

R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2014

December Town Board Meetings

After a somewhat rough start in an attempt to obtain minutes of Town Board meetings through the Freedom of Information Law (FOILed on 2/11/2014 but not received until 3/3/2014, 3/6/2014, and 3/12/2014), we are pleased to report that the process is now working well. Case in point, a 3/11/2014 FOIL request for February minutes were received on 3/12/2014. We look forward to a continuing compliant and cooperative relationship with Town Hall ahead.

Because of the voluminous nature of the official minutes, we will report only the highlights of the Town Board meetings. As always, full Town Board minutes can be found on the Town's website at www.rensselaerville.com.

Highlights of December 12, 2013 Town Board Regular Meeting:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury; Councilman Robert Bolte; Councilwoman Marion Cooke; Councilman John Kudlack; Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir; Attorney Dana Salazar, TRK; Town Clerk Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates and six interested citizens.

* Authorized transfers in the amount of \$7,665.98 from the DA Road Materials line to a payroll line (\$6,835.33) and CHIPS (\$830.65).

* Authorized the payment of all signed vouchers (The General Fund - \$18,466.51; Highway Fund - \$15,219.18; Lighting District - \$703.31 (Renn. - \$374.36, PH - \$328.95); Water District - \$176.51; Agency & Trust - \$3,474.89).

* Announced that we are going to be paying less this year by \$451.00 for Worker's Compensation Insurance than we did last year.

* Announced that the Municipal Shelter Inspection Report and the Dog Control Officer Inspection Report were completed on 11/22/2013. Both inspections yielded a "satisfactory" rating.

* Authorized the appointments of Mary Carney and Debbie Geurtze as their Clerks to the Justices for the year 2014

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December Town Board Meeting

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Departmental Conservation - \$2,012.68 (sporting license); to NYS Department of Health - \$0.00 (marriage license). Water District - \$1.34 (interest on checking account for 2013). Sewer District- \$1.56

* Authorized the signing of the contract with NYS Environmental Conservation for the License Issuing Agent, Victoria Kraker.

* Reported the issuing of the following: 2 building new accessory and 1 agricultural use for total of funds collected of. \$106.00; CEO Overbaugh attended a seminar given by the Albany County Health Department on bed bugs, head lice and mold.

* Assessor Tollner mentioned that the Basic STAR deadline is officially December 31, 2013. If you have not done that you can do it by calling the State at 518-457-2036 or go on their website.

* Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that in the Water District they filtered 555,000 gallons of water for the month of November. In the Sewer District they pumped 143,000 gallons for the month of November. He continues to look for leaks.

* Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported that the price of steel is up to \$230.00 a ton.

*Adopted by resolution Local Law No.2 of 2013, a local law entitled "Gas Drilling Moratorium Law of 2013 of the Town of Rensselaerville"

* Set the final meeting of 2013 for December 30, 2013, 7pm

* Set the organizational meeting of 2014 for January 2, 2014, 7pm

* Authorized Supervisor Lounsbury and Gerald Wood to attend the Association of Towns training sessions on January 15-17, 2014 and that their expenses be reimbursed

* Added Marisa Tucker, Vincent Cleveland, Edward Hale, Dennis Hostash and Vincent Leombruno to the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company

Highlights of December 30, 2013 Town Board Final 2013 Meeting:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman John Kudlack, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Town Clerk Kathleen A. Hallenbeck, Deputy Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WERE: Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Marion Cooke. Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates and two interested citizens.

* No minutes were approved since not all of the Board members were present

* Reported that the payroll was done incorrectly at the beginning of the year and authorized the following transfers:

From 'Travel' A1110R 44038 to 'Town Justice' A1110E 10150 in the amount of \$351.76

From 'Deputy Town Clerk' A1410E 10110 to 'Town Clerk' A1010E 10040 in the amount of \$620.81

From 'Clerk 1 Bookkeeper' A1220E 10015 to 'Building Inspector Clerk' A3620E in the amount of \$208.59

From 'Office Supplies' A5010E 44020 to 'Superintendent of Highways' A5010E 10030 in the amount of

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December Town Board Meeting

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\$193.00

From 'Conferences'A5010E 44039 to 'Superintendent of Highways' A5010E 10030 in the amount of \$450.00

From 'Dues/Membership' A5010E 44300to 'Superintendent of Highways'A5010E10030 in the amount of \$100.00

From 'Miscellaneous' A5010E 44999 to 'Superintendent of Highways' A5010E 10030 in the amount of \$55.00

From 'Substitute Recycling Coordinator' A8160E 17360to 'Recycling Officer' A8160E17350 in the amount of \$699.05

From 'Workman's Comp' DA89040 to 'Social Security' DA 89030 in the amount of \$827.71

From 'Road Machinery' DA5131E to 'Operator' DA5142E 17220 in the amount of \$3,964.93

From 'Property Repair/Rent' SW8310E 44071 to 'Interest/Recap' SW8310E 77001 in the amount of \$1,875.25

From 'Property Repair/Rent' SW8310E 44071 to 'Principle/Recap' SW8310E 66001in the amount of \$750.00

* Authorized the payment of all signed vouchers (Total Abstract \$63,616.85)

A motion by Councilman Kudlack to pay all signed vouchers; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. Motion carried

* Accepted the resignation of Nancy Smith regarding from her cleaning position due to health reasons

* Authorized the Supervisor to encumber \$1,194.99 from the 2013 budget for a new desktop computer for the Assessors Department

* Authorized the Highway Superintendent to purchase four tires for the loader at the estimated \$4,000 and that these funds be encumbered from the 2013 budget

* Reported that the Town Clerk's office collected \$511.25 and paid out to the Supervisor - \$381.10; to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets for spay/neuter program - \$16.00 ; to NYS Departmental Conservation - \$91.65 (sporting license); to NYS Department of Health - \$22.50 (marriage license).

* Announced that there will be a reception for Kathy Hallenbeck at Town Hall on Sunday, January 5, 2014 from 2 to 4 PM to thank her for her 40 years of dedicated service to the Town of Rensselaerville.

* Authorized to advertise for a new Custodian at \$12/hour for 4 hours per week

* Authorized Highway Superintendent Bates to allow his men to assist Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck as needed and that they be paid through the Highway Department

Hydrofracking Moratorium Extension

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on December 10, 2013, at 6:30pm. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear the views of the public on Local Law No. 2 Of 2013, a local law entitled "Gas Drilling Moratorium Law of 2013 of the Town of Rensselaerville." The Albany County Planning Board found that the proposed action will have no significant countywide or inter-municipal impact and to defer to local consideration. One email and four speakers supported this extension of the moratorium while one person opposed it.

Subsequently, at the December 12, 2013, Town Board meeting, the Town Board voted unanimously by resolution (R121213A) to adopt this law. The entire text of the law follows:

Town of Rensselaerville

LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF THE YEAR 2013

A local law entitled "Gas Drilling Moratorium Law of 2013 of the Town of Rensselaerville"

A local law continuing a one-year moratorium, set forth in Local Law No. 2 of 2012 of the Town of Rensselaerville, on applications, approvals or drilling for natural gas in the Town of Rensselaerville.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

Section 1. Title: This law shall be known as the Gas Drilling Moratorium Law of 2013 of the Town of Rensselaerville.

Section 2. Purpose and Intent: The purpose of this law is to continue an existing a one-year moratorium, set forth in Local Law No. 3 of 2011 of the Town of Rensselaerville and renewed again in Local Law No. 2 of 2012, to temporarily suspend the administrative review, approval process and/or drilling activities associated with the production of natural gas on lands located in the Town of Rensselaerville for either new or pending proposals or activities regarding gas drilling. Pursuant to the statutory powers vested in the Town of Rensselaerville to regulate and control land use and to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby declares an additional one-year moratorium on the drilling for or extraction of natural gas within that subterranean area known as the Marcellus Shale or any other shale deposits located on or under land in the Town of Rensselaerville by the process commonly known as high-volume hydraulic fracturing.

The Town Board is aware of the current controversy surrounding the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing. It realizes that there may be a number of reasons to support the use of that process, but that there have also been many issues of concern raised by persons opposed to it. In addition, the Town Board is very concerned regarding issues about such process that may have a significant negative effect on the Town's water supply, its roads and safety due to the high volume of truck traffic such process generates, property values, the Town's community character and the quality of life of its residents.

The Town Board is also aware that the State of New York is currently evaluating this process and its effect on the environment and that no final determination has been made by the State as to how this process will be regulated. The current State ban on this drilling process may expire soon and the Town Board wants to have the time necessary to investigate the issues involved before and after evaluation of how any State regulation may affect the Town of Rensselaerville. The Board knows that a determination of the policy that should be in effect in Rensselaerville concerning this issue will involve reconciliation of scientific and engineering information not within the usual expertise of the Board. This policy

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Hydrofracking Moratorium Extension

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may involve the effect of increased truck traffic on rural roads, reduction of property values within the Town, and the question of whether the extraction of natural gas by the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing within the Town is compatible with the Town's community character and the Comprehensive Plan of the Town. The Town Board of the Town desires to address, in a careful manner, the question of if, and under what circumstances, the process of hydraulic fracturing should be allowed in this Town. The Town Board will now proceed in the process of considering various options relating to this issue.

The Town Board is in receipt of a report prepared by the Town of Rensselaerville Hydraulic Fracturing Committee dated September, 2012, entitled, "Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing and Natural Gas Drilling Operating in the Town of Rensselaerville" ("Report"). Such Report includes, among other things, extensive background on hydraulic fracturing and recommendations and proposed amendments to Town laws, regulations and/or policies.

In addition, the Town Board is in the process of overseeing a review and revision of the Town's Zoning Law. That process has not been completed.

The Town Board finds and determines that it needs the additional period of time covered by the moratorium imposed hereby in order to investigate and carefully study the question of the regulation of hydraulic fracturing, including the Report and the recommendations and proposed amendments to Town laws, regulations and/or policies therein, draft proposed amendments to the Town Code, make appropriate changes to the draft, schedule and hold the required public hearing on the Local Law, perform an appropriate environmental review of the Local Law, comply with applicable provisions of law, adopt the Local Law, and file a copy of the Local Law, as adopted, with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

Section 3. Authority: This moratorium extension is enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville pursuant to its authority to adopt local laws under the New York State Constitution Article IX, the Town Law and section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Section 4. Moratorium Imposed: For the period of one (1) year immediately following the effective date of this local law, there shall continue to be a moratorium on all applications or activities on or under land that would have as the result the drilling for, or extraction of, natural gas within the Town of Rensselaerville from that subterranean area known as the Marcellus Shale or any other shale by the process known as hydraulic fracturing.

During the time periods in which the moratorium remains in effect, no approvals, permits, actions or decisions shall be made or issued by any Board or official of the Town of Rensselaerville with respect to any such applications for gas drilling. This moratorium shall apply to all such applications, whether pending or received prior to the effective date of this law. No such applications seeking approvals or permits for any such activities shall be accepted by any Board or official of the Town of Rensselaerville and no person, company, entity of any kind shall engage in such drilling activities for natural gas while this law remains in effect.

Section 5. Effect of Moratorium: While this Local Law remains in effect, no Board, body or official of the Town shall accept for review, continue to review, hold a hearing upon, make any decision upon, or is-

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Hydrofracking Moratorium Extension

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sue any permit or approval upon any application or proposal for the uses, projects or developments set forth in Section 4 above. Any statutory or locally-enacted time periods for processing and making decisions on all aspects of the aforesaid applications are hereby suspended and stayed while this Local Law is in effect. No person, corporation, or other entity shall undertake any site preparation, including but not limited to clearing, grading, and filling, or construction activities, with respect to any application, proposed land use, subdivision, or development that is subject to this moratorium.

Section 6. Enforcement: This local law shall be enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Rensselaerville or such other individual(s) as designated by the Town Board. It shall be the duty of the enforcement individual to advise the Town Board of all matters pertaining to the enforcement of this local law and to keep all records necessary and appropriate to such enforcement.

Section 7. Violations: Any person, firm, entity or corporation violating any of the provisions of this local law shall be guilty of an offense and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each day such violation exists and/or an action for injunctive or equitable relief.

Section 8. Supersession: To the extent that this local law is inconsistent with any state statute or regulation, it is the intent of this law to supersede such statutes or regulations. This supersession applies with respect to: (i) Town Law § 268 regarding the imposition of civil penalties; (ii) Town Law § 274-a with respect to the time frames for processing applications for site plan review, (iii) Town Law § 274b with respect to the procedures and time frames for processing applications for special use permits, and (iv) Town Law § 267 et. seq. with respect to the time frames for processing area and use variances, appeals or interpretations.

Section 9. Severability of Provisions: Should any section or provision of this local law be declared null, void, voidable, or invalid, such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this local law.

Section 10. Effective Date:

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.
End of Law

Please note: Full Town Board minutes can be found on the Town's website at www.rensselaerville.com.

*** Offer of Help—Rensselaerville Taxpayers ***

Town residents who suffered property damage from Hurricane Irene or who are located in the flood plain may have lost full market value and should have their assessment lowered to reflect that loss of value.

Former assessor with 13 years of experience is prepared to assist with filing a tax grievance.

Those of you who have been affected by Irene and could use some professional help grieving your assessment, please forward your contact info—Phone number and a good time to call and/or e-mail address to the *R'ville Community Newsletter* at rvillenewsletter@gmail.com.

Highlights of January 9, 2014 Town Board Regular Meeting

PRESENT WERE: Town Attorney Tom Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Building/Code Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, and six interested citizens

* Approved budget transfers from 'Honor Roll Grant' Acct. #4738 to 'Emergency Disaster Assistance' DA511OR 04960 in the amount of \$105,858.00; from 'FEMA Irene/Lee' Acct. #4187 to 'Emergency Disaster Assistance' DA511OR 04960 in the amount of \$22,442.00

* Approved the payment of all signed vouchers (General Fund, \$47,487.01; Highway, \$107,640.18; Ambulance, \$ 9,610.00; Fire Companies, \$24,926.00 (Medusa, \$8,308.00; Rensselaerville, \$8,309.00; Tri-Village, \$ 8,309.00); Lighting District, \$708.96 (Preston Hollow, \$331.52; Rensselaerville, \$377.44); Sewer District, \$645.00; Water District, \$1,378.80; Trust Fund, \$702.09; Pre-pays, \$1,179.14. Total : \$194,277.18

* Approved the purchase of a used commercial paper shredder from Councilman Bolte for \$250.00

* Accepted Councilwoman Cooke's employment disclosure

* Adopted a resolution abandoning a portion of Olmo Road

* Adopted a resolution conveying a parcel of land in Potter Hollow to the Greenville Central School District

* Authorized the purchase of approximately 700 tons of salt from Carver Sand & Gravel at &50.75 per ton

* Authorized the purchase of a paver screen for the Highway Department for \$1,100.00

* Authorized the installation of a propane tank to supply the donated cook stove for the highway department

* Accepted former Town Clerk Hallenbeck's Annual 2013 Town Clerk's report, Annual 2013 Water District Report, and Annual 2013 Sewer District Report

* CEO Overbaugh reported a total of \$141.00 for November's permits and \$10.00 for December's permits. Also, a total of \$2,698.47 for 2013

* Assessor Tollner reported that New York State has extended the STAR renewal. He also put a reminder out that the Agricultural Assessments must be renewed annually

* Accepted Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story report on gallons of water was treated for the month of December; and gallons of sewage was pumped. The filter had been raked and cleaned, and there have been a few pipe breaks in homes due to the extreme weather conditions

* Accepted Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck report; Mr. Whitbeck summarized the year by saying that the gross profits were up for 2013

* Set a date of February 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM for the Special Meeting to review the Board of Ethics procedures

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Highlights of January 9, 2014 Town Board Regular Meeting

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- * Adopted the Warrant authorizing the billing and collection of the Water District Rents in the amount of \$46,625.00
- * Adopted the Warrant authorizing the billing and collection of the Sewer District Rents in the amount of \$43,649.00
- * Accepted a check presented by Gerald Wood to the Town in the amount of \$46,616.00 for the Albany County Paramedic service for 2014
- * Set June 1, 2014, 2pm to 4pm, for the town wide picnic

Please note: Full Town Board minutes can be found on the Town's website at www.rensselaerville.com.

Medusa Fest Celebrates Spring!

Small businesses, bands, talks, art, rummage sales and the great Firehouse chicken barbecue!

Can there be a better way to celebrate the return of spring than spend a day in Medusa?! This year, on May 3rd, from 9am - 4pm, MedusaFest will be hosting a small business fair, talks by local celebs, several amazing bands, and fantastic food! We're also hosting a kid's art lab and the Medusa Church's giant rummage sale (one of the area's best!). If you have been missing Medusa (or just can't wait to brush off the last remnants of this very long winter), mark your calendars for May 3rd!

A little bit Maker movement, and a little bit TedX, in addition to showcasing some fantastic local vendors, this year's MedusaFest is hoping to start a new tradition: we'll be hosting talks by Justin Wexler, founder of Wild Hudson Valley, frequently seen leading hikes at the Huyck Preserve; Robert Neid, of the Center for Sustainable Rural Communities; and William Logan, Rensselaerville local and author of *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, and inspiration behind the recent documentary by the same name.

Adding a bit of musical flavor, several notorious local bands will be offering up their most entertaining! The Peckham Hollow will be playing their finest, as well as Medusa Moonshine, led by our own Dave Rudloff. Robert, our Medusa Troubadour, as locals recognize as a summer porch feature at the Store, will be joining the Ron Torven Band. Musical genius in your own hometown! A little of everything ...

We're also hosting a giant kid's art lab -- so bring play clothes for a hefty amount of hands-on artistic (and messy!) artistic fun! From giant building blocks to frame painting to playdough (a perennial Medusa favorite!) and bigger-than-life weaving, we'll be creating great art together!

The firehouse will be providing superb food throughout the day, including a chicken barbeque. As always, entrance is free, though donations are appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this event, or are interested in volunteering, give April Caprio a call at the Medusa General Store at 239-6980 or drop her an email at april.roggio@gmail.com. We are active webbies, available on Facebook, as well as at medusasmallbusinessfair.blogspot.com. Looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd!

Highlights of February 14, 2014 Town Board Regular Meeting

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WERE: Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Town Attorney Tom Fallati

Also present were Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Committeeman Doug Story, and three interested citizens

* Authorized budget transfers from 'Retirement' A89010 to 'Unemployment' A89050 in the amount of \$411.96; from 'Equipment' A122OE 22050 to 'Miscellaneous' A122OE 44999 in the amount of \$300.00 to cover training expenses

* Authorized the payment of all signed vouchers: General Fund, \$48,662.85; Highway, \$34,613.72; Ambulance Fund, \$15,000.00; Fire Protection Fund, \$147,500.00; Lighting District, \$738.07 (Preston Hollow \$345.36; Rensselaerville \$392.71); Sewer District, \$27,516.61; Water District, \$268.84; Trust & Agency Fund, \$3,334.03; Total: \$277,634.12

* Set a fee of \$1.00 per page for all incoming faxes

* Reported that Nolan Pazin with Marshall and Sterling Insurance Company will make a presentation at the March 11th Work Meeting

*Reminder of the Special Meeting regarding procedures of the Board of Ethics to be held on February 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

* No reports from the Attorney to the Town or from the Highway Superintendent

* Accepted the Town Clerk's report: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$446.85 (Paid to the Supervisor - \$360.99 for \$69.89 for Clerk fees, \$31.50 for Recycling, \$174.00 for Dog Licenses, \$35.60 for Building Permits, \$50.00 for Zoning); Paid to NYS Department of Ag & Markets for spay/neuter program - \$32.00; Paid to NYS Department of Conservation for sporting licenses - \$53.86; A total of \$6,424.55 has been collected so far for Sewer Rents

* Accepted CEO Overbaugh's Annual Report for 2013 and the Monthly Report for January 2014

* Accepted Assessor Tollner's report regarding STAR exemptions and veteran's exemptions

* Accepted Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story report on gallons of water treated for the month of January and gallons of sewage pumped; NYS will have their annual report on water quality near the end of March; Councilwoman Sedlmeir can no longer serve as the liaison due to prior commitments; Supervisor Lounsbury has volunteered to be the liaison.

* Accepted Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck's report for January 2014 as read by Supervisor Lounsbury

*Announced that free-will offering breakfasts will be served at the Medusa Fire House from 7:00 to 11:00 AM on February 15th, March 15th, April 19th, September 2nd, October 18th, November 15th, and December 20th, 2014

* Announced that at the Work Meeting in March, there will be an updated report on the status of the newsletter

*Approved three new members for the Rensselaerville Fire Company: Chris Schiralli, John Delia, Jr.,

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Highlights of February 14, 2014 Town Board Regular Meeting

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Ethan Willsie

* Approved the re-appointment of Maryanne Overbaugh to the Board of Ethics, from February 14, 2014 to December 31, 2019.

* Adopted the Carey Center Grant Resolution for a project known as the Helderberg Brewshed Farm Brewery Incubator Business Plan Development to be located in the Town or Rensselaerville

Please note: Full Town Board minutes can be found on the Town's website at www.rensselaerville.com.

Move, Breathe, Relax

YOGA: Tue. & Thu. 9-10:15 am

PILATES: Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm
& Sat. 9-10 am

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT
savitrisarah@gmail.com, 518-239-6825

Classes at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

RHDA Honors—Part 2

Nadia and Richard Creamer were honored by the Rensselaerville Historic District Association (RHDA) in June of last year as recipients of the organization's 2013 Founder's Day Award. A letter they received from Sharon Costello, Chair, reads in part:

"You have been selected because of your long term commitment to the cultural life of our community. Your organization, ITAD, was for many years the sole source of theatrical performance opportunities in our rural area. It gave both adults and youth a chance to explore their artistic talents in a non-competitive environment and it gave the rest of us many evenings of entertainment that we will always remember. Every year you dedicated hours and hours of your time to this endeavor. While we recognize there was little to no financial reward for your effort, we want to acknowledge how much you contributed to the richness of our community."

Congratulations on your well-deserved award for your selfless dedication to theater arts for the Town of Rensselaerville community.

March 25, 2014 ~ Special Town Board Meeting

A Special Meeting of the Town Board was convened by Deputy Supervisor Marion Cooke on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 7:00pm. The purpose of this meeting was to appoint clerks for various departments in Town government.

Two positions were inadvertently omitted from the 2014 Organizational Meeting held on January 2, 2014. Officially appointed at the 3/25/2014 meeting were Kim Welsch as clerk to the Superintendent of Highways at \$11.00 per hour and Victoria Kraker as water/sewer rent collector at \$400 annually.

Two temporary clerk positions were also filled at this Special Town Board meeting. Claire Marshall, currently serving as clerk to the assessor for the Town of Westerlo, has agreed to provide temporary assistance to the Town of Rensselaerville assessor's office, with a salary of \$15.00 per hour. It was explained at this meeting that the assessors have State deadlines they have to meet by May 1, 2014, and Ms. Marshall's experience in Westerlo's assessor's office would be a tremendous help for Rensselaerville assessors to meet these deadlines.

Mary Carney has been appointed as temporary clerk to the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector at \$10.00 per hour. Currently she also serves as clerk to the Justice Department, clerk to the Planning Board, and clerk to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Rensselaerville. In addition, Ms. Carney is employed by the Town of Greenville as a clerk to the assessors, as a clerk to the Code Enforcement Officer, and as substitute clerk for Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

When asked what the Board's definition of "temporary" was, Deputy Supervisor Cooke stated that a couple/three weeks were needed to advertise the vacancies. Because there were no opportunities for audience comments, other concerns could not be addressed.

Because this meeting lasted only three minutes, we editors have one major question: How, when, and where did deliberations take place that led to the temporary appointments made at this meeting? There were no open, public meetings to discuss the issue, and the 3/25/2014 special meeting seemed to be just a formality to finalize decisions made earlier and in private.

According to Robert Freeman, Executive Director of the Committee on Open Government, "every thought, as well as every affirmative act of a public official as it relates to and is within the scope of one's official duties is a matter of public concern. It is the entire decision-making process that the Legislature intended to affect by the enactment of this statute." He also states that "a series of communications between individual members or telephone calls among the members which results in a collective decision ... would in my opinion be inconsistent with law." Additionally, "It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that the public business be performed in an open and public manner and that the citizens of this state be fully aware of and able to observe the performance of public officials and attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions ..." And finally, "I do not believe that they [members of public bodies] may validly conduct meetings by means of telephone conferences or make collective determinations by means of a series of 'one on one' conversations or by means of telephonic communications." These quotes can be verified at :

<http://docs.dos.ny.gov/coog/otext.3533.htm> and <http://docs.dos.ny.gov/coog/otext/o2574.htm>.

RVFD Upcoming Events:

- April 5th – Long Awaited Chicken BBQ 4:00 – 6:00 pm – Take-out only. \$12 includes RVFD Famous ½ chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, baked beans, dinner roll with butter and brownie. To purchase dinners, please contact Rose Kuhar at 797-3360 or Kris Tanner at 797-5287.
- April 19 – 2:00 pm – Join the Easter Bunny at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children's crafts, photographs with the Easter Bunny, games and goodies. All are welcome. Location to be announced. Follow us on Facebook – Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department
- May 17th – 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Rensselaerville Garage Sale Day. Sponsored by the RVFD Battalion Cost \$15 . To receive a registration form: email rosekuhar@gmail.com or call Rose Kuhar 797-3360

Safety message: NYS Burn Ban in effect March 15th through May 16th. For more details visit: www.dec.ny.gov/regs/4261.html

Did you know...

...that \$250 in taxpayer money was paid to a Town Councilman for the purchase of a used paper shredder for Town Hall despite the fact that new, professional micro-cut paper shredders with extended warranties are available in the retail marketplace for the same money, if not less? And there is no evidence that any research was done with regard to the make, model, age, or current value of the unit purchased.

*You are cordially invited to a
Meet & Greet Fundraiser/Reception
for Cecelia Tkaczyk
Senator for the 46th Senatorial District
Thursday ~ May 1, 2014, 7:30pm
Palmer House, 1462 Main Street, Rensselaerville
Suggested donation of \$20 per person for food & cash bar
For additional information, contact Jeffrey Pine @ 239-4335, or
jpine02071995@gmail.com ~ jpine@townofnewsotland.com
or Jeannette Rice @ 797-9812*

**ATTENTION:
COWGIRLS & COWBOYS, NATURALISTS & FARMERS,
HUMOR LOVERS & WORD LOVERS, MUSICIANS, & FRIENDS
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A POET TO ENJOY POETRY!**

**Festival of Writers Presents
RENSSELAERVILLE'S 9th(!) ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OF NATIONAL POETRY MONTH - APRIL 2014
Sponsored by The Rensselaerville Library & Conkling Hall, Rensselaerville, NY**

March 21, Friday, 7pm sign up and performance starts at 7:30 - at the Conkling Café in Conkling Hall. Preview some of Poetry Month's featured poets and poetry lovers at this wonderful evening of live music with friends and neighbors. Bring an original poem to read aloud or perform a song or just come to listen.

April 12, Saturday, 2-4pm - at Conkling Hall. Inspiration: An Afternoon of Music and Poetry - hosted by Peter Boudreaux, musician and writer

This event features: Poet (& Whitman scholar) Howard Nelson, who will read from his own work including *All the Earthly Lovers: Poems selected and New due out this Spring*, as well as from the poets who inspired him; Soprano Sarah Nelson Weiss who will perform an original piece inspired by Walt Whitman and composed and performed by Peter Boudreaux; the wonderful Village Voices; and Musicians Dian Ryan and Hank LaBrecque who will share pieces inspired by poetry or written by folk-poet songwriters.

Four Thursdays - Enjoy four relaxing and stimulating evenings at the library, listening, reading and discussing poetry with friends and neighbors:

April 3, 7pm - Poetic Humor, Laughing Our Way into Poetry Month, hosted by Richard Ronconi, teacher, beekeeper, and occasional writer. As a teacher, Richard found humor to be a good "entrance" into poetry.

We don't always connect poetry with humor. Often we think of a poem as an expression of beauty, love or some other deep emotion. Humor is also an emotion favored in poetry. Together let's read some light-hearted poems that have been written by some distinguished and not so distinguished poets to make us laugh and have fun. This hour is for readers of all ages, so kids, teens, adults, let's cheer each other up with an hour of fun poems.

April 10, 7pm - How to Read, and Perhaps Enjoy, Very New Poetry hosted by Tom Corrado, poet and Coordinator of the Library's Poetry Group,

Isn't poetry poetry? Isn't all poetry the same? Using sound, imagery and concision to tell a story, convey a message, extract meaning from experience? Isn't new poetry pretty much like old poetry? Simply new Wine in old bottles? Not really! Some interesting things are happening in poetry, and new poets are shepherding poetry into new arenas, crafting poems that at times can be intimidating, befuddling, seemingly meaningless. Find out about new poetry and new poets.

April 17, 7pm - Birds, Bees, Trees, and more: The Poetry of Nature hosted by Virginia Carter, teacher, artist, and bird-watcher

(Continued on page 14)

Poetry Month (cont'd)

Poets have always been inspired by nature, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary poets. Enjoy an evening reading, listening and discussing a variety of poetry that was inspired by the natural world.

April 24, 7 pm - Easy Chairs and Saddle Sores: Cowboy Poetry hosted by Janet Botaish, Equine Specialist, EAGALA certified. "To me, horses and freedom are synonymous." (Very Goodnight)

Cowboy Poems have a life of their own. They are built with words that are spawned not only from labor, but also from an occupation with which the poet's very existence is expressly linked. A cowboy or rancher lives where he or she works, and what they do in their work determines their survival. This is the essence of cowboy poetry. Come and be enchanted by words, both old and new, that are attached to a life few know firsthand.

April 26, Saturday, 11:30am - Enjoy your Saturday morning cup of coffee with Guest Poet Marilyn McCabe

Marilyn's poem "On Hearing the Call to Prayer Over the Marcellus Shale on Easter Morning" was awarded A Room of Her Own Foundation's Orlando Prize, fall 2012, and appeared in the Los Angeles Review. Her book of poetry Perpetual Motion was published by The Word Works in 2012 as the winner of the Hilary Tham Capitol Collection contest. Her work has appeared in literary magazines such as Nimrod, Valparaiso Poetry Review, and Painted Bride Quarterly, French translations and songs on Numero Cinq, and a video-poem on The Continental Review.

April 27, Sunday, 2-4pm - at Conkling Hall. Now It's Your Turn! All are invited to read a favorite poem at our annual **Favorite Poem Project** emceed once again by the inimitable writer/actress/reverend Claire North. The Favorite Poem Project, part of a national movement begun by former poet laureate Robert Pinsky, encourages communities to come together to share poetry. Over the past eight years, neighbors and friends have gathered to read aloud their favorite poems, everything from the silly to the serious, favorites from childhood as well as adulthood. Bring a favorite poem to this year's event! If you are a writer, you may also bring one original (as well as one favorite) poem or other short piece to share. Of course you can come just to listen!

All Events are Free (though donations to the Library are welcome.)

Refreshments Served at all Poetry Month Events!

For more information about any of these events, please call the Rensselaerville Library @ 518 797-3949 or visit its website at www.rensselaervillelibrary.org

Please Note: Conkling Hall is located at 8 Methodist Hill Road in Rensselaerville.

All events not in Conkling Hall will be held at the Rensselaerville Library,
1459 County Route 351, Rensselaerville.

National Poetry Month Celebration

This annual program hosted by the Rensselaerville Library to engage the community in Poetry received the Upper Hudson Library System 2012 Library Program of the Year for rural and small libraries

Upcoming Community Events

April 7 – Lenten Service for Greenville Interfaith Council at 7pm in the Norton Hill Methodist Church.

April 8 – Seniors Meeting -12noon at Medusa Fire House. All seniors 55 years old or older are invited to join.

April 15 – Senior Club members bus to Saratoga Racino. Call Ann Vogel.

April 19 – Breakfast at Medusa Fire House 7-11am. All you can eat, free-will offering.

April 20 – Easter Service at Medusa Church at 10am. All are invited.

May 3 – Medusa Festival from 9am to 4pm --

At the Fire House: Flea Market Venders, Live Music, Food, Chicken BBQ, much more!!!

New this year - there will be a Small Business Fair for Vendors, Craftspeople, and Artists.

Contact April Caprio at 239-6980 or e-mail at april.roggio@gmail.com

Large Rummage Sale at Church Hall 9am-3pm.

“Museum of Medusa History” in the Church will be open.

May 4 – Greenville CROP WALK at 1pm at town park.

May 13 – Seniors Meeting at 12noon at Medusa Fire House

Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Ann Vogel at 797-3376 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ann Vogel 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 Ann Vogel at 797-3376 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

\$1.00 RAFFLE

drawing on April 8th

- ULTRA-LIGHT ROD & REEL
- TROUT & PANFISH LURES



upcoming events:

April 8: CLUB MEETING — 8pm at R'ville Firehouse

- **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**

April 15: Presentation on Wildlife Management and New York State wildlife by Chris Schiralli — 7pm at R'ville Firehouse **ALL ARE WELCOME**

April 27: BULLHEAD FISHING CONTEST — 3-6pm at Fawn Lake, Berne

- \$5 registration, prizes awarded, 16 & under FREE
- **ALL ARE WELCOME**
- info at Club Meeting or visit our Facebook page

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT:

email: rensselaervillerochandgun@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RensselaervilleRodandGunClub>

Spring Yoga Retreat "What's Your Karma?"

Yoga philosophy,
poses, and breathing
to transform your life
Sunday, April 13, 9 am- 5 pm

Sarah Nelson Weiss
savitrSarah@gmail.com, 239-6825
Pre-registration required, \$85



MEDUSA FEST & SMALL BUSINESS FAIR MAY 3 9AM - 4PM

OVER 40 VENDORS
FOOD, FUN & KID'S ACTIVITIES
PLUS TALKS BY
JUSTIN WEXLEZ, WILD HUDSON VALLEY &
ROBERT NIED, CENTER FOR
RURAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
AND MUCH MORE!

Did you know...

...that the highest paid elected official in the Town of Rensselaerville earns a full-time salary while only working part-time hours for the Town?

News from Historical Society

The Rensselaerville Historical Society has a new e-mail address: renselaervillehistorical-soc@gmail.com. Inquiries and news can still be sent to individual officers and members of the Research Group, but they all have access to this new e-mail address and will be able to help answer questions.

Articles for the quarterly RHS newsletter, *The Rensselaerville Press*, are always welcome. Topics can include family and town genealogy, information about present and past houses, businesses, churches, schools, and community events.

Still needed are two volunteers for each Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day to host the Grist Mill Museum from noon to 2 p.m. Training is available and if you can help for even one Saturday during the summer it will be a big help. E-mail Janet Haseley at janethaseley@gmail.com or send a snail mail note to her at Rensselaerville Historical Society, PO Box 8, Rensselaerville, NY 12147.

Organizational Meeting

The Organizational Meeting for the Town of Rensselaerville was held on January 2, 2014. The tables below represent the appointments & elected officials and their wages/salaries as reported on the Wage and Salary Schedule.

POSITION	APPOINTEE	SALARY	HOW PAID
Attorney to the Town	Tabner, Ryan & Keniry, LLP	\$35,500	By voucher
Town Veterinarian	Dr. Diane Biederman	-	-
Critical Incident Manager	Brian Wood	-	-
Critical Incident Officer	Gerald Wood		• -
Deputy Highway Superintendent/Time Keeper	Earl David Potter	\$18.73/hr	Weekly (hourly)
Water Treatment Officer	Douglas Story	\$9k/\$10k	Monthly (salaried)
Deputy Water Treatment	Steven Carney	\$10.00/hr (\$2,000)	Monthly (salaried)
Sewage Treatment Officer	Douglas Story	\$5,000	Monthly (salaried)
Deputy Sewage Treatment Of-	Steven Carney	-	-
Water/Sewer Committee	Micah Kuhar 01/01/14-12/31/18 Jack Long 01/01/09-12/31/14 Tom Delp 01/01/10-12/31/15 Barry Kuhar 01/01/14-12/31/16	-	-
Constable	Richard Simons	\$1,300	Monthly (salaried)
Clerk 1 to the Supervisor	Sarah Hunt	\$19.90/hr	Weekly (hourly)
Accountant to the Town	Pattison, Kosky, Howe & Bucci, CPA		By Voucher
Deputy Supervisor	Marion Cooke	-	-
Clerk 2 to the Assessors	Rachel Chase *(Claire Marshall appointed 3/25/14 temporarily @ \$15/hr)	\$10,106	Monthly (salaried)
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	\$5,140	Monthly (salaried)
Refuse/Recycling Officer	Jon Whitbeck	\$36,705	Weekly (salaried)
Substitute Refuse/Recycling Officer	Edward Pizzigati	\$10.00/ \$11.64	Weekly (hourly)
Historian	Janet Nelson	-	-

Organizational Meeting (cont'd)

POSITION	APPOINTEE	SALARY	HOW PAID
Planning Board	Dorothea Carter 01/01/09-12/31/15 Scott Kunkler 04/12/12-12/31/14 Travis Smigel 01/01/14-12/31/20 Sherri Pine 01/01/10-12/31/16 Barry Kuhar 01/01/14-12/31/17 Walter Cooke 01/01/12-12/31/18 Richard Amedure 01/01/13-12/31/19	-	-
Planning Board Chairman	Richard Amedure	-	-
Planning Board Secretary	Mary Carney	\$10/hr (\$3,500)	Weekly (hourly)
Bldg Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	\$14,930	Monthly (salaried)
Clerk to Bldg Inspector/CEO	Rachel Chase (Mary Carney appointed 3/25/14 temporarily @ \$10/hr.)	\$5,425	Bi-Weekly (salaried)
Zoning Board of Appeals	Anthony Higgins 01/01/13-12/31/17 Jeannette Rice 01/01/13-12/31/16 Bradley Chase 01/01/11-12/31/15 Anthony Guadagno 09/07/10-12/31/14 John Mormile 01/01/14-12/31/18	-	-
Zoning Board of Appeals Chair	John Mormile	-	-
Zoning Board Secretary	Mary Carney	\$10/hr (\$2,000)	Weekly (hourly)
Board of Ethics	Diana Hinchcliff 02/12/12-02/12/17 John Mormile 02/14/13-12/31/18 Maryann Overbaugh 02/12/09-02/12/15 Alden Pierce 02/12/13-12/31/15 Georgette Koenig 04/12/11-12/31/16	-	-
Board of Assessment Review	Bradley Chase 01/14/11-09/30/14 Eric Sutton 01/10-13-09/30/17 Scott Whitbeck 01/02/12-09/30/18	-	-
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Victoria Kraker	\$580	Monthly (salaried)
Deputy Town Clerk/Collector/Registrar	Kathryn Wank	\$11/hr (\$15,600)	Weekly (hourly)
Court Clerks	Mary Carney Deborah Geurtze	\$2,200/ea	Monthly (salaried)
Records Inventory Clerk	Kathryn Wank	-	-
Engineer to the Town	-	As needed	By voucher
Senior Services Coordinator	Ann Vogel	-	-

Organizational Meeting (cont'd)

POSITION	APPOINTEE	SALARY	HOW PAID
Assistant Senior Services Coordinator	Thomas Snyder	-	-
Water Rent Collector	Victoria Kraker	\$400	Annually (salaried)
Temporary Clerk	-	\$12.00/hr (\$2,500)	Weekly (hourly)
Clerk to Hwy Superintendent	Kim Welsch	\$11/hr (\$4,576)	Bi-Weekly (hourly)
Custodian	-	\$12/hr (\$2,000)	Weekly (hourly)

OTHER PAID POSITIONS FOR THE TOWN OF RENNELAERVILLE

POSITION	APPOINTEE	SALARY	HOW PAID
Councilmen (4)	Robert Bolte Marion Cooke Margaret Sedlmeir Gerald Wood	\$3,000/ea.	Monthly (salaried)
Justices (2)	Gregory Bischoff Timothy Miller	\$9,150/ea.	Weekly (salaried)
Supervisor	Valerie Lounsbury	\$12,500	Monthly (salaried)
Town Clerk/Collector	Victoria Kraker	\$32,280	Weekly (salaried)
Assessors	Donna Kropp Richard Tollner Kathryn Wank	\$6,335 \$4,635/\$5,835 \$4,635/\$5,835	Monthly (salaried) Monthly Monthly
Superintendent of Highways	Randy Bates	\$42,300	Weekly (salaried)
Truck driver/operator/mechanic	Highway salaries subject to change due to settlement of union contract	\$17.93/hr	Weekly (hourly)

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

I am a U.S. Army veteran and live in the Town of Rensselaerville, NY. I pay school taxes on my home to the Greenville Central School District.

I am writing about the Veterans tax exemption and the Greenville Central School District.

In late February the Greenville Town Council voted to increase the level of tax exemption for veterans who pay property taxes to the Town of Greenville.

At the end of February the Greenville Board of Education met, discussed the Veterans tax exemption, and then decided not to vote for or against the veteran's exemption.

Please understand that the veteran's exemption is similar to the STARS benefit in that it reduces, but doesn't eliminate your school tax bill. Payment of taxes is still required. It is NOT an exemption from paying any taxes! It is only a REDUCTION in your tax obligation to the school district.

Another point of interest to show how costs or taxes are shifted to others is; customers of Central Hudson Gas & Electric are billed a small extra amount on each bill to give the utility company compensation to "assist low income customers". It's shown on your bill as "SBC/RPS charges.

It's been said that the implementation of a veterans exemption for school taxes would unfairly burden those who are not veterans and pay school taxes. Perhaps we need to look at this from a different angle and consider looking at the school budget and how it can share with taxpayers who are not veterans in the small extra burden.

My viewpoint is twofold; if you are not a veteran with an honorable discharge you don't qualify for the tax exemption. Therefore the exemption is designed to benefit those veterans who did serve our country honorably.

Remember, veterans gave up their civil rights in order to fight for and preserve our freedom. The Veteran's Tax Exemption is one way that we can help the veterans of this area.

If the Greenville town council voted to increase the Veterans tax exemption on property taxes and if the STARS program can be used to benefit taxpayers, why wouldn't the GSCD Board of Education want to exercise its authority (recently granted by NYS) and offer tax relief in the form of a Veterans tax exemption?

I believe that if you show your support for implementation of the Veterans tax exemption on our school taxes you are truly showing your support and thanks to the veterans who served this country honorably!

You can act on this issue by contacting the Greenville Board of Education by email at: boe@greenville.k12.ny.us

You can also send comments in support of this Veterans tax exemption to our local newspapers.

You can choose to do something or to do nothing. What you decide will tell the Veterans where you stand on this issue!

Show your support for the Veterans and urge the BoE to implement the Veterans tax exemption!

Sincerely,
Thomas Albrecht

To the editor:

Congratulations on your first issue! It is very readable, with to-the-point articles on a variety of subjects which will help Rensselaerville citizens know what is coming up soon in our town. The layout is crisp and interestingly-designed. Your suggestion for those who have e-mail to print an extra copy or two and give them to others who do not have e-mail is an inspired idea. Congratulations again!

Janet Haseley
Research Chair, Rensselaerville Historical Society

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Calendar of Events

- April 8 - Town Board work meeting - 7:00pm at Town Hall
- April 10 -Town Board monthly meeting - 7:00pm at Town Hall
- April 15 - Democratic Social Club Meeting - 7:30pm at Medusa Fire House
- April 19 - Free-will Breakfast - 7:00am - 11:00am at Medusa Fire House
- April 25 - Deadline for newsletter submissions for May 2014 issue
- April 26 - Go Green Day - 8:00am - 2:00pm at Farnsworth Middle School
Guilderland
- May 1 - Cecelia Tkazyck Meet & Greet - 7:30pm at Palmer House, Rensselaerville



A Note From the Editors

We hope you enjoyed the first issue (March 2014) of the *R'ville Community Newsletter* and that you look forward with anticipation to future issues. Some people are under the misunderstanding that this publication is a revival of the Town's newsletter of the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. This newsletter represents a community effort **by** the people **for** the people. We have absolutely no support of any kind from Town government. As such, we look forward to receiving submissions at rvillenewsletter@gmail.com. And please spread the word to friends and neighbors to subscribe by sending their email addresses, also to rvillenewsletter@gmail.com. Comments and suggestions are always welcome! As always, please consider making a copy or two for friends or neighbors who might not have interest access.