

Town of Milton

Fall Newsletter

September 2008

FROM THE SUPERVISOR
Frank Thompson, Supervisor

Hello again to all Milton residents. I hope your summer was as pleasant as mine. With fall comes the budget process for the Town's 2009 Budget. We have been able to reduce the tax rate from \$1.104 per thousand (Town outside Village) and \$.7680 (Village) in 2004/5 to \$.3252 (Town outside Village) and \$.2260 (Village) in 2008. That's a 71% decrease over the past three years. As we start putting together next year's budget, please be assured that every effort will be made to keep costs in check.

At its September 24th regular meeting, the Town Board issued a Proclamation designating WW II Veteran and Milton resident, Stanley Arnold, Saratoga County's Deceased Veteran of the Month for October. He will be honored at a ceremony on October 21st at 2:30 at the County offices on McMaster Street.

This year's summer recreation program was another huge success. Over three hundred kids registered with an average attendance of about 150. That's a lot of kids! Trips this year were The Great Escape, bowling at the Hi Roc Lanes and something new this year - a visit to Fort William Henry and a cruise on Lake George. Putting together this program is no easy feat. I would like to commend my staff for their efforts. Oh, and by the way, the program scored a perfect 100 when inspected by the Department of Health.

In my last newsletter this spring, I brought attention to some Milton residents who were deserving of some recognition. In this issue I would like to make you aware of a new law signed into law this summer. The Suzanne Lyall Campus Safety Act is a direct result of the continuing efforts of Milton residents Doug and Mary Lyall. This new law requires policies to be in place making clear the role of campus, local, and state law enforcement agencies. Hopefully confusion between different law enforcement agencies will be eliminated when responding to a violent crime on campus. Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Lyall, for using your personal tragedy to bring positive change.

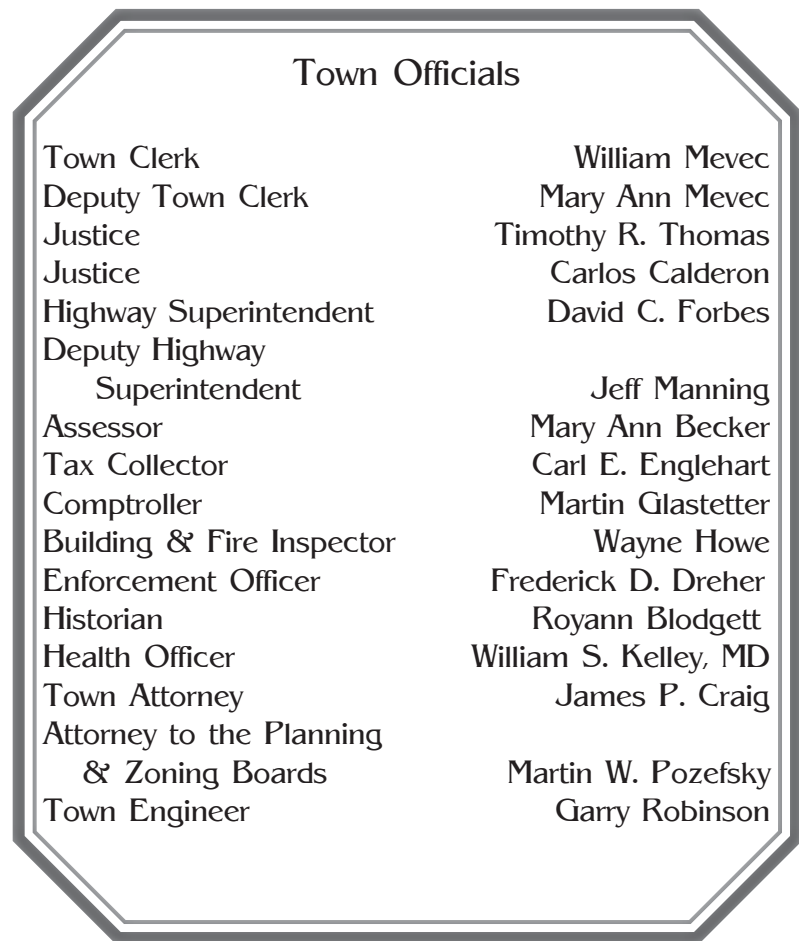
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From the Supervisor, continued

Over the summer vandals went into the West Milton Cemetery on Galway Road, tipped over headstones and removed American Flags from the graves of veterans interred there. Milton resident Robert Lawrence, with the help of his grandchildren, Michael Knuckles and Carmen Gomez, and a fellow veteran, took it upon himself to replace the missing flags. My thanks go to them for having enough pride and the willingness to do the right thing.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the residents of Milton. If I can ever be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 884-2766.



FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTOR
Wayne Howe, Building Inspector

TAKE NOTICE

Old man winter is on his way, and heating your home costs more than ever!

Here are some tips to help you save energy, save money, and do your part for the environment.

Fall/Winter Energy Saving Tips

- Install a set back thermostat.
- Lower your thermostat at least five degrees at bed time and when you leave your home. This will ensure optimal home heating and save energy.
- For every degree you lower your thermostat you save about 2 percent off your heating bill.
- Winterize your home by caulking and weather-stripping all doors and windows.
- Also, use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.
- Insulate or increase the amount of insulation in your attic, basement and outside walls.
- Cover through-the-wall air conditioners to prevent cold air from leaking into your home.
- Reducing air leaks will cut your monthly energy bills. The most common places where air escapes homes are: floors, walls, ceilings, ducts, fireplaces, plumbing penetrations, doors, windows, fans, vents and electrical outlets.
- Keep shades and curtains open during the day on the south side of your home to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain heat.
- Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free. Close vents and doors in unused rooms.
- Have your heating system serviced once a year and regularly replace furnace filters. During the heating season, change or clean furnace filters once a month.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use.

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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Joseph J. Miranda, Jr., Councilman



The weather could not have been better for this year's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on August 9th.

Thirty-four tons of liquid and solid toxics were collected. The amount of electronics collected more than doubled that of the 2007 event with 12 tons filling a tractor trailer.

This event continues to be an excellent example of intermunicipal cooperation with six towns working together - Milton, Ballston, Charlton, Galway, Greenfield and Providence. Once our state aid is received the net cost of this event for Milton will be \$7,844.36.



Hope to see you these upcoming events

Children's Halloween Party
Friday, October 24, 2008
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Milton Community Center

Children's Holiday Party
Friday, December 12, 2008
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Milton Community Center

From the Building Inspector, continued

Fall/Winter Safety Tips

Here are some basic safety tips I feel are worth mentioning.

- Test smoke detectors and change batteries every six months.
- Test carbon monoxide detectors and change batteries every six months.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector on the lowest level of your home with a bedroom. Carbon monoxide detectors can be simply plugged into an electrical outlet.
- Clean, or have cleaned, all fireplace and woodstove chimneys before the start of the heating season.
- Only use portable heaters in a temporary situation and only after following the portable heater's manufacturer's operation instructions.
- Never operate an emergency generator within the home. This includes the basement and garage.
- Create and practice an evacuation plan in the home.

If anyone would like to discuss further any of the above tips, please contact me at the Building Department at 884-2764.

Have a warm and safe heating season.
Wayne Howe, Building Inspector



Village of Ballston Spa
66 Front Street, Ballston Spa
New York 12020
(518) 885-5711

Village Board

Mayor John Romano

Trustees

Richard Duffy Stuart Hodsoll
Donna Thomas Robert Cavanaugh

Officials

Village Clerk & Registrar	Patricia Bowers
Deputy Clerk	Theresa Zayac
Attorney	Richard Kupferman
Treasurer	Chris Hickey
Deputy Treasurer	Jean Crandall
Justice	Thomas Schroeder
Animal Control	David Brown & Mark Hersh
Building Inspectors	Randy Lloyd & Gerry Morris

Planning Board

Edward Lake, Chairman
Michael Barabasz Chris McDonough
John Mancini Ingrid Melander

Zoning Board

Kevin McDonough, Chairman
Greg Thomas Bruce Courture
Ron Henry Anna Stanko

DID YOU KNOW that the Town Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes are available on the Town's website? They're easy to find. Go to www.townofmiltonny.org, click on Town Services then choose Town Board.

FROM THE ASSESSOR
Mary Ann Becker, Sole Assessor

Fall is always a busy time of year, and it is no different in the Assessor's Office. Building projects have increased, school tax bills have been mailed, and exemption renewals will soon be due.

A big THANK YOU to all those who have returned their inventory verification sheets to our office. As we informed you in the spring, the County now has all parcel information with pictures on its internet site. We have been sending out inventory forms to insure correct information on the site and will continue to do this for the next few months. Please return these forms as soon as possible so that we may update the posted information.

Our office will continue to take pictures throughout the Town and collect data that differs from our records.

A new exemption offered for 2009 is the "Cold War Exemption" for veterans who served during the time period from 9/2/45 to 12/26/91. Applications are available in our office and must be submitted before March 1st along with discharge papers (DD214). This exemption has been passed by both the Town of Milton and Saratoga County for a 15% exempt amount with a maximum amount of \$12,000 off the assessed value for town & county tax purposes.

With the mailing of school tax bills there are always concerns about the change in amount owed. As I stated in the Spring Newsletter, the State budget decreased our STAR savings by 10% for 2008. This impacted our school tax bills as follows: For Ballston Spa Schools, an increase in taxes of \$89 for Basic STAR recipients and \$169 for Senior STAR; for Saratoga Schools, an increase of \$70 for Basic and \$132 for Senior Star.

As the additional Senior Exemption is based on income on a sliding scale, some seniors saw an increase in the tax amount due to a decrease in their exemption. Couple these with the increase in School Budget and most school tax bills showed an increase.

Our tax rate per thousand did decrease, however, by \$.50 per thousand due to our equalization rate increase (we saw a slight dip in the market last year which is now picking up).

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FROM THE HISTORIAN
Royann Blodgett, Historian

2008 Historic Recognition and Preservation Award



The Historic Nash Residence at 3558 Galway Road, near the corner of White Road, and owners Jeff and Wendy Hren were named 2008 recipient of Milton's Historic Recognition and Preservation

Award presented at the May 28, 2008, Town Board Meeting. This annual Award recognizes the historic significance of a property and commends owners for their caring restoration and maintenance, thus conserving local heritage for our present and future generations. The Hrens have moved from the area and the property is now owned by James Fulmer, who was given the 2008 Recognition and Preservation Plaque by the Hrens so that it will stay at the home.

The selection by the Historic Structures and Places Committee recognizes the local historic significance of the Nash residence as one of the earliest homes and farmstead sites in the Town. Several members of the Nash family were among the pioneer settlers who came from Connecticut to the Ballston District and surrounding area during the 1770's with Rev. Mr. Ball. Jonathan Nash (1760-1844) and his wife, Eunice Kellog Nash (1760-1846), are believed to have been early residents of this Galway Road property in a small pioneer home that may have been built by David Wood, considered Milton's first settler. The property and home was later owned by Isaac Nash (1797-1879), son of Jonathan and Eunice Nash. It is presumed that Isaac added the stately two-story home with floor to ceiling windows and double porches and entries to the original small structure. An equally stately barn with cupola and several outbuildings remained into the 1970's. Sylvester's History of Saratoga County 1609 - 1878 pictures a healing spring, located across the present Galway Road from the main buildings which may have been visited earlier by Native Americans and which Isaac may have considered for establishing as a resort area. In some references Isaac is referred to as Captain Nash, which may be in relation to his association with the Underground Railroad. These founding families attended the churches and school at Milton Hill, and members of both are buried in the nearby Oakwood Cemetery and Powell-Wiswall Cemetery.

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From the Assessor, continued

This year, for the first time, it is required that our office report exemptions from our total assessed value. The Town of Milton had 6,370 parcels in 2008 with a total assessed value of 1 billion, 600 million dollars. Of that amount over \$497 million was exempt from school taxes. Although exemptions are very necessary for those receiving them, it does shift the tax burden to those receiving a lesser or no exemption (this is true for all exemptions except the STAR which is reimbursed by the State). For those interested, total exemptions by type will be available, by request, from the Town Clerk.

The State will be sending rebates to all those who received a STAR exemption on the 2008 roll. Checks should be mailed starting in October and are projected to be approximately the same amount as last year.

Senior STAR renewals will be mailed out in October for those who do not have income verification through New York State. Those with an additional Senior Exemption will receive their renewals by January 1st.

Please remember that March 1st is the deadline for all exemptions.

As always, you are welcome to call our office weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with any questions or concerns. You can reach us at 885-8047.

Mary Ann Becker

From the Historian, continued

In conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Town of Milton established a Milton Historic Recognition and Preservation Annual Award in 2006 in order to recognize and respect the significance of local historic landmarks and the individuals who have cared for and maintained them through the years. The 2006 Award was for the Mansion Inn, 1866 George West Home in Rock City Falls, owners Jeffrey Wodicka and Neil Castro, and the 2007 Award was for The Bentley Homestead, c1778 home of John and Sarah Bentley, owners Bruce Piasecki and Andrea Masters.

FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
David Forbes, Highway Superintendent

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end. With fall just around the corner, I would like to review the guidelines for our bulk pick-up that will be starting about one week before Halloween and continuing until the weather forces us to stop. Until that time, we will continue to pick up, roughly every 7 to 10 days, small bundles and biodegradable paper bags. As the trees begin to lose their leaves, please remember to put them curbside and separate from all other debris to insure we do not damage our equipment. I also would like to urge all town residents to bring your leaves and debris curbside as soon as possible for pick up before the snow brings this service to a stop.

With a brief review of our summer work, Sodemon, Leroux, and Baker Roads have been reconstructed and resurfaced with all necessary cross drains and driveway pipes replaced before paving. This project was partially funded by New York State in the amount of \$103,000.00. After these projects were completed, we moved to Juniper Drive and Laurel Lane and resurfaced the subdivision.

In closing, please also remember the transfer station is open Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. After the first snowfall the Transfer Station will be closed on Saturdays. We will again be able to provide compost and mulch in the spring. It will be located at the Town Hall at the far side of the parking lot on the Geyser Road side.

Have a safe fall and winter! Please do not hesitate to call the Highway Department with any questions or concerns at 885-5655.

David C. Forbes, Highway Superintendent

FROM THE TOWN CLERK

William Mevec

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Clerk's office provides a variety of services including hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, marriage licenses, and park reservations.

Dog owners, please remember to license your dog. Dogs four months and older are required to be licensed. To obtain a new license, you will need a rabies certificate and, if applicable, a spay or neuter certificate. If your renewal form states the rabies vaccination has expired we will need a current rabies certificate.

The license fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$12.50. Un-spayed and un-neutered dogs will be licensed for a fee of \$20.50. In addition, please notify us if there are any changes, i.e. you've moved from Milton, transferred ownership of the dog, the dog died, etc.

Marriage licenses can be obtained at our office for a cost of \$40.00. Both parties must be present and, if either party has been divorced, any and all divorce papers must be submitted regardless of how long ago the divorce(s) was obtained.

The pavilions in the Burgess-Kimball Memorial Park make a great place to hold your outdoor social gatherings. For Town of Milton residents, pavilion 1 & 2 can be reserved for \$75.00 each and pavilion 3 for \$50.00. A fee of \$100.00 for each pavilion 1, 2 & 3 will be required for non-residents. A certificate of insurance is required and an application must be filled out at the Town Clerk's Office.

As Records Management Officer, my office makes all town records available during regular business hours. Records may be obtained by completing a Freedom of Information Request (FOIL). FOIL requests are answered as soon as possible and within FOIL regulation timelines.

DECALS is up and running so hunting and fishing licenses for the 2008-2009 season are available now.

Please contact us at 885-9220 ext. 110 if we can be of any assistance.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

The weather was a bit dreary but that didn't keep 162 kids from fishing the morning of May 3rd during the 22nd Annual Fishing Tournament.



This year's winners were Miranda St. Andrew, Lou Zalar, Devin Thomas, Kevin Hercamp, David Millard, Jenny St. Andrew, Matt Piper. Alex Hudson won the "Biggest Fish" award for his 15 3/4" catch. Brandon Brunell won the Good Sportsman Award.

We thank the local businesses that generously donate prizes for this event. They are: Bob's Bait, Dick's Sporting Goods, McDonald's of Ballston Spa, Peck's Lake Enterprises, Saratoga Bait & Tackle, Stewart's Ice Cream Co., Target, Walmart, Wiggley Worm, and the Kayaderosseras Fish & Game Club.

DID YOU KNOW, allowing your dog to leave waste on Town or private property is **PROHIBITED BY LAW**.

Not only is dog waste unwelcome to the property owner, excessive debris is messy, smelly and unsightly. It is also very unsanitary.

When walking your dog, please be responsible. Have consideration of the property of others and clean up after your pet.

If everyone takes the time and shows pride in their neighborhood this growing problem can be eliminated.

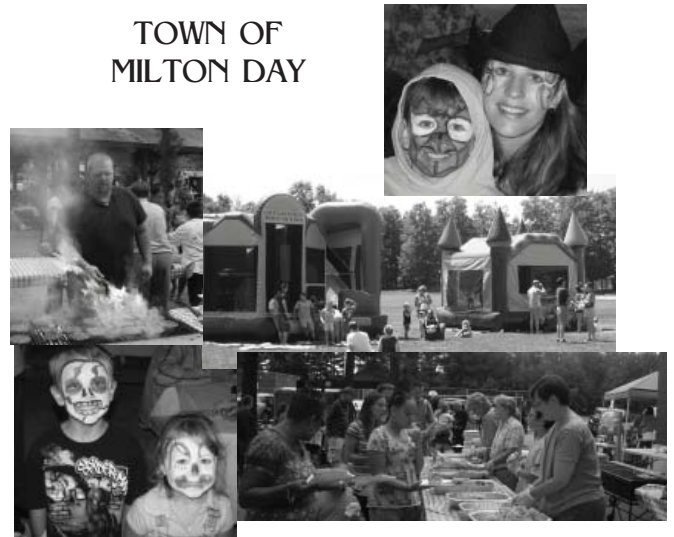
SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



TOWN OF MILTON DAY



Town of Milton
Town Offices
Geyser Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage PAID
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Permit #56

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