

# R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 9

November, 2016

## Town Board Public Hearing, Amendment To Zoning Law, Draft Minutes, October 11, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 11th day of October 2016 at 6:30 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

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

Also present was one interested citizen.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2016 – A Local Law which would provide for an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as an alternate member on the Planning Board.

Supervisor Lounsbury opened the Public Hearing.

No public comments were introduced, either verbal or written, therefore Supervisor Lounsbury entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to close the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to close the Public Hearing Meeting at 6:46 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



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### Town Board Budget Workshop, Draft Meeting, October 11, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Budget Workshop Meeting on the 11th day of October 2016 immediately following the Work Meeting 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, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the review of the 2017 Tentative Budget.

1. The Board went through the Tentative Budget line-by-line. Most items will remain the same, or about the same, from 2016 to 2017. Highlights of significant changes are listed as follows:

⇒ The Justices have requested a \$500 raise (\$1,000 total). Discussion ensued and it was decided [sic] not to grant the judges request for a raise.

The Justices have also requested a decrease in their 'computer supplies' line item from \$2,056 to \$1,540. Also of significance was a request to decrease the 'travel mileage' from \$500 to \$250 and to decrease 'conferences' from \$1,100 to \$150 (due to both judges now being certified).

⇒ Under 'Supervisor', the line item titled 'audit fees' will be able to be reduced from \$25,000 to \$15,000. Also, Supervisor Lounsbury will be in contact with MUNIS in an effort to have their 'fees for services' reduced; it is currently at \$25,000/year.

⇒ The Assessors requested a raise of \$200 each. After further discussions, it was decided to grant the \$200 raise.

The Assessors have also requested an additional work station for a cost of \$1,000. I.T.S. estimated the cost would be closer to \$1,400. The request was granted.

In addition, the Assessors requested that the 'travel mileage' line item be reduced by \$100 and 'taxes and assessment' be reduced by \$350. Supervisor Lounsbury will speak to Donna Kropp, Assessor Chair, regarding lowering the 'misc. contractual' line item as well.

⇒ The Town Clerk requested that a new tax software program be installed which would allow the property taxes to be viewed on-line. The initial cost would be \$1,700. Discussion ensued and it was decided to table the subject.

The Town Clerk's 'taxes and assessment' line item can be reduced by \$600.

⇒ Supervisor Lounsbury wished to increase the 'legal fees' line item based on the Communications Tower litigation and the pending litigation relating to the Assessor's Office. The Board felt it should be increased from \$1,500 to \$3,500.

⇒ Of significance under Buildings, the 'office supplies' line item can be decreased by \$2,000. The 'telephone' line item will be reduced by \$500. 'Insurance' has been increased by \$5,250. 'Computer Fees' will be reduced by \$2,500; and 'misc. contractual' increased by \$1,000.

⇒ Under Dog Control, after a few minor changes, the total department will be lowered by \$250.

⇒ Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Mark Overbaugh requested that the \$3,276 be left in the budget to cover him being his own clerk.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to go into Executive Session at 8:48 PM to discuss the line item relating to the Building/Zoning Inspector's clerk fees/personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooke.

### Town Board Budget Workshop, Draft Meeting, October 11, 2016

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0) [See Editor's Notes at the end of these minutes.]*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to return from Executive Session at 8:57 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

Supervisor Lounsbury would like to increase the 'clerk' line item under 'Safety Inspection' to \$6,555. The 'computer equipment' line item will be increased to \$1,400 to cover computer replacements.

- ⇒ The Albany County Paramedics line has increased to \$54,500 from \$53,477.
- ⇒ The Medusa Park requested a \$250 increase in the line item for 'mowing'. There will be a decrease of \$250 in the line item for 'misc. contractual'.
- ⇒ For the Rensselaerville Park, line item 'specialty equipment' will be reduced by \$1,000 and the line item 'misc. contractual' will be increased by \$1,000.
- ⇒ Under 'Refuse & Recycling' the 'substitute' line item will be increased by \$290 and the 'misc. contractual' will be increased by \$1,500 to cover repairs on the containers.
- ⇒ The Rensselaerville Cemetery requested a \$2,600 increase which was denied. The Potter Hollow requested a \$150 increase which was granted.
- ⇒ Social Security will be increased by \$230 and Workers Comp will be increased by \$990.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

#### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

**Editor's Notes:** When the Town Board decided to go into Executive Session to discuss the line item for the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector clerk, they were reminded that this was not an enumerated reason for entering into Executive Session as per the Open Meetings Law, but they chose to do so anyway. To add the tag "personnel" does nothing to necessitate such discussion under the cloak of Executive Session.

A response from Robert Freeman, Executive Director for the Committee on Open Government, was received by me as a result of an inquiry I submitted to him on October 12, 2016. In part, it reads:

"Assuming that the issue involves the salary that should be accorded to the position, rather than the performance of the incumbent in that position, I do not believe that there would be a basis for conducting an executive session. For example, if the contention is that our clerk is paid less than other clerks in similar communities, the matter would involve the position, irrespective of the incumbent in that position now. Unless the discussion focuses on a "particular person" in conjunction with the qualifiers indicated in §105(1)(f) of the Open Meetings Law, in my view, there would be no basis for discussing the issue in private."

Since the motion did not state that there was an intention to discuss any of the "personnel" reasons for entering into Executive Session (i.e. f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation), there was no legal reason for conducting their discussion behind closed doors.

The Town Board should be well aware of this by now.

### **Town Board Work Meeting, Draft Meeting, October 11, 2016**

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 11th day of October 2016 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, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was one interested citizen.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

**MINUTES:** Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on October 13, 2016:

September 6, 2016 – Work Meeting

September 8, 2016 – Regular Meeting

September 29, 2016 – Special Meeting – present Tentative Budget & Schedule Budget Work shops

### **TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS**

Supervisor Lounsbury will have a couple of transfers and a budget amendment prepared for Thursday's meeting. Vouchers and bills will also be addressed at that time.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury has correspondence from the Trinity Church which she will read at the Regular Meeting.
2. Supervisor Lounsbury also received a letter from a concerned citizen regarding lowering the speed limit in Preston Hollow from 40mph to 30mph. Also of concern, was the lack of/disrepair of, the sidewalks in Preston Hollow.

### **REPORTS**

The regular reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Highway Department, Town Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Center will be given at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Attorney Fallati will address proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2016 on Thursday.
2. Councilman Wood and Councilman Dolce have been working on getting electricians to look into what is needed to install a generator at Town Hall. Supervisor Lounsbury placed a call to Attorney Fallati and was advised that the electricians may tell us what work needs to be done – a recommendation on what their process would be to put the whole facility on a generator system. Electricians cannot give us quotes of any kind – it is strictly under an advisory capacity and the electricians will not be compensated. After it is determined what is needed, options can be discussed and a package can then be put together for the advertising of bids.

Councilman Wood noted that the Town will need to get permission from Central Hudson to join the Transfer Station and Town Hall. As it stands now, there are two meters and two electrical bills.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury does not expect that the budget will go over the tax cap of 0.68%. However, Attorney Fallati recommended passing the Tax Cap Override Law and then rescinding it if necessary.
2. A board member from the Huyck Preserve has contacted Tom Fallati requesting a meeting with the Town Board to discuss the dam. Supervisor Lounsbury feels that the Water/Sewer Commit-

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## Town Board Work Meeting, Draft Meeting, October 11, 2016

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tee should be present as well.

Supervisor Lounsbury explained that in 2013 DEC performed an inspection and recommended that the spillway be widened, but the final report has not yet been filed. The reason being is that the engineers have been discussing the specifications given by DEC, and are questioning why Rensselaerville's are so much more stringent than those of several other towns that have a similar water supply.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 13, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 13th day of October 2016 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 Thomas Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, Timothy Tulloch from the *Altamont Enterprise*, and two interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 – Work Meeting; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)\*\*\*see correction In 'Audience Comments' section on page 9*

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 – Regular Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)\*\*\*see correction in 'Audience Comments' section on page 9*

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2016 – Special Meeting to present the 2017 Tentative Budget and schedule budget workshop meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, and Sedlmeir; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Wood*

### TRANSFERS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the following transfers:

From 'Highway' DA5110E 17221 to 'Accrual Savings' 2092 in the amount of \$2,500.00; and

From 'FEMA Pearson Road Fund' 3546 to 'Highway' 8506 in the amount of \$2.59 to close out the

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## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 13, 2016

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bank account.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Wood, and Sedlmeir; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to amend the budget by increasing the 'PAVE NY' funding from \$181,514.00 to \$222,931.00; an increase of \$41,416.95 in line item DA5112E 44077. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Wood, and Sedlmeir; Nays (0)*

**ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS:** General Fund - \$47,196.61; Highway Fund - \$17,617.83; Lighting District - \$691.86; Sewer Fund - \$1,243.47; Water Fund - \$48.54; T&A Fund - \$6,035.91. Total Abstracts - \$72,834.22

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to pay all signed vouchers and bills; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury received a letter from the Trinity Episcopal Church thanking the Town for allowing the use of the Senior/Youth bus for their annual Bible Day Camp. The bus transported the children to the Town's Recycling Center where Jon Whitbeck, Recycling Coordinator, explained the operation of recycling. The children were very excited and learned many things.

2. A letter was received from Mary Pacey and reads as follows:

Dear Supervisor Lounsbury and Members of the Town Council,

I am writing to ask for your support for a move to lower the speed limit in Preston Hollow. As you may know, I wrote to the DOT last year including a petition from at least 38 other residents of Preston Hollow asking for a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. I detailed the reasons we were making the request and I am including a copy of that letter for your review. Several months later the DOT responded that they had done a study and determined that the vast majority of motorists were exceeding the 40mph [speed limit](not a surprise to anyone who lives in Preston Hollow) and they recommended that enforcement be a first step. I have been pleased to see that there does seem to be an increased presence of state troopers and recently witnessed them stopping a motorist right in front of my house and ticketing them for exceeding the 40mph speed limit. I had a chance to speak briefly with the state trooper who informed me that he is regularly patrolling Preston and Potter Hollow and said that speeding is a real problem in the area. He also agreed with me that 40mph is excessive for Preston Hollow as it is the main street of town and a very narrow street at that, with houses very close to the road. Reducing the speed limit to bring it in line with some other towns, such as Middleburgh, would not only improve safety but also quality of life in Preston Hollow. There are huge tractor trailer trucks traveling through town and at 40mph they particularly pose a threat to safety and they are very noisy as well.

Assemblyman Peter Lopez has also written to you, in response to my communication with his office. I believe that if the Town Council would support this move, we could really accomplish it. It is a very reasonable request.

One further issue I wanted to raise stems from the DOT response. They mention that sidewalks in Preston Hollow would be an issue to consider when capital projects are undertaken in town. I am wondering if this is not exactly what is going on right now with construction/replacement of bridges in town.

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It seems like an opportunity to accomplish some much needed infrastructure in town including sidewalks so that people can safely walk to church or the town park. I know that a solution to this is not without challenges but I am confident, particularly if the Town Council will be proactive and get behind the idea, that it could be worked out. My understanding is that additionally there are drainage issues in the street in the middle of the upper part of town and this could be addressed by the DOT at this same time.

I am requesting that these issues be raised and discussed at the next board meeting. I am hoping that we can all work together to improve life for all in Preston Hollow.

Sincerely,  
Mary Pacey

**END LETTER**

Supervisor Lounsbury stated that this subject has been discussed in the past. She noted that other hamlet areas along State Route 145, including East Durham and Livingstonville, for example, are posted for 40mph. Councilwoman Cooke suggested writing a letter to the DOT. Even though a letter has already been written, she felt it wouldn't hurt to try especially if the letter was written by the Town. Supervisor Lounsbury will draft a letter for approval at the next Town Board meeting.

As far as the sidewalks are concerned, new sidewalks would have to be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Supervisor Lounsbury suggested working with DOT to repair the existing sidewalks. Highway Superintendent Bates noted that he has contacted the DOT and they have no intention of repairing any sidewalk; that it is the responsibility of the Town to maintain them. Any work that the highway department does on a sidewalk would require a permit from DOT, and they will not issue a permit unless the plans were ADA compliant. The Town would have to hire an engineer to fashion a drawing of what the Town's intentions were, before any permit would be issued. The actual work would be the easiest part.

Councilwoman Cooke questioned if a Sidewalk District would have to be created. Attorney Fallati will look into it.

**REPORTS****SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury reported that the State Comptroller's Office had performed a claims audit and review of the retirement. She was pleased to announce that outside of a few minor issues, they had no written recommendations. The auditor and his supervisor both said that was as good as it gets from the Comptroller's Office.

Supervisor Lounsbury thanked all of the staff: the Highway Department, Assessors, Town Clerk's Office, Transfer Station, Justices for making sure the I's were dotted and the T's were crossed. She also thanked the Town Board members for being so conscientious with the vouchers and bills. The auditor stated that the claims which were audited and approved by the Board before payment contained adequate supporting documentation and were for proper Town purposes. They commended the Town officials for establishing and implementing proper procedures for auditing claims.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury reported that the Board continues to work on the budget.

3. In order for the W-2s and 1099s to be printed, an upgrade to the MUNIS system will have to be per-

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## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 13, 2016

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formed. This upgrade is expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Supervisor's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### **ATTORNEY**

1. Attorney Fallati reported on the Communications Tower litigation. Tabner, Ryan, and Kinery along with the County, submitted its answering papers to the petition challenging the approval of the Tower. The petitioners have until tomorrow to submit their reply papers. At that point the briefing will be complete and the matter will be before the Judge for a decision.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Attorney's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

1. Superintendent Bates reported that the Highway Department has completed its blacktop work. The Highway placed 2,025 tons of blacktop with the Town's paver. Performing the work in this manner, as opposed to hiring an outside contractor, resulted in a \$16,000 savings. Superintendent Bates estimated that the paver has saved the Town around \$85,000 so far.

2. Even though Gulf Road Extension is a seasonal road, it still must be maintained. New culverts have been installed and shale has been placed down.

3. The Highway will continue drainage work and will begin putting equipment away for the season. Preparations for the upcoming winter are also underway.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Highway Superintendent's report, 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**TOWN CLERK:** Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of September as follows: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$4,113.10. Paid to the Supervisor - \$860.40 - the breakdown is as follows: Clerk Fees - \$ 294.30; Recycling - \$22.50; Dog Licenses - \$150.00; Building Permits - \$183.60; Zoning - \$210.00 . Total - \$ 860.40.

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$24.00

Fees paid to NYS Department of Health for Marriage Licenses: \$45.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$3,183.70

Water Rents collected for the month totaled \$508.44; no penalties;

Sewer Rents collected for the month totaled \$0.00

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR**

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported one Accessory Building permit; one Solar Panel permit; one New Home Construction permit (renewal); and one Woodstove permit.

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2. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh will be attending a 6-hour class in Kingston next week. He is required to have 24 credits per year and will have 25 after attending the class. He also may take some on-line courses between now and the end of the year.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Code Enforcement/Building Inspector's report; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Pine announced that the Assessor's Office continues to answer questions, most of which are arising due to changes in the STAR program.
2. Assessor Pine received an email from the State announcing that the tax-freeze checks will be starting within the next week or so.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Assessor's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE:** No report

**REFUSE/RECYCLING**

1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of September: Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 2.8 tons; Tires: 15; City of Albany Landfill: 67.31 tons; Sierra Fibers: 6.51 tons comingled and 5.47 tons old cardboard container; Oil: 35 gallons

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Recycling Coordinator's report; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**CURRENT EVENTS**

1. Councilwoman Sedlmeir announced a Piano Concert at Conkling Hall this coming Saturday at 7:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.
2. Town Clerk Kraker was asked to announce an Art Exhibition and Auction at St. John's RC Church on October 22, 2016 beginning at 6 PM. There will be wine and cheese, Hors D'oeuvres, cake and coffee, and a 50/50 raffle.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Attorney Fallati informed everyone that even though proposed Local Law No. 3 is just a procedural change, an Environmental Assessment is still required. The Environmental Assessment Form has been submitted and will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. A resolution will be prepared and the Local Law may be adopted. Also, by the next meeting in November, the Town should have received the recommendation of the Albany County Planning Board.
2. Councilman Wood and Councilman Dolce have been working on obtaining specifications for the installation of a generator for Town Hall. Councilman Wood reported that they met with one electrician who pointed a few things out, i.e. the size of the generator and the transfer switch. Central Hudson will need to come out to look at the pole to see what recommendations they have as far as placing the Town Hall and the Recycling Center on one system. Councilman Dolce noted that

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## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 13, 2016

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the meter and generator's transfer box would all be in one location.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Attorney Fallati read the Resolution for the Tax Cap Override as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE  
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State established a 'tax cap' that generally limits the increase in the Town's assessment for Fiscal Year 2017; and

WHEREAS, the tax cap statute permits a local government to override the limit for the upcoming fiscal year through adoption of a local law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that it may be necessary to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2017 that incorporates a tax increase in excess of the tax cap;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville that pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law and the General Municipal Law, a public hearing shall be conducted at the Town Hall on October 25, 2016 at 6:45 PM on the attached proposed Local Law, and notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published on or before October 20, 2016 in a newspaper circulating in the Town.

By motion made by Valerie Lounsbury, 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 13th day of October, 2016 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Dolce	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Yes
Councilman Wood	Yes

END RESOLUTION

Proposed  
Local Law No. 4 of 2016

A Local Law Overriding the Real Property Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2017

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Authority: Chapter 97 of the laws of 2011 of New York State, incorporated in Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law, established a 'tax cap' that generally limits the amount of a municipality's real property tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year according to a formula set out in the statute, but the statute also authorizes local governments, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 3-c(5), to override the tax levy limit for the upcoming fiscal year.

Section 2. Override of Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2017: The real property tax levy limit set out in Section 3-c of the General Municipal Law is overridden, pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 3-c(5), for Fiscal Year 2017, and the Town may adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2017 that incorporates a real property tax increase in excess of the otherwise applicable tax levy limit.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

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**Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 13, 2016**

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2. Attorney Fallati has been contacted by the Huyck Preserve regarding the dam. The Preserve has questions about issues that have come in DEC inspections which DEC is requesting responses to. They would like to set up a meeting with the Town to discuss these issues. Supervisor Lounsbury would like the Water/Sewer Committee to attend the meeting as well. She has proposed a couple of different dates and will see which one works best for everyone.
3. The date for the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget will be set at the October 25th Budget Workshop meeting. A tentative date was set for November 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

1. Marie Dermody pointed out that Councilman Dolce was not a seated member of the Board at the Work Meeting on September 6th or at the Regular Meeting on September 8th. Therefore, he should not be allowed to vote or make a motion to second either one.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to rescind approval of the minutes of the Work Meeting on September 6, 2016; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the Work Meeting on September 6, 2016; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Dolce*

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to rescind the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 8, 2016; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Dolce*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 8, 2016; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Dolce*

2. Mrs. Dermody also asked Councilman Wood if the Town would be getting written recommendations/specifications regarding the generator. Councilman Wood explained that having the first electrician at Town Hall was simply a preliminary stage. Councilman Dolce further stated that what was being done now was to get an idea on the general process and to get Central Hudson in for their recommendations. Going forward, written recommendations and specifications would be the next step.
3. Mrs. Dermody inquired as to when the Water/Sewer Committee might be reporting at the Regular meetings as it has been quite some time since a report has been given. Supervisor Lounsbury responded that the Operator has been under-par for the last couple of months.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



**Town Board Budget Workshop Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 17, 2016**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Budget Workshop Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016 at 7:00 PM 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, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce,

Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2017 Tentative Budget.

Kimberly Graff, Director of the Rensselaerville Library, along with Janet Acker, President and Carol Ash, the newest member of the library's board, thanked the Town Board for their continuing support in maintaining the \$25,000 allotment.

Ms. Graff noted that the library has been able to bring on a Children's Program Coordinator, Lee Ackerman-Sawyer. Since acquiring Ms. Ackerman-Sawyer, the library has hosted several children's programs. The programs include anything from early literacy to story time to teen programs. Ms. Ackerman-Sawyer is also the children's program coordinator at the Westerlo library and therefore, has been able to collaborate on many programs. She has been promoting the Rensselaerville library by explaining that due to different hours, if Westerlo is closed, try Rensselaerville. Also, coming soon the library would like to put together a menu of programs for local day-cares. Kim is trying to think of things that could bring the library into the community in addition to bringing the community into the library. Lee is offering homework assistance and trying to put together family oriented programs such as game night.

Janet Acker spoke on the libraries [sic] strategic plan: where does the library best serve the Town and where are the places that the library could do more or different or increase their services. The library would like to pull in and reach out to the hamlets that they may not necessarily always get an opportunity to connect with. Also, the library hopes to create an outdoor space in the not too distant future. A good start has been the repair to the stairway leading into the garden. In addition, the library is hoping to rally resources for the community such as digital connections, wi-fi and internet access – exploring ways they may be able to help.

Ms. Graff has been noticing a change in how the library is being used. In the past the library has been very popular with movies and has had the most circulated movie collection every month. People are now coming into the library to stream TV shows and there has been an increase in downloadable resources and a heavy usage of internet options.

Ms. Graff is always looking for resources that the library can offer and recently, a donation of canes, a wheelchair, and a walker was made allowing the library to be yet another source for the community.

Ms. Graff noted that Senator Amedore had provided the library with a generous sum of money which will be used to upgrade a lot of the equipment.

Supervisor Lounsbury revisited the Assessor's Office budget. A \$200 raise was granted for each Assessor. The additional work station's initial expense, according to I.T.S. will be \$1,400. The 'misc. contractual' line item will be reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,000.

Highway Superintendent Randy Bates presented his budget which, for the most part, has remained the same with little or no increases. Superintendent Bates has realistic expectations of

*(Continued on page 13)*

**Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 17, 2016**

(Continued from page 12)

what it costs to run the Highway Department and to build the roads as well as possible with the limitations imposed, i.e. the less than 2% tax cap.

One factor which dramatically affected the 2016 budget, was last year's decrease in the price of oil; a total fuel and oil savings of approximately \$47,000. Projecting ahead, Superintendent Bates expects to save another \$15,000 in equipment repairs. Having only one seasonal employee, instead of two, saved another \$16,000. Another major savings was in the 'misc. equipment' line in the amount of \$8,000. The total savings comes to \$86,000 for 2016.

Superintendent Bates has been using his own personal cell phone for work – making and receiving calls instead of driving to Town Hall to accomplish the same; keeping in contact with the crew during snowstorms; and being available at all times. He has requested that he be reimbursed \$50/month – which is half of his out-of-pocket expense.

The Operators will be getting their raises which will increase the budget by about \$2,000. Under 'gas/oil', the line will be decreased by \$4,000.

Superintendent Bates has requested an increase of \$26,700 to the 'truck' line under Road Machinery for the purchase, (under State bid), of a new ¾ ton pick-up truck. There is enough money in 'unexpended balance' to pay for the truck. The old snow plow will be put onto the new truck.

'Gas/Oil' line item will be reduced by \$5,000. Worker's Comp has increased by \$2,350 and 'Hospital & Medical Ins.' has increased by \$1,215.

Discussion ensued over providing Superintendent Bates with a raise due to the huge amount of responsibility he has and the amount of money he has saved the Town.

Superintendent Bates would like to see a difference in what a CDL Certified hourly employee makes vs. a non-CDL Certified employee.

Supervisor Lounsbury addressed the Special Districts. Most of the Special Districts will remain the same. Worker's Comp. increased slightly for the Ambulance and the Fire districts.

The Medusa Volunteer Fire Department is requesting a \$2,000 increase and the Tri-Village, a \$1,000 increase.

Discussion ensued over whether the Hydrant District should be given \$2,500 again and whether or not the hydrants are actually functioning and can be used to fight fires.

The Sewer District will be increased by \$416 due to the loan payments.

The Water District will be decreased by \$456.32 due to the loan payments.

\$40,000 will be allotted under the 'safety equipment' (Buildings) for the installation of the generator. The money will come from unexpended balances.

Discussion ensued over a raise for the justices. The consensus was to give each of the two justices a \$300 raise.

It was decided not to grant the Town Clerk's office the software program for the on-line taxes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk

## Stress Monitoring by Comptroller

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's latest list of municipalities under fiscal stress is out. The list is based on 2015 figures that look at items such as year-end balances, fixed costs, use of short term debt and cash on hand. This is the fourth year DiNapoli's office has evaluated the financial stability of local governments.

In all, there 40 municipalities (towns, villages cities and counties statewide) that are under some category of stress, according to the Comptroller. This is out of a total of 1,043 entities included in the report.

- 8 were designated as "significant fiscal stress" (the highest designation)
- 14 were designated as "moderate fiscal stress"
- 18 were listed as "susceptible to fiscal stress:"

In reviewing the complete report, we are pleased to announce that the Town of Rensselaerville has not received any characterization as being fiscally stressed.

To view the complete, sortable list of fiscal scores for municipalities, visit:

<http://wwe1.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/fsms.cfm>

Source: <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/267870/heres-the-latest-fiscal-stress-list/>

To read the Comptroller's report "Fiscal Stress Monitoring System Results for Municipalities: Three-Year Review," visit:

[http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/pdf/threeyearsfsms\\_0916.pdf](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/pdf/threeyearsfsms_0916.pdf)



American Red Cross **BLOOD DRIVE**

### Norton Hill Methodist Church

5830 State Route 81  
Greenville, NY 12083

9.8 mi | 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

At this drive, you can give:

 Blood  Power Red

## November 16 Events Scheduled at the Carey Institute for Global Good

### Reducing Toxics in Everyday Life Workshop

In partnership with the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute

Monday, November 7th

8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Free event + continental breakfast & lunch

For more information, click here: <http://careyinstitute.org/event/reducing-toxics-in-everyday-life-workshop/>

To register, click here: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ed8zonz6pcec96777&oseq=&c=&ch=>

### Introduction to Hops Production & Processing

Friday, November 11th

10 am – 2 pm

\$25 including lunch

Our annual workshop for new and prospective hops growers. Featuring Chad Meigs from The Bineyard, Cazenovia, NY. Followed by an optional site visit to Helderberg Hop Farms.

For more information, click here: <http://careyinstitute.org/event/introduction-to-hops-production-processing/> Contact Greg Back at [gback@careyinstitute.org](mailto:gback@careyinstitute.org) to register

### Beer Sensory Evaluation & Defect Detection Workshop

In partnership with the Hartwick College Center for Craft Food & Beverage

Friday, November 11 @3 pm - Sunday November 13 @12 pm

Full weekend packages including all food and lodging start at \$550

Individual workshops start at \$75

For more information, click here: <http://careyinstitute.org/event/fall-incubator-intensive-sensory-evaluation-defect-detection/>

To register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beer-sensory-evaluation-defect-detection-for-small-and-medium-scale-breweries-tickets-28046499836>

## *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, 518.817.8720

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00

All Others—\$12.00

10 Classes—\$100.00

## Senior Citizens Info

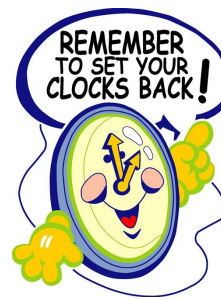
The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) the day before about riding the bus if you are interested.

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 Town Hall at 239-4225 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



### POST OFFICE INFORMATION

<http://www.usps.com>

**MEDUSA POST OFFICE:** Phone 518-239-4826

(19 COUNTY ROUTE 351 MEDUSA, NY 12120)

**Retail Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:15am

**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:15am

**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Fri 7:30am - 5:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:30am

**PRESTON HOLLOW POST OFFICE:** Phone 518-239-6111

(2930 ROUTE 145 PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469)

**Retail Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am - 10:30am; 3:00pm - 5:00pm; Sat 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 5:00pm; Sat 12:00pm

**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Sat 12:01am - 11:59pm

**RENSSELAERVILLE POST OFFICE:** Phone 518-797-3231

(26 COUNTY ROUTE 353 RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147)

**Retail Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:00am

**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:30am

**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am





**BREAKFAST  
AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

7:00AM TO 11:00AM

~~September 17, 2016~~

~~October 15, 2016~~

November 19, 2016

December 17, 2016

January 21, 2017

February 18, 2017

March 18, 2017

April 15, 2017

**PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPT**

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

**Free will offering**



## GRIST MILL NEWS

By Janet Haseley

The Grist Mill Museum will be closed for the winter from mid-October until mid-May because there is no heat in the Mill. After the Mill closes, the Research Group will continue to meet weekly, on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the basement meeting room of the Rensselaerville Library. Inquiries may be sent to the new email address, [rensselaervillehistoricalsoc@gmail.com](mailto:rensselaervillehistoricalsoc@gmail.com).



### Jack Long - Celebration of Life

Jack Long, 84, died Monday, October 24, 2016. A very informal gathering to celebrate his life will be from 7 to 9 p. m. Monday, November 7 at Conkling Hall.

Bring your musical instruments and your singing voices (or just come to listen). All are welcome.





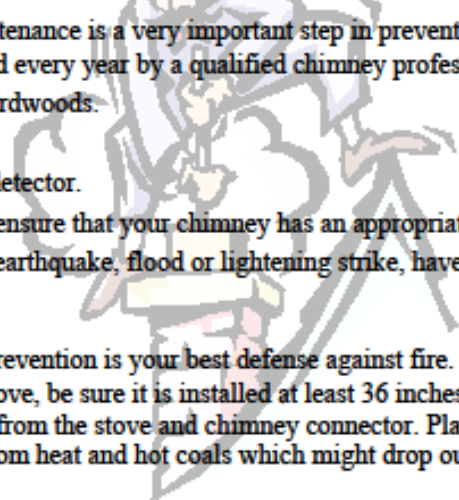
# Chimney Fire Safety

A Fire Safety Message from the  
New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control

## Chimney maintenance for wood burning appliances.

Chimneys are one of the most common locations of residential structure fires in New York State. The Chimney Safety Institute of America reports that creosote accumulation is the leading cause of chimney fires. A chimney that is dirty, blocked or is in disrepair can inhibit proper venting of smoke up the flue and can also cause a chimney fire. Nearly all residential fires originating in the chimney are preventable.

An annual chimney inspection by a qualified chimney sweep can prevent fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. To keep your home safe from chimney fires follow these guidelines.

- 
- ❶ **Maintenance** - Good maintenance is a very important step in preventing chimney fires!
    - . Have your chimney checked every year by a qualified chimney professional.
    - . Burn only well seasoned hardwoods.
    - . Install a chimney cap.
    - . Install a carbon monoxide detector.
    - . Have your chimney sweep ensure that your chimney has an appropriate liner.
    - . Following a violent storm, earthquake, flood or lightening strike, have your chimney inspected for damage - inside and out.
  - ❷ **Prevention** - Remember prevention is your best defense against fire.  
If you have a wood or coal stove, be sure it is installed at least 36 inches away from the wall. Keep combustible materials well away from the stove and chimney connector. Place an approved stove board under the unit to protect the floor from heat and hot coals which might drop out.
  - ❸ **Be Prepared** - Know what to do in case of fire. If you suspect a chimney fire, evacuate your home and call 9-1-1



*"Prevention Through Education"*

Office of Fire Prevention and Control

[www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc](http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc)

## RVFD News

- **Please support our Calendar Drive!** We encourage you to support our sponsors and help us **THANK THEM** for their continued support!
- **IMPORTANT:** Our social number is: **966-0338**. Please update your records. In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Time to plan for the colder weather. Be sure to start the heating season with a serviced furnace and clean chimneys. While you're at it, test your fire and c/o detectors and change the batteries.
- **Is there a fire in you? Please come to a drill or meeting to find out more.**
  - ⇒ Drills are the first two Mondays at 7:00,
  - ⇒ Battalion meeting first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm (no meeting in August), and
  - ⇒ Fire Meeting last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm.



The report is out! The Office of the New York State Comptroller Division of Local Government and School Accountability issued its report in October 2016 for Claims Auditing for the Town of Rensselaerville covering the period of January 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.

The objective of this audit was to review the Town's claims audit process, addressing this question: "Did the Board ensure that claims were properly audited, adequately supported and for legitimate Town purposes?"

The report explains the process used in conducting this audit and is available on the Town's website home page at [www.rensselaerville.com](http://www.rensselaerville.com).

The bottom line is, "Except for minor issues which we discussed with Town officials, we found these claims were audited and approved by the Board before payment, contained adequate supporting documentation and were for proper Town purposes..... We commend Town officials for establishing and implementing appropriate procedures for auditing claims."

Congratulations to Town government for such an excellent report from the NYS Comptroller!

## Library News

alzheimer's  association\*

# the basics

memory loss, dementia and alzheimer's disease



**an education program by the alzheimer's association**

**Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging.**

If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it's time to learn the facts. This program provides information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment, and much more.

**DATE: Tuesday December 6, 2016**

**TIME: 6-7pm**

**LOCATION: Rensselaerville Library**

**1459 County Route 351 Rensselaerville, NY 12147**

Program is FREE, but registration is required. Please call Kimberly Graff at 518.797.3949

This program is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

## Library News



P.O. Box 188  
1459 County Route 351  
Rensselaerville, NY 12147-0188  
Phone: 518.797.3949  
Fax: 518.797.5211  
[www.rensselaervillelibrary.org](http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org)

### Library Staff

**Director** - Kimberly Graff  
[director@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:director@rensselaervillelibrary.org)  
**Assistant** - Katie Caprio  
[library@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:library@rensselaervillelibrary.org)  
**Youth Services Coordinator**  
Lee Ackerman-Sawyer  
[youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

### Pages

Ruby Acker  
Keara Kelley  
Emileigh Tanner  
Leah Waldron

### Library Board of Trustees

**President**  
Janet Acker  
**Vice President**  
Linda Styer  
**Secretary**  
Paul Kelly  
**Treasurer**  
Scott Kunkler  
**Trustees**  
Carol Ash  
JR Delia  
Penny Grimes  
John Gordon  
Holly Hake  
Hans Soderquist

*The Rensselaerville Library works to preserve a comfortable historical gathering place that is open, free and inviting to all of the residents of the 5 hamlets and environs. We strive to awaken and promote a life-long love of reading and learning by fostering personal connections and providing access to a stimulating variety of texts, technology and programming.*

The Rensselaerville Library is a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

### Upcoming Library Events

Save the date! Library's Annual Greenery Sale is schedule for December 3, 2016 from 9-3pm. We will have fresh cut trees, wreaths, sprays and roping for sale along main street. Inside we will have activities for the kids and local vendors, homemade cookies sale and a mini used book sale. We are looking for vendors, please contact the Library if interested. If you are interested in helping to decorate wreaths or make homemade cookies please contact the Library.

Movie Night on Friday, November 11 at 6:30pm. Please visit the web site for more details.

Homebuyer Workshop with local resident Joanne Steele on November 16th at 7pm. Gain a better understanding of home buying basics including financing, loan applications, credit basics, and the benefits and costs of owning a home. Please register for this program.

The basics of memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer's disease education program on Tuesday, December 6th at 6pm. Please register for this program.

### November Youth Programs

**STEAM** – Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30. On November 1, 15, 29 will focus on Science and on November 8 and 22 the focus will be on the Arts. STEAM adds art and design to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs. By adding Art and Design we encourage creativity and encourage analysis and critical thinking. This program is for all ages.

**StoryTime** – Wednesdays, November 2, 16 and 30, 4:30-5:30pm, stories, music and movement activities for parents/caregivers and children as well as opportunities for parents to develop a social support group. Focus on pre-literacy and pre-math skills and school readiness.

**Movement & Music** – Wednesdays, November 8 and 23, 4:30-5:30pm, stories, songs and movement activities for parents/caregivers and infants and young toddlers. Also opportunities for parents and caregivers to develop a social support network. Focus on strengthening parent/caregiver-child bonds, pre-literacy activities- simple stories, movement, rhymes and play.

**Monthly Craft Project** – kids stop in and check out the craft table downstairs and discover crafts to work on your own.

**Teen Hang Out** – Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm teens stop in and create your own program.

**Homework Help** - Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Please see Lee Ackerman-Sawyer or email [youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

**Game Day** - So you think you've got game? Families read, learn, play during International Games Day @ your library. On Saturday, November 19th, from 9-1pm the game is on at Rensselaerville Library for International Games Day @ your library. For more information, visit [www.rensselaervillelibrary.org](http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org).

(Continued on page 23)

## Library News

*(Continued from page 22)*

The Library will be closed on Thursday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. In December the Library will be closed on Saturday, December 24th and Saturday December 31st.

The Library monthly Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 7pm. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except when noted. All Board meetings are held at the Library in the downstairs meeting room and are open to the public.

The Writing Group meets on the second Thursday of the month. On November 10th the group will meet at 7pm.

Poetry Group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, November 8 and 22. Come share your work, receive feedback and spend time working on your own project. The Poetry group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Library.

There will be no scheduled Library Coloring Book Club in November. However, feel free to stop in anytime and color on your own materials are located in the basement meeting room. Coloring is a great way to relax and give our creativity a boost. Coloring books designed especially for adults have more intricate designs and patterns. Coloring pages, colored pencils, markers and crayons will be available or bring your own.

Are you starting your holiday shopping? Consider supporting the Library with one of these services that give back to local organizations of your choice. When shopping with smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate to 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases sign up at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1409657> . Or create an account with Giving Assistant and once you set up the Library as your charity an average of 5% of your purchases will be donated to the Library. Visit <https://givingassistant.org>

*Library Hours: Closed Sunday and Monday  
Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am – Noon & 4– 9pm  
Thursday & Friday: 4– 9pm  
Saturday: 9– 1pm*



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
NOVEMBER 24, 2016**





### Library News



## Attend a free homebuyer workshop

Find out what it really takes to become a homeowner

Prepare for one of the largest purchases most people make. Learn more about finding, financing, and owning a home in today's real estate market.

Date: November 16, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Rensselaerville Library  
1459 County Route 351  
518-797-3949

#### Get the facts

Know what to expect and what will be expected of you - so you can make informed home financing decisions.

Register today at [www.wellsfargo.com/register](http://www.wellsfargo.com/register)



**Joanne Steele**  
Phone: 518/281-9551  
NMLSR ID 409931

#### Gain a better understanding of these homebuying basics:

- The benefits and costs of owning a home
- Credit basics
- Home financing basics
- The loan application process



Information is accurate as of date of printing and is subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2012 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. NMLSR ID 399801.

100046 - 10/16

REV 4/16



## Library News

(Continued from page 28)

**11/24 - The Middleburgh Library will be closed to observe the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

**Please check our Calendar on our website at [www.middleburghlibrary.info](http://www.middleburghlibrary.info) for future programs.**

Contact information: 323 Main Street, PO Box 670, Middleburgh, NY 12122  
(518) 827-5142

Hours: *Monday 1:30 - 8:30*      *Tuesday 10:00 - 5:00 & 6:30 - 8:30*  
*Wednesday 10:00 - 4:00*    *Thursday 10:00 - 4:00 & 6:30 - 8:30*  
*Friday & Sunday - closed*    *Saturday 9:00 - 2:00*

## Greenville Library

**Nov 1, 4, 8, 15, 18, 29**

**Chess Club**

All Are Welcome!

**12:00 - 2:00pm**

**Nov 1, 15**

**Lego Fun!**

**3:00 - 4:00pm**

Do you love to imagine and build? Do you enjoy the rush of satisfaction when you find the perfect piece in a pile of colorful plastic bricks? Do you love the satisfying snap of a well placed Lego? Do you feel little pain when you step on a scattered Lego brick? If you answered yes to these questions then this program is meant for you! Bring your imagination, we'll provide the Legos! Just Drop In!

**Nov 2, 9, 16, 23**

**Greenville Quilters**

**1:00 - 3:00pm**

All welcome. No experience necessary, will teach.  
Meet in the library's small community room.

**Nov 1, 4, 8, 15, 18, 29**

**Toddler Time**

**Tuesday from 10-10:45am & 11-11:45am**

**Friday from 10-10:45am & 11-11:45am**

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their children to our Toddler Time Programs. Infants, toddlers and preschoolers are all welcome. Registration is not required. Drop in on the day(s) you would like to attend.

This activity enriched educational time includes stories, games, singing, marching and socializing. They can also choose books to take home and enjoy during the week. The instructor for these sessions is Devon Balta.

**Nov 10**

**Joy of Coloring**

**12:30 - 2:00pm**

Come and unwind with the latest artistic craze: adult coloring books. Fabulously intricate and creative books have now been published for adults to engage in this calming, creative activity that we loved as children. The library will provide the creative pages and water color pencils. Feel free to bring your own supplies and share with others. Bring your imagination and enjoy the relaxing exercise of coloring. Just Drop In!

Contact Information: Greenville Public Library  
11177 Route 32; PO Box 8 Greenville, NY 12083  
Phone: 518-966-8205      Email: [greenvillelibrary@outlook.com](mailto:greenvillelibrary@outlook.com)

Hours: *Monday & Wednesday: 9:00am - 5:00pm*      *Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00am - 6:00pm*  
*Friday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm*      *Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm*  
*Sunday: Closed*

**Library News**

# Library Annual Greenery Sale

**Saturday, December 3, 2016**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Fresh Cut Trees from Medusa  
Wreaths, Roping & Sprays  
Vendors  
Used Book Sale  
Homemade Cookie Sale  
Cookie Decorating & Crafts for Kids

Want to be a Vendor? Please contact the Library by  
November 25.

Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department Children's  
Holiday Party starts at 3:30, Santa at 5, Tree Lighting at 5:30



The Library Will Be Closed:  
11/24 Thanksgiving  
12/24 Christmas Eve  
12/31 New Year's Eve

Upcoming Programs

11/11—Movie Night 6:30pm  
11/16—Home Buying at 7pm  
11/19—Game Day 9-1pm  
12/6—Alzheimer's Workshop 6pm  
Be sure to check the online calendar  
for all the children and teen programs.

1459 County Route 351  
PO Box 188  
Rensselaerville, NY 12147  
Phone: 518.797.3949  
Fax: 518.797.5211  
director@rensselaervillelibrary.org  
www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org



## Library News

### Middleburgh Library

**11/1, 15, 22, 29 - 10:45 AM - Drop-in Storytime** - Get ready to move in this interactive storytime designed 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.*

**11/1, 15, 22, 29 - 1:00 PM - Mahjong Mania** - Every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 a spirited group of people get together in the Community Room to play Mahjong. Don't know how to play? No problem! They will teach you how. *No registration required.*

**11/1, 15, 22, 29 - 5:15 PM - Insight Meditation** - Join us for a simple group Zazen meditation practice. All are welcome. No registration required.

**11/2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 9:00 AM - Chair Yoga** - With Vicki DeGross. Donation \$5.00. Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair, or standing using a chair for support. Please use back entrance.

**11/2, 9, 16, 30 - 11:00 AM - Discovery Wednesdays** -

**11/2** - You never know what Miss Andrea will come up with in her discovery Wednesday! Art, science, stories and more in this interactive program for ages 3 and up and their caregivers. **Registration Required.**

**11/9** - Join Miss Doreen as she welcomes children ages 3-6 to her storytime. Lots of fun with stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft! *No registration required.*

**11/16** - You never know what Miss Andrea will come up with in her discovery Wednesday! Art, science, stories and more in this interactive program for ages 3 and up and their caregivers. **Registration Required.**

**11/30** - Join Miss Doreen as she welcomes children ages 3-6 to her storytime. Lots of fun with stories, songs, fingerplays and a craft! *No registration required.*

**11/2, 9, 16, 30 - 1:00 PM - Wednesday Matinee - Free Popcorn**

**11/2, 16, 30 - 5:00 PM - Kundalini Yoga** - Kundalini Yoga 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. Please use the back entrance when entering the building. *No registration required.*

**11/3, 10, 17 - 7:00 PM - 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.**

**11/5 - 3:00 PM to ? - Board Games for Adults** - Come and join us for some fun and different board games

**11/9 - 7:00 PM - Concert - "Still Holler" -**

**11/14- 6:30 PM - Board of Trustees Meeting** - Our meetings are open to the public. Please join us! The holiday does not affect the board meeting. Please use back entrance.

**11/21 - 2:00 PM - Adult Coloring Club** - Come and experience the latest trend in relaxation, adult coloring books! Studies how coloring can have a calming effect on the adult mind and helps promote overall wellness. Coloring pages designed especially for adults as well as colored pencils will be provided. This will be a recurring program. We will meet every 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm. *Registration is required.*

*(Continued on page 26)*

**Library News**



**DATE: November 11, 2016**

**TIME: 6:30pm**

**LOCATION:  
Rensselaerville Library**



**Community Values:** MOTHER, FAMILY FARMER, TOWN SUPERVISOR

Sara operates a second-generation farm in Montgomery County with her husband, Sean, mother-in-law, Pat, and 13-year-old daughter, Olive. Like many farmers, Sara and Sean also work off-farm to get the bills paid. Sean is a rural letter carrier and Sara directs a small not-for-profit. As Town Supervisor, Sara united the community to bring more transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility to local government.

**Quality Education:** SARA BELIEVES IN QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

As a parent, Sara has seen firsthand the impact of systematic over-testing and under-funding in rural and small city schools. As Senator, Sara will fight for every child in New York State to receive full and fair funding for education while rolling back the current focus on high-stakes testing and the one size fits all approach to instruction.

**Good Jobs:** FOCUS ON GOOD JOBS WITH A PATH TO RETIREMENT

Throughout the district, hardworking people are struggling. Sara will fight to create good jobs with benefits and a path to secure retirement. Full investment in broadband infrastructure is essential to growing local economies throughout the 46th.

**Environment:** CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE DEFINING GLOBAL ISSUE OF THE CENTURY

The choices we make now will decide whether there will be streams for our children to play in, whether our food will grow, whether we will have water to drink, and whether diverse animal and plant species will continue to inhabit the region and the globe. As State Senator, Sara will fight for clean, renewable energy.

**Property Tax:** REDUCING AN IMPOSSIBLE BURDEN ON HARDWORKING FAMILIES

As Town Supervisor, Sara knows too well the hardships of residents unable to keep up with crushing property taxes imposed by unfunded state mandates. It's time to shift the tax burden where it belongs and bring real tax relief to hardworking people across the 46th district.

**Small Business:** FIGHTING FOR A THRIVING SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As Town Supervisor, Sara is too-often confronted with community members who have lost their family businesses, their jobs, and feel forced out of New York. Sara will fight to sustain and grow the number of small businesses and farms across the district through targeted tax relief and technical assistance programs

***Vote for Sara Niccoli on November 8!***

## Cider Pressing Demonstration - Historical Society

Cider Pressing Demonstration at Historical Society  
By Janet Haseley, [janethaseley@gmail.com](mailto:janethaseley@gmail.com)

Three Rensselaerville young people converted a pickup truck full of apples into cider at a demonstration Saturday, October 1, at the Rensselaerville Historical Society annual meeting held at the Medusa firehouse.

There was a four-step process: washing the apples, putting them in a device to grind them up into mash, putting the mash into a cider press which pressed the mash to liquid, and enjoying drinking the resultant cider.

Talks by two of the young people followed about the history of apple growing in the Hilltown area and by guest speaker Peter Ten Eyck of Indian Ladder Farms.

The meeting included a potluck dinner (with cider, of course) and a business meeting. Long-time treasurer Irene Olson announced her retirement and Leah Waldron was appointed to be the new treasurer.



Step 1: Get the apples



Step 2: Wash the apples



Step 3: Use a device to grind the apples



Step 4: Put mashed apples into press

### Cider Pressing Demonstration - Historical Society



Step 5: Press mashed apples

Step 6: Enjoy!



Gerritt Platel holding a batch of freshly pressed cider



Becca Platel enjoying the cider while Peter Ten Eyck watches the press



Cynthia Willis of Preston Hollow enjoying the freshly pressed cider





**On The Calendar**

**Nov 1-30 The RVFD Battalion Annual November Toy Drive**

To benefit the Hilltown Community Resource Center.  
 Items will be collected during the entire month of November -  
 Please donate NEW items only - for infants through teens.  
 Collection sites: Hilltown Cafe, Town Hall, and the Recycling Center.  
 For large items or gift card donations, please call 281-6880 to arrange for pick-up.

**Nov 5 9am – 1pm Rensselaerville Cemetery Clean-Up**

At the Rensselaerville Rural Cemetery, Rensselaerville, NY (map)  
 The Rensselaerville Rural Cemetery Association is asking for volunteers for the Annual Fall Clean Up Day. Please bring your own gloves and rakes.

**Nov 6 11:30am Turkey Dinner Medusa Firehouse**

**Nov 6 10:00am Medusa United Church of Christ Services Medusa**

**Nov 6 11:00am Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services Rensselaerville**  
 All are Welcome!

**Nov 7 7:00pm Interfaith Panel Discussion Sponsored by the Greenville Area Interfaith Council Greenville Library**

**Nov 8 6am-9pm Election Day!  
 TOWN OFFICES CLOSED**

**Nov 8 No Seniors Meeting**

**Nov 9 7:00pm Public Hearing: 2017 Preliminary Budget Town Hall**

**Nov 9 CHANGE! Town Board Work Meeting - immediately following Public Hearing Town Hall**

**Nov 10 7:00pm Town Board Regular Meeting Town Hall**

**Nov 12 1-4pm Rabies Clinic**

At the Village of Green Island Public Works Garage, Cohoes Avenue, Green Island (map)  
 Rabies Clinic is open to any Albany County resident. Arranged by the Albany County Department of Health in cooperation with the Capital District Veterinary Medical Society.  
 Cats/Ferrets: 1:00 - 2:30 PM Dogs: 2:30 - 4:00 PM Donations: \$8.00/animal  
 For more information: [www.albanycounty.com](http://www.albanycounty.com) and search "rabies clinics"

**Nov 13 10:00am Medusa United Church of Christ Services Medusa**

**Nov 13 11:00am Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services Rensselaerville**  
 All are Welcome!

**Nov 14 12 noon Seniors Holiday Dinner Carey Institute**

**Nov 19 7-11am Medusa Fire Department Breakfast Medusa Firehouse**  
 Free Will offering

**Nov 20 10:00am Medusa United Church of Christ Services Medusa**

**Nov 20 11:00am Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services Rensselaerville**  
 All are Welcome!

**Nov 24 Happy Thanksgiving to All!**

**On The Calendar**

*(Continued from page 33)*

<b>Nov 27 10:00am</b>	<b>Medusa United Church of Christ Services</b>	<b>Medusa</b>
<b>Nov 27 11:00am</b>	<b>Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services</b> All are Welcome!	<b>Rensselaerville</b>
<b>Nov 27 6:00pm</b>	<b>Annual Medusa Community Tree Lighting Party</b>	<b>Medusa Church</b>
<b><u>Planning Ahead:</u></b>		
<b>Dec 3 9am-3pm</b>	<b>Holiday Rummage Sale</b> Lunch will be available. Lots of Christmas items. Museum of Medusa History will be opened.	<b>Medusa Church</b>
<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Seniors Trip to Westchester Theatre</b> to see "Christmas Inn". Cost is \$60 per person Contact Janet Nelson at 797-3963	
<b>Dec 17 7-11am</b>	<b>Medusa Fire Department Breakfast</b> Free Will offering <b>Eat &amp; Shop in Medusa.</b>	<b>Medusa Firehouse</b>

**Color Me!**



**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	John Dolce	jdolce@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com
Town Justices	Ronald Bates Dwight T. Cooke	Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339
Supervisor's Clerk	Linda McCormick	clerk1@rensselaerville.com
Town Clerk	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com
Assessors	Donna Kropp Jeffry Pine Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com
Planning Board	Richard Amedure	spfleging@rensselaerville.com
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Mormile	spfleging@rensselaerville.com
Board of Ethics	Diana Hinchcliff Georgette Koenig	ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 797-5201
Refuse/Recycling Coordinator	Jon Whitbeck	Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339



**November 8, 2016**  
**6 AM - 9 PM**

## The Back Page

Contributors:

Annie Choiniere  
Kimberly Graff  
Janet Haseley  
Steve & Anne Lamont  
William Moore

Editors:

Nancy Class  
Marie Dermody  
Georgette Koenig



**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.*



**To unsubscribe:** Send an email to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com) with the word "Unsubscribe" on the subject line. We'd be sorry to see you go, but we will honor your wishes immediately.



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