

# R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2

April, 2015

## Amended Minutes of the Town Special Meeting - Jan. 21, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 21st day of January 2015 at 10:30 AM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was requested by Frank Commisso from the Albany County Comptroller's Office to introduce himself and Thomas Cetrino, Research Consultant with SUNY New Paltz.

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Robert Bolte, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Frank Commisso and Ashley Brennan from the Albany County Comptroller's Office and Thomas Cetrino, Research Consultant from SUNY New Paltz.

The purpose of this meeting was to explain the study being done by Albany County in cooperation with SUNY New Paltz to identify pathways to furthering intergovernmental collaboration within the County in an effort to reduce costs and to set areas of priority for the study.

Albany County is made up of 20 governmental agencies and a majority of them are interested in participating in the County's program. SUNY New Paltz will be creating the database that will contain all the local government employees and their information.

Under the law Government agencies that do not wish to participate in the County's GEP program, may create their own program. An incentive under the County-wide plan is that a 1% savings must be shown collectively; i.e. each municipality does not need to show a 1% savings independently.

Regardless, the 1% savings is sometimes difficult to document. For example, volunteers that perform repairs and miscellaneous tasks that would otherwise be contracted out save the Town tremendous amounts of money, but cannot be documented. Volunteers that drive the Senior/Youth Bus and Car are another example.

The Town of Rensselaerville has been initiating savings for quite some time. Some examples are as follows:

1. The Highway Department has worked with neighboring towns and vice-versa and has also shared equipment;
2. The Town does not have a lot of full-time employees except for the Highway Department, the Recycling Coordinator, and the Town Clerk;
3. The Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector will be performing his own clerical duties, accepting half of the clerk's salary. This also eliminates a part-time position.
4. Health insurance is not available to part-time employees;

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5. Sharing the Senior/Youth Bus and Town car with the Town of Westerlo;
6. Sharing training expenses with the Towns of Westerlo and Greenville;
7. Hiring of temporary employees in the Highway Department for the summer;
8. Changes have been made in retiree's benefits; and
9. Switching to a high-deductible health insurance plan.

Transcribed from audio tape and  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

(Note: corrections made, see Regular Meeting March 12, 2015).



## Draft Minutes, Town Board Work Meeting - March 10, 2015

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 10th day of March 2015 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

**PRESENT WERE:** Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was Highway Superintendent Randy Bates as well as one interested citizen.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

**MINUTES, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS:** Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on March 12, 2015: January 21, 2015 – Informational Meeting Government Efficiency Plan; February 10, 2015 – Public Hearing – National Flood Insurance Program; February 10, 2015 – Work Meeting; February 12, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Vouchers and bills will be addressed at the Regular Meeting also.

**TRANSFERS:** These will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on March 12, 2015.

**REPORTS:** Reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Town Clerk, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Coordinator will be given at the Regular Meeting on March 12, 2015.

### REPORT FROM HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

1. Superintendent Bates has prepared the bid package for highway materials; the Board will authorize the advertising of such at the Regular Meeting.
2. Superintendent Bates has received price quotes from eight different dealers/manufacturers regarding the purchase of a new plow truck. He compared prices and specifications of a Kenworth, an International, and a Western Star and presented his findings in great de-

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## Draft Minutes, Town Board Work Meeting, March 10, 2015

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tail. Comparisons of parameters such as frame extensions, air brakes, extended warranties, thickness of frame rails, plow and wing configurations, quality of the steel used to build the truck, and conveyor systems, were made just to name a few. Superintendent Bates has also spoken to others in the field in an effort to collect their experiences with the different manufacturers. He believes the Western Star is the overall best value as well as the best price. In addition, the Town currently owns a Western Star which has proven itself to be unparalleled. Parts for these two trucks will be interchangeable; another benefit of purchasing a Western Star.

The grand total for the Western Star truck is \$188,000. Superintendent Bates hopes to be able to sell the 1998 truck for approximately \$8,000 and the 1997 tandem for approximately \$12,000. Supervisor Lounsbury has gone over available funds. Councilman Bolte inquired about the FEMA funds; Supervisor Lounsbury said that they have not been cleared yet. The Town will be able to pay for a majority of the truck; the rest will have to be financed. She will contact the bank for the details on financing. The quotes Superintendent Bates received are only valid for 45 days and therefore a motion whether or not to purchase the truck must be made shortly.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Renewal of the on-line auction bidding authorization will be addressed at the Regular Meeting.
2. The Town's Liability and Vehicle Insurance renewal will be addressed at the Regular Meeting. This year's cost will be \$37,176.
3. Authorization to solicit bids for highway materials, mowing of the parks, and rental of port-a-pots will be addressed at the Regular Meeting.
4. Supervisor Lounsbury read a sample policy regarding employee tardiness. She accepted feedback from Board members and Highway Superintendent Bates, as well as a comment from the audience. When a final version is drafted it must be approved by Attorney Fallati as well as the Union.
5. Supervisor Lounsbury and the Board discussed modifications to the noise ordinance which the Town of New Scotland currently has in place.
6. Supervisor Lounsbury has been contacted by several residents of the hamlet of Rensselaerville regarding a posted speed limit. Supervisor Lounsbury, in turn, spoke to Doug Rose from the New York State Department of Transportation. Mr. Rose advised Supervisor Lounsbury that in order for a speed limit to be posted, the Town must send a letter requesting that the State investigate and review the situation. The request would then either be approved or denied. Supervisor Lounsbury will also speak to Attorney Fallati in this regard.
7. Supervisor Lounsbury notified the Board that it has been brought to the Town's attention that a taxpayer has been incorrectly charged a 'hydrant district' tax on their property tax bills beginning in 2006. The Board will vote at the Regular Meeting to reimburse the taxpayer for the charges which total \$94.44.

**COMMENTS:** Councilman Bolte stated that due to the fact that the hydrants in the hamlet of Rensselaerville do not and cannot work, he would like the Fire Districts to be notified in writing. He also requested a definitive answer to the question of liability. Councilwoman Sedlmeir suggested because the hydrants can never be functional due to their configuration, that they be removed completely.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

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## Draft Minutes, Town Board Work Meeting - March 10, 2015

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**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



## Draft Minutes, Town Board Meeting - March 12, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 12th day of March 2015 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Tom Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Donna Kropp, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, and Investigator Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Also present were five interested citizens; one arriving at 7:45.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Marie Dermody had questions and comments regarding the January 21, 2015 meeting. She questioned the heading of the meeting as it was titled 'Special/Informal'. She thought this was misleading because any meeting of the Town Board in which a quorum exists is no longer informal and therefore should not be designated as an informal meeting.

Secondly, Mrs. Dermody questioned whether or not the Town Clerk was in attendance and stated that according to Town Law, the Clerk is required to be at all Town meetings. If the Clerk was not in attendance, the minutes should reflect that as 'absent'. Supervisor Lounsbury explained that the Clerk was in the building, but did not attend the meeting due to the time of day. Mrs. Dermody also noted that because the minutes were transcribed from an audio tape, the minutes should reflect that as well.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the minutes of the following meetings: January 21, 2015 – Informational Meeting Government Efficiency Plan \*\*\*; February 10, 2015 – Public Hearing – National Flood Insurance Program; February 10, 2015 – Work Meeting; February 12, 2015 – Regular Meeting

\*\*\* With corrections as noted above.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedl-*

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*meir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0) (Note: Councilwoman Cooke abstains from the 2/10/15 and 2/12/2015 meetings)*

**TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the following transfer: From 'Assessors Uncertified' A1355E 12255 to 'Assessor Certified' A1355E 12256 in the amount of \$3,435.00;

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS:** General Fund - \$81,283.22; Highway Fund - \$25,055.13; Sewer Fund - \$494.99; Water Fund - \$416.27; TA Fund - \$5,721.67; Total Abstracts - \$112,971.28

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to pay all signed vouchers; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### REPORTS

#### **SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she had received the executed contract from Auctions International which allows the Town to liquidate surplus assets. The contract is valid for two years.
2. The log books for the bus have been received. Councilman Bolte will advise the drivers on its use.
3. Albany County Rural Housing has notified Supervisor Lounsbury that they have submitted a grant to NYS Affordable Housing for \$350,000 that will assist low-income home owners throughout the County in rehabilitating their homes. If awarded, a public notice will be issued.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Supervisor's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

#### **ATTORNEY**

1. Attorney Fallati reiterated that the updated Flood Insurance Law has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC will, in turn, forward it to FEMA. Attorney Fallati will be monitoring the progress.
2. The Town does not have any transactions that qualify for the class action suit that Attorney Fallati received, but a claim was submitted anyway.
3. The Zoning Law is in draft form and is in position to proceed.
4. Attorney Fallati read the Resolution renewing the Highway Superintendent's authority to participate in on-line auctions as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE  
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, from time-to-time, the Highway Superintendent has requested from the Town Board approval to bid on equipment available in an on-line auction; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has found the auction process to be financially beneficial, allowing the

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## Draft Minutes, Town Board Meeting, March 12, 2015

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Highway Superintendent to acquire useful equipment at a fraction of the cost of the acquisition of comparable new equipment; and

WHEREAS, Section 142(1) of the Highway Law permits the Town Board to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase equipment, tools and other implements to be used for highway maintenance, construction or reconstruction, snow plows or other devices for the removal of snow from the highways from monies appropriated for that purpose without prior approval of the Town Board, and in an amount or amounts to be fixed, from time to time, by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town board has determined that it is in the public interest to grant the Highway Superintendent such authority;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, that (1) the Highway Superintendent is authorized to bid on, and to purchase, equipment, tools and other implements to be used for highway maintenance, construction or reconstruction, snow plows or other devices for the removal of snow from the highways from monies appropriated for that purpose without prior approval of the Town Board, through June 30, 2015, up to an amount of \$20,000.00; (2) this resolution may be reviewed and re-approved quarterly; (3) the Highway Superintendent shall provide the Town Supervisor prompt notice of any bids and purchases made pursuant to this resolution; and (4) nothing in this resolution is intended to limit the Town Board's authority, by subsequent resolution, to modify or rescind this authority generally or with respect to a particular prospective purchase.

By motion made by Robert Bolte and seconded by Margaret Sedlmeir, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 12th day of March 2015 as follows:

Town Board Member	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain
Valerie Lounsbury, Supervisor	X		
Marion Cooke, Councilwoman	X		
Robert Bolte, Councilman	X		
Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilwoman	X		
Gerald Wood, Councilman	X		

### END RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Attorney's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1. Superintendent Bates reported that for 22 out of the 28 days in February, the Highway Department has been actively engaged in snow and/or ice related activities. Also, there have been 42 consecutive days of below freezing temperatures.
2. 100% of the equipment is up and operational and 100% of all repairs have been done in-house. Also noteworthy considering the workload, the Highway Department has only used a total of 15 hours sick time. Despite how poorly they felt at times, the highway men nevertheless came to work.
3. The salt shed is at 75% capacity. The Town has salt, sand, and mix on hand. Superintendent Bates expects the usage to be similar to last year. Due to the temperatures, and the ineffective-

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ness of the sand/salt, the highway's priority was to keep the roads safe; not to establish bare pavement.

4. The five feet of frost is becoming apparent. Some roads are disintegrating, pavement is broken, pot holes and ruts are forming, and frozen culvert pipes are causing complications. Once the roads become stable and are able to bear the weight of heavy equipment, they can then be repaired.
5. Last year Governor Cuomo and the Legislature authorized funding (in addition to the CHIPS funding) for 'winter recovery'. Last year the Town received \$23,000, but Superintendent Bates has not heard anything thus far for this year.
6. The package for highway material bidding has been prepared.
7. Superintendent Bates repeated some aspects of the presentation he made at the Work Meeting regarding the new plow truck.

Supervisor Lounsbury has contacted Don MacCormack at the Bank of Greene County. The current interest rate is 1.99%. The Town would not be able to pay for the truck until the fall when it is complete, but the rate is not expected to go higher than 2.29%. The bank may be able to hold the interest rate at 1.99%, but there is no guarantee.

Supervisor Lounsbury reported that the Town would be able to pay all but \$50,000 for the truck. Payments on \$50,000 could be made for a term of either five or six years. Supervisor Lounsbury would have to get bond counsel so that the Town could move forward.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to purchase the Western Star as recommended by Superintendent Bates for \$188,281; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to allow Supervisor Lounsbury to acquire a \$50,000 bond; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Highway Superintendent's report, 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**TOWN CLERK** Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of February as follows:

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$98.50. Paid to the Supervisor - \$67.16 - the breakdown is as follows:

Clerk Fees - \$26.66; Recycling - \$19.50; Dog Licenses - \$21.00; Total - \$67.16

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$3.00; Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$28.34; Water Rents for the month totaled \$17,568.41 and Sewer Rents totaled \$22,783.13 which includes \$8.73 in penalties.

Town Clerk Kraker also reported that 75-80% of the 2015 property taxes have been collected and the Town's portion of the warrant was satisfied as of February 12, 2015.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

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### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported that there were no permits issued for the month of February.
2. The fees for RV permits have been coming in.
3. Officer Overbaugh will be taking a training class in Cairo and another in Clifton Park. There are no fees for either of these classes, but the mileage will be shared with the Town of Greenville.
4. Officer Overbaugh is also working on the year-end report for the State and the Federal year-end has been completed for the census. The Federal Census has chosen the Town of Rensselaerville to submit monthly reports also.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Code Enforcement/Building Inspector's report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### ASSESSORS

1. Assessor Kropp reported that the Assessors are preparing for the new roll which is due May 1st.
2. They will be performing site reviews over the next several weeks.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Assessor's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that for the month of February, 469,600 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 16,771 gallons/day); and 189,000 gallons of sewage was pumped (an average of 6,750 gallons/day). There is still a loss of 10,000 gallons per day.
2. When the weather breaks, Officer Story will be locating the curb stops and repairing those that are non-functional.
3. Officer Story received a call from Troy requesting assistance in thawing frozen pipes. The Town has located a de-icing machine which was originally thought to be a pressure washer, but it was not located in time to be of assistance to Troy. Officer Story will notify Rural Water so that next year Rensselaerville may be able to make some money renting the machine (with an operator) to neighboring towns.
4. Next week Officer Story will be attending a workshop at Columbia Greene Community College for funding infrastructure projects.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Water/Sewer Treatment Officer's report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### REFUSE/RECYCLING

1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported that on the first warm day he had serviced the compactor. He also inspected and greased the Mac truck. He had hit a pothole which broke a clamp and one of the brake sensors. Coordinator Whitbeck thanked Superintendent Bates for the assistance of one of his crew with the repair of the truck.

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2. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported that the paper business is defunct. The Town went from making \$25.00/ton with Green Fiber for the past four years to being charged \$200.00 to switch the bins. Coordinator Whitbeck has done some research and found that Sierra Fibers will take the cardboard and waste paper. This means that all recyclable paper that used to be placed in the paper bin will now go into the bin with the plastics and glass. However, it would be advantageous if residents would place cleaned tin cans in the iron and steel bin instead. Coordinator Whitbeck has spoken to everyone that has come to the recycling center so far about the changes. Flyers will also be distributed.
3. The iron and steel bin has been frozen for the winter, but is slowly thawing.
4. One tire was recycled; 37.75 tons went to the City of Albany Landfill; 3.84 tons went to Sierra Fibers (which will increase due to the changes); and three gallons of oil was collected.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept the Recycling Coordinator's reports; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### CURRENT EVENTS

Councilwoman Sedlmeir reminded everyone that Investigator Mance will attend the next Senior's lunch on April 14th and also, a reminder that the Town-wide picnic is the first Sunday in June from 2 to 4:30.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Town Justice Annual Reports have been audited by Councilman Wood and Councilwoman Cooke.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the audited Annual Reports for the Town Justices; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. The liability and vehicle insurance is due. The cost this year is \$37,176.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte authorizing the renewal of the liability and vehicle insurance with Marshall & Sterling Insurance; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

2. The bidding packages for the highway and for the mowing and port-a-pots for the parks have been prepared.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte authorizing the solicitation of bids for highway materials and for the mowing and port-a-pots for the parks; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

3. The Town has been working on a tardiness policy for its employees. Attorney Fallati has reviewed the policy and has made some suggestions. Supervisor Lounsbury has spoken to the Union and they will get back to her also.
4. The noise ordinance is also in the preliminary stages. Councilman Wood and Councilwoman Sedlmeir will be reviewing the ordinance as well as Attorney Fallati.
5. Supervisor Lounsbury has been approached by several residents of the hamlet of Rensselaerville who would like to have a posted speed limit of 20 mph in the hamlet. According to Doug Rose of the New York State Department of Transportation, such requests need to come from the Town

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Board. The DOT would then conduct an investigation and either approve or deny the request. Supervisor Lounsbury would like to send a letter to the Department of Transportation for their review. However, Superintendent Bates noted that things become complicated because there are County roads as well as Town roads that would be involved, not just the State.

6. It has been brought to the attention of the Town that a taxpayer has been incorrectly charged a 'hydrant district' tax on their property tax bills. The period of time covers 2007 through 2015 for a total of \$94.44. The Assessor's Office has made the correction so this will not happen again.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to reimburse Kenneth and Diana Fritz the \$94.44 for the erroneous charges; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

1. Investigator Mance elaborated on the topics that will be covered at the Senior's luncheon such as safety issues, preparedness, special needs, and the protection of home and assets. She will be putting together a packet that will be available from Emergency Medical Service and Sheriff's Department personnel. She also informed all that the Sheriff's Department has transformed a donated CDTA bus into a classroom. Inside is information on drugs and overdosing, and other awareness tips. Also inside is a replica jail cell.
2. Councilwoman Sedlmeir has heard that more money will be available for the HEAP program.
3. Marie Dermody questioned about the Town being reimbursed for the Preston Hollow Park when the park ran out of money last year. It was determined that it was not the park, but rather the Rensselaerville Lighting District. Supervisor Lounsbury will check into this.
4. Councilman Wood noted that the residents along Route 85 in the hamlet have done a great job keeping their vehicles clear of the highway.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;  
Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



## Honors for Former Town Clerk Kathleen Hallenbeck

Former Town Clerk Kathleen Hallenbeck was one of thirteen women honored at an event sponsored by the Albany County Democratic Committee in recognition of Women's History Month. The event of March 26, 2015, was entitled "Honoring Women of the Albany County Democratic Committee" and was hosted by the Honorable Carolyn McLaughlin, Chairwoman of the Albany County Democratic Committee. In part, Chairwoman McLaughlin's message to the honorees was, "As we highlight a select group of women today, we pay tribute to all who sacrifice time, talent and treasure to achieve the goals of the county committee. These women represent the hundreds of women who keep the wheels of progress turning... Women's empowerment is strengthened when we take the time to appreciate one another for the work that we do. As a result, we all can look toward a bright future as members of the ACDC as long as we continue to cultivate women who epitomize the intelligence, strength, and tenacity of our honorees."



Kathy Hallenbeck



Carolyn McLaughlin & Kathy Hallenbeck

the hundreds of women who keep the wheels of progress turning... Women's empowerment is strengthened when we take the time to appreciate one another for the work that we do. As a result, we all can look toward a bright future as members of the ACDC as long as we continue to cultivate women who epitomize the intelligence, strength, and tenacity of our honorees."

Congratulatory letters were received from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, State Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Assemblyman Paul D. Tonko, NYS Senators Neil Breslin and Patricia Fahy among others.

Congratulations to Kathy on a well-deserved honor!

Did you know .....

..... a Facebook page exists entitled "You know you live in Rensselaerville when..."? It presently has over 260 members. Quoted from the group's home page: "This group is intended for those who grew up in the R'Ville, or currently live here. It is a chance to stay current with local events, and relive old history, reconnect w/old friends or make some new." Check it out!

## Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) the day before about riding the bus if you are interested.

The Town of Rensselaerville Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Medusa Fire House at noon. Anyone 55 years of age and older can join. **Dues are \$8.00 a year due in June.** We collect \$1.00 a month at the meeting for coffee, milk, etc. Please bring a covered dish to share. We eat promptly at noon and the meeting commences afterward. We have a picnic in August; in November, we have a Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant; and in December we have a Christmas dinner also. We have bus trips in the summer and fall. For further information, call Tom Snyder, President, at 239-4376.

Please note that we are in desperate need of drivers for the bus and the car. Please call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 if you're interested in volunteering as a driver for our senior citizens.

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

- Department of Aging 447-7179
- HEAP: 447-2551

## **DEC: State Ban on Residential Brush Burning March 16-May 14, 2015 (High Fire-Risk Season)**

All residential brush burning is prohibited in smaller communities during the state's historically high fire-risk period from March 16 through May 14, state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens reminded New Yorkers.

"This time of year has the most risk of fires and the risk is even greater this year due to the extremely mild winter we've seen across the state," Commissioner Martens said. "Since the open burning regulation passed in 2009, there have been fewer fires reported in New York state. In an effort to protect the health and safety of our children, families and our natural environment, we remind residents that brush burning is banned statewide beginning this week."

In 2009, New York toughened restrictions on open burning to reduce harmful air pollutants and help prevent wildfires. While the burn ban regulation allows residential brush burning for most of the year in towns with a populations of less than 20,000, it prohibits open burning in all communities during early spring when the bulk of New York's wildfires typically occur. The state regulation prohibits the burning of garbage at all times and in all places.

Several factors enable wildfires to start easily and spread quickly at this time, including the lack of green vegetation, abundance of available fuels such as dry grass and leaves, warm temperatures and wind.

Open burning is the largest single cause of wildfires in New York state. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/80920.html>

### **FAQs**

#### **1. Do the regulations on open burning make burning household trash in burn barrels or piles illegal?**

Yes. Burning trash is prohibited statewide in all cases. Our existing incinerator rule already prohibits burning household trash in wood stoves, fireplaces, and outdoor wood boilers. DEC recommends that you recycle all appropriate materials (such as newspaper, paper, glass and plastic) and compost your organic kitchen and garden waste.

#### **2. What are the regulations on open burning in New York State?**

Effective on October 14, 2009, all open burning is prohibited in New York with several exceptions including the following:

- \* Campfires less than 3 feet in height and 4 feet in length, width or diameter are allowed.
- \* Small cooking fires are allowed.
- \* Fires cannot be left unattended and must be fully extinguished.
- \* Only charcoal or clean, untreated or unpainted wood can be burned.
- \* Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires are allowed.

In towns with a total population less than 20,000, you may burn tree limbs with attached leaves. The limbs must be less than 6 inches in diameter and 8 feet in length (also referred to as brush). However, this is not allowed from March 16 through May 14 due to the increased risk of wildfires.

#### **3. Why has DEC changed the regulations allowing open burning in New York State?**

Open burning of household trash releases dangerous compounds including arsenic, carbon monoxide, benzene, styrene, formaldehyde, lead, hydrogen cyanide and dioxin, among others. Open burning is also the single greatest cause of wildfires in New York.

#### **4. Can I burn leaves if I live in a rural area?**

No, burning leaves is banned in New York State. We encourage you to compost leaves.

#### **5. Your rule says firewood must be untreated, some firewood is heat-treated, is that allowed?**

*(Continued on page 13)*

**DEC: State Ban on Residential Brush Burning March 16-May 14, 2015  
(High Fire-Risk Season)**

*(Continued from page 12)*

Some firewood is heat treated (kiln dried) to control invasive insect species if it is to be transported over 50 miles. Heat treated firewood is not intended to be prohibited. However, the burning of chemically treated wood such as pressure-treated lumber and plywood is prohibited.

**6. Are open fires allowed to control invasive plant and insect species?**

Yes. Case-by-case DEC approval is not required.

**7. Can agricultural wastes be burned?**

Yes, organic agricultural wastes may be burned on-site where they are grown or generated including brush and wood produced by clearing fields and other activities. The fire must be located on contiguous agricultural land larger than 5 acres, and the materials capable of being fully burned within 24 hours.

The burning of pesticides, plastics or other non-organic material is prohibited.

**8. Can I burn liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops?**

Yes. However, burning tires and other wastes for smudge is not allowed.

**9. Can prescribed burns be performed?**

Yes. Prescribed burns, the burning of forest land to achieve a vegetative or wildlife management goal, can be performed but only in accordance with DEC regulations. Check with your regional DEC office.

**10. Are fire training burning activities allowed?**

Yes, with some restrictions on the use of acquired structures and in accordance with guidance from NYS Dept. of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The Fire Services Bureau may be reached at 518-474-6746.

**11. Are individual open fires to control plant and animal disease outbreaks allowed?**

Yes, as approved case-by-case by DEC, upon the request by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.

**12. Can I dispose of a flag or religious item in an open fire?**

Yes, in a small-sized fire if it is not otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.

**13. Are permits for open fires still required in some parts of the state?**

Yes. While a permit is not required under this regulation, the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) still requires that a permit be obtained from the Department if you plan to burn brush under the exception and you live in a town which is totally or partially located within the boundaries of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks which is designated as a "Fire Town" under the ECL. In addition, any local requirements or restrictions would apply.

**14. Can a town prohibit open burning that the state allows?**

Yes, towns, villages, cities and counties can pass ordinances that are stricter than, and not inconsistent with, the open fires regulations. You should check with local authorities to find out if local law requires a permit or prohibits open fires.

**15. Can explosives, or other dangerous contraband, be burned?**

Yes, on an emergency basis by police or other public safety organizations only.

**16. Can brush piles be burned at transfer sites?**

No, the practice of burning large piles of brush collected from local residents at town or county transfer sites is prohibited. The individual landowners in small towns may burn their brush on site

*(Continued on page 14)*

### DEC: State Ban on Residential Brush Burning March 16-May 14, 2015 (High Fire-Risk Season)

(Continued from page 13)

as discussed under question 2 above. Downed limbs and branches generated at a transfer site are also allowed to be burned on site with the same restrictions.

#### 17. Where should I call to report an illegal open fire?

Report all poachers and polluters by calling the DEC hotline at 1-844-DEC-ECOs (1-844-332-3267). The Department has received many questions regarding DEC's implementation of Part 215, regarding open fires. This document is intended to inform the general public about open fire regulation in New York and assist the regulated community in understanding the requirements of Part 215. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>



Did you know .....

..... that effective on March 10, 2015, new regulations from NY Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Conservation have implemented a new list of prohibited and regulated invasive species of animals and plants? The new regulations (6 NYCRR Part 575) include two lists of Prohibited and Regulated species identified as invasive in New York. Included in the list of regulated invasive species are species which cannot be knowingly introduced into a free-living state, or introduced by a means that one should have known would lead to such an introduction, although such species shall be legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate and transport. (Free-living state is a species is considered in a free-living state if it is introduced to public lands or lands connected to public lands, natural areas, and public waters or waters connected to public waters.)

As a result of these new regulations, all "Regulated" fish and animals sold in NYS (including goldfish and koi) must be labeled "Invasive Species – Harmful to the Environment" in at least 14-pt bold type attached to the containers housing live animals and attached to the plants. The labels must be approved by the Department of Agriculture and Markets and shall offer alternative non-invasive species as well as instructions to care for the animals or plants in a way to prevent their spread by being introduced into a "free-living" state. Check out this website for further information: <http://www.pijac.org/issue-updates/new-york-invasive-species-regulations-effective-march-10-2015>



April 3 -11, 2015

COME SEE *OKLAHOMA!* AT GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



**APRIL 24 (FRIDAY) AT 8:00PM**  
**APRIL 25 (SATURDAY) AT 8:00PM**  
**APRIL 26 (SUNDAY) AT 2:00PM**

We have over 40 students involved in the production, most in the cast, but many working on management, production, and creative elements. We've been working with the full cast since February, and they're falling in love with the music and characters.

*Oklahoma!* is the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning show that ushered in the Golden Age of American Musical Theater. For nearly 75 years audiences have fallen in love with the music and story of this popular show. Come see our all-star cast perform this American classic - to see these characters come to life with each student's personal influence, and to hear the cast sing through the unforgettable songs.

To reserve tickets call 966-5070 x401.



### Albany County Sheriff's Office

2015 ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE VOLUME I

# NEWSLETTER



## 2015 STARTING OFF RIGHT

A new year means a fresh start. On January 16th in the Rotunda of the Albany County Court House, new law enforcement and corrections officers were sworn in and current members were promoted. Family, friends, and co-workers gathered to support and congratulate those who took the oath of office. Sheriff Craig Apple began the ceremony talking about some accomplishments from 2014 and what to expect from the Sheriff's Office in 2015. Following the Sheriff's speech, officers were asked to step forward, raise their right hand, and recite the oath to serve and protect and uphold the Constitution. Another promotional ceremony was held on February 13th promoting new members to the Correctional Facility's command staff. Congratulations to all!







## Albany County Sheriff's Office

### Is spring here yet?? Punxsutawney Phil says "NO"

Every year on February 2nd, community members in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania gather around to see if the groundhog will see his shadow. We can pretty much tell what the result was, no early spring! Just as the legendary groundhog spots his shadow, so did some members of the Albany County Sheriff's Office as February was National Job Shadow Month. ACSO partnered with Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York to be the host for over 30 Rensselaer Junior/Senior students. Students spent the morning learning about careers in law enforcement, corrections, and dispatch communications. After the presentations, the students got to watch Deputy Martel and K9 Mo

demonstrate how "explosives" are detected. Students and teachers were very grateful of the time they spent with the Sheriff's Office and showed their appreciation with a mailed folder of hand written thank you's from all the students.

Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York is the largest organization in the state that partners with businesses and learning institutions to provide hands on experience for students to promote entrepreneurship starting at the elementary schools all the way through high school. JA is always looking for partnering agencies and career based volunteers. To learn more about JA please visit their website at [www.janeny.org](http://www.janeny.org).



### LINE UP



### CORRECTIONS



### LAW ENFORCEMENT



### COMMUNICATIONS



### K9 DEMO

### Albany County Sheriff's Office

#### Outdoor Fun!!



##### • Lawson's Lake •

Albany County Executive Dan McCoy teamed with Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple for the first "Take a Friend Snowmobiling" day. The event was held at Lawson's Lake County Park. Volunteers from the New York State Snowmobile Association came to the park with snowmobiles to take children from the Albany Boys and Girls Club and the Albany Police Athletic League out on the snowy trails. Regardless of the cold temperatures, everyone bundled up and enjoyed the ride. The ACSO Mobile Command Post was on site as a warming station when riders came back. What an exciting way to promote outdoor activities in the winter!

##### • Knox Winter Festival •

The Hilltowns are no strangers to cold and blustery winters. The freezing temperatures will not keep the residents from enjoying the Knox Winter Festival. The Knox Town Park was the place to be and the community gathered for fun in the snow! Children went sleigh riding on home-made cardboard snow sleds while the adults stood by the bonfire sipping hot beverages. If the beverages didn't warm up the chilly festival goers, maybe the chili cook-off did. Another great way to shake off the winter blues!



#### LAWSON'S LAKE

SHERIFF APPLE GETS READY TO RIDE THE ACSO SNOWMOBILE WITH A FRIEND AT THE ALBANY COUNTY SPONSORED "TAKE A FRIEND SNOWMOBILING" DAY. MEMBERS OF THE SHERIFF'S SNOWMOBILE PATROL WERE ON HAND TO PROMOTE SAFE RIDING TIPS.



#### KNOX

CHILDREN GATHER TO SLED DOWN THE SLOPING HILLSIDE AT THE KNOX TOWN PARK.



#### FUN FUN FUN

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MYSTERY LAKE TRAIL RUNNERS, HELDERBERG RIDGE RUNNERS, FRONTIER SNO-RUNNERS, AND ADIRONDACK TRAILWAYS FOR THEIR HELP IN MAKING A GREAT DAY FOR EVERYONE!

**Albany County Sheriff's Office**

**PHOTO ALBUM**



**EVENTS CALENDAR**

1. 3/22 - KNOX 5K RUN
2. 3/26 - SO. VERMONT COLLEGE CAREER FAIR
3. 4/8 - RED CROSS MILITARY CHILDREN'S DAY
4. 4/10 - BRYANT & STRATTON CRIMINAL JUSTICE DAY
5. 4/14 - RENSSELAERVILLE SENIORS MEETING
6. 4/24 - BLUE FRIDAY
7. 4/25 - BETHLEHEM YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY
8. 4/25-26 - WESTMERE FIRE OPEN HOUSE
9. 4/26 - BERNE LIBRARY RAISING EARLY READERS

**WHAT'S NEW**

The Sheriff's Office has transformed a donated CDTA bus into a Mobile Education Center! The newest addition to the fleet was repainted and striped in familiar ACSO colors. Inside visitors will find information on drug use and destructive decisions that can lead a person to jail. To let visitors get a true feeling of what that would be like, a replica jail cell was constructed in the bus equipped with all the same items a real cell at the Correctional Facility. Look for this new innovative outreach at upcoming events!

• **THANK YOU!** •

The Albany County Sheriff's Office would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you for all the donations that have been made to the Albany County Kenneth White Memorial Fund. Over \$13,000 has been collected for Kenneth's siblings. Donations are still being accepted and can be sent to the ACSO, Attention: Kenneth White Fund, 16 Eagle Street, Albany, New York, 12207 or at any MDT Bank.

## Library News

### **Rensselaerville Library**

Tuesday, March 31, the Upper Hudson Library System, which includes Rensselaerville, will unveil a new circulation and online catalog called Encore. Please see the related article for more information.

This year, The Rensselaerville Library's **10th Annual Celebration of National Poetry Month** is dedicated to the memory of Poet Galway Kinnell, winner of both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize, and author of more than two dozen volumes of poetry, as well as numerous translations. He is recognized for a body of work that "pushed deep into the heart of human experience." (New York Times obituary). In 2010 and 2012, he honored our village with readings at Conkling Hall.

#### **Community Online Poem March 15th through April 26th**

Join Rensselaerville Poets Tom Corrado, Linda Miller, as well as your neighbors and friends in a "COMMUNITY POEM." Add a line to the virtual poem at [www.rlcpp.blogspot.com](http://www.rlcpp.blogspot.com) Then come to our Favorite Poem Project on Sunday, April 26th from 2-4pm to hear it read aloud.

**Thursday, 4/2, at 7pm April Foolishness: Nonsense & Rhymes Without Reason (Maryann Ronconi)** Calling all kids, all ages! Bring along your favorite silly poems to share and we'll talk about the rhyme and reason of them. From Mother Goose to Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein to Off' Heard but Never Seen, nonsense verse serves up a lot of wisdom wrapped in foolishness. Kick off Poetry Month with some April Fool's fun at the Library.

**Thursday, 4/9 at 7pm, Poems Without Form: Prose Poems (Diane Gallo)** The prose poem is a hybrid: it looks like a paragraph and punches like a poem. Perhaps because the shape appears so simple - it lowers the guard against the poetic compression, imagery and language that can come barreling out of innocent looking lines. If this is all new to you, come give a listen. If you have a favorite prose poem, bring it along to share. If you would like to try your hand at composing a prose poem, stay until 9. Diane will throw out a few simple prompts, you will write a few lines and presto! you may have rolled out a prose poem. [http://dianegallo.com/about\\_the\\_artist.htm](http://dianegallo.com/about_the_artist.htm)

**Thursday, 4/16, at 7pm, Writing in Form: From Haiku to Sonnet (Linda Sonia Miller)** Traditionally poems have come in "vessels or containers," poetic forms that provide a structure based on syllables, repetition, number of lines, rhyme, etc. For centuries, both poets and readers from Japan to Italy to England have found poetry following these forms satisfying for reflecting what they are feeling, observing, or pondering. Come enjoy an hour talking about, reading and listening to poetry written "in form." Please bring along your favorites to read aloud. Then if you would like to try your hand at writing a poem "following the rules," stay until 9:00 writing and sharing efforts with Linda's guidance.

**Tuesday, 4/21, at 7pm, Robert Frost, A Poet Connected to Nature (Sue Beatty & Owen Sholes)** Though Robert Frost included the word "nature" in only about twenty of his poems, from his teen years on, he spent as much time as he could walking outdoors and "botanizing." The landscape, both that of New England and of western states where he traveled as a young man, was the source of many of his metaphors. Paying particular attention to flowers, birds, farming, and the resurgence of nature in the aftermath of abandoned farms, Frost developed the realities of nature into myriad images. Join Sue Beatty (The Sage Colleges) and Owen Sholes (Assumption College, MA), both Huyck Preserve researchers, to explore Frost's work across this diverse spectrum of connections to nature.

**Thursday, 4/30, at 5:30, Western/Cowgirl/Cowboy Poetry at the Palmer House Café (Janet Bo-**

(Continued on page 21)

## Library News (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 20)*

**taish)** Down to earth western poetry and ballads -- and a chuck wagon dinner to boot. You will enjoy poetry and music inspired by a life herding cattle and long evenings under the stars around a campfire. Micah Kuhar will ring the chuck wagon bell at 5:30. At 7PM, Cowgirl Janet Botaish will bring on the poems and music, balladeers with guitars and maybe even a fiddle and a harmonica or two. (Check the Library website in mid-April to see just exactly what has rolled in with the tumbleweed for The Big Roundup, including how to contact The Palmer House Café for reservations.)

**StoryTime for kids, Friday, April 17th at 5:30** with a Poetry Theme.

**Post-It Instant Poems Saturday, 4/18 at 4pm, Way-Out Gallery Poetry Salon, Nancy Dyer & Peter Boudreaux**, will read & share some short poems first. Yes, that's right, bring a short poem, maybe Robert Frost, Ogden Nash, your favorite Haiku, a short psalm or something you wrote. Poet and songwriter Pete is bringing his guitar. We'll play with a word or two, or maybe a concept and see how he makes it into a song or a poem: a very short poem. Then we get out our pens, a stack of 3" by 3" post-its and actually write poems that fit. You can write about someone, a pet, the weather, school, writing, anything goes. There is only one rule: Say something on a post-it and post-it. Let's cover the wall. Anyone can add a poem, or two or even more. Can't say too much though....that's the fun. Supplies provided. No experience required. All ages welcome.

**Poetry Salon Sunday, 4/19 at 4pm, Way-Out Gallery Poetry Salon, Alberto Caputo, Linda Miller, Tom Corrado, Peter Boudreaux. Ginny Carter**, will offer a tribute to Galway Kinnell. Then enjoy a festive late afternoon of performance poetry, music, free verse, poetry-art installations, and a glass of wine with friends and neighbors at the Way-Out Gallery.

**10th Annual Favorite Poem Project & Open Mic: Dedicated to the Memory of Poet Galway Kinnell (1927-2014), Sunday, 4/26, 2:00-4:00pm at Conkling Hall.** An Afternoon of Poetry, good company & refreshments, emceed by Claire North. Dedicated to Poet Galway Kinnell with readings of some of our favorite Kinnell poems, you will have the opportunity to share one of your favorite poems or an original poem, or to sit back and enjoy an afternoon of poetry.

Can you remember a poem you loved as a child? A poem taught in school, sent to you by a friend or lover, or read in a book? Are you a poet with an original poem to share? Or would you simply enjoy the pleasure of getting to know your neighbors in new ways as they read aloud their favorite and/or original poems? If your response is "yes" to any of these questions please join our Favorite Poem Celebration. Refreshments will be served.

The Library's **Board of Trustees meeting is on Monday, April 20th at 7pm.** The Meeting is open to the public.

Hours: Sunday, Monday Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday 10am - 12pm; 4pm - 9pm

Thursday, Friday 4pm - 9pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm

Contact information: 1459 Route 351, Rensselaerville, NY 12147

(518) 797-3949; Fax (518) 797-5211

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

Director Kimberly Graff: [director@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:director@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

Library Assistant Katie Caprio: [library@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:library@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

**Middleburgh Library**

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Library News (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 21)*

- Apr 1 5:00-6:15pm Kundalini Yoga** - Facilitated by Debra Krol, involves repetitive movements with the breath, building strength, toning the nerves and clearing the adrenal glands. Wear comfortable clothing and bring 2 blankets or a mat and blanket. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Use the back entrance when entering the building. No registration required. (Also meets Apr 15)
- Apr 2 10:00am Beginning Tai Chi for Health and Fitness - Tai Chi:** Reduce pain and stiffness, helps you improve the ability to cope with stress and depression, increase concentration and memory, aid in balance and coordination, build muscle strength and stamina, improve posture, biomechanics, circulation, and heart and lung function. Basic Sun style Tai Chi will be taught in this 6 week session. Please wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing. A \$5.00 donation per class is required. Registration is required. (Also meets Apr 9, 16, 23)
- Apr 2 1100am Advanced Tai Chi for Health and Fitness - Tai Chi:** Reduce pain and stiffness, helps you improve the ability to cope with stress and depression, increase concentration and memory, aid in balance and coordination, build muscle strength and stamina, improve posture, biomechanics, circulation, and heart and lung function. Advanced Sun style Tai Chi will be taught in this 6 week session. You must have completed the beginner class to register for this class. Please wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing. A \$5.00 donation per class is required. Registration is required. (Also meets Apr 9, 16, 23)
- Apr 2 7:00pm Knitting Circle** - These friendly ladies (men are welcome, but we haven't seen any yet!) knit and crochet, embroider and quilt, and more. You can learn a new skill here or share your own special talents with others - or just craft in the company of friends. Drop in anytime! No registration required. (Also meets Apr 9, 16, 23, 30)
- Apr 7 10:45am Drop-in Storytime** - Get ready to move in this interactive storytime especially for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. We'll read books, sing songs, recite fingerplays, dance and watch a short movie based on a weekly theme. No registration required. (Also meets Apr 14, 21, 28)
- Apr 7 1:00pm Mahjongg** - In the Community Room (Also meets Apr 14, 21, 28)
- Apr 8 11:00am Doodlebugs: Preschool Art Exploration** - Doodlebugs is preschool art exploration for little ones and their caregivers. Appropriate for ages two and up. Registration is required.
- Apr 13 6:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting** - Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend.
- Apr. 14 7:00pm The Not so Quiet Concert Series: Rod MacDonald** - A Rod MacDonald concert is an intimate, authentic, inspirational and uplifting experience. A renowned songwriter, a gifted vocalist and an engaging entertainer in full command of his artistry, his easy going demeanor resonates an appealing warmth and sincerity that quickly creates an intimate rapport with his audiences. Tickets are available at the door. A \$10.00 donation is suggested.
- Apr 22 11:00am Start with Science: Preschool Science Exploration!** - Preschoolers' ages three to five will learn about basic science through stories and hands on science activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.
- Apr. 27 6:30pm Make It! Beaded Jewelry** - In case you missed it the last time, join us for another installment of our Beaded Jewelry program. Join us for an evening of creativity as you learn

*(Continued on page 23)*

## Library News (cont'd)

(Continued from page 22)

how to make your own jewelry by stringing beads. Create a necklace, earrings, bracelet or all three! No experience necessary, and all materials will be provided. Children over the age of 10 welcome with a parent. Registration is required

**Apr. 28 7:00pm Book Discussion: "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander** - In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. The New Jim Crow challenges the civil rights community — and all of us — to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America. This discussion will be facilitated by local folk performer and educator, Kim Harris. No registration required. Books may be picked up at the information desk. No registration required.

The events calendar for the Middleburgh Library can be found at: <http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=8616&thisMonth=4&thisYear=2015>

Contact information: 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122  
(518) 827-5142  
Www.middleburghlibrary.info

### Middleburgh Library Budget & Trustee Vote 2015

The annual library budget vote will be held on Tuesday, April 28 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Middleburgh Library, 323 Main Street, Middleburgh. The vote is open to qualified voters in the Middleburgh Central School District. Voters will decide on a proposed public library budget of \$122,500, which represents an increase of \$7,000 or 6 percent from last year. Under New York State Education Law, public library funding is collected by the school district in which the library is located and then forwarded to the library. Public Libraries are totally independent of the school district in which they are located.

Two library trustee seats will also be on the ballot. These seats are currently held by James Spencer and Sarah Beekman. Trustees serve a five-year term. Absentee ballot applications are available at the library during normal library hours. Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the library at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before election if the ballot is to be hand delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the library staff no later than 4 p.m. on April 21. A public hearing on the Middleburgh Library Association Budget will be held on April 14, from 7:30 to 8 p.m. at the Middleburgh Library.

The link below takes you to the 2015 Proposed Budget for the Middleburgh Library:  
[http://media.wix.com/ugd/115e54\\_87422d91d55f430d99070b761aa5aaf2.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/115e54_87422d91d55f430d99070b761aa5aaf2.pdf)

Did you know .....

..... that the Town Board has approved the purchase of a new truck for the highway department at a cost of over \$188,000? This was not accomplished, however, through the normal bidding process whereby requests for proposals were solicited and the purchase awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Instead, it is being purchased from the Onondaga County and Oneida County contracts.

Legislation now allows local governments to cooperatively purchase, or piggy-back, on contracts already approved for other government agencies. As a result, local governments can benefit from the same terms and conditions of contracts already awarded to other local governments, state governments or the federal government. A provision in the legislation would ensure competitive bidding standards consistent with state law.

In addition, the Town Board has authorized the Supervisor to obtain financing in the amount of \$50,000 for this purchase.

## CHANGES AT THE TRANSFER STATION

Some of you may already be aware of some minor changes taking place at the Transfer Station. Our relationship with US Green Fiber has come to an end, at least temporarily, because "the paper market has entered into a depression and is no longer worth what it was." If the paper market improves in the future, there is the possibility that this relationship may be resumed.

In the meantime, "Garbologist" Jon Whitbeck has made arrangements for our paper to be picked up at no cost to the Town. But this involves making a couple of changes.

Starting in March, paper is now being placed in the inside container that originally collected all recyclables (plastic, glass, and tin/aluminum). **The tin/aluminum items will no longer be placed there.**

Henceforth, all tin/aluminum items are being placed in the outside metal bin. However, **these items will need to be rinsed** (to avoid attracting unwanted visitors from the animal world) **and paper labels removed** (as in the "olden" days).

By conforming to these changes, the residents of the Town of Rensselaerville are doing their part to minimize our contribution to the waste stream.

Any questions regarding this change in procedure can be addressed to Jon Whitbeck.



### ***Move Breathe Relax***

YOGA: Tue. & Thu. 9-10:15 am  
PILATES: Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm & Sat. 9-10 am

Classes Open to All at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT  
savitrisarah@gmail.com, 518-239-6825

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00  
All Others—\$12.00





**BREAKFAST**  
**AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

7:00AM TO 11:00AM

~~September 2, 2014~~

~~January 17, 2015~~

~~October 18, 2014~~

~~February 21, 2015~~

~~November 15, 2014~~

~~March 21, 2015~~

~~December 20, 2014~~

April 18, 2015

PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPT

Fresh, hot, all-you-can-eat breakfast made to order

**Free will offering**

**Just a reminder from your Local Public Libraries  
Change is Coming!  
(And That's a Good Thing)**

On Tuesday, March 31st, the Upper Hudson Library System, which includes the libraries in Altamont, Berne, Bethlehem, Guilderland, Rensselaerville, Voorheesville, Westerlo, and all other public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, will unveil a new circulation and online catalog called Encore. If you use the catalog from your home computer, the new system will look different, but all of the same functions that you're accustomed to will be there ... but they'll be better!

Catalog searches will be easier, as will material reservation and renewals. In addition, the new catalog will give you the option of searching for newspaper, reference book and scholarly articles from a wide variety of databases.

Leading up to the implementation of the new systems, there are a few things you should know:

- From March 21 through March 29, you will be able to request items as usual, but we will not be able to fill those holds until the new system goes online on March 31.
- On March 30, you must have a library card to check out in some local libraries. There will be no self-checkout, and there will be limited access to ebooks, eMagazines, and some other online resources.
- On March 31, the new catalog goes live, you'll be able to checkout items, and have full access to your Library account.
- If you use the "My List" feature of the current catalog to keep track of books you want to read or have read, that list will not be transferred over to the new system. You may email the list to yourself in order to keep that information and start a new list in the new system.

As with any major technological change, there are bound to be unforeseen hiccups. Your library will be happy to work with you to resolve any problems you may experience as a result of this change. Please contact your local library staff if you believe that problems have occurred with your account or if you find yourself unable to use library services as you had in the past.

With your patience and support, we will get through this transition and be able to deliver the excellent library services and material you expect from us



## **HISTORIC DANIEL CONKLING HOUSE TO RECEIVE AWARD FROM PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF NEW YORK STATE**

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Rensselaerville Historical Society

The Preservation League of New York State will honor Stewart and Roy Myers with a 2015 Excellence Award for the work they have done to rescue the historic Daniel Conkling House in Rensselaerville. The house, on Albany Hill Road above the Rensselaerville hamlet, is one of the oldest houses in Rensselaerville (built in 1806) but had fallen into disrepair from many years of neglect under previous owners.

The Myers brothers purchased the house and approximately 300 acres from the Open Spaces Institute in 2012 and have spent the last three years carefully restoring it. They agreed to conservation easements that will protect most of the land from development, including the hamlet watershed. Open Spaces purchased the property from Albany County after the Albany County Real Property Division finally foreclosed on it for many years of non-payment of taxes for the house and grounds.

The Myers brothers are descended from Daniel Conkling who was one of the earliest settlers of Rensselaerville. Conkling commissioned Ephraim Russ to build the house, the earliest recorded house which Russ built of many in Rensselaerville. Russ also built all four churches in the hamlet.

More information about the Daniel Conkling House and several photographs of the exterior and interior views will appear in the Rensselaerville Historical Society Spring 2015 newsletter, "The Rensselaerville Press". Members will receive these by mail and extra copies will be available at the Rensselaerville Library.

Persons wishing to become members of the Rensselaerville Historical Society may send checks to RHS, PO Box 8, Rensselaerville, NY 12147. Individual memberships are \$10, family memberships are \$15, supporting memberships are \$30 and life memberships are \$150. Those who are "seasonal" citizens should include their local addresses and their other addresses and when to use their "other" addresses.



## **GRIST MILL TO OPEN**

By Janet Haseley

The Rensselaerville Grist Mill will open for the summer season on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free mill tours will be available and a bake sale will be held.

Beginning the following Saturday, May 30, the Mill will be open from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturdays until Labor Day weekend. Volunteer hosts and hostesses are being sought to help on summer Saturdays. Training is available. Contact Research Chair Janet Haseley at her cell phone at 252-714-6626, if you can give even one two-hour time slot this summer.

The Mill will also be open on Wednesdays from mid-May to mid-October when the Research Group meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## On The Calendar

Apr 4	2:00PM	<p><b>RVFD Easter Egg Hunt</b> Join the Easter Bunny for the <b>Annual Easter Egg Hunt !</b> We are hoping for nice weather! Please check our Facebook page and our Firehouse sign for location. We will either have it at the Firehouse or Rensselaerville Park located at the intersection of Main Street and Albany Hill Rd.</p>	
Apr 5	9-9:45am	<p><b>Easter Sunday</b> Continental Breakfast in the Church Anyone can bring food to share with everyone. Coffee &amp; Juice will be provided.</p>	Medusa United Church of Christ
	10:00am	<p><b>Easter Service</b> All are invited.</p>	
Apr 7	7:00pm	<p><b>Town Board Work Meeting</b></p>	Town Hall
Apr 9	7:00pm	<p><b>Town Board Regular Meeting</b></p>	Town Hall
Apr 14	12:00pm	<p><b>Senior Citizens Luncheon &amp; Meeting</b> A special program will be presented by Detective Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department.</p>	Medusa Firehouse
Apr 14	7:30pm	<p><b>Democratic Social Club Meeting</b> All are welcome!</p>	Medusa Firehouse
Apr 18	7-11am	<p><b>Medusa VFD Breakfast</b> Free will offering</p>	Medusa Firehouse
Apr 25	4-7:00pm	<p><b>RVFD Pancake Supper</b> We are hosting a pancake supper to benefit the RVFD Fire Fund.</p>	RVFD Firehouse
Apr 26	7:00pm	<p><b>Service of Resurrection &amp; Peace</b> Sponsored by the Greenville Interfaith Council</p>	Methodist Church Norton Hill
May 2	9am-4pm	<p><b>Medusa Fest &amp; Small Business Fair</b> Flea Market and Small Business Fair, Live Music, Bounce House, Chicken BBQ and Snack Bar, and Much More</p>	Medusa Firehouse
		<p><b>Large Rummage Sale</b></p>	Medusa United Church of Christ
		<p><b>Museum of Medusa History will be open.</b></p>	
May 16	9am-3pm	<p><b>Rensselaerville Town-wide Garage Sale Day</b> Stop by the Firehouse for maps, drinks, food, restrooms and directions.</p>	
May 24	4-6pm	<p><b>RVFD Chicken BBQ Take Out</b></p>	RVFD Firehouse
May 25	10:00am	<p><b>RVFD</b> - will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade in Greenville.</p>	



**Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Town Supervisor	Valerie Lounsbury	vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Marion Cooke	mcooke@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Robert Bolte	rbolte@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com
Town Justices	Gregory Bischoff Ronald Bates	
Supervisor's Clerk	Sarah Hunt	shunt@rensselaerville.com
Town Clerk	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com
Assessors	Donna Kropp Richard Tollner Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com
Planning Board	Richard Amedure	mcarney@rensselaerville.com
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Mormile	mcarney@rensselaerville.com
Board of Ethics		ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 797-5201
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339



**Important notice from the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department:**

Our social number has changed to 966-0338. Please update your records.

**In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.**

## The Back Page

Contributors:

Kimberly Graff  
Janet Haseley  
Tracy Mance  
William Moore  
Kristina Tanner  
Sarah Nelson Weiss

Editors:

Nancy Class  
Marie Dermody  
Georgette Koenig

**Albany County Sheriff's Office Newsletter Link:**

[http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/CountySheriff/LawEnforcement/  
acso-communityrelations.aspx](http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/CountySheriff/LawEnforcement/acso-communityrelations.aspx)

**From the Editors:**

*As always, we ask that you make a copy or two of this newsletter to share with friends and neighbors who may not have Internet access. Our readership continues to grow, but we invite others to sign on by sending their email address to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com). We look forward to getting your feedback.*



A community newsletter **BY** the community **FOR** the community