

# TOWN OF MILTON

## Spring Newsletter

### April 2009

FROM THE SUPERVISOR  
Frank Thompson, Supervisor

I am sure you are all as happy as the Highway Department and I are that this long, hard winter is finally over. I would like to commend the Highway Department for the fantastic job keeping up with the many storms over this past season.

The 2009 budget process began in October 2008 and resulted in a 2009 Budget reflecting a 16% decrease in the tax rate. This makes it the fifth year in a row we have reduced the tax rate. I would like to thank the public for their participation in the budget process.

Work in our town center is set to begin this spring. Sidewalks, street lighting and trees will be installed along Geyser Road to the City of Saratoga Springs' city line. The result will be a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly town center.

We are continuing to develop our park system. Trails in the Town's newest park - The Boice Family Park - in Rock City Falls are being constructed with the help of the Friends of the Kayaderosseras. With DEC approvals finally in hand, trails will be constructed in the Marlene & Wilbur Trieble Passive Recreation Park. I hope you will have a chance to visit our parks this summer.



We have also been working to make the Town's Community Center a real "community center", making it more available as a meeting place or a location for your special event. If you would like more information on

using the building, call my office at 884-2766.



I would like to acknowledge the passing of long-time Milton Supervisor Wilbur Trieble this past January. I am sure those of you who knew Wilbur share in the sorrow of the loss of this great man. He is sorely missed.

In closing I would like to remind you that I am at your service and if I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Milton Town Board

Frank Thompson  
Supervisor

Councilpersons

Hollis Blodgett    Joseph J. Miranda, Jr.  
Allison Saul    Frank Blaisdell

FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTOR  
Wayne Howe, Building & Zoning Official

The Town of Milton has been fortunate to have steady development thru these difficult economic times. During 2008 the Town has witnessed the following:

- The commencement of two multi-family type projects, consisting of a total of 606 residential units.
- The approval of a commercial tire center.
- The approval of a convenient store with gas pumps.
- The commencement of two rural subdivisions that consist of 79 residential lots. These lots were created by applying the R2 rural subdivision incentive option, where in exchange for an increase in density the Town received a passive recreation park along the Kayaderosseras Creek of about 120 acres.
- The completion of a 68 unit senior housing project.
- Steady development of at least three residential subdivisions that are under construction.
- The issuance of 225 building permits with the collection of \$40,519 in building permit fees.
- The collection of \$95,000 from developers towards the Town's park and recreation fund.
- The commitment of at least \$500,000 from developers towards the Town's park and recreation fund over the next five years.

Town Officials

Town Clerk	William Mevec
Deputy Town Clerk	Mary Ann Mevec
Justice	Timothy R. Thomas
Justice	Carlos Calderon
Highway Superintendent	David C. Forbes
Deputy Highway Superintendent	Jeff Manning
Assessor	Mary Ann Becker
Tax Collector	Carl E. Englehart
Comptroller	Martin Glastetter
Building & Fire Inspector	Wayne Howe
Enforcement Officer	Frederick D. Dreher
Historian	Royann Blodgett
Health Officer	William S. Kelley, MD
Town Attorney	James P. Craig
Attorney to the Planning & Zoning Boards	Martin W. Pozefsky
Town Engineer	Garry Robinson

Planning Board

Keith Leal, Chairman

Ron Lacey    John Whittel  
Ben Zlotnick, Jr.    Larry Woolbright  
James Staulters    John Frolish

I would like to mention that the steady development has and is accruing in full compliance with the Town's comprehensive plan and vision for development.

The staff in the Building Department is here to assist you. Please contact us prior to any construction projects and pool installations to obtain the necessary permit(s). We can be reached at 884-2764.

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Mary Lou Festa, Chairwoman

Brian Companion    Fred Harris  
Kimberly Weaver    Kenneth Buhmaster  
James Cook, Alternate

FROM THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
Richard Pine

The Town of Milton Animal Control Officer is available Monday through Friday at the Town of Milton Office, 885-9220, ext. 136. Please leave your name and phone number on the voice mail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

New York State Ag & Markets Law requires dogs to wear their dog license and rabies tags at all times. When your dog wears his license tag, it makes it easier to identify your dog should he or she wander away from you.

New York State Ag & Markets gives you thirty days to renew your dog license. The Town of Milton policy is to send a delinquent letter as a reminder, followed by an appearance ticket for repeatedly not licensing your dog/dogs within the New York State thirty day period. It is the owners obligation to license their dog even if the owner did not get a renewal form from NYS Ag & Markets.

Please be a responsible dog owner and a courteous neighbor.

Get Ready!

Pickleball will be back beginning May 18th

Join the fun every Monday, 6 - 7 p.m. for an action-packed game of pickleball.

For more information call  
Dick Decker  
421-9090

Mark your calendars for this year's  
**Town of Milton Day**  
on Saturday, August 8th.

Hope to see you there

The Saratoga County Animal Shelter and the Saratoga County Public Health Nursing Service sponsor free rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats and domestic ferrets.

2009 Rabies Clinics  
at the  
4-H Training Center  
will be held  
on the following dates:

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

Cats 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
(must be in carriers)

Dogs 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
(must be leashed)

Domestic Ferrets  
(must be in carrier or cage)  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

For Further Information  
call the Saratoga County Animal Shelter  
at 885-4113

**WHEN YOU'RE FERTILIZING THE LAWN,  
REMEMBER YOU'RE NOT JUST FERTILIZING  
THE LAWN.**

Jeff Manning, Stormwater Coordinator

You fertilize the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb, into the storm drain, and directly into our creeks and streams, lakes and rivers. This causes algae and aquatic plants to grow, which uses up oxygen that fish need to survive. So if you fertilize, please follow the manufacturer's directions and use sparingly.

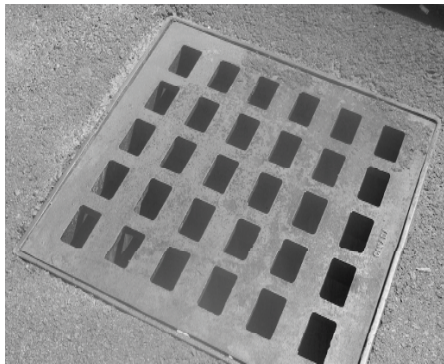
*Clean water is important to all of us.*

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water, too, and that adds up to a pollution solution!

*Why do we need clean water?*

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, marine and ground waters clean.

*Continued at right*



**SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM**



2009's summer recreation program will be held July 6th thru August 6th and is offered to children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade who reside in the Town of Milton.

Lots of fun activities are being planned.

Registration forms are available at Town Hall or at [www.townofmiltonny.org](http://www.townofmiltonny.org).

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Clean Water tips:

*How can you fertilize and help keep our waters clean?*

- Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think.
- Don't fertilize before a rain storm.
- Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. Commercial compost and soil amendments may be available from the Town as well as your local garden store.

For more information on fertilizing alternatives and composting, call the Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners program or the Stormwater Management Coordinator at: 885-8995, or your local Stormwater Management Coordinator at 885-5655

[www.saratogastormwater.org](http://www.saratogastormwater.org)

## FROM THE ASSESSOR

Mary Ann Becker, Sole Assessor

Spring is here and with it the filing of the tentative assessment roll for 2009 on May 1st .

Building has been steady along with property sales. Although the newspapers have reported an extreme drop in selling prices, we have not seen this in Milton. Properties have taken longer to sell, however the overall average sale price has only dropped by 2%. This 2% is reflected as an increase in our equalization rate for 2009. We are now seeing an increase in the number of sales and prices and hope this will continue for those needing to sell their homes.

Our last newsletter article was well received by our Veterans. The new Cold War exemption brought in 50 new recipients. An additional 74 Veterans that were previously eligible and did not realize it until reading our newsletter also applied for exemption for this year.

We work closely with the Veteran's Administration and recently had a request for the names of Veterans of World War II that still had an exemption. To our amazement, there are 132 WWII Veterans or their spouses in our Town still receiving an exemption.

The cuts in the State Budget will also bring cuts to the programs that affect your taxes. The bad news is that the STAR rebate that was based on household income will be eliminated (that was the check received in the fall from NYS Department of Taxation). The good news is that the STAR exemption, projected to decrease by 18%, actually increased for the Senior STAR and only decreased by 1% for the Basic STAR. The seniors will now receive an exemption of \$65,340 off their assessed value for school tax purposes and the Basic STAR's exemption will be \$32,610.

Although exemptions are due by March 1st for the coming year, we take applications all year long. If an owner is going to be 65 years of age before December 31, 2010 they are eligible to apply for the Senior exemption for 2010. Please call our office for details.

Increase and decrease notices will be sent out the first week in May and Grievance Day will be held on May 26th from 2-4 P.M. and 6-8 P.M. We encourage all property owners with questions or concerns to call our office.

You can reach Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 885-8047.

## FROM THE HISTORIAN

Royann Blodgett

### *THE QUADRICENTENNIAL AND MILTON*

The year 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the nearly simultaneous 1609 exploratory voyages of Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson. As European explorers of that era, they separately journeyed through the



waterways that were later named for them, Lake Champlain and Hudson River. With these voyages, the history of our state and America began to take shape. Ever since, development throughout the Hudson River - Lake Champlain Corridor has continued, including the technological emphasis of today.

Recognizing the special significance of these early explorations, the 2002 Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Act was signed into law by then Gov. Pataki. The 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamboat travel, greatly reducing the time and expense of waterway transportation, is included within the Quadricentennial Act. This Act established a Commission to organize events and exhibits highlighting the significance of all three achievements to the development of New York State and the nation. For detailed history and information about the many celebrations and exhibits, visit [www.exploreny400.com](http://www.exploreny400.com).

Saratoga County has partnered with the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission, and an active County Committee has established Explore Saratoga County as the main theme for planned county-wide Quadricentennial events. Information can be obtained at [www.saratogacounty.ny.gov](http://www.saratogacounty.ny.gov).

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From the Historian, continued

In November 2007, the Town of Milton passed a resolution requesting designation as an Explore NY 400 Community and has since received official notice of that designation, along with a Quadricentennial Flag for display at related activities. We also submitted an application for a \$1000 Quadricentennial mini-grant to be used



for field-trip funds to take 2009 Summer Recreation Program participants to a Quad event/exhibit. That application has been approved and plans are underway for a trip to the Children's Museum of Science and Technology where a special Hudson River exhibit will be interpreted to the group and

a planetarium program will relate to navigation by the stars. We have just learned that some additional grant funds for Quadricentennial programming may be available. This could enable us to present an inter-generational Quad program on Town of Milton Day, August 8.

### Attention Dog Lovers!

Do you want to do something fun and help the Saratoga County Animal Shelter at the same time?

The 3rd annual Busy Bone 500 dog walk to benefit the animal shelter will be held May 9th at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds. For more information, to reserve vendor space, or to be a sponsor contact Carol Lang at 884-9352.

### FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT David Forbes, Highway Superintendent

The Highway Department has started its annual spring cleanup of yard waste debris. Any yard waste can be brought curbside for bulk pickup until May 15th. I'd like to urge all residents to bring their debris to the roadside as soon as possible to ensure it will be picked up before the 15th.

Anything brought to the curbside after May 15th will need to be put in biodegradable paper bags and will be picked up once a week. Until this time, items such as leaves, branches, and small bulk wood should be separated and placed next to the road for pick up.

Residents are also allowed to bring their debris to the Town of Milton transfer station located at the Town Hall on Geyser Road Monday through Thursdays 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please note the transfer station is closed on holiday weekends (Memorial Day, July 4th weekend and Labor Day).

After May 15th, the Highway Department will be starting summer roadwork construction.

In addition, mulch and compost is available free to town residents while supplies last.

Hours of operation for the Highway Department are Monday – Thursday 6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the Highway Department at 885-5655. Any emergency calls after hours can be directed to the Sheriff's Department at 885-6761.



23<sup>rd</sup> Annual

# Children's Fishing Tournament

Saturday, May 2, 2009

4-H Training Center  
Middle Line Road

Ballston Spa (off of Rt. 67 West)

## Trophies!

## Prizes!

Registration & Fishing ~ 7:00-11:00 am

### Information:

- Free registration!
- Children must be Saratoga County residents
- Open to 16-year-olds and under
- 16-year-olds must have valid fishing license
- Bring your own fishing poles and bait



### 4-H All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast

6:30 am - 11:00 am

Adults: \$6 Seniors: \$5

Children 4-11: \$4 Children under 3: Free

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

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Co-Sponsored by the Town of Milton  
and Saratoga County

For more information ~ Town of Milton 885-9220