be behind us. Bright red signs are posted at most locations to alert people of the hunting season dates along with safety suggestions for all hikers. With the new trails the snowshoe folks will have new areas to explore.

Heads up for July 19, 2014, the date of our 14th Annual Fishing Derby.

Enjoy the outdoor areas and have a safe and happy holiday season.

Parks Department

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Skaneateles Farmers Market. Once again, it was all of you who make this community event so successful. It is wonderful to see week after week, new faces, but also be greeted by happy and familiar ones. On an average Thursday, over 300 customers walked through the "market gates". That is a lot to be proud of especially when Skaneateles is one of the very few markets that are strictly a Farmer's Market. We will be opening in mid-May for the 2014 season, please watch for details.

Playday '14 is looking like it will have more exciting trips and adventures. Playday registrations will be ready soon after the New Year. We are looking forward to another successful season!

Don't forget about the Guppy Falls and Conservation Area this winter, there is some breath taking sights while out hiking, snowing shoeing, cross country skiing or just plain enjoying the outdoors!

The Austin Park Pavilion Ice Rink is in full swing! With so much more



activity in the parking lot, please be extra cautious when driving.

For reservations or concerns regarding the Park, please contact Sue Murphy at 315-727-9320 or e-mail at parks@townofskaneateles.com

Animal Cont. Continued...

myself on the back and said I too can be a do-gooder.

I have had several calls recently about people who didn't want their pets any more. They kind of think that the town is like the Salvation Army and they can just drop off their unwanted pet. Oh yeah, like I run a thrift shop for used pets. Maybe its tax deductible. Sorry folks. Your pet is your problem.

Dogs and cats are property, but they are also living breathing creatures. I know, you adopted the cat and it's tearing up your couch. The sweet puppy is now a "wild beast" attacking your fig tree (by all means protect the fig tree). It's your problem not the town's you can't just discard the pets like they're an old pair of socks. I advise you to contact your veterinarian for advice and options.

Much to my chagrin the town board chose for the third straight year to contract with The CNYSPCA in Syracuse for Animal Cruelty Services. In my twenty-five plus years in this town involved in law enforcement and animal control, the CNYSPCA to my knowledge has always proven to be unhelpful and unresponsive to any incident that I spoke to them about. Kind of like calling for tech support for your laptop and the phone being answered by a guy named Bob from Cleveland. You know his name is not Bob and he's surely not from Cleveland. I recommended to the board that they not renew this contract again, but they did. Contact the CNYSPCA at 315-454-3469 to file a cruelty complaint.

Please call if you have an animal control issue. The next newsletter is only a few months away.

Don't Forget.....

ALL dogs living in the Town and Village of Skaneateles must be licensed. Licenses may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office

To Contact Animal Control

Please Call:

Matthew Olszewski 315-575-3563
Town Hall 315-685-3473

Historian

By: Beth Batlle Historian



A large group of people gathered on a warm day in August of 2013, at the Rural Cemetery in Elbridge, to honor the twenty-two Revolutionary war soldiers buried there long ago.

Everyone stood at attention as the flag of 1777 was raised on the flag pole by the Boy Scouts. When the flag reached the top, a gentle breeze unfurled the 13 stripes of red and white, revealing the 13 white five-pointed stars circled on the deep blue square.

The sight of this flag sent chills up and down my spine. Though I was looking at a reproduction, this was the same flag these twenty-two men would have looked upon as they fought for their freedom in their new country, a flag supposedly sewn by Betsy Ross.

An attractive Quaker woman, young Betsy fell in love with John Ross who was not of her faith. Nevertheless, she married him and was "read out of the meeting." John, unfortunately, was killed in an explosion in 1776, leaving Betsy a widow at the age of 24.

She then married Joseph Asburn, a ship's captain; they had two daughters. Joseph died in the Old Mill Prison in England. In May of 1783, Betsy married for the third time, to John Claypoole.

Rachel, one of Betsy's seven daughters, remembered her mother saying that, while she was the widow of John Ross, she made the first United States flag. A committee made up of General George Washington, Robert Morris and Colonel George Ross (her deceased husband's uncle) had called upon her. They showed her a rough drawing of a flag they wanted her to sew for them. The flag was

designed with the same colors as the British flag which had previously flown over the colonies – red, white and blue.

Apparently Betsy made some suggestions in regard to the flag's proportions. She also felt the six-pointed stars should be five, and, instead of being scattered, should be in a line or in a circle. They considered her suggestions and returned with a new drawing.

This was in June of 1776, just before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Betsy picked up her needle and began sewing. When Betsy completed the flag the committee took it to Congress for their approval. The next day Colonel Ross returned to Betsy to tell her that the flag had been approved and asked her to sew as many flags as she could for the new government.

Betsy made flags for over 50 years. During that time she saw the original 13 stars grow to 24. Completely blind, Betsy died at the age of 84 and was buried beside her husband in the Free Quaker burial grounds. Her remains, however, were later re-interred in the garden adjacent to the Betsy Ross Home in Pennsylvania.

Skaneateles was still an unsettled wilderness during this time of the Revolution. However, after this area was divided into the military lots and given as payment for the soldiers of the State of New York who had served in the militia, settlers began arriving here. Historian F. J. Hymphryes notes that there were 62 accredited Revolutionary War soldiers living in the Town of

Skaneateles post war and 18 others that he listed as probables.

For instance, David Welch of Mandana served with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys of Vermont. Joseph Coy of Shepard Settlement marched into battle at Lexington. Nathaniel Eells of the village, fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Isaac Trowbridge of the town, was stationed at Ticonderoga and Zaccheus Granger was taken as a prisoner at Fort George.

As in Elbridge, these Revolutionary War soldiers should not be forgotten as the history of Skaneateles unfolds. Though the original 13 stars of their flag may have grown to 50, their 13 red and white stripes still remain on our flag today.

Don't Forget to Visit the
Skaneateles Historical Society
Museum at

The Creamery
28 Hannum Street

Hours:

January - April Friday 1-4

May - June Fri. & Sat. 1-4

July - August Fri., Sat. & Sun 1-4

September - October Fri. & Sat. 1-4

November - Thanksgiving Fri. 1-4

Thanksgiving - Christmas

Fri., Sat. & Sun 1-4

Pantry News

By Judy Gelston



This year all of the churches involved with the Ecumenical Food Pantry were extremely generous with their contributions to the Thanksgiving Baskets. We are proud to say that 99 families received a nice dinner. Those figures break down to 114 adults, 72 children and 54 seniors. Under the watch of Jean Babbles and Shirley Moss this all was coordinated. At different times each of the church members contributed their time with box set up, goodie bags, filling the dinner cartons, and general muscle on that day. Cider, apples, squash, frozen tomatoes, and citrus were generously donated to make this day a real feast for all. Our energetic Girl Scouts helped make the senior deliveries on the Laker Limo under the direction of Maggie Dienst and Lynn Fields.

The Boy Scouts collected 2,085 pounds of food while the Girls Scouts shelved it as it came in. It kept everyone quite busy on November 9th.

Thank you for all who ran, walked and strolled in the Turkey Trot beginning in Cliff Park on Thanksgiving morning. It was a nice way to get out and to justify the over eating that will follow later in the day. Denny Owen and his sons Brian, Marty, and Joe were the Coordinators of the event. Children who attended received medals for their efforts and a chance to run off some of their excess energy. The proceeds from this event fund the turkeys and pies for the pantry at Thanksgiving.

Our Christmas dinner baskets will be given out on December 23rd and they will feature goodie bags, hams and all the ingredients for a lovely Christmas Dinner. The Rotary Club sponsored a large turkey dinner on December 5th. This event helps the pantry with their expenses and funds the Christmas Baskets.

The Pantry will be closed on December 22 through January 1st. It will reopen January 2, 2014 at 10:00a.m.

Pantry hours: Tuesdays 10:00a.m.-11:00 a.m.
 Thursdays 7:00p.m. -8:00 p.m.
 For emergencies call 685-5048 or 685-3512

Outreach Office Looking for Help

Jacque McConnaghy and Pat Snyder, Coordinators

The holiday season is upon us and the Outreach office has been very busy getting things organized to assist local families in need for the holidays.

This year benefits from HEAP and SNAP which provide heating and nutritional assistance to those in need have been reduced. With these cuts we are expecting a rise in the number of residents seeking help with basic needs.

If you would like to make the season brighter and hard times a bit easier for residents in need please send your tax deductible contributions to:

Skaneateles Outreach
24 Jordan Street
Skaneateles, NY 13152

If you are in need of assistance the Skaneateles Outreach office is here to help. Residents of the Town of Skaneateles or the Skaneateles School District can contact the Outreach office for information on programs available.

Please contact our office for confidential help 685-0427.

SAVES Ambulance

By: Jerry Schinaman



SAVES is a combined paid and volunteer nonprofit organization. We are always looking for new volunteers. Because SAVES is a 24/7 operation, shifts must be filled with paid personnel if volunteers are not available thus increasing operating costs. Reimbursement from insurance companies does not cover these costs. Therefore, support from the community is vital to maintaining our service to the community. Our main fund raiser "Coming to the Rescue" is currently underway. We want to thank those who have generously responded and ask that others consider responding to this appeal.

While SAVES currently has many volunteers contributing their time to support our operation, there is another group that is often overlooked. I am speaking of the volunteer fire departments in our service area. The ability to call on these dedicated volunteers allows us to continue to operate with two person duty crews and control operating costs. The volunteer firemen can be counted on to respond at any hour to assist in helping their neighbors in need. We would like to thank members of the following fire departments for their professional assistance:

Borodino, Marcellus, Mottville, Owasco, Sennett, Skaneateles, and Spafford

SAVES continues to make CPR/AED classes available to the community. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month at SAVES. Classes start at 8:00 AM and there is a \$50.00 charge. The next classes are currently scheduled for January 18 and February 15. Special classes can be arranged for groups or businesses. Call SAVES, 685-5217, for more information.

We are always looking for new members. No previous experience is necessary and SAVES provides training.

SAVES has responded to 731 calls for assistance through October, 2013.

Winter has arrived and it is important that walks and driveways be kept clear so that emergency vehicles can safely respond to your emergency. Ambulances are not 4-wheel drive vehicles and cannot safely navigate deep snow in driveways. Also, having to clear sidewalks slows our response time.

Speaking of 4-wheel drive vehicles, we remind you to use caution while navigating the slippery winter roads in our area. AAA recommends the following::

- Avoid driving while you are fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze up. If possible avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface.
- Always use your seat belt.

Remember SAVES is a 24 hour per day and seven days per week operation.

If you are in need of medical assistance call 911 to get an ambulance started in your direction.

Take an active role in fire prevention with the following fire safety tips:

- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Vacuum alarms monthly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Replace old alarms. Smoke alarms ten years old or older need to be replaced.

For additional information regarding the proper installation, maintenance and benefits of home smoke detectors, please contact your local fire officials or the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control at www.dos.state.ny.us/fire



The Town of Skaneateles Transfer Station

The new year is here gain and so are your new Transfer Station Permits. The 2014 Transfer Station Permits are now available at the Town Hall and at the Town of Skaneateles Transfer Station.

The Town of Skaneateles Refuse Law requires all residents to have a valid permit to enter the Transfer Station. Permits are available for a fee of \$20.00 per household.

Only refuse that has originated from the Town of Skaneateles will be accepted.

WARNING: Depositing refuse which has not originated in the Town of Skaneateles is punishable by a \$250.00 fine and or 15 days imprisonment.

Commercial loads and haulers require a Commercial Permit available at the Town Hall.

If you have any questions please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 315-685-3473

**Remember: Town residents with a valid Transfer Station Permit can dispose their Christmas trees at the Transfer Station.
Please deposit in the Tree and Brush Pile!**

The Town of Skaneateles Transfer Station will be closed on all Town observed holidays for 2014:

January 1	New Year's Day
January 20	Martin Luther King Day
February 17	President's Day
April 18	Half Day in observance of Good Friday
May 26	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 1	Labor Day
October 13	Columbus Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 27-28	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas

Important Phone Numbers:

Town Clerk	685-3473	Supervisor	685-6726
Animal Control	575-3563	Codes	685-0833
Highway	685-6718	Planning and	685-1384
	952-2645	Zoning	
Parks	685-1949	Court	685-5880
	727-9320	Assessor	685-0745
		Tax Collector	685-8148

In case of any emergency call 911

Town Tax Collector Office Hours for 2014

Town and County Tax Collection
Wednesday's 9:30a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Friday's 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m.
Through March 2014

If you have any questions please call the
Tax Collector's Office at 685-8148

From the Town Clerk's Office

Janet L. Aaron, Town Clerk



Dog Licenses: Don't forget.....ALL dogs living in the Town and Village of Skaneateles must be licensed. Licenses may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office

FISH Calls: To schedule your appointment with FISH please call 685-6679 between 8:00a.m. - 8:30a.m. on the day of the appointment

Monthly Town Hall Meetings and Court:

Town Board	7:00 p.m.	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays
Town Court	7:00 p.m.	Every Wednesday (no court on a 5 th Wednesday)
Planning Board	7:30 p.m.	3 rd Tuesday
Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.	1 st Tuesday

TOWN WEBSITE

Please visit our brand new fully updated Town of Skaneateles website located at www.townofskaneateles.com for the most up to date zoning information, meeting agendas and minutes.

Town Hall Closings through June 2013

Close at Noon December 24 th	Christmas
December 25 th	Christmas
January 1 st	New Year's Day
January 20 th	Martin Luther King Day
February 17 th	Presidents' Day
Close at Noon April 18 th	Good Friday/Easter
May 26 th	Memorial Day

New Faces at Town Hall

Residents visiting the Town Hall will see some new faces this year!

In the Assessor's Office Ron Miller retired at the end of September, he had been a part of the Town's staff since 2007 and he will be missed!

The Town's new Assessor is Linda Wright. She has had more than 20 years of experience as an Assessor in New York State and is excited about working with the Town of Skaneateles residents.

Assessor Office hours:

Tuesday's 8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Wednesday's 8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Thursday's 8:00 a.m. - 4:30p.m.

If you have any questions call her office at 315-685-0745 or stop in during office hours.

In The Codes Enforcement Office we welcome the Town's new Codes Enforcement Officer, Adam D'Amico. Adam comes to the Town from the Village of Skaneateles and is a volunteer fireman with the Skaneateles Fire Department.

If you have any questions please call the Codes Office at 315-685-0833.

Town of Skaneateles
24 Jordan Street
Skaneateles, NY 13152
Tel: (315)685-3473 Fax: (315)685-5449
www.townofskaneateles.com

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SKANEATELES, NY 13152

*****ECRWSS*****

Postal Customer
Skaneateles NY 13152

Town Officials and Contacts

Town Board

Terri Roney, Supervisor
Jim Greenfield, Deputy Supervisor
Nancy Murray, Councilor
Steve McGlynn, Councilor
Rick Keyes, Councilor

Town Clerk-Janet Aaron

Highway Superintendent- Jim Card

Tax Collector-Lori Milne

Justice—Charles Major

Justice—Kathleen Dell

Assessor—Linda Wright

Budget Officer—Bridgett Winkelman

Codes Enforcement Officer—Debbie Williams

Planning Board Chairman—Mark Tucker

Zoning Board Chairman—David Graham

Town Meeting Schedules

Town Board

1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month

At 7:00p.m.

Planning Board

3rd Tuesday of each month

At 7:30 p.m

Zoning Board of Appeals

1st Tuesday of each month

At 7:00 p.m.

Court

Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

(no Court if there is a fifth Wednesday in the month)