



# TOWN OF PLATTSBURGH news

Volume 11 / Issue 2 / Winter 2011

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*Deputy Supervisor  
Councilor*

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*Councilor*

Paul D. Lamoy  
*Councilor*

Gerard A. Renadette  
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*Town Clerk*

James J. Coffey, Esq.  
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Fred J. Lavene  
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*Code Enforcement*

Scott M. Stoddard  
*Water & Wastewater  
Director*

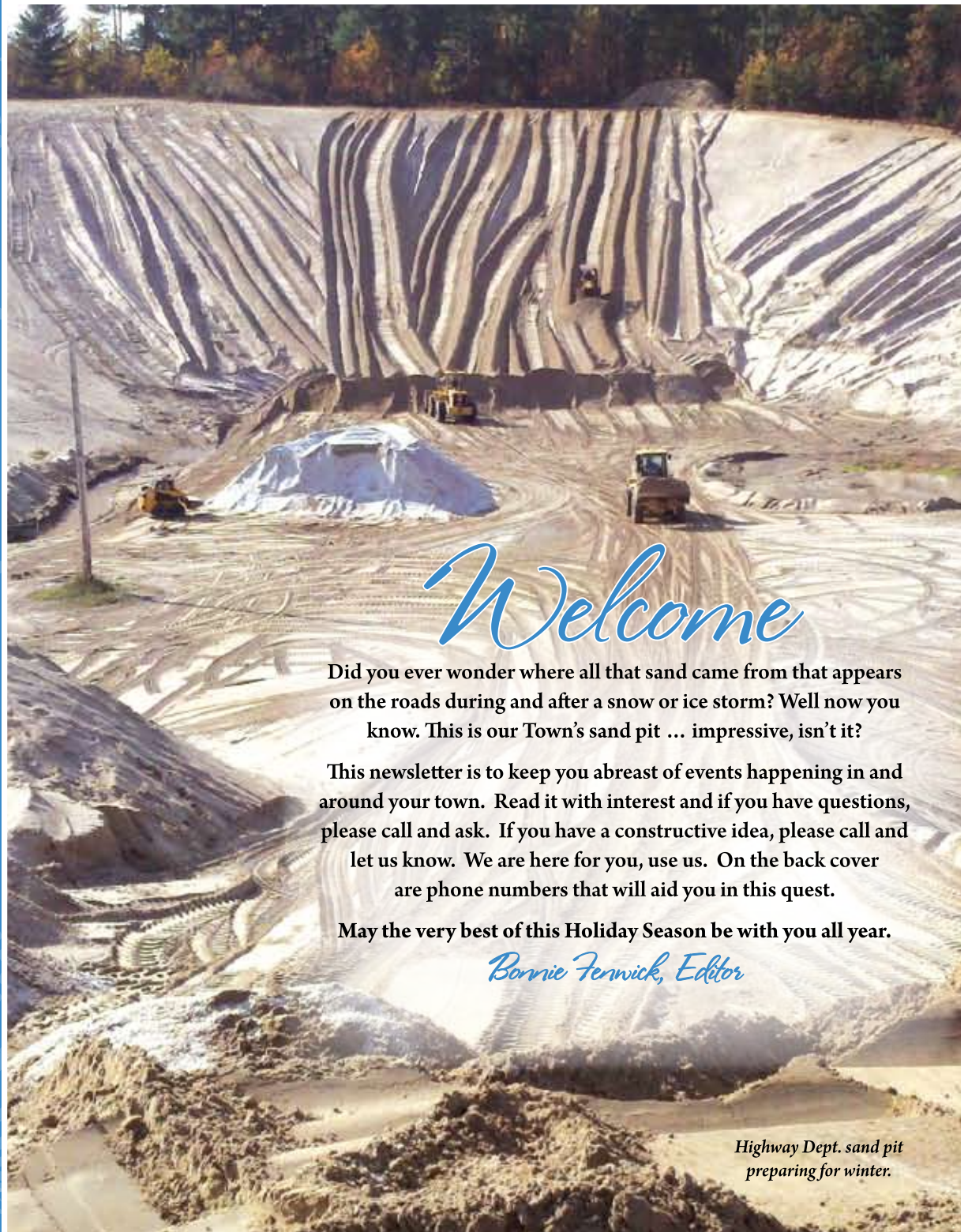
Melanie A. Defayette  
*Recreation &  
Youth Service Director*

Diane M. Miller  
*Budget Officer*

Brian M. Dowling  
*Assessor*

David M. Duquette  
*Dog Control Officer*

Jerry K. Bates  
*Historian*



## Welcome

Did you ever wonder where all that sand came from that appears on the roads during and after a snow or ice storm? Well now you know. This is our Town's sand pit ... impressive, isn't it?

This newsletter is to keep you abreast of events happening in and around your town. Read it with interest and if you have questions, please call and ask. If you have a constructive idea, please call and let us know. We are here for you, use us. On the back cover are phone numbers that will aid you in this quest.

May the very best of this Holiday Season be with you all year.

*Bonnie Fenwick, Editor*

*Highway Dept. sand pit  
preparing for winter.*

# AMESSAGEFROMTHESUPERVISOR'SDESK

Another year is quickly coming to an end as we prepare for the first snowfall and transition to winter! A third year of economic uncertainty is also coming to an end. The discussions continue in Albany and Washington about how to stimulate the economy while we work locally to do the same.



travel for residents and visitors while making the community more attractive to developers.

A number of new laws and policies were passed in 2011 along with over 400 Resolutions. We consolidated our ambulance districts this year and have begun

We must continue to spend within our means and generate budgets that are responsible while investing in our future. We can not push needed improvements to future administrations with hopes of better times. Fortunately, this has been a good year for us. We have seen many new businesses come to the Town. We were also able to produce a budget for 2012 that holds to the 2% levy cap as mandated by the Governor. I'm excited that we also have a number of new projects that have come forward with hopes of seeing construction begin in 2012.

I am excited about the number of initiatives that began this year to promote tourism. This will continue in 2012 as we acknowledge the economic impact on our local economy. The Plattsburgh International Airport has had a very successful year and plans are in the making for a significant terminal expansion to foster even more growth. This year we made a major investment in our roads to improve

**“ Change is inevitable. We must all learn to cope and manage our needs during periods of change and stress. ”**

the consolidation of our lighting districts. This year we worked to reduce energy costs and continue to share services and resources between our Departments and with other municipalities. Those changes have enabled us to begin to realize real savings in operating our government that will continue into 2012 and beyond.

Change is inevitable. We must all learn to cope and manage our needs during periods of change and stress. Most important is to remember that we are in the right place at the right time. With hard work and determination

we will all make progress in 2012.

Best wishes to each of you and your family during this holiday season. My New Year wish for you is that you have quality family time and find the blessings we all truly are fortunate to have.

*Bernie*

Bernard C. Bassett  
Supervisor

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# t o w n b o a r d . . . P E R S O N N E L



## STANDING :

Gerard Renadette, *Councilor*  
Paul Lamoy, *Councilor*  
Martin Mannix, *Councilor*  
& *Deputy Supervisor*

## SEATED :

Rickey Collins, *Town Clerk*  
Bernard Bassett, *Supervisor*  
Jim Coffey, *Town Attorney*  
Tom Wood, *Councilor*

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### CODES & ZONING • • •



HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all, it has been another busy year in the Town Codes & Zoning office.



Commercial construction has been on the rise in the Town with several positive new businesses coming to our community. As the year goes along you can follow the progress of building within the Town at our website, [www.townofplattsburgh.com/zoning](http://www.townofplattsburgh.com/zoning). We will update several projects progress from footers to framing to there final completion. So, please join us at the website to see developers put there stakes down in the community. High Peaks Dental located at 675 Route 3 is



renovating the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of Plattsburgh Medical Center for their dental practice. Texas Roadhouse restaurant is complete and opened for business on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Dickey's Barbecue Pit completed their renovations on Smithfield Blvd. next door to General Trading Company and opened for business on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pizza Palace is now located at 334 Tom Miller Road and is now opened for business. Randy Dame is building a freestanding Subway at 689 Route 3. Florentino's restaurant located in Champlain Centre is now open. Zachary's restaurant

opened in the former location of the Pizza Palace on the Military Turnpike. Pizza Hut located at 370 Route 3 is closed down and doing a complete make over of the existing building. Durocher Development located at 21 Connecticut Road just finished the construction of their next phase of storage units. Cumberland Head Fire District is nearing completion of their addition and renovations to the existing fire station. North Country Veterans located at 27 Town Line Road is erecting a 38' x 100' addition onto their existing building. Behavioral Health Services is renovating the former Pyramids located at 2155 Route 22B. Miracle Ear which was formerly located in Sears is now located at 49 Smithfield Boulevard. Marra's Home Care will be moving from the City



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# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## CODES & ZONING • • •

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and locating their business at 206 Tom Miller Road in the former KCI Electric building. UPS will be opening a store at 35 A-B Smithfield Boulevard that will provide a service for packing, shipping and receiving.

As for Residential homes, we have issued 13 permits for new homes, which 4 of those permits were for Modular's. For manufactured homes we have issued 8 permits for homes that were placed on individual lots and 9 permits for manufactured homes that were placed within a mobile home park. We are still seeing a trend of home owners updating their existing homes with additions and kitchen and bathroom remodels giving that older home a new feel and look to accommodate families' new needs and wants. If you are thinking of doing additions or renovations to your home, stop into our office and we'll help you navigate through your plans with a few helpful hints.

A reminder to all homeowners and renters to have your carbon monoxide/smoke detectors tested for proper operation. Also a new fire extinguisher in the home is a good practice and for someone that has everything and cannot think of what to buy, purchase one for them showing them you care, it could save their life. Place the extinguisher where everyone knows where it is located in case of that one time emergency, you never know!!!!

Let's not forget for all of you that burn wood to please check your woodstoves and fireplaces for proper use and clean those chimney's free and clear of the deadly creosote buildup.

On behalf of the Town of Plattsburgh Codes and Zoning office Marie, Allen and I wish everyone a safe holiday and New Year.

*Stephen*

Stephen Imhoff  
Code Enforcement

## TAX RECEIVER • • •



Hopefully everyone had a wonderful summer with the exception of "Irene", what a way to end the season. The end of summer always means another collecting season at the office. It was nice to see so many of you.



The school tax bills were confusing this year due to the state cap on the star exemption. We hope we were able to answer all your questions and concerns. It is our understanding the format of the bills is in progress of changing and hopefully future bills will be easier to understand.

The following 2011 school taxes have been collected and the tax rolls have been returned to the school districts. All unpaid taxes as of November 30<sup>th</sup> will be on the January 2012 property tax bill along with any water and sewer accounts with a balance as of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Total Tax Warrant Amount</b> | <b>\$16,854,334.76</b> |
| <b>Total Taxes Collected</b>    | <b>\$15,882,546.32</b> |
| <b>Total Unpaid Taxes</b>       | <b>\$971,788.44</b>    |

The holiday season is just beginning which means another collection is around the corner. Property tax bills will be in your mailboxes the first week of January. If you do not receive a copy please call the office or feel free to use our online website at [egov.basny.com](http://egov.basny.com) for viewing and printing of the bills. We also update the site daily with taxes that have been paid. As always if you choose the installment payment option the first installment must be postmarked by the last day of January in order to participate in this payment plan. We will have extended hours at the office Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12pm and Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup> from 8am -7pm. Hopefully this helps everyone that can't make the regular office hours of Monday – Friday 8am-4pm.

We would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe new year. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Jacqueline*  
Jacqueline Bellew  
Receiver of Taxes

*Elaine*  
Elaine Woods  
Deputy Receiver of Taxes



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# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## ASSESSOR • • •



The season is changing and the Holidays are quickly advancing and everyone is preparing, or is prepared, for colder weather; it is hard to believe this is early November with the warmth of the past week.

Regardless of temperature, this is the time of year to start thinking about the application for or renewal of exemptions. Those of you that have exemptions that require income verification may have noticed Sharon has already sent out the renewal applications. This was to enable you to come in while the weather is nicer and to alleviate the larger number of applicants in February. To those that have already taken advantage of renewing early, thank you.

An exemption is the reduction of your assessed value due to circumstances that are unique to the applicant and in conformance to the Real Property Tax Law. The exemption qualification process is not always easy and may appear tedious, but when an exemption is granted, it is the rest of the community that carries the exempted tax amount (except for STAR, which is paid for by NYS). Because an exemption causes a shift of the tax burden to the balance of the community, careful examination of income and qualifications is important. For those that participate in the Aged with Limited Income, Disability with Limited Income and Enhanced (Senior) Star Exemptions, an examination of your income is required; copies of supporting income documentation are needed. For most applicants, your 2010 income, which includes all your 1099 forms (for example: interest, dividend, social security), your income tax forms and all other data that you use to complete your income tax form is relevant to the verification process. The additional paperwork is needed because Real Property Tax Law examines income differently than Income Tax. Renewal applications have been mailed to those that have had previous exemptions and need to reapply. For the 2012 assessment roll, all renewals and new applications are due by Taxable Status Day, or March 1, 2012.

The Basic Star (SCHOOL TAX RELIEF) exemption is also available to all taxpayers on their primary residence. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete the application and submit it to our office. Application forms can be found on the Town website <http://townofplattsburgh.com/> under Assessment.

We wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and New Year.

*Brian*  
Brian Dowling  
Assessor

*Sharon*  
Sharon King  
Assessment Control Examiner

## PARKS & RECREATION • • •



Fall has washed itself away and winter is knocking on our doors. Chilly out there today so I decided it must be time to schedule "ice time" for Family Skating in December. Yes, we are planning activities for everyone over the Christmas vacation. The holiday

season will be here before we know it. Here are some other programs that we are currently offering:

**YOUTH BASKETBALL** – The program for grades 3-6 is under way with practices through the month of December. Games will be starting in January. The grade 1-2 program is beginning in January too, on Saturdays. We will also be offering a program for boys and girls in grades 7-8 again this year. With the Modified "B" program being cut from all the school budgets, we expect that our numbers will increase here. Please check our website for more information.

**FAMILY SWIM NIGHT** - Families who reside in the Town are invited to come and swim at the pool at the Wellness Center at PARC on New York Road every Friday evening from 7-9pm. The cost is \$2 per person. A great way to start the weekend off with some exercise and family time!

**BOWLING** – January 8th marks the first week of the Bowling program. Every Sunday morning at 8:30am, for eight weeks, we invite all school aged children to come and bowl three games at no charge-even the shoes are included! Come to the North Bowl Alley and have some fun with your friends. Another great activity to help ease the winter blahs.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK ACTIVITIES** - Some of the activities offered will be family ice skating sessions at the SUNY Fieldhouse (26,27,28 from 11am-12pm); archery instruction at Gander Mountain with Jim and Brandon Agnew; and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at the Cadyville Park (weather permitting). All programs are offered free of charge!

**DOWNHILL SKI NIGHTS** - We will partner with the Town of Beekmantown to sponsor Family Ski Nights at Beartown in January and February. The mountain and lodge will be open for residents of both Towns to enjoy some free skiing and fun!

**WINTER FUN RUNS** – Who says we can't run year 'round?? Join us for our fun runs every Saturday in January at 3pm at the Cliff Haven Recreation Park. Instead of giving out freezer pops at the end, we'll have Hot Chocolate! If there is snow, we will provide snowshoes to run in. More details will be available on our website.

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# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## PARKS AND RECREATION • • •

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Speaking of our website...have you visited it lately? If you haven't, you don't know what you're missing and if you have, you know what we're talking about! We keep the website updated regularly so there's always something new to check out. We also recommend that you sign up for our monthly email alerts where we send a newsletter, once a month, to your inbox. It will alert you to all the programs and activities



we have coming up the next month. No need to worry about catching a press release in the paper when you will have it at your fingertips. Go to [www.townofplattsburghrecreation.com](http://www.townofplattsburghrecreation.com) and click on the "Receive Monthly Email Announcements" to sign up. While you're there, check out the photos of some of our past program participants having a great time. Check out the updated photos of every hole of the 18-hole Disc Golf course in Cadyville. We are also on Facebook-if you are a Facebook user, "like" us and we'll keep you posted on upcoming events that way too. Don't have the internet? No problem, give us a call or stop by anytime and we'll fill you in on the latest offerings.

From all of us here in the Parks & Recreation Department - Tyson, Shelby, Erin and myself - we wish you fun, family-filled Holiday Season!!

*Melanie*

Melanie Defayette  
Recreation & Youth Service Director



## HISTORIAN REPORT • • •



**John Purdy unveiled his painting of the skirmish between American and British soldiers in 1814 during the Halsey's Corners Commemoration.**

**An Interpretive Sign about the engagement at Halsey's Corners provided by a grant from**

the Champlain Valley National Historic Partnership and Lake Champlain Basin Program was also dedicated at the event.



A second interpretive sign was awarded for Pike's Cantonment. The signs will help identify key points along the British Invasion March to conquer American forces in the Town of Plattsburgh during the War of 1812.



[www.lakestolocks.org/](http://www.lakestolocks.org/) is a new **National Geographic website** worth looking at. It provides travel planning tools for visits to the communities and their historical and cultural sites in New York's Lake Champlain region. If you ever wonder what to do or what went on in our part of the world, this is a great place to go. You can nominate a unique site or local experience which would appeal to visitors for inclusion on this site by clicking "Add Places" on their home page, register, and follow instructions.

**Re-enactors of Co. C of the 16<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Regiment** marched in this year's Cadyville Parade. They represented 420 of our town's men who served in the Civil War and suffered significant losses.

**Local historian/volunteer keeper of Crab Island historic 1812 site, Roger Harwood,** guided a Canadian National Geographic writer and photographer to Valcour and Crab Islands for a feature story expected in a spring issue.

**We are not usually conscious of the history taking place before our very eyes** or our part in it. The day seldom seems worthy of note compared to major events such as the War of 1812. Nevertheless, our Town changes in some way, every day. Each of us, our homes, our work, our neighborhoods, and nearby businesses are part of the fabric of our town's history.

Just as we look back on those early settlers who first worked to establish the Town of Plattsburgh in 1785, future generations will also wonder what our lives were like near the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What did we do? How did the Town look then? What worked, or didn't work for our Town?

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# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## HISTORICAL REPORT • • •

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Many of you have photographs, records, or memories in journals, letters, old maps, posters, etc. that reflect our Town 10, 25, 50 or more years ago.

**I ask for your help to share and record that part of OUR story for our children** and future generations. We would like to make copies of, or acquire such records of our past to display to visitors who come to the Town Hall. We need to begin to build this record in preparation for the town's coming 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**If you might be interested in assisting** the research of town or genealogical history, processing documents, website maintenance, audio and visual documentation of local residents and town scenes, contact the historian for more information.

*Jerry Bates*  
Historian

*Bill Glidden*  
Deputy Historian



## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT • • •



Well here we go again, it's the beginning of November and we are all getting ready for another North Country winter. We have our winter supply of mixed salt and sand put up, we mix about 22,000 yards of premixed sand and that should get us through the winter with no problems and we also keep a supply of pure salt available in case we need to mix up a stronger load for freezing rain or if we start getting a build up of hard pack snow on the roads. I would like to remind everyone about the Town wide parking ban that goes into effect from November to April from

midnight to 6AM so that the snowplows can keep your streets clean, and don't forget to check your mailboxes to make sure they are the correct height and they are in the ground securely.

The highway department was very busy this year, even with the spring flooding on Lake Champlain and Tropical Storm Irene we were still able handle a massive paving

program and keep up with most of our scheduled work. We paved 21 roads throughout the town which took over 19,000 tons of blacktop and along with the paving we had to redo all of the shoulders and stripping on those roads. We also did about two miles of ditching throughout the town in the areas that really had to get done before any more bad weather hit us. I would like to apologize to any homeowners that we had scheduled for work in there ditches or driveways, the many storms did set us back at least six weeks on our work that we had planned. If we didn't get to them this year they will be done next year for sure.

I have to say thanks to the Towns of Chazy and Schuyler Falls, the Village of Dannemora and the Clinton County Highway and Sign Department, if it wasn't for all of their help through Shared Services we would not have been able to do the amount of paving that we did.

I would like to take a few lines to say how much I have enjoyed serving the people in the Town of Plattsburgh for the past four years, as of January 1<sup>st</sup> I will be retiring after being at the Town for over thirty-one years. I will be turning this department over to Jim Woods who has been with the Town for over twenty four years and has worked side by side with me for the last four years. He has just won this past election for the next four years as Highway Superintendent and I'm positive he will do a great job. I also have to thank my highway crew they are second to none in the county and I will miss them all.

I have to thank all of the office staff that work for the Town for everything they do to help this department. I would really like to say Thanks to Bernie Bassett, (Supervisor) and the Town Board members (Marty Mannix, Gerard Renadette, Tom Wood, and Paul Lamoy) it has been a pleasure working with them, they never once let politics play a part in decisions for work that needed to be done and they truly have the best interest in mind for the Towns people.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a safe winter.

Sincerely,

*Fred Lavene*

AND THE HIGHWAY CREW

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# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER & WASTEWATER • • •



As severe storms brought significant rainfall and flooding to the region in late spring, the Water and Wastewater Department spent many hours sandbagging and maintaining Lift Stations. In the aftermath, residents in Cliff Haven were affected by several water main breaks. In late August, Hurricane Irene downed power lines and trees, increasing the devastation. We are currently working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in an effort to recover from these disasters.

Education and training provides the opportunity for employees to develop and maintain their skills, as well as ascertain new information necessary to obtain and preserve professional licenses and certifications. Most recently, Kevin Keane completed training as a Certified Backflow Prevention Device Inspector from the New England Water Works Association and the Grade A/B Water Operator Course at Clinton Community College.

### WINTER WATER SAVINGS TIPS

There are many ways to conserve water and they all begin with YOU:

- Fixing a leaky faucet could save a minimum of 140 gals per week, reducing your usage per quarter by 1,680 gallons.
- Winterizing outdoor spigot(s) to prevent leaking or bursting pipes.
- If your toilet was installed before 1992 – reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank – fixing a leaking toilet could save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and this could increase water and energy savings as well.
- It is important to know where your master shutoff is located. This could prevent damage to your home as well as save water.

We would like to remind residents that we will be conducting our Annual Lead and Copper Survey soon. Your participation in the survey provides analysis of your drinking water for both lead and copper at no cost to you. If you have a home built between 1982 and 1986 and would

like to participate, please call our office at (518) 562-6890 or email Chasity at [chasw@townofplattsburgh.org](mailto:chasw@townofplattsburgh.org).

### PROJECTS

The Water and Wastewater Department is continuing its efforts to clean and inspect the sewerlines on the former Plattsburgh Air Base to identify areas of infiltration. The implementation of new handheld data collectors is complete and we have begun the conversion to remote meter readings. Remote meter readings will minimize data collection errors and improve data capture accuracy and efficiency. With assistance from the New York Rural Water Association, the Water and Wastewater Department conducted smoke testing on the sanitary sewer system in Champlain Park. This testing is used to reveal leaks that allow storm and other surface waters to enter the system. Locating and correcting these leaks will reduce the cost of treatment. The Town of Plattsburgh Water and Wastewater Department has contracted with the Town of Schuyler Falls to supply public water to approximately 300 homes in the Town of Schuyler Falls Morrisonville Water District. We are currently working with the Town of Schuyler Falls to establish accounts and prepare for meter installations in this district.



### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well I would say that I've been able to "get my feet wet" since taking the position of Director in February, with historical lake levels resulting in spring flooding in May and then Hurricane Irene in late August. I hope that residence impacted by these storm events have fully recovered. The Department continues to work with FEMA to obtain assistance for the additional effort expended during these events. We also finished several projects over the summer, and now are preparing for the winter months ahead. Looking ahead, I would like to wish everyone and their families a happy and safe holiday.

*Scott Stoddard*

Water and Wastewater Director

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# TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



**DAVID DUQUETTE**  
Dog Control Officer



**RICKEY COLLINS**  
Town Clerk



**DANIELLE SCHOLL**  
Deputy Town Clerk

**TOWN CLERK'S PHONE**  
(518) 562-6830

**DOG CONTROL**  
(518) 562-6831

## dognews

As we all know winter is here, and its time to make special precautions for our pets especially the ones that live outside. If you leave your dog outside during extreme weather they must be protected from the elements. That means a proper dog house and proper food and water. The dog house should also be winterized with some kind of insulation. It being so cold outside, it's even more important that they have proper food and making sure that they have fresh water. It can freeze (water) very quickly. Also make sure that they have enough room to move around so they can keep their core temperature up, check on their leashes so that they are not tangled up. Also if you walk your dog outside on the sidewalks, frequently check their paws for cuts and any irritations from rock salt or other chemicals that are put

down to melt the ice and snow. If you have any questions please give me a call. I hope you and your pets have a Safe and Happy Holidays.

Thank You,  
*David Duquette*  
Dog Control Officer

### TOWN CLERK • • •

The fall season in the Town of Plattsburgh is bringing us beautiful days, cool nights, and gorgeous autumn colors throughout the area. Although we have had some gloomy days most were superb. Fall is a great time to start thinking about cleaning our yards and preparing the gardens for winter, and perhaps sealing windows, and even getting that snow shovel ready. Please remember to take care of yourselves during this season, and take advantage of the many flu clinics in the area. Also, don't forget about our furry friends with many free rabies clinics scheduled. Get more information about both on the Clinton County's health department's website at [www.clintonhealth.org](http://www.clintonhealth.org). Speaking of our furry friends if you live in the town of Plattsburgh and own a dog they need to be registered with the town and provided appropriate shelter against inclement weather when your dog is

outside. Dogs also need to be leashed (no dog is allowed to run at large). If your dog happens to get loose, by having tags on them (or microchips activated, don't forget to do this for your cats also) they can be returned to you if found. This is also the season that we start to see many skunks and porcupines and by having you dog tied up or inside is a good way to prevent an accident from occurring.

Hunting season is in full swing. Licenses can still be purchased at the Town Clerk's office. There are many new hunting and fishing regulations and I encourage all of our hunters and anglers to visit the DEC's website for more information [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov). Don't forget to report your harvest you can also do this on the DEC website.

From all of us in the Clerk's office,  
*Rickey, David and Danielle*

**Let me introduce myself! My name is Danielle Scholl and I am the new Deputy Town Clerk. I live in the Town of Plattsburgh and most recently worked at the Plattsburgh City School District where I was a clerk for five years. I look forward to meeting my many neighbors in the Town and trying to assist them to the best of my ability.**

# planning board

## Planning Board Staff:

Philip E. Von Bargen, Planning Department Manager  
Trevor R. Cole, Planning Technician  
Tamber Shepard, Planning Department Secretary

## • • • REPORT



Twice a year the Planning Department has an opportunity to give newsletter readers' reflection on the past six month's worth of involvement with developers in the Town of Plattsburgh. We do this to provide town business and residential owners' an awareness of Planning Board actions and hopefully information about short and long term planning efforts. We think our vantage point is an interesting place to be as we interact with developers who are local or from afar and with our Planning Board that approves development projects; so we like to share that.

What can we offer to you as we approach the end of 2011 that is worthwhile? Perhaps a positive note which is during the last six months we've seen both real and perceived interest in development within the Town of Plattsburgh has increased. This is reflected by completion of several projects including renovations and brand new efforts; new site plan approvals for businesses; and projects anticipating a future in Plattsburgh working toward acquiring Planning Board approvals which would allow building permits to be issued next year.

All of this equates to confidence businesses have in locating or expanding in the Town of Plattsburgh. It also shows that during this time of slow economic growth those businesses which have the ability to obtain financing, or work with their own equity, are willing to invest for a future here so they will be well positioned for an eventual economic upturn. Given our observation of the Planning Department being busier this fall then we've been in three years, along with County sales tax receipts meeting or exceeding expectations, we feel somewhat comfortable in believing that 2012 will also show steady, but gradual, growth that benefits not only the Town of Plattsburgh but Clinton County as a whole.

As mentioned above, one role the Planning Department has is assisting with long term planning. Last summer a group

of town citizens appointed by the Town Board convened to meet with staff and Stuart Mesinger, a planning consultant from the Chazen Group, to work on updating the Town Zoning Ordinance. Stuart is presently writing a draft of the update and will soon be providing it to Town Staff for their review. Sometime after the start of the New Year the "Zoning Update" Committee will meet again to finalize the draft for presentation to the Town Board. Once in the hands of the Town Board there will be a process for public involvement including a Public Hearing at the point of the Town Board deliberations to finalize the Ordinance. More information will be provided to the community at that time. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime about this effort please contact either the Codes or Planning Departments.

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF CHANGE

On a different note the Planning office has a new Planning Technician: Trevor Cole started with the Department on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Trevor hails from Brasher Falls and brings a strong environmental and humanities component to our Planning office. He has two degrees from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh which includes majors in the Environmental Sciences and Anthropology. His minor in Environmental Planning reflects his personal interest in being a successful community planner. We look forward to his development in that regard and are pleased to have him with us.

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE

As always, if you have any questions regarding the subdivision of land or new commercial development please contact us at 562-6850 between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Also, please visit the Planning Department webpage on the Town of Plattsburgh website at [www.townofplattsburgh.com](http://www.townofplattsburgh.com) for useful Planning Department information.

*Philip Von Bargen*  
Planning Department Manager

Please take time to visit our new website [www.townofplattsburgh.com](http://www.townofplattsburgh.com)

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • • •

Several years ago the Town Board created the Town of Plattsburgh Local Development Corporation. The LDC is independent from the Town, appoints its own Board and conducts its own business. It has also served as a sub-recipient for NYS Community Development Loans and Grants awarded competitively through the NYS Office of Community Renewal. The by-laws state the purposed of the LDC as follows:

- to promote and to provide for additional and maximum employment;
- to relieve and to reduce unemployment;
- to add and to maintain job opportunities more effectively;
- to support retraining programs to expand business opportunities;
- to attract new industry to the Town of Plattsburgh;
- to encourage the development or retention of an industry in the community;
- to further the public objectives of this corporation by aiding the Town of Plattsburgh by attracting industry to the area, and by encouraging the development and the retention of an industry in the area and;

To carry out these purposes, the Corporation serves as a professional association of both public sector and private, not-for-profit economic development organizations.

The LDC is able to assist new and expanding businesses located within the Town of Plattsburgh. The LDC offers low interest loans (+/- 2% of prime) to both new and expanding businesses as long as the business agrees to hire one individual for every \$15,000 borrowed. "It is our hope that, by taking advantage of low-interest loans, businesses will not only hire the required number of employees, but also will be able to grow enough to hire additional employees." – Tim McCormick VP LDC.

Recently the LDC entered into an agreement with the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) to administer the LDC's Revolving Loan Program. The AEDC, a not for profit group from Saranac Lake, also makes business loans. They have been in operation for 27 years and are currently working with other municipalities in the area. The AEDC will evaluate loan applications and make recommendations to our LDC. Since the signing of the agreement with the AEDC, the LDC has had inquiries from numerous businesses interested in receiving a loan and hiring new employees. The board of the LDC is encouraged about the future health of the LDC, its small business loan recipients, and the Town of Plattsburgh.



Persons or businesses interested in more information should contact Philip Corell at the Town of Plattsburgh offices (518-562-6856) or [philipc@townofplattsburgh.org](mailto:philipc@townofplattsburgh.org) or Tim McCormick, Loan Committee Chairman (518-420-2240) or [tim@mccormickanddeon.com](mailto:tim@mccormickanddeon.com)



## PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY • • •

The Plattsburgh Public Library has programs for every age and every interest, with books, tapes, CD/DVDs, art shows and special clubs, to mention just a few.

The Friends of the Library was established 25 years ago to raise funds for programs that are not included in the library's budget. Some of the Friends' donations are: equipment purchases such as dehumidifiers to help control summer humidity in the aging building, rugs and bean bags for the Children's Room, funded summer reading programs with special guest authors, maintaining art galleries showcasing local artists, and providing books that otherwise couldn't be included in the budget. Another major event for the Friends is the used book sale, occurring twice during the year in October and April. Members of Friends may buy books prior to the opening of the sale each time.

To join Friends, simply come to a meeting; we meet the third Tuesday through Thursday, 9am - 8pm, Friday and Saturday, 9am - 5pm, closed Sunday.

Presently, Legos are needed for the Children's Room. If your children are finished with theirs, we would love to have some new sets, complete if possible, to entertain children during the winter months.

For more information, pick up a Newsletter at the Town Clerks office. **Come explore all the interesting programs in your Plattsburgh Public Library!**

Please take time to visit our new website [www.townofplattsburgh.com](http://www.townofplattsburgh.com)

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*[www.townofplattsburgh.com](http://www.townofplattsburgh.com)*