

TOWN OF DEERFIELD

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 15 DECEMBER 2006/JANUARY 2007



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

As 2006 draws to a close, I will update you on the projects we working on as well as an overview of the 2007 Town Budget. The new Town Highway Garage is progressing nicely. The construction is moving forward, with the building about 50% complete. The in-floor heating & garage floor are complete and all the structural steel is up. The roof and the sidewalls are being erected currently & when this is complete the inside electrical will be started. To date we have paid out approximately \$600,000.00 of the proposed \$1,280,000.00 project. We are looking forward to Spring 2007 completion so we can have an open house to show the



residents the new building that they own.

Water District #6, the Doyle Road area, is also moving forward. We have completed all the red tape that was pending approval for the project. Engineering and bidding should be complete in the next couple of months. Construction should be started early this Spring depending

on the weather. The \$699,200.00 project is expected to be complete sometime in late Spring or early summer.

The 2007 Budget is complete and filed with Oneida County as required by law. There is an in depth explanation of the 2007 Town Budget on page 3 of this newsletter.

On behalf of myself, the Town Board, and all the employees of the Town of Deerfield, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Respectfully,
Philip M. Sacco
Town Supervisor

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Town Of Deerfield
6329 Walker Road,
Deerfield, NY 13502



TOWN CLERK NEWS

We are working hard in the Town Clerk's Office to change all our top file folders to the side tab file folders through a grant we received from New York State. After we are finished with the Clerk's office, we will move on to the other

offices. Don't forget our office handles handicapped parking, hunting licenses, dog licenses, marriage licenses, Registrar Records, and Freedom of Information Requests. If you have any questions, please call @724-0413, ext.23.

Town Clerk Hours:

Monday: 7:30am-2:45pm
Tuesday: 5:00-8:00pm
Wednesday: 7:30am-2:45pm
Thursday: 7:30am-2:45pm
Friday: 7:30am-1:45pm

Happy Holidays!
Mary G. Ruckel, Town Clerk
Richard Waldron, Deputy

FROM THE DEERFIELD HISTORIAN

225th Anniversary of the Battle of West Canada Creek

Step back into time... imagine yourself living in the past ... living history and life during the Revolutionary War here in Deerfield, NY. That's what the members of the BVMA do as they reenact events in history. They're more than a person in 18th Century costume... When a reenactor is asked a question about the period of history that they are interpreting, they are happy to bring history to life for the rest of us! It's fun and interesting, as well as educational to travel back in time into our country's rich history, Deerfield's rich history!

The West Canada Creek reenactment was held on September 30 - October 1, 2006 on Mr. Powell's farm, located on Blue Road near North Gage in Deerfield. Mr. Powell volunteered the use of his farm for this anniversary commemoration of the West Canada Creek battle. The real battle happened on October 30, 1781 in the place where Hinckley Reservoir is today.

The BVMA or Burning of the Valleys Military Association sponsored this event. The planning committee for the WCC commemoration was

made up of BVMA members. Roland Gage and his daughter Teresa Gage, both of Deerfield, along with Ken Schultz of Poland and Dave and Sue-Ann Wheadon of Palatine Bridge spent months planning this reenactment of the battle that resulted in the death of the ill-famed Walter Butler. Historical research tells us that slaying this British Loyalist (aka Redcoat) Captain Butler was a victory of revenge for the people of the Mohawk Valley who believed that Butler was responsible for the massacre at Cherry Valley, NY earlier that year.

Lucille Graf, local author, was there on September 30th signing her new book, "Flintlocks and Flames" (published in 2006). This historical novel is based on her extensive research of the years between 1765 to 1781 and involves Walter Butler as a lead character in her story.

Please note Teresa Gage's photo of "Tents in the Mist" early morning at the reenactment on Blue Road. Also pictured is Dave Wheadon at the WCC reenactment in a light colored Rifleman's Hunting Frock with leather leggings. This frock was an oversized

large shirt used to go over and protect the clothes worn underneath, like what we use coveralls for today. Dave is also wearing a pair of leather/canvas stockings, which were worn by both the British/Loyalist (Crown forces) and Continental (Rebel forces) units to protect their legs while marching through thick brush and briars which grow throughout this region of NY. It's probably because of these leather leggings that this area is known as the Leather-stocking Region of Central New York.

If you'd like to learn more about the Town of Deerfield's history, stop by our Municipal Building on Walker Rd. and purchase your own copy of the book DEERFIELD, NEW YORK: A Glimpse into the Past (published in 1998), written by Virginia Loin, past Deerfield Town Historian. Also, check our town website at townof-deerfield.org for more photos and the Rural Oneida STAR newspaper article by Michael A. Parker, "Battle of West Canada Valley Celebrates



continued from page 1, "Message from the Supervisor"

2007 TOWN BUDGET

The total 2007 Budget is \$1,909,500.00 and is broken down in the following manner.

General Fund: \$586,800.00
 Highway Fund: \$856,650.00
 Special Districts: \$466,050.00
 TOTAL \$1,909,500.00

GENERAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

Again this year there will be 0% General Tax in the Town of Deerfield. What makes this so special is that the new Highway Garage is the responsibility of the General Fund and brings no tax to the residents.

HIGHWAY FUND HIGHLIGHTS

The 2007 Budget is \$856,650.00. Every year we are faced with expenses that we can't control. Medical insurance premiums are rising at an alarming rate, diesel fuel and heating oil have also placed a burden on the highway fund. For the first time in seven years, we had to increase the only town wide tax we have. The rate has increased from \$3.84 per thousand of assessed value to \$4.09 or .25¢ per thousand. The average assessed home of \$25,000.00 will see an increase of \$6.25. To calculate your increase, multiply your assessed value x .25¢ and this will give you the exact amount of the increase.

Although, no one likes to see tax increases, we did have a nice run of (7) seven years without one. We will continue to keep spending as prudent as possible.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

In 2007, the special district taxes totaled \$466,050.00.

All water districts: \$139,601.00
 All sewer districts: \$122,413.00
 Deerfield Fire 1 & 2: \$181,486.00
 Storm Water District: \$150.00
 Poland Fire District: \$22,400.00
 TOTAL \$466,050.00

DID YOU KNOW:

- *The Deerfield Fire District is collected by the Town, the tax rate is set by the Board of Fire Commissioners.*
- *The Poland Fire Protection Tax is set by contract between five (5) towns & the Poland Fire Company.*
- *Residents in Sewer District #1, which covers a majority of residents in the lower end of Town will see a .50¢ per thousand of assessed value decrease in taxes. The bottom line is that all residents in Sewer District #1 will pay less in 2007 than 2006 in Town Board imposed taxes.*

HARD TO FIND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Mohawk Valley Water Board
 Phone: (315) 792-0301
 Whitesboro School Tax
 Phone: (315) 736-9061



John Atanasoff for the beautiful wreath that you put on the Town Municipal Building every year at Christmas time.

Jackie Story for your hard work on the Parks Committee and the newsletter articles you write on behalf of that committee.

FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

We hope everyone enjoyed the warm weather this fall and made the best of all the rainstorms. We had good weather this fall & were able to make four trips around town to vacuum up leaves. If there are any left, please feel free to call the Highway Garage (**please call first**). The Highway Department has had some drainage problems around town; the amount of rain and frequency of storms, has created large amounts of runoff. This is why we ask residents to please not put any leaves or brush in ditches, as it plugs culverts.

The Highway Department was able to finish the paving and sealing projects for this year.

With all costs going up, some projects are going to be put off for another year. With the good budgeting practices of our Town Board, they were able to come up with additional money to support our road infrastructure. As I am writing this, we are in the process of putting our project list together for 2007. As in past years, we will address the roads in order of need, with roads that need rehabilitation first. The Highway Department applies pavement sealants to the roads that are in good shape to preserve them. Please be patient, we will keep potholes patched.

Over the summer months, there were questions concerning the Town's right of way, and what it

is for. The right of way is for line installations, drainage, road repair, etc. Not all right of ways are the same. Please call the Highway Department if you have any questions.

Here is an update on our new Highway Garage. It is coming along! The concrete floor is in, and the steel structure is in place. Please feel free to stop by and say hello, and look at the progress of our new building.

The Highway Department and their families wish everyone a very joyous and safe holiday season!

Sam Arcuri, Jr.
Highway Superintendent



With the winter months on us, here are a few reminders:

- Please do **Not** plow snow across the roadway, as it could cause an accident.
- Do **Not** park in the right of way; it creates problems for the snowplow & we need a place to put the snow.



DEERFIELD SNOW TRAILS, INC.

Deerfield Snow Trails, Inc. meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the eagles on Cosby Manor Road, Deerfield. New members are welcome. We have trailheads at the Eagle, and also at 12 North Sports Complex on Mulaney Road in Deerfield. Our trail system consists of Corridor Trail C7A and secondary trails S75 and S75B. Our trails extend from the Eagles

north to Barneveld, west to Marcy, and east to Poland, connecting with other trail systems. We will be having an Antique Snowmobile Event, with a Chicken Bar-B-Que on January 20th at the 12 North Sports Complex, to benefit the Children's Miracle Network. Come & join us. If you have any questions concerning the trails, the club, or the events, call Bill at 738-0186.

**Support your sport.
THINK SNOW!**



2006 TOWN OF DEERFIELD OFFICIALS & EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

6329 Walker Road, Deerfield, NY 13502

Municipal Building Phone: 724-0413 Fax: 793-3032

Highway Department Phone: 826-7014

TITLE	NAME	HOME
Supervisor	Philip M. Sacco	798-4094
Highway Superintendent	Sam Arcuri, Jr.	735-6420
Deputy Supervisor & Councilman	Jim Sullivan	733-2760
Councilwoman	Peggy Boshart	797-2939
Councilman	Ronald Hajdasz	733-6180
Councilman	Richard Ruskey	732-5423
Town Clerk & Registrar & Notary Public	Mary G. Ruckel	798-1037
Deputy Clerk & Deputy Registrar	Richard Waldron	724-0012
Tax Collector	Donald Key	733-5678
Town Justice	Walter Loin	735-0689
Town Justice	Joseph Oczkowski	724-9773
Assessor (Chairman)	Jeff Quackenbush	798-8948
Assessor	George Haskell	732-1789
Assessor	Jane Buchner	732-5757
Planning Board (Chairman)	Scott Mahardy	738-0311
Zoning Board of Appeals (Chairman)	Farley Raymo	724-0658
Senior Citizen Director	Lura Raymo	724-0658
Town Historian	Dorrie Gregory	733-8574
Youth Director (Winter Program)	Karen Day	724-6308
Dog Control Officer	Anthony Gentile	733-2213
Dog Control Officer-Pager#	Anthony Gentile	722-2069
Deerfield Fire Chief	Richard Douglass (Firehouse #)	732-2693

Telephone Extensions at the Deerfield Municipal Building

Assessor	Extension 21
Building Inspector	Extension 22
Codes Dept.	Extension 34
Judge Loin	Extension 26
Judge Oczkowski	Extension 29
Planning Room	Extension 27
Senior Citizen's	Extension 28
Supervisor	Extension 50
Town Clerk	Extension 23

Important Phone Numbers

Deerfield School: 266-3410
Whitesboro Parkway Sch: 266-3175
Whitesboro Middle Sch: 266-3100
Whitesboro High School: 266-3200
State Police: Business @ 736-0122
Sheriff's Dept: Business @ 736-8364
Deerfield Fire Department: (Business) 732-2693
Whitb. Transportation Dept.: 768-9740
Poland High School: 826-7900
Poland Elementary: 826-7000

FROM THE ASSESSORS OFFICE

Dear Residents,

Exemption season will be arriving soon. The application and renewal time for exemptions is January 1st to March 1st. Please take the time to read each section and see what applies to you.

EXEMPTION RENEWAL INFORMATION

There are three exemptions in particular that need renewal during the first two months of 2007. They are the Senior Exemption, the Enhanced STAR Exemption, and the Agricultural Exemption. If you currently receive one of these exemptions **you will be receiving a renewal form from this office around January 1st**. Please fill it out and return it to the Assessors' Office at the Deerfield Municipal Building, 6329 Walker Road, Deerfield, New York 13502, by March 1, 2007.

ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION INFORMATION

First the Enhanced STAR exemption. There has been a slight **change in the qualification criteria** for the Enhanced STAR Exemption. To qualify for this exemption you must be 65 years of age by December 31st

2007 and your **2005 federal adjusted gross income must now be less than \$67,850**. This exemption must be renewed annually if you have not enrolled in the income verification program. If you currently receive the Enhanced STAR Exemption **I will mail you the renewal form or an income verification post card during the first week in January**. If you receive an income verification post card (which is a small green mailer) you only need to report back to the assessors' office if changes in your residency occur. If you receive a renewal form return the completed form along with a copy of your 2005 federal income return no later than March 1, 2007 to the Assessors' Office at the Deerfield Municipal Building, 6329 Walker Road, Deerfield, New York 13502. An important note to those who receive the Senior Exemption – you automatically get the Enhanced STAR Exemption when you renew your senior exemption.

BASIC STAR EXEMPTION INFORMATION

Second the Basic STAR Exemption. This is **available to all owner occupied residences** in the Town of Deerfield. There is no income con-

straint for this exemption. There is no renewal process for this exemption, you file for it once and continue to receive it annually.

SENIOR EXEMPTION

Like the Enhanced STAR Exemption, I will be sending out renewal forms to those already receiving the Senior Exemption during the first week in January. This exemption potentially gives tax relief for School, Town, and County taxes for those over 65 years of age by March 1, 2007. The amount of the exemption varies drastically based upon owner income. The maximum one can earn and still acquire some tax relief from this exemption is \$26,900. This maximum income figure includes all Social Security benefits and income from stocks, bonds, bank interest, etc.

Office hours are Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 or Saturday by appointment. Please stop in or call during these office hours (phone: 724-0605 ext. 21).

Sincerely,

Jeff Quackenbush,

Board of Assessors' Chairman

FALL-WINTER-SPRING YOUTH PROGRAM

When the new winter/ spring schedule is completed, we will have it posted to the Deerfield Town website:

www.townofdeerfield.org and will e-mail everyone on our address list. If you would like to

be added to our e-mail list to receive the schedule, timely event reminders and cancellation notices, please e-mail us at

DrfldRecProgram@aol.com.

Looking forward to seeing all

back for another fun year.

Karen Day and Paul Zaleski



DEERFIELD PARKS COMMITTEE NEWS

The Parks Committee has met three times this year. Supervisor Sacco called the February and May meetings to discuss future sports fields. A plan is in the process of being drawn to show the placement of these fields. It will be a simple plan that can be adapted to any location.

October 18th was the final meeting this year. The priority List –2006 on the parks was checked to see the completion of work done. Brazie Park has a new sign at the entrance and evergreen trees replaced the old straggly bushes. Picnic tables and benches were painted by Matthew Deierlein, earning an Eagle Scout Badge. The olden wooden t-swing structure was removed; and our intention was to replace it with a new swing apparatus, but under

NY State regulations, the surrounding area wasn't large enough for the children's safety.

Wilderness has new play equipment: a four-seat-buck-about, back hoe-digger, and a new swing structure. This was another successful year of work completed at our parks.

As this year comes to a close, we are sad that Bob Epp has moved out of the area. Bob was a great asset and serviced three and a half years. He truly will be missed! Thank you Bob, for your service and interest in improving our parks. We wish the Epp family the best in their new residence.

Lastly, as a committee, we want to thank Supervisor Sacco for his diligent pursued on getting our parks looking great. He spent hours get-

ting workers to do & complete the many tasks needed to improve the appearance of our parks. Town Clerk, Mary Ruckel contributes time to this endeavor, so many thanks go to her. Our appreciation to the Town Board for their support and desire to upgrade the status of our parks.

This should update you on the Deerfield Parks this year. We are looking forward to a successful 2007. If there is anyone interested in becoming a members of the Parks Committee, please contact Supervisor Sacco or Town Clerk Mary Ruckel.

Submitted by Jackie Story
Parks Committee

MEETINGS FOR 2007

The Deerfield TOWN Board has established the following regular Town Board Meeting dates during 2007: The meetings begin at 7:30pm.

Monday	January 8 th
Monday	February 12 th
Monday	March 12 th
Monday	April 9 th
Monday	May 14 th
Monday,	June 11 th
Monday	July 9 th
Monday	August 13 th
Monday	September 10 th
Monday	October 8 th
Monday	November 12 th
Monday	December 10 th



The Regular Town Board & Planning Board Meetings are conducted at the Deerfield Municipal Building, 6329 Walker Road, Deerfield, New York. Meetings are open to the public and the Building is accessible to the handicapped.

The Deerfield PLANNING Board has established the following regular Planning Board Meeting dates during 2007: The meetings begin at 7:00pm.

Wednesday	January 10th
Wednesday	February 14th
Wednesday	March 13th
Wednesday	April 11th
Wednesday	May 16th
Wednesday	June 13th
Wednesday	July 18th
Wednesday	August 15th
Wednesday	September 12th
Wednesday	October 10th
Wednesday	November 14th
Wednesday	December 12th

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Town Of Deerfield
6329 Walker Road, Deerfield, NY 13502

Phone: (315) 724-0413, ext.23
Fax: (315) 793-3032
E-mail: townclerk@adelphia.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.TOWNOFDEERFIELD.ORG

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

There are many ways to get the information for the February 2007 newsletter to the Town Clerk's Office:

- please send them to the Town Clerk's office at 6329 Walker Road, Deerfield, NY
- e-mail them to townclerk@adelphia.net
- fax them to 793-3032

BROADACRES TO BE TORN DOWN

On September 6, 2006, Supervisor Philip Sacco met with Oneida County Executive Joseph Griffo at the former Broadacres Skilled Nursing Facility for a news release stating that \$1,000,000.00 (1 million dollars) in NY State Aid had been secured to demolish the site.

On October 25, 2006, the Oneida County Board of Legislators approved an additional \$300,000.00 to bring the total to \$1,300,000.00 for the project. Supervisor Sacco attended that meeting and asked for Privilege of the Floor to address the Board of Legislators and thank County Executive Griffo, and all involved in securing the funding to demolish the site.

Broadacres was built in 1929 as a tuberculosis sanitarium and then in 1966 it was converted to a nursing home, until closing in 1996.

The next step is to develop a formal re-use planning group with representatives from the Town of Deerfield and Oneida County to consider our options. We are hopeful that bids for demolition will go out in the very near future. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project in future newsletters.