

Community News and Events:

CELL PHONE TOWER: The new cell phone tower is being constructed next to the Highway Garage. The first provider will be AT&T, followed by Verizon, sometime in October. With expanded cell phone coverage for residents and visitors, it also means a minimum of \$2000 per month to the Town of Deerpark for the next 30 years!

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: With the help of Orange County Legislators Dennis Simmons and Melissa Bonacic, Orange County has agreed to take over the Town of Deerpark's Assessors Office for the next two years. Efforts will be made to bring the office up to 21st Century standards and to provide updated information and improved service to our taxpayers. After the upgrade, you will be able to access a wide range of information on your property and house, on the Internet, simply with the click of a mouse! In addition, this move will provide an estimated cost savings of \$71,000 over two years. I will update you in the near future on the progress of this pilot project.

PUBLIC MEETING ON COST OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS:

The Town Board will be having a special public presentation on the future liability and costs of retirement health benefits on

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011 at 7:30 PM at Town Hall.

This presentation is open for questions and we encourage all concerned taxpayers to attend!

Any questions, please call the Supervisor's office at 856-2210, ext. 1.

Tax Collector's 2011 Hours (February-March):

Mondays: 9:30 AM to 1 PM
Tuesday Evening: 5 PM to 7 PM
Wednesday: 9:30 AM to 1 PM
Thursday: 9:30 AM to 1 PM

Closed all Legal Holidays

Tax Collector Jane Garvey can be reached at 856-2210, ext. 5

To submit your community posts and events, contact the Supervisor's office at 856-2210, ext. 1 or e-mail at sparliman@townofdeerpark.org and for more information, please visit us on-line at www.townofdeerpark.org



The Deerpark Digest

Volume 1, Issue 2 — February 2011

Supervisor's Update

By: **Karl A. Brabenec, Town Supervisor**

RUMOR CONTROL: I feel it is necessary to address various rumors that are being circulated about the Highway Department and Senior Shuttle. These rumors specifically are that the Town Board is "privatizing" the Highway Department and that the Senior Shuttle program is being eliminated. These rumors and statements are absolutely false. The present Town Board realizes the need and the importance of both our Highway Department and senior transportation in our rural town.

HIGHWAY DEPT: There are no plans to privatize the Highway Department. In January, I asked Councilman Art Trovei to provide us with a study on any potential savings we could realize with privatization of certain functions of various departments. We need to think out of the box and find ways to spend our tax dollars efficiently. This report should be released around March with recommendations for the Town Board to consider. I will be writing more about this in future reports.

SENIOR SHUTTLE: The program is not being eliminated, however, with the economic times that we all face, we must reform the way the program operates to make it more accountable to the taxpayers of the town. For over 20 years, the Deerpark Town Board has funded the Senior Shuttle. As of 2010, Deerpark taxpayers gave a \$52,000 subsidy to the Deerpark Senior Citizens Council, Inc., which is the organization that runs the Senior Shuttle program. We discovered that a portion of the town's appropriation, \$15,000 was going to a dispatcher that was working an average of 10 hours per week. The work included answering an average of eight to ten phone calls per day and signing checks for the

program. That amounts to \$28.85 per hour! While we appreciate and commend the work that this person had done over the years, the Town Board felt that this amount of salary was not justifiable for the work getting done and we deducted that amount from this year's allocation. We feel that the operation of the bus and the salary of the bus driver is very justifiable and that is why the Town Board allocated \$36,000 to run the program in 2011.

In addition, the Bus Driver of the Shuttle stated that 60 to 75% of the riders reside and pay taxes in the City of Port Jervis or live in Senior Housing facilities in Port Jervis. To this date, the City of Port Jervis does not contribute to the operations of the Shuttle Program nor does any of the senior housing facilities. That means that Deerpark Taxpayers are subsidizing a program that is mostly utilized by Port Jervis residents. The Town Board feels that this is unacceptable. Unless, these facilities or the city want to contribute, then the rider fares, which are \$5.00 per ride, should be lower for Deerpark residents and higher for Non-Deerpark residents.

ASSESSOR: Finally, I would like to congratulate our Assessor **Kathleen Smith** on her retirement 2/1/2011. Mrs. Smith has served the town for a little over 26 years. We all wish her many years ahead of health and happiness and thank her for her dedicated service to the town.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please call my office at 845-856-2210, ext. 1.

Elected Town Officials:

- Karl A. Brabenec, Supervisor
- David M. Hoovler, Councilman
- Gary Spears, Councilman
- Arthur T. Trovei, Councilman
- David M. Dean, Councilman

- Florence T. Santini, Town Clerk
- Edward A. Hughson, Highway Supt.
- Jane A. Garvey, Tax Collector
- Laurie Osowick, Town Justice
- John Wulff, Sr., Town Justice



February 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

**Regular Meeting Dates
(unless otherwise noted):**

- Town Board meets the First and Third Mondays at 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- Planning Board meets Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets Third Thursday at 7:30 PM, Town Hall
- Police Commission meets Second Thursday at 7:00 PM, Building #2
- Recreation Committee meets First Tuesday at 7:00 PM, Town Hall
- Museum Committee meets First Thursday at 7:00 PM, Old School House
- Community Development meets Fourth Tuesday at 7:30 PM, Town Hall

Town Hall—

420 US Route 209, Huguenot
Monday-Friday: 8 am– 4 pm
845-856-2210

Highway Department—

420 US Route 209, Huguenot
845-856-2210

Police and Senior Center—

Building #2, 231 US Route 209, Huguenot
Police—845-858-4529
Seniors—845-856-0888

Museum—

Old School House, 25 Grange Rd, Huguenot
845-856-2702

		1 <i>Friendly Seniors—1pm-4pm @ Sparrowbush Fire Dept. Recreation Comm. 7:00 pm</i>	2 <i>Arts and Crafts Club 10 am-3 pm</i>	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Deerpark Seniors—9am-3pm Town Board —7:15 pm</i>	8 <i>Golden Seniors—1pm-4pm @ Sparrowbush Fire Dept.</i>	9 <i>Arts and Crafts Club 10 am-3 pm Planning Board—7:00 pm</i>	10 <i>Museum Committee—7:00 pm</i>	11 TOWN HALL CLOSED	12 <i>(Lincoln's Birthday)</i>
13	14 <i>(Valentine's Day)</i> <i>Leisure Seniors—9am-3pm</i>	15 <i>Friendly Seniors—1pm-4pm @ Sparrowbush Fire Dept.</i>	16 <i>Arts and Crafts Club 10 am-3 pm</i>	17 <i>Planning Board—7:00 pm</i>	18	19
20	21 <i>(Presidents Day)</i> TOWN HALL CLOSED <i>Deerpark Seniors—9am-3pm</i>	22 <i>(Washington's Birthday) Golden Seniors—1pm-4pm @ Sparrowbush Fire Dept.</i>	23 <i>Arts and Crafts Club 10 am-3 pm Planning Board—7:00 pm</i>	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Leisure Seniors—9am-3pm Town Board—7:30 pm</i>					