

Town of Ballston

Resident Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 3

Fall 2009

From the Desk of June Maniacek, Assessor

Exemption Renewals

In the next few months, we will be notifying residents about updating their exemptions. Each year we must review the applications to verify that the home owner is receiving the proper amount of exemption. Changes in income, names, and addresses all must be updated. The Veteran's exemption is one that does not require a yearly review, as long as the property remains the primary, owner-occupied residence of the Veteran.

Those residents receiving the **Enhanced Star** (RP 425) exemption will be sent a renewal form. In this case, we will be requesting the **2008** Federal or New York State Income Tax Return. In order to qualify, the Adjusted Gross Income (minus IRA Distributions) must be under \$74,700. Those enrolled in the Income Verification Program do not annually

have to apply with this office. We receive approval or denial directly from the Department of Taxation and Finance. The big disadvantage to this process is that if your income decreases and you might be eligible for a further exemption, we have no way of knowing this.

Those currently receiving the **Senior Citizens Exemption** (RP 467) will be sent a renewal application requesting their **2009** total income. This information is used to calculate the proper amount of exemption. We have three school districts in the Town, and each has their own income schedule. The County of Saratoga also has its own limits. If an income tax form is not filed, upon request, we provide a Worksheet for the owner to complete. All sources of income are to be reported; including Gross Social Security Benefits.

Agricultural Exemptions will be sent to those currently in the program. If there have been changes in ownership or land size, a new long-form application must be provided. Otherwise, a single sheet renewal application is all that is necessary.

ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2010.

If you do not have your Income Tax Return prepared by March 1, **please submit your application on time** and then send in your Income Tax Return as soon as possible.

Important 2010 Dates:

March 1 Exemptions are due

Please call the Assessor's Office at 885-8502 ext. 20 for any additional information.

Highway Dept.

During the month of October the Town Highway Department will be offering residents the use of its dump trucks to assist you in the fall clean up of leaves and garden debris. To request a truck, please contact the Highway Office at 885-8502 ext. 23. Trucks are available on a first come first served basis. We drop off the truck, you fill it, we drive it away.

Also for residents who are interested, there is still wood mulch available at the Outlet Road facility. You would come to the Highway Department to get a key and haul it away yourself. The key is available during office hours, 8 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sand will be available to Town residents behind the highway garage for winter conditions for their residence.

Continued on Page 4

News from The Supervisor...

Ballston Community Day was held Saturday, October 17, 2009. at the Ballston Town Hall. Community Day provided residents the opportunity to learn about the services available to them through the Town, County, State and Federal agencies as well as community groups. The following programs were presented: an historic presentation by Saratoga County Clerk's Office on how Saratoga began, identity fraud prevention and choosing a contractor programs by the Attorney General's Office, bicycle safety and child seat safety check were demonstrated by Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and sheltering in place a program by Emergency Management Committee. In addition, the Boy Scouts set up a camp on the Town Hall Lawn.

Fall is here and with it comes beautiful leaves, back to school and the town budget process. The Town Board is finalizing the formation of the Parks and Recreations committee. We want to thank all those that volunteered to serve on that committee. We have hired C.T. MALE to be our consultant for the town Generic Environmental Impact Study (GEIS). This process will help the board decide if it will implement mitigation fees for infrastructure improvements. Please check the town calendar for upcoming meeting dates.

The Town of Ballston Needs to *COUNT* on You

In February – March of 2010 the United States Census Bureau will be mailing or delivering questionnaires to every household in the country. All residents in the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. The Census Bureau submits the state population count to the President by December 31, 2010.

How does the Census affect the residents in the Town of Ballston? The Census data is used to determine funding, representation and national definition of our country. The Census information determines how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, and transportation. The Census is also used to apportion seats in the United States House of Representatives and to redistrict legislatures and school district assignment areas. In addition, the Census defines us as a nation; recording changes in our community as to where to provide services to the elderly, where to build roads and schools and where to locate job training centers.

How can the residents in the Town of Ballston help with the Census? Since only the short form of the Census will be used this year, residents will need just a few minutes to complete the form so that they can return it as quickly as possible to the Census Bureau. Households, that do not return their Census Questionnaire, will have a home visit from a Census taker to record their data. Please note that Federal Law protects your personal information you share during the Census. If residents use a Post Office Box or live in house apartments, they will not receive a Census Questionnaire. These residents will need to obtain a Census form from designated areas throughout the community, for residents' convenience, the Town of Ballston Town Clerk's Office and the Town of Ballston Community Library will have the Census Questionnaires available. If residents have questions concerning the short form or need help with completing the form, Census Help Centers will be available to you. For further updated information, please consult the Town Website www.townofballstonny.org.

From the Building Department

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The discharging of waste water must be through an approved sewage treatment system. The following excerpt from the Town's Stormwater Management regulations describes these various practices.

Chapter 92 Prohibited illicit discharges

92-2(F): Illicit connections

Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illegal discharge to enter the MS4, including but not limited to: (1) non-stormwater discharge including treated or untreated sewage, process wastewater and any connections to storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted or approved.

92-6(A)(1) Exemptions

The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions: water line flushing, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, foundation or footing drains, crawl space or basement sump pumps, air conditioning condensate, irrigation water, springs water from individual residential car washing, dechlorinated swimming pool discharges, residential street wash water, water from fire fighting activities

New and revised DEC Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control permits will become effective on April 1, 2010.

Pursuant to Chapter 62, Code of the Town of Ballston, Building Permits are required for work which must conform to the [New York State] Uniform Code. The following categories of work are **exempt** from the requirement for a Building Permit: (i) construction or installation of storage sheds, playhouses or similar uses, provided the gross floor area does not exceed 120 square feet; (ii) installation of residential swings and other playground equipment; (iii) installation of residential swimming pools where such pools are designed for a water depth of less than 24 inches and are installed entirely above ground; (iv) installation of fences which **are not** part of an enclosure surrounding a swimming pool; (v) construction of retaining walls unless such walls support a surcharge or impound Class I, II or IIIA liquids; (vi) construction of temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery; (vii) installation of window awnings supported by an exterior wall of a one- or two-family dwelling or multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses); (viii) installation of partitions or movable cases less than 5'-9" in height; (ix) painting, wallpapering, tiling, carpeting, or other similar finish work; (x) installation of listed **portable** electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation or cooling equipment or appliances; (xi) replacement of any equipment provided the replacement does not alter the equipment's listing or render it inconsistent with the equipment's original specifications; (xii) repairs, provided that such repairs do not involve: (a) the removal or cutting away of a load bearing wall, partition, or portion thereof, or of any structural beam or load bearing component; (b) the removal or change of any required means of egress, or the rearrangement of parts of a structure in a manner which affects egress; (c) the enlargement, alteration, replacement or relocation of any building system; (d) the removal from service of all or part of a fire protection system for any period of time.

At Home Disaster Readiness

If any of you remember the Ice Storm of 2008, maybe you also remember whether or not you were ready for it. Many folks were not. Being prepared for a disaster takes some time but waiting until the disaster strikes is just too late. A bit of time spent now will save you a lot of headaches at a time when you need to deal with the situation at hand.

The first thing to remember is that when a disaster strikes, relief help will get to you but not immediately. You need to be able to be responsible for yourself for a while until major plans can be implemented, personnel activated, and resources are accessed. Our Town has a Disaster Plan and the personnel and resources to make it work but everything takes time.

Some things you can do to get ready for an emergency are as follows:

1. Create a basic Emergency Plan for your home. This should include escape routes, meeting places for family members, and who to call such as other family members.
2. Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit. Everyone has an extra set of clothes they can pack into a suitcase or duffle for an emergency. Store some bottled water for drinking. Have some non-perishable foods ready to go. Battery powered radios and flashlights are a must. Don't forget an extra set of keys for your house and car and remember to pack a few days worth of your essential medications.
3. Have a home First Aid Kit. This should be in everyone's home and you should also learn how to treat for serious injuries, such as heavy bleeding, burns, fractures, and shock, until help arrives.
4. If you have the need to evacuate your home, have a plan as to where you can go (a relative or friend's house, a community shelter, etc. - Town Hall will be open). Don't forget about your pets. They will need shelter also and not all community shelters will allow them.
5. Keep your car's fuel tank at least half full at all times. Fuel may be unavailable depending on the type of disaster you are dealing with.
6. If you lose power and are using a generator, be sure it is kept OUTSIDE your home and has backfeed protection. If you do not know what that means, contact a qualified electrician. Also, having an alternative heating source, such as a gas heater or a pellet or wood stove, that does not require electricity is something to be considered.

This list is by no means all inclusive and should be viewed as only a partial guide to getting ready for a disaster. They can happen anywhere, at any time of year, in good weather or bad, and will affect everyone regardless of age, profession, economic status, or neighborhood. Be sure to follow directions that are given by those experts who will be taking charge of the situation and help your neighbors as best you can. We'll all get through it together and make our community even stronger. Additional information can be found at: www.ready.gov.

ELECTION CALENDAR

General Election Day – November 3, 2009

Voter Registration:

In person Voter Registration Application must be received by October 9th, except if you have been honorably discharged from the military or have become a naturalized citizen since October 9th, you may register in person at the Board of Election up until October 23rd.

Voting by absentee ballot:

October 27th is the last day to postmark the application or letter of application for ballot.

November 2nd is the last day to apply in person for a ballot.

November 2nd is the last day to postmark ballot and it must be received by Board of Elections no later than November 10th.

November 3rd is the last day to deliver a ballot in person to the Board of Elections.

If you are interested in serving as an election inspector, please contact the Board of Elections at 885-2249.

Town of Ballston Contact Information

Town of Ballston Website www.townofballstonny.org

Town Supervisor

Patti Southworth 885-8502 extension 13
E-mail psouthworth@townofballstonny.org

Ballston Town Council Members:

Jim Briaddy 399-4436; E-Mail: jbriaddy@townofballstonny.org
Mary Beth Hynes 884-9590; E-Mail: mbhynes@townofballstonny.org
Kim Ireland 399-3880; E-Mail: kireland@townofballstonny.org
Tim Szczepaniak 399-3388 E-Mail tszczepaniak@townofballstonny.org

Ballston Town Clerk

Muriel Swatling 885-8502 ext. 10; E-Mail: townclerk@townofballstonny.org

Ballston Highway Superintendent

Joe Whalen 885-8502 ext. 25; E-mail: jwhalen@townofballstonny.org

Ballston Town Assessor

June Maniacek 885-8502 ext. 20; E-mail: jmaniacek@townofballstonny.org

Ballston Building Inspector Thomas Johnson

& Zoning Enforcement Officer Tony Rohrmeier 885-8502 ext. 14;

E-mail: building@townofballstonny.org

Stormwater Management Coordinator

Lester Bonesteel 885-8502 ext. 40; lbbonesteel@townofballstonny.org

Town Council Meetings

Agenda Meetings – Last Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 pm
Monthly Meetings – First Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 pm

Highway Dept.

Continued from Page 1

As in the past, there will be NO parking on any Town road within four feet of pavement starting November 1 and ending April 1. If you do not obey this Town Law, your vehicle will be towed at your expense. Any obstructions, such as portable basketball hoops, etc. should be removed from the right-of-way of all Town roads so we can remove snow from our roadways. If damage occurs to any such obstacles within the right-of-way, the Town Highway Department will not be held liable. It is difficult enough to plow around mailboxes.

If there are any questions, please contact the Highway Superintendent at 885-8502 ext 25 or e-mail jwhalen@townofballstonny.org. Thank you and have a safe fall and winter.

*****ECRWSS**
RESIDENT
RURAL DELIVERY ROUTE

Visit the New town website
www.townofballstonny.org

Ballston Newsletter-Fall 2009

Town of Ballston
PO Box 67
Burnt Hills, NY 12027



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 75
BALLSTON SPA, NY