

# R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 10

December, 2016

## Town Budget Workshop, Draft Minutes, October 20, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Budget Workshop Meeting on the 20th 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 were four interested citizens.

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

⇒ Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh presented the Board with the basis for the Medusa Volunteer Fire Department's request for a \$2,000 increase in their budget. Mr. Overbaugh explained that almost all community events are held at the Medusa Fire House and even though there is a nominal charge for some of the events, the money only covers expenses. He further explained that the renovation began due to the ceiling falling down; the ceiling was attached to the wainscoting of the old schoolhouse which was still suspended within the building. That led to looking at the energy costs. It was decided to go forward with taking up the concrete flooring and installing 2" of foam and radiant heat; the 3 out of the 4 walls were spray-foamed as well as the ceiling. A front entry-way was added to help prevent the cold from blowing into the building. The side entry-way has also been completed.

John Gordon further explained that the Fire Department currently has a 1985 Mac manual that most of the members are not able to drive; there are unfunded mandates from the State regarding the level of preparedness with respect to the number of years of allowable service.

The Fire House is hustling to make ends meet. They host monthly breakfasts, the annual Turkey Dinner, Election Day buffet, Medusa Fest, etc. They will host receptions after funerals, not only for residents of Medusa, but for others as well.

Discussion ensued as to what to do with the Code Enforcement's clerk line. Mr. Overbaugh would like to continue as his own clerk. Several members of the Board are not certain that is still the best way to go. Mr. Overbaugh has suggested that he could spend another chunk of time in the office, in addition to his Thursday hours. After much debate, it was decided to leave the clerk line item as is and to revisit the subject in the spring. Mr. Overbaugh will keep the Board up to date with his progress.

The Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's computer and the Planning Board's computer are

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## Town Budget Workshop, Draft Minutes, October 20, 2016

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due to be replaced at a cost of \$1,400.

Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh requested he be reimbursed \$22/month for the use of his personal cell phone for official Town business.

The 'misc. contractual' line item will be increased by \$500 to \$1,500.

- ⇒ The subject of the generator was revisited. It is the consensus that \$40,000 should be sufficient.
- ⇒ The Board revisited a raise for the Highway Superintendent. Discussion ensued among the Board members. Although the consensus is that everyone deserves a raise and all the employees are earning considerably less across the board than their respective positions in neighboring towns, the Town needs to keep the budget under the tax cap.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 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 Budget Workshop, Draft Minutes, October 25, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Budget Workshop Meeting on the 25th 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.

- ⇒ Supervisor Lounsbury reviewed several items to be certain all Board members were in agreement with the changes. Each of the Justices will receive a \$300 raise (\$600 total); the Assessors will each receive a \$200 raise (\$600 total); \$40,000 will be allotted for the installation of a generator; there will be a decrease of \$415 in the overall Town Clerk's Department; there will be a \$2,000 increase in the legal fees line item to cover the cost of litigation. The Board will revisit the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's clerk line item and 'misc. contractual' will be increased by \$500; \$600 will be allotted to reimburse Superintendent Bates for the use of his personal cell phone for business purposes. Under 'Planning Board', \$1,400 will be allotted for a new computer; under 'Refuse and Recycling' there will be a \$1,500 increase to cover the costs of repairs to the containers.
- ⇒ Discussion of the pay for CDL Certified drivers and non-CDL Certified drivers will be addressed at the December meeting.
- ⇒ The total Highway fund increased by only \$18,958.
- ⇒ Supervisor Lounsbury addressed the revenues for the General and Highway Funds.

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Supervisor Lounsbury entertained a motion to move the Tentative Budget to the Preliminary Budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to move the 2017 Tentative Budget to the 2017 Preliminary Budget; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

Supervisor Lounsbury entertained a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to schedule the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for November 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to change the regularly scheduled work meeting from Tuesday, November 8, 2016 (Election Day) to Wednesday, November 9, 2016 immediately following the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

⇒ A date of November 15, 2016 at 7:00 PM was set for one member, Councilwoman Cooke, to attend an informational meeting requested by the Huyck Preserve. Attorney Fallati and Brian Wood will also be attending the meeting.

⇒ Even though the Town is not obligated in any way for the renovations on the Medusa Fire House, the I.R.S. requires a non-profit organization to hold a Public Hearing for the financing. A date for the Public Hearing will be determined at the Work Meeting in November.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

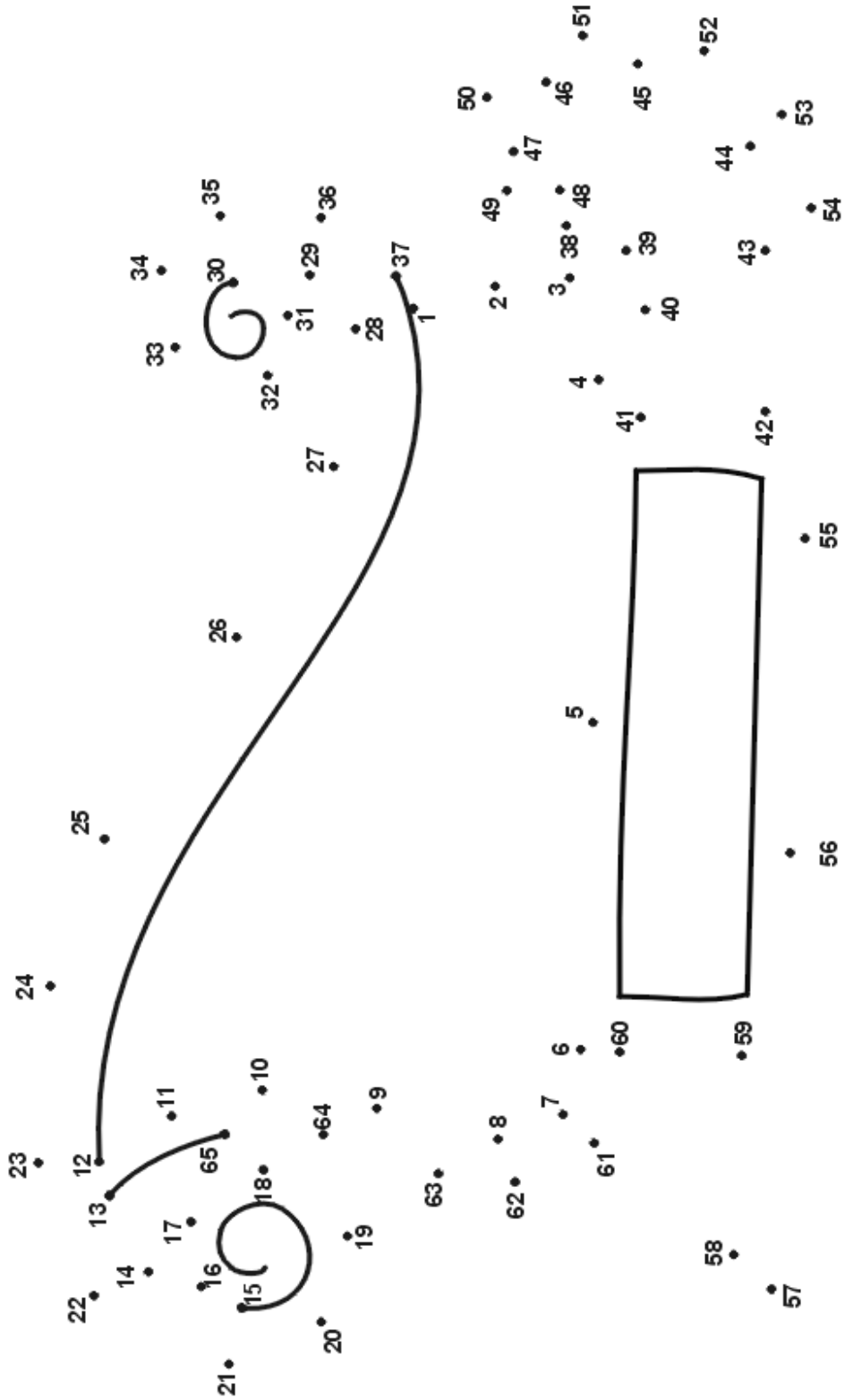
*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



Kids' Activity Page - Connect the Dots & Color



**Public Hearing-Preliminary Budget, Draft Minutes, November 9, 2016**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 9th day of November 2016 at 6:45 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 were two interested citizens.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public comments on the 2017 Preliminary Budget.

Marie Dermody

Mrs. Dermody questioned that it was reported to the Altamont Enterprise that the budget would be under the tax cap, but what she understood was that the budget would not be. Supervisor Lounsbury explained the figures and in turn this explanation negated the other comments Mrs. Dermody had to present.

Diana Hinchcliff

Diana Hinchcliff submitted a letter she wished to have read and included in the public record as follows:

I commend Supervisor Lounsbury and the Town Council for their diligence in ensuring that the 2017 budget will not exceed the tax cap or change the tax rate.

Proposed Provision of a Stipend to the Highway Superintendent for Use of a Personal Cell Phone for Town Business

I am concerned about the proposed reimbursement of Superintendent Bates' expense for using his personal cell phone for town business for three reasons:

1. Town employees and officials should never use their personal cell phones for town business. Town officials who need to have a phone while on duty should be provided one by the town at the town's expense. As we just witnessed with Secretary Clinton's presidential campaign, the use of personal servers, computers and cell phones for government business creates a situation in which laws and regulations governing confidentiality may be violated. This also raises the issue that the telephone records for a town official's personal cell phone are subject to the New York State Freedom of Information Law. The Committee on Open Government, the state agency with authority to administer and opine on the Freedom of Information Law, has determined that a personal cell phone bill that includes numbers related to use of the phone for government purposes must be disclosed as necessary. Two commission opinions address this issue in particular.

Committee on Open Government Opinion FOIL-AO-17992 states: "Based on the judicial interpretation of the Freedom of Information Law, it is clear that public officers and employees enjoy a lesser degree of privacy than others, for it has been found in various contexts that those individuals are required to be more accountable than others. The courts have found that, as a general rule, records that are relevant to the performance of the official duties of a public officer or employee are available, for disclosure in such instances would result in a permissible rather than an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy...With regard to telephone bills, based on the decisions cited [in this opinion], when a public officer or employee uses a telephone in the course of his or her official duties, bills involving the use of the telephone would, in our opinion, be relevant to the performance of that person's official duties. On that basis and in general, we do not believe that disclosure would result in an unwarranted invasion personal privacy with respect to an officer or employee serving as a government official."

Opinion FOIL-AO-16629 concerned the mayor of the City of Auburn, who was permitted to use his

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**Public Hearing-Preliminary Budget, Draft Minute, November 9, 2016**

*(Continued from page 5)*

personal cell phone for government business and was paid a stipend of \$45 per month to cover its usage. This opinion states: “[T]he mayor has a personal cell phone, which he uses for both personal and City business. Rather than attempting to identify and determine the cost of City related calls, the City has agreed to provide what appears to be akin to a small increase in salary, \$45.00 per month, to the Mayor so that he can be billed directly at his residence and use his cell phone as he sees fit.” The opinion also states: “[N]o record [of the mayor’s telephone calls on this cell phone] is maintained by or for the City; rather, the Mayor receives a bill at his home for use of his cell phone and is simply given a stipend that he may spend as he desires or apply to the use of the phone. If that is so, there would be no detailed record of his cell phone use” as there would be with bills for a city-issued cell phone that would be subject to the Freedom of Information Law. The opinion concludes: “[R]ecords concerning [the mayor’s] cell phone use [sent to him at his home because it is a personal cell phone] would come into the possession of the City and, therefore, would be subject to rights granted by the Freedom of Information Law. It is also noted that records cannot be discarded or destroyed at will. Section 57.25 of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law deals with the retention and disposal of local government records. In brief, schedules are developed indicating minimum retention periods for classes of records that are based largely on the significance or value of the records. Only when the minimum retention period has elapsed may records be discarded or destroyed.”

The second opinion recognizes that the stipend given to the mayor was, indeed, a form of salary increase disguised as a payment for personal use of a cell phone for government business. Both opinions indicate that the official’s monthly bills for use of the phone are subject to the Freedom of Information Law and, therefore, subject to public disclosure and also that they must be kept for the required period of time for government records under the law.

2. The stipend for personal use of a cell phone for government business is a salary increase by another name. State and local legislatures employ this device frequently, assessing “fees” for certain activities while maintaining they are not taxes, which indeed they are. In my opinion, the Town Council is attempting to say, on the one hand, that there will be no salary increases in 2017 but on the other hand is attempting to call a salary increase a stipend for personal cell phone use for governmental business. With few exceptions, cell phone plans today provide free unlimited phone calls but charge for data (e.g. texts and web access). If the highway superintendent has a plan that does not charge for phone calls, why should the town provide this stipend? Why not just call this what it is—a salary increase—and give it to the superintendent in that form if the Town Council believes his performance warrants it.
3. This sets a bad precedent that lacks transparency. If such a ‘stipend’ is approved for inclusion in the final budget, it will create a mechanism by which future salary increases may be disguised as other types of expenses.

The Town should avoid any potential legal and transparency issues arising from the superintendent’s use of his personal cell phone and instead provide him a cell phone at the town’s expense so that his calls for government business will be properly segregated from personal calls and the town will receive a monthly bill that will enable appropriate monitoring and oversight of this cell phone’s use.

#### Explanation of the Budget

I have asked previously that the Preliminary budget include an additional column that provides a line-by-line explanation for all proposed increases and decreases. I am asking again. The average person

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**Public Hearing –Preliminary Budget, Draft Minutes, November 9, 2016**

*(Continued from page 6)*

is unfamiliar with government budgeting and should not be expected to know both what is covered by a particular line item category and why budget amounts are changed. This is an issue of transparency. The town is using taxpayer money for its operations and the taxpayers are entitled to know what that money is being used for and in what way.

I appreciate this opportunity to present my comments.

Sincerely,  
Diana M. Hinchcliff

END LETTER

As no more public comments were introduced, either verbal or written, Supervisor Lounsbury entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to close the Public Hearing for the 2017 Preliminary Budget at 7:22 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

Discussion ensued among the Town Board regarding the cell phone issue. Supervisor Lounsbury asked the Board to consider the options and the subject will be addressed again at the end of the Work Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adjourn the Public Hearing Meeting at 7:35 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



***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

**Town Board Work Meeting, Draft Meeting, November 9, 2016**

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 9th day of November 2016 at 7:35 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 November 10, 2016: October 11, 2016 – Work Meeting; October 13, 2016 – Regular Meeting; October 11, 2016 – Public Hearing – Amendment to the Zoning Law; October 25, 2016 – Public Hearing – Tax Cap Override; October 11, 2016 – Budget Workshop; October 17, 2016 – Budget Workshop; October 20, 2016 – Budget Workshop; October 25, 2016 – Budget Workshop

**TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS:** To be addressed at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Lounsbury has correspondence which will be addressed at the Regular Meeting.

**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 recommended that the Town Board simply not pass proposed Local Law No. 3 - Tax Cap Override, due to the fact that the budget has come in well under the tax cap.
2. The amendment to the Zoning Law – proposed Local Law No. 4, will be addressed at the Regular meeting. The Town is in receipt of the Albany County Planning Board's recommendation which is to defer to local consideration.
3. Councilman Wood and Councilman Dolce have been working together gathering information on the stand-by generator. At this point, they have a work order in to Central Hudson and they await a call from them. Central Hudson will advise the Town what to do with the meter and will provide the Town with ideas on how to go forward. A transformer may have to be placed on the ground with barrier posts for protection.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Town Clerk Kraker will present the unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents at the Regular Meeting.
2. The Blue Shield of NENY health coverage for the retirees is up for renewal. The in-area premiums have gone up from \$408 to \$429 (\$21); and out-of-area premiums have risen from \$444 to \$466 (\$22). Certain models of hearing aids, an in-home care program, and a \$0 co-pay for more than 100 preferred Generic prescription drugs has been added to the coverage.
3. A date for the Public Hearing for the financing of the renovations on the Medusa Fire House will need to be scheduled at the Regular Meeting. The Town will have no obligation whatsoever to the financing, but the hearing is required under I.R.S. regulations.
4. Providing the Board will not be making any changes, the budget can be moved from the Preliminary stage to the Adopted stage.

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## Town Board Work Meeting, Draft Meeting, November 9, 2016

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### FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE CELL PHONE REIMBURSEMENT

The Town Board decided to leave the money in the budget for the Highway Superintendent's and the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's cell phone.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM; 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, November 10, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 10th day of November 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, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Attorney Thomas Fallati

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, Investigator Amy Kowalski from the Albany County Sheriff's Department, and three interested citizens.

### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Marie Dermody had a few additions/corrections to the minutes which will be addressed individually in the next section.

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016 Work Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2016 Regular Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016 Public Hearing on the amendment to the Zoning Law; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2016 Public Hearing on the Tax Cap Override Law; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

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

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## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 10, 2016

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016 Budget Workshop adding that under the Medusa Park, there will also be a decrease of \$500 in the 'specialty equipment line'. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was seconded by Councilman Wood.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2016 Budget Workshop; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2016 Budget Workshop; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2016 Budget Workshop with the addition that in April, the Board will revisit Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh's progress with the clerical work and Councilman Dolce noted that it should be added that Officer Overbaugh will report monthly on his progress until then. Also to be added to the minutes are that Supervisor Lounsbury will also be attending the meeting at the Huyck Preserve. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was seconded by Councilman Wood.

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

### **TRANSFERS**

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

From 'Trucks' DA5131E 22450 to 'Bond Payment' DA9710E 66000 in the amount of \$10,000.00 for principal; and From 'Trucks' DA5131E 22450 to 'Bond Payment' DA9710E 77000 in the amount of \$995.00 for interest.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood. .

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

**ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS:** General Fund - \$54,484.32; Highway Fund - \$25,072.71; Lighting District - \$695.27; Sewer Fund - \$177.62; Water Fund - \$75.62; T&A Fund - \$5,929.59. Total Abstracts - \$86,435.13

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### **REPORTS**

#### **SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter she received from Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman, John Mormile, informing the Board of his resignation effective December 31, 2016 or as soon as he can be replaced, whichever comes first. For the past five plus years, Mr. Mormile also served as Zoning Board Chairman, Chairman of the Hydro Fracking Committee Study Group, and member of the Ethics Board. Mr. Mormile is currently a Board of Ethics member and wishes to remain so until the end of his term.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept John Mormile's resignation as Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman effective December 31, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 10, 2016

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

2. Supervisor Lounsbury will be attending a webinar on November 16th on the topic of how to handle fund balances so that a municipality can remain fiscally sound.
3. Jennifer Barnes, a representative from Tyler Technologies, met with Supervisor Lounsbury to discuss the price on the MUNIS contract. Ms. Barnes will go over the Town's concerns with her supervisor to see what can be done.
4. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the budget process is coming to an end and her office is now preparing for the end of the year tasks.

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

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

### **ATTORNEY**

Attorney Fallati was absent due to illness and Attorney William Ryan who has filled in for Attorney Fallati in the past, had a previous engagement. Therefore, there will be no attorney's report this month.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

1. Superintendent Bates reported that the Highway Department has already plowed once and sanded two times this season.
2. The Highway continues to perform routine maintenance on their vehicles and equipment.

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 October as follows: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$1,752.85. Paid to the Supervisor - \$899.70- the breakdown is as follows: Clerk Fees - \$277.35; Recycling - \$97.50; Dog Licenses - \$103.00; Kennel Boarding - \$125.00; Building Permits - \$276.85; Zoning - \$20.00. Total - \$899.70

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$16.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$837.15

Water Rents collected for the month totaled \$344.73 which includes \$6.76 in penalties.

Sewer Rents collected for the month totaled \$332.76 which includes \$6.52 in penalties.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke 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 New Building permit; one Solar Panel permit; one Chimney permit; one Building Repair permit; and one Accessory Building permit.

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## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 10, 2016

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2. Following through on some of the dilapidated buildings which were discussed in the past, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh announced that there has been a BBQ pit placed on the foundation of the one torn down on Fox Creek Road; the one on Smith's Corners has been slowly, but surely, being picked through and cleaned up; and the owner of the one on CR 360 has asked for an extension until the first week in December.
3. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh has gotten a good start on organizing his office. Many files have been purged making room for the new.

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

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

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Pine reported that it is normal for the Assessor's Office to be slower this time of year.
2. Assessor Pine has heard that several residents have been getting their tax rebate checks.
3. The income limits for the Senior/Enhanced tax exemptions have gone up slightly with inflation, which is typical.

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to accept the Assessor's report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury.

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

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

Town Clerk Kraker read from a written report submitted by the Water/Sewer Operator, John Rice as follows:

The new sand for the filter has been delivered. The Committee is waiting to hear back from NYS DOT who said they could help remove the old sand from the filter. The Committee is also pursuing a granular activated carbon amendment to the sand bed which will aid in the removal of precursors to disinfection by-products.

Operator Rice also reported that 309,800 gallons of water was filtered (a daily average of 9,994 gallons); and 183,600 gallons of sewage was pumped (a daily average of 5,923 gallons).

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept the Water/Sewer Committee's written report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

### **REFUSE/RECYCLING**

1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of October: Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 9.55 tons; Tires: 20; City of Albany Landfill: 55.40 tons; Sierra Fibers: 4.67 tons comingled and 3.83 tons old cardboard container; Oil: 44 gallons

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

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

**CURRENT EVENTS:** None

(Continued on page 13)

## Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 10, 2016

(Continued from page 12)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Because the budget came in under the tax cap, Attorney Fallati recommended that the Board simply not pass the proposed Tax Cap Override Law. If the Law is not passed it will not have to be rescinded.

By motion made by Valerie Lounsbury, and seconded by Marion Cooke, proposed Local Law No. 3 – Tax Cap Override was defeated by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 10th day of November, 2016 as follows:

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

2. Supervisor Lounsbury made a motion to postpone taking any action regarding the amendment to the Zoning Law – proposed Local Law No.4 – until the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*
3. Councilman Wood and Councilman Dolce have been working together gathering information on the stand-by generator. Town Hall is a Command Center for any emergencies that may arise and as such, should have some form of power at all times. At this point, there is a work order in to Central Hudson and they await a call from them. The meter at the recycling center will be eliminated and everything will run off of one meter. A transformer may have to be placed on the ground with barrier posts installed for protection.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Town Clerk Kraker presented the Board with the list of unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents for 2016.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the list of unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents; 2nd by Councilwoman Wood.

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

2. The Blue Shield of Northeastern New York health coverage for the retirees is up for renewal. The in-area premiums have gone up from \$408 to \$429 (\$21); and out-of-area premiums have risen from \$444 to \$466 (\$22). Certain models of hearing aids, an in-home care program, and a \$0 co-pay for more than 100 preferred generic prescription drugs has been added to the coverage.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to renew with Blue Shield of Northeastern New York for the calendar year 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

3. A date for the Public Hearing for the financing of the renovations on the Medusa Fire House needs to be scheduled. The Town will have no obligation whatsoever to the financing, but according to the I.R.S. Tax Equity Act of 1982, a public hearing is required to be held by the governing body of the town in which a tax-exempt organization – in this case the Medusa Fire House - is in before a loan can be obtained from the bank.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to schedule the Public Hearing pursuant to the I.R.S. regulations on the Fire House renovations being financed by a loan from the Bank of Greene County

(Continued on page 14)



**Town Board Regular Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 10, 2016**

(Continued from page 13)

on December 6, 2016 at 6:45 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

4. A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to vote in three new members of the Medusa Volunteer Fire Company: Justin Parker, Parker Chase, and Bill Hillicoss. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

5. Concerning the issue of cell phone reimbursement, Supervisor Lounsbury questioned Highway Superintendent Bates whether he would be willing to subject his personal cell phone to FOIL requests. Superintendent Bates would not object.

Councilman Dolce felt that the written comments submitted at the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget by a resident was a personal opinion rather than the law. Supervisor Lounsbury explained that only calls related to Town business would be subject to FOIL.

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the individual that submitted comments for the Preliminary Budget, sent an updated version of those comments that she preferred be used. Since the Public Hearing was closed before receipt of the updated version, the version that was in the Town Board's possession at the time of the Public Hearing is the one that will be part of the official record.

As no further comments or concerns were expressed, Supervisor Lounsbury entertained a motion to move the Preliminary Budget to the final stage.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to move the 2017 Preliminary Budget to the 2017 Adopted Budget; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

1. Marie Dermody wished to thank the Town Board for the efforts they exerted crafting a budget that addresses the needs of the citizens and yet still maintains the tax cap levy. She also thanked the Board for allowing her to be a part of the budget discussions.
2. Ernest Kuehl also expressed his appreciation to the Board for their efforts and keeping the budget under the tax cap levy, knowing how difficult it is.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk





**Editor's Note:** This is the second in a set of occasional items regarding the NYS Constitutional Convention Referendum set for November 7, 2017. It is our attempt to help our readers understand the process as well as the advantages & disadvantages for approving this referendum. It has been edited only to reflect passage of time from original posting of article. Anyone wishing to contribute to this discussion is welcome to do so. Send your items to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com).

*'Shall there be a convention to  
revise the constitution and  
amend the same?'*

-NYS Constitution, Article XIX

### 'Reflection and Choice' in Albany

If you could fix the way Albany works, would you?

The premise is more than just an exercise in state constitutional theory. On election day in 2017, voters in New York State will be asked an important and straightforward question: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"

Your own answer to this referendum is up to you, of course, but we should resolve ourselves to at least one thing: Let's not ignore the question.

Unlike our national constitution, the drafters of our present state constitution allowed for citizens to directly address fundamental questions about the way our government operates in Albany. With our predecessors providing the legal tools to reform bad government by placing the periodic question of whether we approve of a constitutional convention directly to voters, we must seize the opportunity to weigh in on this important referendum.

The goal is not to have a constitutional convention but to actually not need one. I don't think it is a good idea to pay more people to do what the legislature should be doing already. If our elected officials can implement the changes necessary to make our government more responsive to us that solves the problem. But if they can't--and they have shown not an ounce of willingness to do what is essential to substantially change Albany--our state constitution provides a trigger that can be pulled once every generation to empower we, the people, with the device to do the job they have thus far failed to do.

The mandatory 'constitutional convention' question presented to voters every 20 years gives each generation a voice and a choice about their government. The last time such a question was before the voters in this manner was in 1997. Despite the importance of such a decision, more citizens casting ballots that year ignored the query than answered "yes" or "no."

The failure to even address this question in 1997 should be alarming.

The legal process for having a voter-initiated convention can be found outlined in Section XIX of the New York State Constitution:

1. A majority of state-wide voters consider and approve the question of convening a constitutional convention at the polling place on November 7, 2017
2. If a majority of voters approve the convention, this is followed by three delegates being elected in each of the 63 state senate districts as well as 15 statewide at-large delegates
3. These delegates, once selected, then convene in Albany for the limited purpose of holding a convention to discuss reforms to the supreme law of our state they propose for consideration
4. Any changes approved by more than fifty percent of the delegates assembled are then put before voters, where an affirmative majority vote secures the changes to the state constitution.

(Continued on page 16)

*(Continued from page 15)*

Though the convention question will not be on the ballot for another half decade, reform-minded New Yorkers should start preparing. Campaign finance reform, an expanded definition of anti-discrimination, term limits, adequate voter representation in presidential elections, cost-effective and more responsive government are just a few of the reforms that could and should be considered by the citizen jury that would make up a state constitutional convention.

Yet we can't just sit back and expect others to see as clearly as we do the need for reform in our state. Instead, over the upcoming months we should prepare as informed citizens to adequately debate the recycled misinformation campaigns of those who would condemn us to another 20 years of inaction and embarrassment from Albany.

ChangeNYS was formed as a way to enlarge the dialogue about our state government. This organization will promote discussion among our neighbors about the mandatory constitutional convention question. It can only be successful, however, if our communities—left out of the discussion by choice or design far too long—first decide to have the conversation.

There will be some who claim that a constitutional convention for our state would be an unprecedented and radical step. Again these critics would be inaccurate. Today, in addition to our state, thirteen others have similar provisions for the periodic question of initiating a constitutional convention. While our nation has only had two governments at the national level since the American Revolution, 231 constitutional conventions have been held within the states since that same time period. In fact, New York has a history of constitutional contemplation, holding nine such conventions since our revolutionary first in 1776-1777.

No crystal ball is needed to foresee the onslaught of entrenched interests inevitably ready to spend large sums of money fighting the prospect of even the most sensible solutions that could harm nothing more than their own narrow self interests. Real change to help the many threatens the few who benefit from the status quo. Just like in the 1997 referendum, deep-pocket influence peddlers will no doubt try to tell us that even a discussion about change in Albany—which is essentially what a constitutional convention is—should be feared.

Don't believe these organized detractors again. New Yorkers have lived with the consequences of the failure to address real reform nearly two decades ago.

Holding a state constitutional convention has appeal across ideological lines. From Progressives to Tea Party affiliates—and all ideologies in between—New Yorkers can be part of the civic engagement and real, grassroots reform of our state government they are ready and hunger for.

Elected officials in Albany could fix these problems themselves without a constitutional convention initiated by the voters. The power of elected officers to amend the state constitution absent a constitutional convention is also outlined within the document. Yet how can we expect these politicians to enact reforms that may harm their self interests? That would be acting responsibly for the good of the whole and there is little evidence many of those sent to our state capital retain this selfless quality.

We can predict with some certainty that these officials will no doubt promise reform if our voices get loud enough. We can also be certain that they won't follow through on their hollow promises. How can we be so sure? In spite of the current problems in our state government, the confidence of New Yorkers in the ability of elected officials to change Albany is as low as our confidence in elected officials themselves.

Few politicians go to Albany to watch the pillars of government crumble around them. Armed with good intentions, they are often left shielded from expectations by the lament of a system that has frequently given way to bad results.

It will soon be in our hands, the voters of New York State, to correct the flaws so prevalent within the process. How will you answer our generation's call for sensible reform?

Source: <http://changenys.org/a-ny-convention/4571408747>

**Rensselaerville Democratic Social Club Holiday Dinner**  
**With an Invitation to Berne, Westerlo & Greenville Democrats to join us**  
**Sunday, December 18, 2016 ~ 3:00pm - 5:00pm**

*Maple Inn on the Lake ~141 Warner's Lake Road ~ Berne, NY*



*All are welcome to join us!*



**Menu**

**Hors d'oeuvres**

~~~

**Buffet: Sausage & Peppers,**

**Swedish Meatballs**

**Tortellini**

**Chicken Parmigiana**

**Salad & Rolls**

~~~

**Dessert**

**Coffee, Tea, Sod**

**\* Cash Bar throughout the evening \***

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**\$20.00 per person ~ Children under 12 free**

**Gratuity Included**

**In order to assist with food planning, kindly acknowledge your intention to attend to:**

**Jeff Pine: 239-4335; [jpine@townofnewscotland.com](mailto:jpine@townofnewscotland.com) or [jpine02071955@gmail.com](mailto:jpine02071955@gmail.com)**

**Kathy Hallenbeck: 797-3174; [kfhallenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:kfhallenbeck@gmail.com)**

**REMEMBER: The More the Merrier!!!**

CAREY INSTITUTE  
FOR GLOBAL GOOD



Join the festivities  
throughout the  
village on Saturday,  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Rensselaerville Library  
Greenery Sale  
(9am - 3pm)

Holiday Rummage Sale at  
the Medusa Church  
(9am - 3pm)

Lunch at  
The Palmer House  
(11am - 3 pm)

Hilltown Artists Holiday  
Exhibition at the  
Guggenheim Pavilion,  
Carey Institute  
(1pm - 4:30pm)

Firehouse Kids Christmas  
Party w/ Santa  
(3:30 pm, Santa at 5 pm)

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!

# BEER! ~~Community Eggnog Party~~



You are invited to  
our annual eggnog party  
and beer tasting on  
Saturday, December 3, 2016  
from 2PM to 4PM at  
the Huyck House. Free!



## 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



## HILLTOWN ARTISTS HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

**10** Hilltown artists will have,  
for the month of **December**,  
several pieces of their original  
art on display and available for  
the holidays; paintings,  
photography, sculptures  
and more!

### RECEPTION:

Saturday, December 3rd, 2016  
at the Guggenheim Gallery  
from 1 PM to 4:30 PM

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

(26 COUNTY ROUTE 353 RENSELAERVILLE, 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**December Events for the Carey Institute for Global Good**

## Annual Community Eggnog &amp; Beer Party

- Saturday, December 3rd from 2-4pm
- At the Huyck House
- Free to attend

## What Does War Look Like? Three Perspectives on Photographing Conflict

- Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 pm
- At the Guggenheim Performance Hall
- Free to attend, light refreshments & a cash bar

## Hilltowns Artist Holiday Exhibition Reception

- Saturday, December 3rd from 1:00-4:30 pm
- At the Guggenheim Pavilion
- Featuring the work of eight Hilltowns artists
- More details here: <http://careyinstitute.org/event/hilltown-artists-exhibition-2/>

**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).





**BREAKFAST  
AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

7:00AM TO 11:00AM

~~September 17, 2016~~

~~October 15, 2016~~

~~November 10, 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**



## 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.

**Ho! Ho! Ho!**

**Annual Kids Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 3, 2016  
Rensselaerville Firehouse**

- - ⇒ **Party starts at 3:30 pm with games, crafts, music, snacks, & prizes.**
  - ⇒ **Santa & Mrs. Claus will arrive at 5:00 pm.**
  - ⇒ **Hay ride to the village tree, the tree lighting, & singing carols will be approximately 5:30 pm.**

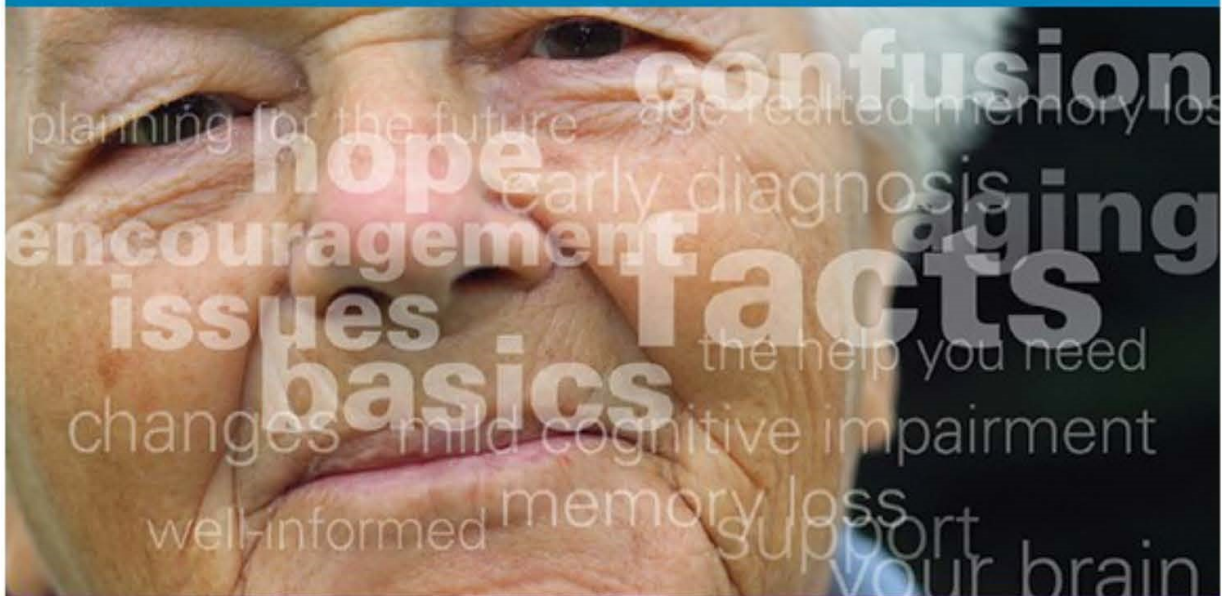
**This is a free event. Bring the kids and be sure to thank the members of the RVFD for this event.**



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 from Medusa, wreaths, sprays and roping for sale along main street. Inside we will have activities for the kids and local vendors, gift certificates, homemade cookies sale, raffles and a mini used book sale.

Movie Night on Friday, December 16 at 6:30pm. Movie Morning on Wednesday, December 28 at 10:30am. Please visit the web site for more details. <http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org/movie-night.html>

Are you concerned about memory loss? Have a family member affected with dementia or Alzheimer's disease? A representative from the Alzheimer's Association will be providing a basic education program on Tuesday, December 6th at 6pm. Please register for this program.

### December Youth Programs

**STEAM** – Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30. A multi-level Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math program aimed at a variety of ages. The group/parents will select the next week's topic at the end of each session - the goal is to address the educational needs of children in our community by integrating the disciplines and stimulating young minds.

**StoryTime with Movement & Music** – Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30pm, stories, music and movement activities for parents/caregivers and children. This program is designed as an early literacy program aimed at developing and reinforcing the skills that children need to be successful learners. Parents and caregivers this program also provides the opportunity to develop a local social support group.

**Monthly Craft Project** – kids stop in and check out the craft table downstairs and discover crafts to work on your own. The last week of December several of the craft activities offered throughout the year will be back out.

**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)

The Library monthly Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20 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 December 8th the group will meet at 7pm.

Poetry Group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, December 13 and 27. 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.

(Continued on page 25)



## Library News

(Continued from page 24)

Did you receive a coloring book over the holidays? Join the Library Coloring Book Club on Wednesday, December 28 at 6pm. Or 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.

Finishing up your holiday shopping? Consider supporting the Library with one of these shopping services that give back to local organizations of your choice. When shopping with [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1409657), 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>

The Library's year end appeal is underway. There are many ways to make a contribution. Visit <http://www.renselaervillelibrary.org/donate.html> for details and the variety of options including a one-time gift by credit card, an ongoing monthly contribution, or a donation of securities the website will provide instructions. Thank you for supporting the Library this holiday season.

The Library will be closed on Saturday, December 24th and Saturday December 31st. The Library Board of Trustees and Staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

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



Saturday  
December 3, 2016  
**GREENERY SALE**

Rensselaerville Library  
9am-3pm

Trees (local from Medusa)  
Wreaths, Sprays & Roping  
Vendors  
Local Business Gift Certificates  
Homemade Cookie Sale  
Raffles  
Used Book Sale  
Cookie Decorating for Kids  
Pinecone Birdfeeders

Rensselaerville Library  
1459 County Route 351  
Rensselaerville, NY 12147  
518-797-3949

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



**Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department  
Children's Holiday Party**

starts @ 3:30, Santa @ 5 & Tree Lighting @ 5:30



## Library News

### Middleburgh Library

**12/3 - 3:00 PM to ? - Board Games for Adults** - Come and join us for some fun and different board games.

**12/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 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.*

**12/6, 13, 20, 27 - 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.*

**12/6, 13, 20, 27 - 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.*

**12/6, 13, 20, 27 - 5:15 PM - Insight Meditation** - Join us for a simple group Zen meditation practice. All are welcome. *No registration required.*

**12/7 - 5:30 - Cookbook Challenge** - Holiday season is here! What better time to check out some of our newest cookbooks? Beginning November 1st you'll find a display of new cookbooks in the library. Check one out or copy a recipe that you would like to make. This month we'll be focusing on appetizers or finger foods - perfect for a holiday gathering. On December 7th we'll get together for a potluck where we'll share our creations. The only requirement is that you let us know which cookbook your recipe came from and what it is called. The library will provide drinks. **Registration is required.**

**12/7, 14, 21, 28 - 11:00 AM - Discovery Wednesdays** -

**12/7** - 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.*

**12/14** - 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.**

**12/21** - 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.*

**12/28** - 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.**

**12/7, 14, 21, 28 - Wednesday Matinee - Movies to be announced.**

**12/12 - 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.

**12/14 – 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.*

**12/14 - 7:00 PM - Concert - Scott, Sarah & Pat** - Check our website for future information.

**12/16 - Dinner & a Movie - "Florence Foster Jenkins" (PG)** - The library will supply pizza and drinks

*(Continued on page 28)*

## Library News

(Continued from page 27)

and you bring a dessert or a snack to share! Registration is required. ***Please note that this film is rated PG-13 and is not appropriate for very young children.***

Florence Foster Jenkins, an heiress from NYC always wanted to be a concert pianist and play Carnegie Hall. An injury in her youth deterred that dream. So she sets out to sing her way to Carnegie Hall knowing the only way to get there would be "Practice Practice Practice". Her husband supports her venture and the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins playing Carnegie Hall becomes a truly historic event.

**12/17 - 1:00 PM - Cooking by the Vegan Book - "Vegan Casseroles"** - We pick the cookbook, you pick and make the recipe! The book club is free and open to the public. How the cookbook club works; Every month, a cookbook will be selected and will be at the circulation desk, for you to look at and we will print up the recipe of your choice. Sign up online or at the circulation desk, let us know what you're cooking so we don't have duplicates. **Registration Required.**

**12/19 - 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.**

**12/24-25** - The Middleburgh Library will be closed to observe the Christmas Holiday. Please check our Calendar on our website at [www.middleburghlibrary.info](http://www.middleburghlibrary.info). for added programs.

**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

Happy  
NEW  
YEAR

**Library News  
Greenville Library**

**Dec 1, 15 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!

**Dec 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 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.

**Dec 6 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!

**Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 Greenville Quilters 1:00 - 3:00pm**  
All welcome. No experience necessary, will teach. Meet in the library's small community room.

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





**DATE: Friday, December 16,**

**TIME: 6:30 pm**

**LOCATION:  
Rensselaerville Library**





DATE: Wed. December 28,

TIME: 10:30 am

LOCATION:  
Rensselaerville Library

### Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads

| Position                                        | Name                                       | Email Address                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Town Supervisor                                 | Valerie Lounsbury                          | vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com<br>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                                   | Ronald Bates<br>Dwight T. Cooke            | Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798<br>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<br>Jeffry Pine<br>Kathryn Wank | assessors@rensselaerville.com                                        |
| Building Inspector/<br>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<br>Georgette Koenig       | ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com                                      |
| Dog Control Officer                             | Cheryl Baitsholts                          | Phone: 797-5201                                                      |
| Refuse/Recycling<br>Coordinator                 | Jon Whitbeck                               | Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798<br>Fax: 239-6339                           |
| Town Hall                                       |                                            | Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798<br>Fax: 239-6339                           |



**Happy Hanukkah**



**On The Calendar**

|               |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Dec 3</b>  | <b>9am-3pm</b>  | <b>Holiday Rummage Sale</b><br>Lunch will be available.<br>Lots of Christmas items.<br>Museum of Medusa History will be opened.                                                                                    | <b>Medusa Church</b>      |
| <b>Dec 4</b>  | <b>10:00am</b>  | <b>Medusa United Church of Christ Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Medusa</b>             |
| <b>Dec 4</b>  | <b>11:00am</b>  | <b>Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Rensselaerville</b>    |
| <b>Dec 6</b>  | <b>6:45pm</b>   | <b>Public Hearing</b><br>The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville will hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the financing of the renovations on the Medusa Fire House. | <b>Town Hall</b>          |
| <b>Dec 6</b>  | <b>7:00pm</b>   | <b>Town Board Work Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Town Hall</b>          |
| <b>Dec 7</b>  |                 | <b>Seniors Club Trip to Westchester Broadway Theatre</b><br>The show is "Christmas Inn".<br>Cost is \$60 per person.<br>Contact Janet Nelson at 797-3963                                                           |                           |
| <b>Dec 8</b>  | <b>7:00pm</b>   | <b>Town Board Regular Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Town Hall</b>          |
| <b>Dec 11</b> | <b>10:00am</b>  | <b>Medusa United Church of Christ Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Medusa</b>             |
| <b>Dec 11</b> | <b>11:00am</b>  | <b>Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Rensselaerville</b>    |
| <b>Dec 13</b> | <b>12:00pm</b>  | <b>Senior's Club Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Medusa Fire House</b>  |
| <b>Dec 17</b> | <b>7am-11am</b> | <b>Medusa Fire Company Breakfast</b><br>Free Will Offering                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Medusa Fire House</b>  |
| <b>Dec 17</b> | <b>8am-12pm</b> | <b>Rummage Sale</b><br>Eat & Shop in Medusa                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Medusa Church Hall</b> |
| <b>Dec 18</b> | <b>10:00am</b>  | <b>Medusa United Church of Christ Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Medusa</b>             |
| <b>Dec 18</b> | <b>11:00am</b>  | <b>Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Rensselaerville</b>    |
| <b>Dec 24</b> | <b>8:00pm</b>   | <b>Christmas Eve Candle-Light Service</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Medusa Church</b>      |
| <b>Dec 25</b> |                 | <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS &amp; HAPPY HANNUKAH</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |                           |
| <b>Dec 25</b> | <b>10:00am</b>  | <b>Medusa United Church of Christ Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Medusa</b>             |
| <b>Dec 25</b> | <b>11:00am</b>  | <b>Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Rensselaerville</b>    |
| <b>Dec 26</b> |                 | <b>TOWN OFFICES CLOSED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           |

Merry Christmas to everyone from Bill Moore!

Please get events to Bill Moore...

- by phone – 239-4843;
- by e-mail – whmoore44@yahoo.com; or
- by mail to: 11 CR 351, Medusa, NY 12120

## In My Opinion

By Marie Dermody

In my opinion, those who run for an elected political office do so out of their desire to serve their community and represent his/her constituents. However, a situation has existed on our Town Board for quite some time and I have remained silent ... until now. I only bring it to your attention now because others have noticed the same behavior and have mentioned it to me.

We have a Town Board member who shows his/her displeasure toward certain audience members who have the audacity to address the Town Board during the meetings with audible sighs and facial contortions. This is totally rude and unacceptable!

In the past 34 months, I believe I have missed only one Town Board meeting (work meetings, regular meetings, public hearings, budget workshops). I would estimate that 99.9% percent of the time, my comments are accurate and relevant to matters before the Town Board. It is truly unfortunate that this Town Board member considers public input an imposition and a reason to be rude, impatient, etc. I cannot and will not remain silent any longer in the face of this disrespectful behavior.

This is the same Town Board member who consistently attempts to rush the meeting along so as to adjourn as soon as possible, if not sooner. This, from a person being paid as our employee with our tax dollars.

I truly hope this opinion piece will open the eyes of the offender and cause him/her to mend his/her ways. We all deserve and should expect nothing less!



Congratulations to the Town Board for crafting the 2017 budget for the Town of Rensselaerville that falls within the allowable tax cap of 0.68%.

It was not an easy task, but it was accomplished by making some hard decisions. As a result, Town of Rensselaerville taxpayers are eligible to receive a property tax rebate next year.

CAREY INSTITUTE  
FOR GLOBAL GOOD



The Logan Nonfiction Program Presents:

# WHAT DOES WAR LOOK LIKE?

Three Perspectives on Photographing Conflict



Finbarr O'Reilly



Ivan Sigal



Anastasia Taylor-Lind

Featuring talks by  
**Finbarr O'Reilly**  
**Ivan Sigal**  
and **Anastasia Taylor-Lind**

**Tuesday, December 6**  
at **6:00 PM**

Free admission, light refreshments & cash bar

Call 518.797.5100 to reserve your seat.

**Guggenheim Performance Hall**  
63 Huyck Road, Rensselaerville

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

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## The Back Page

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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