

Town of Ballston

Resident Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2009

From Supervisor Southworth's Desk

We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience during the December 12, 2008 ice storm. Our highway and fire departments did an excellent job during a very difficult situation. The Highway Department continues to make progress on debris cleanup as the weather permits. The Town had its first town specific meeting with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State Emergency Management Organization (SEMO) to discuss storm recovery procedures. The reimbursement breakdown is as follows: federal contribution 75%, state and local contribution 12.5% each of the allowable expenses. The total projected cleanup cost will be

determined in the next couple of weeks.

Our new town website has been recently launched. The new web address is www.townofballstonny.org. Your town staff worked hard with Deb Drake of Alternate Highways on the website update. We hope you find it informative and easier to use. We would appreciate your feedback.

The Town Council recently passed the Watershed Protection Overlay District. Information can be found on the town website. Please contact Les Bonesteel, Stormwater Management Coordinator, if you have any specific questions relating to work you intend to do on your property.

There is currently an opening on the Town of Ballston Ethics Board. Anyone interested should contact Supervisor Patti Southworth at 885-8502 ext.13 or psouthworth@townofballstonny.org.

The Saratoga County Animal Shelter will again be offering free rabies vaccinations at the 4H Training Center on Middleline Road in Ballston Spa. Cats must be in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Cats will be vaccinated on the following dates between 7pm - 8pm and dogs between 8pm -9pm:

March 17th, April 21st, May 19th, June 16th, July 7th, August 4th, August 18th, September 8th, September 22nd, October 20th, and November 17th.

The Power is out...now what?

The December ice storm resulted in wide spread power outages in the lower part of Ballston and throughout the Capital region. Following the expansion of Town Hall, a generator was installed to provide a safe place for residents during power outages. As in previous outages, Town Hall was kept open around the clock for Town residents until power was restored. Most people who used Town Hall did so to get extra water supplies and to warm up.

Residents should know keeping Town Hall open during power outages will continue to be the practice going forward.

Safety during severe storms should be a top priority for all. The following are safety points to know during and following outages:

- Use extreme caution and avoid making contact with downed wires and power lines
- When an outage occurs, unplug sensitive appliances such as VCRs, TVs, computers, stereos, air conditioners and microwaves to protect them when your service is restored
- If you have a generator, make sure that it installed properly and has adequate ventilation to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning

- If your home has flooding, check with an electrician before turning on anything following power restoration

Once power is restored, reconnect your appliances one at a time to avoid overloading your circuits

Do not assume that the utility knows that your power is out, or if other homes in your neighborhood have been restored and your power is still out, contact National Grid at: 1-800-867-5222.

No Spring Scrap Metal/Household Debris Pick Up

Due to budget constraints, the annual town wide collection of scrap metal and various household items will not occur. Our neighboring towns have also canceled this service due to extremely high costs. The other

challenge we faced was locating potential bidders for this service, which proved unsuccessful. Please remember that you may take scrap metal and various recyclable items to the Saratoga County Recycling Center

located on Fairground Avenue. This does not include brush pick-up (see Highway Department News). We apologize for any inconvenience.

Highway and Water Department News

Brush from Ice Storms: The Town Highway Crew along with County Waste will be going around in the spring, when the snow has melted, to chip the branches and remove the branches that fell in the ice storm in December. Those residents, who have not put the branches at the curb side yet, should put them into 4' bundles for easier handling by the men. This will make the process much faster and easier. County Waste will only pick up the branches that are bundled.

Mailbox Repair and Sand: Residents who have had their mailbox damaged will have them repaired to receive their mail in a timely fashion. If you have damage to the post that holds the mail box, we will replace the post in the Spring when the frost is out of the ground. Our plow drivers do all they can do with the winter's blinding snows and oncoming cars not to hit these objects on our right of ways. The Highway Department is not responsible to keep your mailboxes completely free of snow; it is yours as the home owner. If the Town residents need sand, it is available behind the Highway Dept. and one of the men may assist you.

Basketball hoops in Town rights of way: A reminder to those who have portable basketball hoops, they are prohibited in Town highway rights of way. The rights of way on most Town highways is 25' to 30'. Therefore, we will not be held responsible for any basketball hoops placed out by the road at anytime of the year. Our plow drivers have their hands full plowing around other objects as it is.

Hydrants: We will keep hydrants cleared as fast as we can after heavy snow storms. The Town currently has 341 hydrants. If you would like to be helpful and have one by your house, keep it cleared. You should get a discount on your homeowners insurance for having fire protection close to your home. I know our volunteer fire fighters, as well as the Water Dept., will appreciate your cooperation. They say time helps fight fires so please don't be afraid to adopt one of these red helpful life savers.

The following roads will be scheduled for paving this year, cost permitting: Randall Road (1.1 miles), Westside Drive (1.42 miles), Seelye Drive (.14 miles), Townley Drive (.35 miles), Lawmar Lane (.42 miles), Mott Drive (.12 miles), Ramble Lane (.22 miles), Hollister Way (.26 miles), Kohler Drive (.07 miles), Brynall Road (.06 miles), Ridge Terrace (.07 miles).

That's all for now - travel safely and we'll see you in the spring.

Joe Whalen, Highway and Water Superintendent

Building Department

Accessibility to Premises:

With winter upon us, residents with long driveways should be aware of requirements designed to facilitate emergency vehicle access.

Pursuant to Section 62-3 of the Code of the Town of Ballston, a driveway over 500 feet in length must be accessible and able to hold a fifty-thousand-pound, thirty-foot-long vehicle, with facilities for turning around to be available within 100 feet of any structure. A driveway over 500 feet in length must have a minimum width of 12 feet and a minimum vertical clearance of 15 feet. A driveway must be maintained free of all obstructions, such as trees, brush, posts, gates, etc. A pullover, 10 feet in width, must be provided every 200 feet.

Swimming Pools:

With Spring and Summer around the corner, residents should be aware of swimming pool requirements.

The Residential Code of New York State defines a swimming pool as *Any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, aboveground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas.*

Pursuant to the Residential Code of New York State, outdoor swimming pools, including in-ground, aboveground or on-ground pools, hot tubs or spas must be provided with a barrier to provide protection against potential drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

Please contact the Building Department at 885-8564 ext. 14 for information regarding barrier requirements.

Stormwater Management:

Starting in 2010 contractors doing earth moving (disturbance) in the MS4 areas must be certified before commencing any work. This information will also be reviewed with the submission of the SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) and any preconstruction meetings.

Filing for a Review of Your Assessment

All property owners are eligible for a review of their property assessment from the Board of Assessment Review (BOAR) in their respective jurisdiction. In the Town of Ballston the BOAR meets annually on the 4th Tuesday in May. To formally file a Grievance, Form RP-524 must be submitted to the BOAR on or before Grievance Day. Meeting informally with the Assessor may determine if a formal review with the BOAR is necessary. The BOAR consists of five, appointed residents who have a general knowledge of property values in the community. You do not have to personally appear, but it may help to state the facts of your case and to answer any material questions. The BOAR purpose is to arrive at fair and impartial decisions regarding the assessment.

If you feel your assessment is out of line with similar homes in your area, we encourage you to come to the Assessor's office so we are aware of the situation.

Our Town conducted a town wide revaluation for the 2006 Assessment Roll. Since that time assessments have remained in place, except for new construction, demolition, parcel splits or map changes. We have not adjusted any properties due to selling prices, either higher or lower, because we have strived to maintain the equity achieved at the time of the revaluation. The market fluctuations are not annually addressed, but will collectively be used as historical data when conducting future assessment updates.

Important 2009 Dates:

May 1	Tentative Assessment Roll Filed
May 26	Grievance Day
July 1	Final Assessment Roll Filed

Please call the Assessor's Office at 885-8502 ext. 20 for any additional information. We will gladly help you determine if further review is necessary.

June Maniacek, Sole Assessor

Jenkins Park

Jenkins Park is a crown jewel in the Town of Ballston, located on Jenkins Road in Burnt Hills. It offers a playground for people of all ages. Jenkins Park operates as a park district with its own bylaws and an advisory board that works in cooperation with the Town Board. The objective of this article is to welcome you to Jenkins Park as well as to the activities to improve the park.

Jenkins Park has a well equipped playground area for young children. There are two ponds for fishing in the summer and ice skating in the winter. There are many crayfish in the ponds, and you might see blue herons hunting them. Your small children would love sledding down or rolling down a small hill near the ponds. We recently built a flower bed maze also near the ponds. There are baseball fields and a basketball court. There are trails for walking, jogging, and cross country skiing. You might enjoy seeing bluebirds, wild turkeys, rabbits, red foxes, deer, and coyotes.

You might want to treat your family to a picnic in the park or walk with your dogs. Please remember to clean up after yourself and your dogs. Please do not feed coyotes. Please stay with your small children always.

Jenkins Park Advisory Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the Town Hall. You are invited to attend. You could make suggestions for park improvement projects. We would like to work with you to plan and execute the projects even if you do not live in the park district. Announcements and meeting minutes are posted at: www.townofballstonny.org

We would like to form "Friends of Jenkins Park" to unite ourselves through work parties. We have scheduled three work parties for the spring of 2009:

March 14, Saturday	Brush and tree cutting party
April 4, Saturday	Raking and cleaning party
May 16, Saturday	Maze garden planting party

Parties will start at 9:00 a.m., and the rain date will be the following Sunday. Please join us to have fun together and to beautify the park.

Please contact us if you have any questions and suggestions:

Lynnette Ziskin 384-3737 E-mail: Lynnettez@earthlink.net

Sat Ihara 399-2030 E-mail: urotas@ieee.org

Burnt Hills Farm Market

The farm market now includes five full time vendors. The market's offerings change with the growing seasons. They will kick off in May with plants and flowers, eggs, jam, meat and poultry and baked goods. As the growing season continues you can enjoy salad greens, vegetables, strawberries, blueberries and lots of other summer vegetables. The market continues outdoors through October with its harvest of winter squash, apples and more greens. Every week brings something new and the vendors look forward to sharing their bounty with you.

This year the market opens Saturday May 2nd and runs every Saturday from 9am-1pm until the end of October. Come early to get the best selection. During the months of July and August the market will also be open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm. The market is looking for more vendors and would love to add a bread baker and a cheese maker to their market. If you would like to find out more about becoming a vendor please contact Lynnette or Gary Janssen at 810-5645.

The market's vendors hope you will make shopping at the Burnt Hills farm market part of your Saturday morning routine!

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:

James Briaddy 399-4436; E-Mail: jbriaddy@townofballstonny.org

Mary Beth Hynes 884-9590; E-Mail: mbhynes@townofballstonny.org

Kimberly Ireland 399-3880; E-Mail: kireland@townofballstonny.org

Timothy 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; lbonesteel@townofballstonny.org

Town Council

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

Monthly Meetings – First Tuesday of the Month