

STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS – TOWN OF DAY

HELLO to everyone from the Supervisor! I have enjoyed reading Corinth Supervisor Lucia's yearly report in the Pennysaver and thought that maybe this is something the Day residents would find interesting and informative. To bring everyone up to date, I will highlight events from the last 13 years and next year it would be a 1 year report.

We have been successful with our GRANTS. We have had 2 \$400,000 HUD grants; 1 for well and septic systems, the other for housing rehabilitation. Sen. Farley has been very generous in fulfilling our grant requests providing monies for the playground/park, gazebo, recycling, museum, salt storage, cemetery maps, tire clean-up, etc. We recently received from him a \$150,000 multi-modal grant toward the replacement cost of the Min Allen Bridge and a \$25,000 grant for the purchase of 2 back-up generators for the Town Hall and Highway garage. Assemblyman Tedisco and Assemblywoman Sayward provided \$15,000 for Historian equipment (\$5,000) and \$10,000 for repairs to the shoulders on Yates Hill Road. We received \$113,000 for the Min Allen road washout caused by a beaver dam break; \$12,500 for removal of junk metals, vehicles and tires and a SARA grant of \$4200 for records management. We have been approved for \$164,316 DEC grant for Municipal Waste Reduction Program to be used towards our recent purchase of a recycling truck, wood chipper, ¾ ton truck, recycling center building and public awareness program of the need to recycle. Our Town Justices continue to receive grant monies for the court system.

Our VETERANS are held in high esteem by all of us and we have honored several of them at Saratoga County's deceased veteran's program. They are Ethan Allen, William Armstrong, Richard Dingman, Cleo Allen, George Henry Mason and Thomas Carey. We have dedicated a plaque recognizing our World War II veterans on a monument at Town Hall and this year Ken Metzler will oversee a dedication ceremony of 2 additional plaques; 1 for Korean War vets and 1 for Viet Nam War vets. It was my privilege to present a resolution to USMC Lance Corp. Andrew Keegan upon his return from service in Iraq at a ceremony held at H-L school. The veterans exemptions that the Town Board have passed have included values that give them the best benefit possible whereas the County and H-L school have not increased theirs over the last 10 years.

Our HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT has been and continues to be one of the best. To keep their equipment up to-date we have purchased 4 Tandem Dump Trucks with plows, 3 pick-up trucks, sander, mower, apprentice, dump body, loader and miscellaneous equipment. To save the taxpayers money they have provided labor for replacing the septic system at the H/W garage, graveled 2 of the cemetery roads, erected the pavilion and cleared the land for the park/playground along with other volunteers. An office was added-on for the H/W Superintendent using H/W and Building employees. They are dedicated to providing the best possible service to you and saving your tax dollars. The department is run by Superintendent Scott York and consists of 6 employees, Frank Allen, Doug Tennant, Cleo Allen, Lehman Allen, Ron Ladd, David Stiles and 2 seasonal employees Bob McCormack and Harley Robinson.

Speaking of TAX DOLLARS, the Total Town Tax rate (Highway and General) in 1996 was \$2.66 per thousand of assessed valuation. Today, in 2009, your Total Town Tax rate is \$2.07 which is the Highway Tax as we eliminated the General tax rate in 1999. Property taxes are a concern to everyone and we strive to keep your town tax rate affordable. We gave our support to the Segment Special Rate for the HLCS District which would have made the tax rate equal for all the towns in the school district but the request was denied by NYS ORPS.

Many people refer to our recycling center as the LANDFILL but NYS DEC eliminated the use of landfills in the 90's. We closed ours in 96-97 time-frame and in 2008 started the required

post-closure monitoring of landfill wells which must be done quarterly for 30 years but a variance can be requested after 2 years to do it yearly. We will be making that request in 2010. Our recycling operations are handled by Eugene Shippee, Skip Flansburg, and a driver from the H/W.

AUDITS are required and we have had a few of them. In '96 we had an independent audit and an independent HUD audit, a comptroller's audit in '98 and one in '03, Cost Control audit to verify our electric and phone rates were correct, and a NYSERDA audit for ways to save on energy. It was NYSERDA's recommendation that we consider closing town hall for 1 day a week which we did in 2008 after doing a 3 month study.

We have purchased 2 vans, one in 2000 and another in 2006, for our SENIORS who are a vital part of our community. We work with the Office of the Aging on these contracts and the Town pays $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost and the county pays the rest. In February, we are starting a trip to the Wilton Mall once a month for our seniors to do their shopping and we are blessed to have Linda Reinemann as a volunteer for driving the senior van. We do home meal delivery and doctor visits; purchased a wheel chair for their use at events and provide some funding in our yearly budget for their activities. The Aged exemption is kept updated to give them the best benefits possible.

VOLUNTEERS lay the ground work for many activities that otherwise would not occur. In 1996 I was able to get some volunteers together whose goal would be to co-ordinate events for the town. They named themselves DCPC, Day Community Projects Committee, and have done many activities such as Easter egg hunts, Christmas dinners, cookie sale, Santa workshops, craft shows, concerts at the Gazebo, Halloween parade and "Day in the Park" which has become an annual event with music, food, and the fireworks that are sponsored by the Town. The current 6 members work very hard to co-ordinate these activities. They are Sally Allen, Sue Denn, Carol and Lillian Vaillancourt, Joan Beauchamp and myself. They are always interested in having volunteers join. The former Flotilla Committee headed by Paul Hillstrom donated 5 "Welcome to Day" signs, a playground sign and 12 flags to the town.

We have VOLUNTEERS that provide their time and talent on committees to represent the Town such as David Cox on the Advisory Comm. for the HRBR Regulating Dist., Sue Denn on the Youth Board and Linda Reinemann on the Ofc. of Aging Board for Saratoga County and members of the Comprehensive Review committee including Ted Mirczak as Chair, June Dixon, Larry DeRubbo, Judy Traeger, Dave Davidson, Dave Cox, Ken Metzler and myself. For many years, our PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS served as volunteers and now receive a small stipend but I still think of them as volunteers. They have difficult decisions to make as they interpret and apply the land use and zoning rules but they do it with professionalism and their knowledge of the laws which they keep updated through their on-going training sessions. The current ZBA members are Hank Lang, Judy Traeger, Pat Volpe, Dave Davidson and Ken Johnsen, Chair. The Planning Board consists of Ted Mirczak, Jack Vaillancourt, Dick Traeger, Eileen Brennan and Chair David Cox. Diane Byrne does an excellent job as secretary to both boards and serves as our "jack-of-all trades" within Town Hall. Our cemetery volunteers Jack Vaillancourt, Ron Allen and Sam Johnson are responsible for the assignment of grave sites and overseeing the rules for care.

Many of you may not know that our Town of Day website, www.townofday.com, was developed and continues to be maintained by VOLUNTEERS. At no cost to the town, resident Alfred DiMazio in 2000 was responsible for the technical aspects and generation of the website. Lakeside Studio, owned by former residents Norm and Ronnie Hotz, registered the town's domain name and now host the site from Florida entering all the updates. We are most appreciative of their generosity.

We were sad to see the HISTORICAL SOCIETY disband after 10 years of hard work setting up our museum but lack of volunteers caused that to happen. We do have an excellent Town Historian, Lauren Roberts, who works on projects that are creative and interesting and is always open to suggestions. We encourage you to visit the museum during the summer season. Historical markers were purchased for Adirondack Ikes' home and the Conklingville Community Church.

Our PERSONNEL are the backbone of our success. We employ 9 full-time employees with the rest being part-time or seasonal. We are fortunate to have talented, professional, dedicated and caring people working for you. Prior to 1996, the Town Hall employees worked in a 2 room building. In 1996, we moved into the new town hall and now have rooms for each department. One of the first things provided to them in 1996 was a Personnel Handbook developed by the Supervisor and reviewed and updated by Saratoga Co. personnel department. A review will be done in 2009. We offer a deferred comp plan, direct deposit, AFLAC insurance, medical insurance and NYS retirement plan to our employees. We have changed the method of reporting unemployment insurance benefits at a savings to the residents and also eliminated medical insurance coverage for all part-time elected officials. We have had a review committee study the salaries and job responsibilities of all employees. We combined the Town Clerk and Tax Collector position due to no candidates willing to run for Tax Collector. Carol Vaillancourt is that person and she is a "people person" who is friendly, courteous and goes out of her way to assist you. Our Justice Court consists of Judge Krom and Judge Johnsen and Court Clerk Jerry Tobia. They participated in a Citizen Court Monitoring program and received a high rating on how they conducted court proceedings and their knowledge of the law. They are firm but they are fair to all. Ken Metzler wears many hats at Town Hall as Code Enforcement Officer, Zoning Enforcement, schedules the senior van usage, E-911 co-coordinator, Reverse 911 co-coordinator and 2010 census map administrator. He has 22 years service with the town so is very knowledgeable, looks at each application individually making his recommendations and rulings, has a wealth of information about the town and can bring some humor into your day.. If your peace and quiet is disturbed by howling dogs on the loose, you can call our Dog Control Officer, Francis Allen, who is always ready to assist you. If we have any legal issues, we rely on our Attorney David Avigdor to solve all of those and he has done a good job for us.

At TOWN HALL we have a phone system that will take your messages if the person is not available to take your call, replaced the sidewalks, installed snow slides on the roof, replaced the carpeting, painted the interior walls and constructed a 2 car garage for the senior van and the building/maintenance truck. We purchased a garbage truck in 1998 and a recycling truck in 2008. Resident Zach Metzler won the design contest for a town logo and it is now displayed on our town sign. Our grounds work for the Town Hall, 3 cemeteries and park/playground is done by seasonal employee Al Ballard during the summer months.

SARATOGA COUNTY works with us on many projects that they sponsor such as E911 system, Reverse 911 System, Emergency Preparedness manual, program for historical markers in the County with a map and description of each, and the installation of transmission towers for Emergency fire and medical radio communications. Saratoga County sales tax provides the major funding of the Town's General Fund. The other major contributor to that funding comes from the unreserved fund balance which the Supervisor and Town Board members Charles Dreyer, Neil Allen, Sue Denn and Preston Allen have been diligent and deliberative in keeping it at a level that will carry us through unexpected emergencies such as what we will be facing this year with a reduction in revenues and state funding. We have already seen that our sales tax for January is down \$16,000 over last January. Without a healthy fund balance, we would have to impose a tax increase

on our residents which we try to avoid from happening and, as previously stated, we have reduced the tax rate over the last 13 years. That is good conservative budgeting.

The ASSESSOR'S office did a property revaluation in 1998 and 2004 and our current assessor, Duane Nealon, is looking at one possibly in 2010. He is very alert to each person's exemptions and has implemented those that should have been in place and weren't and taken away those that should not have been but were. He has provided the following websites for the public to view for tax information and forms: Property tax rights and the NYSORPS can be found on www.orps.state.ny.us/home/tri_index.cfm. Public access to property records and tax parcel maps can be found on www.saratoga.sdgny.com/search.aspz. Municipal profiles for each community are located at www.orps.state.ny.us/cfapps/MuniPro/. He takes whatever time is necessary to address your concerns and treats everyone fairly. Our Board of Assessment Review meets on Grievance Day to hear any complaints on assessments and is chaired by Ken Metzler with members Linda Reinemann, Sam Johnson, Bill O'Hara, and April Schmick.

PUBLIC SAFETY is a major concern of everyone especially in rural areas. The town has done 2 Fire Dept/EMT studies and the results have not supported establishing them not only due to cost but lack of volunteers which most established departments are experiencing today. This is an area being addressed in the town's Comprehensive Review Study currently underway and the Board will be looking at those results when that study is done. This year we will be placing road signs on all our private roads to help the Fire and EMS personnel in locating homes. We will be doing a home visual check and ad campaign to make sure everyone has their property locations identified. We will be advertising for people interested in being first responders for emergency calls; we will be purchasing 2 AED (automatic electronic defibrillator) machines and provide training for their use at town hall; we receive reports from our fire and EMS companies on response time and monitor that to make sure they are meeting the recommended standards for rural areas and we keep in touch with our fire and EMS people at the County level. When Edinburg was having a shortage of EMT volunteers, we sent letters to all property owners in the Edinburg Fire District notifying them of the critical need for EMT's.

As your Supervisor, I have had many rewarding experiences representing you such as being selected by my peers at the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors to serve as Chair of the County Board in 2005. The Town of Day had not had a Chairman selected in over 80 years and I was proud to represent all of you. I received the first award that the Saratoga County Fire Officers Association had presented to an individual for my leadership and support of fire services as Chair of the Public Safety committee. I was selected by Sen. Farley to receive an award when he honored women in government. Looking forward, I am very enthused about the Comprehensive Review Plan that is underway as we look at how the town should or should not grow and develop or not develop over the next 20 years. The response from the survey sent to all residents and property tax owners has far exceeded our expectations. This project will continue over the next 12 to 18 months and several public meetings and workshops will be held for public input. We will continue to monitor the issues with APA and the HRBR Regulating District and become involved when necessary.

Day is a wonderful, rural town with magnificent beauty found in the mountains, lakes and woods and is known for its tranquility and friendliness. I am happy to be one of its residents and hope you are too. Thank you for your interest and God Bless all of you.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Johnson, Supervisor Town of Day