



BRUNSWICK

TOWN NEWSLETTER

www.townofbrunswick.org

Brunswick New York

Winter 2010

A Letter from Town Supervisor Philip H. Herrington

Dear Resident,

Since this is the first newsletter of 2010, I'll take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, happy and prosperous New Year. To start off the new year, and a new decade, I have two items of interest that I'd like to bring to your attention. First, as you all know, we built a beautiful new, state of the art, Town Office a few years ago. Then in mid-December of 2008, along came an ice storm which caused massive property damage and loss of utilities throughout the Town. During the storm itself, and in its aftermath, we were without power and utilities here at the Town Office and the Town Highway Garage for some time. As you might guess, that made it more than a little difficult for us to assist in the disaster response and to coordinate our highway, water and sewer services to meet the emergency needs of our residents. Well, I'm proud to say, we managed to "turn lemons into lemonade", albeit a year after the fact. As I'm sure you recall, the storm caused such extensive damage to trees and vegetation that the clean-up lasted many months. Financial assistance was provided by the federal government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to towns like ours to help pay for the clean-up. Many municipalities used the FEMA money to hire contractors to do the work. We took a different approach. We had our own Highway Department workers do the work, using our own equipment. FEMA then reimbursed us for the use of our labor and equipment. This worked out very well for us, as we had already purchased the equipment for general use and we would be paying our highway workers' salaries in any event. We recently took a good chunk of the money we received from FEMA and used it to purchase an emergency generator capable of servicing the Town Office and the Town Highway Garage in the event of another catastrophe. Best of all, the generator is wired so that it "kicks in" immediately whenever there is a power loss. So, rest assured, the next time disaster strikes, and there is a widespread power loss, your Town Office will be open and working for you to speed the recovery and provide the services you need. I want to thank Highway Superintendent Doug Eddy and his Deputy, Dan Dougherty, for coordinating the clean-up and getting all of the paperwork to FEMA so we could be reimbursed. I want to especially thank Councilman Sam Salvi, a retired electrician, who spearheaded this project and walked us through the entire process, saving us from hiring costly consultants. That, truly, is



TOWN OFFICES

279-3461

HOURS:

MONDAY – FRIDAY

8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

- Recycling Center Hours:
Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Town Board Meetings
Second Thursday of
the Month
7:00 p.m./Town Hall
- Planning Board
First & Third Thursdays
7:30 p.m./Town Hall
- Zoning Board
Third Monday
6:00 p.m./Town Hall
- Justice Court
Every Wednesday
Small Claims Court
Second Tuesday
7:00 p.m./Town Hall
- Brunswick
Community Library
4118 NY Rt 2
279-4023
- Brunswick
Historical Society
605 Brunswick Rd
279-4024
- Dog Control Officer
477-8230
- Mohawk Ambulance
274-4888
- NYS Troopers Barracks
at Brunswick
279-4426

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BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY: AN ASSET AND RESOURCE

BHS welcomes you to join in a celebration of our shared heritage. Visit BHS at the 1881 Garfield School, located at the intersection of NY Rt. 2 and Moonlawn Rd. Hours are Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM and Wednesday, 1:00 PM -3:00 PM.

Website at www.bhs-ny.org

BHS has helped to preserve the history that makes Brunswick a special place to live, work and visit. BHS greatest asset is its' collection of over 2000 artifacts, records & photographs. Many are donated by local citizens or descendants wishing to make these historic resources available to all. In a unique partnership with the Brittonkill Central District, the society has participated in activities with students so they can have the opportunity to be inspired by the past with the goal of informing the future. Consider becoming a member.

BENEFITS OF A MEMBERSHIP:

- Subscription to a newsletter
- Notification of educational & informative lectures & programs
- Invitation to receptions & special events
- Pleasure of knowing you are helping to preserve our town's history
- Opportunity to network with other people who share your appreciation for the love of heritage & history
- Access to materials, videos, photographs, records & literature

The Brunswick Historical Society is excited to announce that plans are underway to expand into the former space occupied by the Brunswick Community Library at the historic Garfield School which is located at the corner of Moonlawn Road and Brunswick Road (Rt. 2) in Eagle Mills.

The new space will afford the Society the opportunity to create more exhibit and storage area for their collections, upgrade technology and expand their meeting room. A grand opening is scheduled for July of 2010.

The Town Newsletter is published three times a year in Winter, Spring and Fall. If any community organization has information they would like included in the next issue please send it to newslettereditor@townofbrunswick.org by May 15.

ALBANY “SAVE THE PINE BUSH” GROUP NOW PART OF “BRUNSWICK SMART GROWTH” LAWSUIT AGAINST THE TOWN

As the Town reported in the last newsletter, “Brunswick Smart Growth” (“BSG”) has sued the Town of Brunswick twice over various development projects approved through the Planned Development District (“PDD”) review process.

BSG’s second lawsuit against the Town, like its first, was dismissed by the New York State Supreme Court. BSG appealed the Court’s ruling dismissing the second lawsuit. Now, BSG has filed its brief with the New York State Appellate Division, continuing to argue that the dismissal of its second lawsuit was wrong. The Town will need to answer this latest appeal, and again defend these lawsuits at the expense of the Town’s taxpayers.

“Save the Pine Bush”, an Albany County organization concerned with the Pine Bush section in the City of Albany, has now asked the Appellate Division for permission to enter the BSG lawsuit against the Town and support the position of BSG. BSG’s current attorney is also an attorney for the “Save the Pine Bush” group. The Town will now have to defend against arguments from the “Save the Pine Bush” group as well as BSG, and the additional defense costs will also fall squarely on the Town and its taxpayers. To date, the Town has spent over \$38,000 to defend BSG’s repeated lawsuits. Now, mounting legal defense costs will also include answering arguments by the Albany “Save the Pine Bush” group.

NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK GRANGE #1337

Highlight Acting Troupe had a very successful Christmas Show at the Hall on December 4th and 5th. They are planning their next production April 23, 24, 25, 30 and May 1st. President, Ted Schwabrow, attended the 90th anniversary of Ravena Grange, Albany County with State and many other local Grangers in attendance. Ted Schwabrow and Alice Grimsley attended the Northeast Leadership Conference in Brattleboro, Vermont.

The members held a work party in which they repainted the hall, put up new curtains on the stage and refinished the floor. Grange members are looking forward to their Spring Flea Market in May, Tailgate sale at the Fairgrounds on May 2nd and other activities at the Hall.

For more information and membership to Brunswick Grange please contact Bernie Barber at 279-3560 or Ted Schwabrow at 279-9113.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Highway Department is in the middle of the winter snow season. Doug Eddy states "At this time I would once again like to remind all residents about the parking problem incurred by the snow plow drivers as they plow and sand the Town roadways. We request that all residents refrain from parking on any streets or highways during the winter storm season because it is critical that the large snow plow trucks and fire emergency vehicles are able to maneuver around all of the Town's roads."

It is requested that residents with driveways which are not large enough to accommodate all vehicles may want to consider adding on to their driveway in summer months or parking vehicles on the lawn during the winter months. If vehicles are left on the streets, there will be no alternative but to have the vehicle towed at the owner's expense. Please keep in mind snowplow trucks are considered emergency vehicles. Therefore, any accident in the town's right-of-way will not be paid for by the Town's insurance company

"We request you follow these guidelines for safety and emergency reasons, and allow the highway employees to complete snow removal and sanding of our roadways in a safe and efficient manner."

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Water Department is requesting that residents assist the Town in identifying vacant buildings in your neighborhoods. During the winter months some of these vacant buildings do not have the heat turned on or a furnace breaks resulting in frozen pipes. If you are aware of a house that has been vacant for awhile, please notify the Water Department @ 279-3461, x112. This would enable the Water Department to turn the water off at the street and prevent water loss and damage.

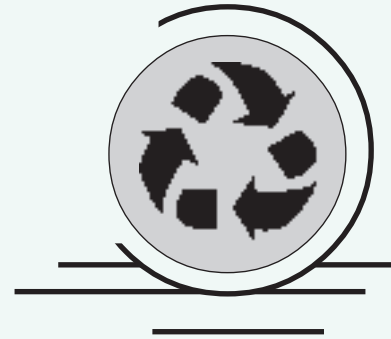
A NOTE FROM SYLVIA ROONEY IN THE ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

STAR EXEMPTION - if a property owner is now receiving a Basic Star Exemption and will be 65 years old by **December 31, 2010**, you may be eligible to receive an Enhanced Star Exemption if you meet the income criteria and make application for the exemption by taxable status date, **March 1, 2010**.

Seniors who are already receiving the Enhanced Star Exemption and your income has decreased, you may be entitled to an additional exemption (property and additional school). Please contact the Assessment Department, we will help you with the application process.

FROM THE RECYCLING CENTER.....

In 2009, The Recycling Department removed 641 tons of material, 259 tons of garbage and 382 tons of recyclables. The recycling team looks forward to being of service in 2010. In order that we may be of better service, please have your recyclables clean and sorted, your oversized cardboards cut up ahead of time and your garbage in an official Town of Brunswick blue bag before entering the facility. It's easier for us and better service for you.



WAYS Senior Group

The WAYS Senior Group would like to thank the Town once again for the use of the Community Center where they hold their meetings every other Thursday which began this year with January 7. The group would enjoy having some "younger" seniors join their group. They gather around 10:00 am and enjoy games until noon when they have lunch and occasionally guest speakers. If interested in becoming a part of **WAYS** stop in for one of their meetings.

SPORTS NEWS.....

Brunswick Little League is gearing up for the 2010 season. After a very enjoyable and successful 2009 campaign, they are anxiously awaiting the start of the new season. Opening Day is scheduled for Sunday, April 25, 2010. Registration is open to all boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 12.



The organization will be conducting registration nights at the Brunswick Community Center on January 11, January 25, February 8, February 22, and March 8 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Registration forms can also be downloaded from their website and mailed in.

www.leaguelineup.com/brunswicklittleleague

The program has a simple mission: "To offer equal opportunity for every child to learn and practice the fundamentals of baseball within a positive, safe and enjoyable environment". It is important to remember that the friendships and lessons learned on the baseball diamond will be remembered longer and provide more to the fabric of the players than the hits, errors, wins, and losses.

Brunswick Little League would like to thank the local business community for their continued support. Without their generosity, it would be near impossible to provide and maintain our Little League. **Thank you!!**



Fire Company News

News From Eagle Mills Volunteer Fire Co.

The following article is submitted by Fire Company President Sal Scechitano.

The Eagle Mills Volunteer Fire Company had a busy and fulfilling year in 2009. We were dispatched 349 times to handle fires, vehicle accidents, medical emergencies and assorted other community needs. It is our privilege and honor to do so. For those who aren't aware: a volunteer fire company isn't staffed by paid people on a work shift at the firehouse. When a Rensselaer County dispatcher signals an emergency in our district, any of our firefighters or EMTs who are in the area and available head to the station as quickly and safely as possible, don their gear, board the appropriate apparatus/vehicle and proceed to the scene. We also provide mutual aid to several neighboring fire companies. No one is paid. We love to do what we do, which is best summed up as helping our neighbor. If you're interested in joining us, please send an e-mail to sscechitano@eaglemillsfd.org and we'll help you get started. Training and equipment are provided free-of-charge.

A new slate of officers for 2010 have begun their terms. We tell you their names because they're your neighbors and friends-we want you to know who they are! Our chief is now Paul Bornt and his asst. chiefs are Tom Martin (1st) and Glenn Myers (2nd). Our lieutenants and captains are: Fire- Jeff Dunham (capt.), Jake Broderick, Tom Connor, Jim Guthier, Jay Hannan, and Mark Hewitt; EMS- Chris Swanson; Fire Police- Pete Milks (capt.), Bill Chase Sr., Steve Lawton, Mickey Martin, Walt Webster Sr.. Our safety officer is Bob Welch, Infection Control officers are Donna Welch and Chris Swanson, and our Training Officer is Steve LeBlanc. The officers of the company are: Sal Scechitano (president), Jack Curran (VP), Catie Hoodack (recording secretary), Christine Martin (financial secretary), Barry Becker (treasurer) and Tim Hoodack (service award coord.). Our Board of Directors is: Tim Hoodack, Andy Johnston, Tom Martin, Glenn Myers, Doug Rogers, Chris Swanson, and Matt Shaw. If you ever want to know more about your fire department, you have plenty of people to ask! See page eight for additional town fire company officials.

Speigletown District Volunteer Fire Company

The Speigletown District Volunteer Fire Company recently elected the following officers for 2010: Administrative Officers: President: Eric Behrens, Vice-President: Kim Franklin, Secretary: Ed Gray, Treasurer: Mike Maloney, Financial Secretary: Leo Perras, and Board of Directors: Tom Murphy & Scott Bourret.

Firematic Officers: Chief: Mike Shanahan, Assistant Chiefs: Joe Martin & Bill Maloney, Captain: Tony Nardone, Lieutenants: John Large, John McKnight & Justin Rumpler, and Safety Officers: Dick Brown, Mike Maloney & Leo Perras.

The Speigletown Fire Department rents out their banquet hall for parties, if interested please call Kim Franklin at (518) 470-7477. Every second Sunday of the month starting October through May we have an All-You-Can-Eat-Breakfast from 7:30am to 11:30am.

If any town residents would like to be added to our electronic mailing list, please email Kim Franklin at kfranklin8958@nycap.rr.com

2009 Fire Dept Call totals

Brunswick #1	455 Calls	Center Brunswick	256 Calls
Eagle Mills	223 Calls	Mountain View	262 Calls

Brunswick Fire Companies' Officers and Officials

2010 Brunswick Fire Co No 1

Chief: Steve Willson
 Assistant Chief: Gus Scifo
 Assistant Chief: Ed Thompson, Jr.
 Safety Officers: Mark Balistreri and John Mainello III
 Fire Captains: Rick Ellison, Mike Ornoski, Rich Roberts and Dave Plew
 Fire Lieutenants: Chris Clemente, Doug Gibson and Tom Job Jr.
 Fire Police Captains: Joe Cioffi and Joe Matthews, Sr.
 Fire Police Lieutenants: John Grimmick, Perry Kaufmann, George Thompson, Pete Patti and Robert Hepp
 President: Rick Ellison
 Vice-President: Dennis Jones
 Treasurer: John Mainello III
 Financial Secretary: Mike Stone
 Recording Secretary: Chris Clemente
 Board of Directors: Mark Balistreri, Kurt McCann, Richard Roberts, Adesta Roberts, Dave Plew, Mike Ornoski and Robert Vogel

2010 Center Brunswick Fire Dept.

Officers and Officials

Chief: Elwood Diabala
 1st Assistant Chief: Michael K Lewis
 2nd Assistant Chief: Lawrence Funk
 Safety Officer: Jack Melsom
 EMS Captain: Ronald Neissen
 Lieutenants: Rob Alber III, Nicole Funk, William Miller, John C. Hudson Jr., Micheal Drinkwine
 Engineers: John Singleton and Daniel Bruns Jr.
 Fire Police Captain: Gerald Simmons
 Fire Police Lieutenant: Kenneth Bonesteel
 President: Jack Melsom
 Vice President: Renie Simmons
 Secretary: Justine Hudson
 Treasurer: J. Emil Kreiger
 Financial Secretary: Daniel Bruns Jr.
 Chairman of the Board: John R. May
 Board of Directors: James Smith, Lawrence K Funk, Gerald Simmons, Mike Drinkwine, John Singleton, Ronald Neissen

2010 Mountain View Fire Department – Officers and Officials

Chief: John Houser • Assistant Chief: T. J Strock
 Fire Captain: Jason Hamm • EMS Captain Theron Maloney
 Lieutenants: Brent Mason, Jerry Blair and Adam Coonradt.
 President: Brent Mason



BRUNSWICK FARMERS MARKET

The Brunswick Farmers Market which was organized for the summer of 2009 will again return in June with the intention of providing fresh products to the local community as well as a venue for local producers to sell their home grown/made products. In 2010 the market will expand its vision to include unique vendors that support a wholesome lifestyle as well as an artists/artisans market to add to the fresh produce, flowers, baked goods and more.

Special Event Days will be planned through the summer as well as the inclusion of a variety of guest vendors. Another feature will include a community organization table where shoppers will learn more about what is going on in our community. If you are a community organization and would like to participate as a guest please contact the Market Manager at town office 279-3461.

If you are a vendor and would like to register for the market you can go to our website at www.townofbrunswick.org and click on services to access the Farmers Market guidelines and application. Visit our blog at www.TownofBrunswickFarmersMarket.blogspot.com to keep posted on all events and to vote for what you would like to see at your town farmers market.

Some of this years returning vendors include: **Tarbox Farms, Duncans Farms, The Whole Loaf, Epicurean, Gold Crest Farms, Worldlings Pleasures**, as well as some new interested vendors such as a winery, ethnic and street foods and organic foods. The list is growing daily and by summer we should have a variety of local food producers and vendors. The Market will run from June 5-October 10 each Saturday from 9-1.

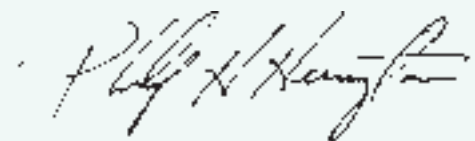
There will be an informational seminar on Wednesday, February 24 at 5:00 pm at the Brunswick Community Center on Keyes Lane. For more information call the market manager at 279-3412.

Supervisor Herrington...continued from Page 1

the beauty of the government in towns like ours. None of us on the Town Board are “full time” elected officials. We don’t get big salaries. We do it because we love and care about our town. And most importantly, we each bring our own unique and varied knowledge, skills and experience to the table, all of which is available, as needed, for the good of the town. Continued on page 10

The other item I wanted to mention has to do with our fire companies. As you all know, all fire protection services in our town are provided on a volunteer basis by these fire companies. Those of you who know me well, and I’m proud to say that many of you do, know that I am a huge supporter of our volunteer firefighters. Like most thinking people, I understand that being a volunteer firefighter is a tremendous drain on a person’s free time, not to mention a potential danger to his or her health and safety. There is no generous salary, copious overtime or fancy pension for our volunteers. Rather, they do what they do out of a sense of community and concern for their neighbors. That said, however, in these difficult financial times, it is clear to me that we need to do something to bring our fire protection costs under control. Whether you live in a fire district, like Eagles Mills or Speigletown, or a fire protection district, like Center Brunswick, Sycaway, or Mountain View, ultimately, the cost of fire protection services is paid by you through the property tax levy. In some parts of town, at least, the tax levy for fire protection now exceeds the levy for highway maintenance. This is all broken down on an insert which we provided with your tax bills. I bring this to your attention. We have five (5) fire companies providing fire protection services within our town. Each one has its own firehouse. Each has its own fire trucks, other vehicles and equipment. Clearly, there is overlap. The point, however, is that there is no formal coordination among the companies to avoid needless duplication in equipment purchases and in services. I do not pretend to have all the answers, or even all the right questions. All I’m saying at this point is that we need to start a dialogue among our fire companies to try to reduce costs through consolidation, sharing equipment and sharing services. It’s inevitable. We just can’t continue having each company go its own way. We can’t afford it. And we don’t need to. Nowadays, any fire of consequence results in mutual aid, which means that all fire companies respond. Surely, each fire company does not have to have each type of vehicle, each piece of equipment, etc. Through our efforts, Mohawk Ambulance now has a presence in the town which needs to be considered as well. Sad to say, what I see when I visit the various fire companies is a lot of equipment, but, sometimes, a lack of firefighters to use it, especially during the day when our volunteers are working at their “real” jobs, perhaps a good distance away.

Again, this is not meant as a criticism, and I hope it will not be taken that way. The current system has been ongoing for many years, and we’re all responsible for it. But we need to fix it. And soon. I’ve taken the first step of forming a Public Safety Committee which will be headed by Councilmen Dan Casale and Jim Sullivan. I have asked them to meet with representatives of the various fire companies to begin this important process in earnest. I’ll keep you posted.



A View from the Past

Early Brunswick Had Many Hotels

By Sharon Zankel, Town Historian

While Brunswick today has no hotels, those traveling through our town at various times during the nineteenth century found lodging at one of several establishments. Called hotels, inns, or taverns, these places offered lodging as well as refreshment, were operated by local families sometimes in much the same manner as today's bread-and-breakfasts, and probably catered primarily to those engaged in business as they traveled through Brunswick to and from the city of Troy during its heyday as a center of industry and commerce.

Betts Inn near Center Brunswick and a tavern operated by Peter Plates at Platestown (today the hamlet of Tamarac) were two of our town's earliest hotels. The Brunswick Centre Hotel once stood where Hoosick Road, Route 142 and Sweet Milk Creek Road now intersect. A rambling frame structure first known as Brown's Roadhouse and, later, as White's Hotel, destroyed by fire in 1941, occupied the site now owned by Midas Muffler. Eagle Mills hosted at least two hotels-The Brunswick and the Eagle Mills Hotel which was managed by a succession of owners including Simmons, McMahan, and Moses. A hotel east of Cropseyville along that short stretch of Route 2 known as Pleasant Valley was first called the East Brunswick Hotel and, later, the Leonard S. Hakes Hotel; the structure later housed a general store under the McChesney and Rifenburg families and is today a residence. The hotel pictured here welcomed travelers passing through Clum's Corners and appears on mid-nineteenth-century maps as Brunswick Hall; its last innkeepers were Leonard and George McChesney who, according to local legend, renamed it the Panama House after George returned from employment on the Panama Canal. The Panama House later served as a dancehall before its destruction in the early 1900s.

The coming of the automobile and, no doubt, a depression-era decline in business contributed to the demise of Brunswick's small hotel industry. By the 1930s automobile travel for sightseeing and exploration was gaining popularity, spurring the growth of the tourist homes and ventures offering private cabins in a picturesque rural setting...but that's a chapter in our history to be told another time!



The Panama House, formerly Brunswick Hall, at Clum's Corners, was one of several hotels operated in Brunswick.



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Town Officials

Philip H. Herrington, *Supervisor*

Patrick E. Poletto, *Councilman*

James Sullivan, *Councilman*

Sam Salvi, *Councilman/Youth
Services Director*

Daniel Casale, *Councilman*

Susan Quest Sherman, *Town Clerk*

Jayne Tarbox, *Receiver of Taxes*

Lawrence Kronau, *Town Justice*

Robert Schmidt, *Town Justice*

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TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECEIVES GRANT FROM NYSERDA

The Town of Brunswick received a \$30,000 grant from the New York State Energy and Research Development Agency (NYSERDA) to complete energy conservation and renewable energy studies at select Town facilities. The goal of the studies is to identify methods to reduce the Town's consumption (i.e. replacing lights and motors with more energy efficient types, etc) of energy thereby reducing the Town's operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Initially, a baseline study will be completed to evaluate each building's energy use against a similar building. Following the benchmarking, an inspection of each building will be completed to identify energy consuming equipment and energy conservation opportunities (ECO). Following the building survey, each ECO will be evaluated based on the costs to implement, the potential savings, and the funding available to reduce implementation costs.

In addition, a renewable energy feasibility study will be completed to evaluate the feasibility and project costs associated with utilizing solar, wind, and geothermal energy at Town facilities.

The studies will allow the Town to develop an Energy Plan that outlines the Town's energy use and potential methods to reduce use and most importantly position the Town to take advantage of additional NYSERDA and stimulus funding that is currently available or expected to be available in the future.