

# R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2014

## NYS Senate Honors

On February 10, 2014, four retiring Town Clerks were honored by the New York State Senate at the Capital Building in Albany, NY, for their many years of distinguished public service to their Towns. Kathy Hallenbeck of Rensselaerville (40 years), Patricia Favreau of Berne (34 years), Gertrude Smith of Westerlo (27 years), and Rosemary Centi of Guilderland (14 years) were each recognized with a Legislative Resolution sponsored by Senator Cecelia Tkaczyk (46th Senate District). Both Senator Tkaczyk and Senator Neil Breslin addressed this legislative body, noting the dedicated service of each.



Kathy Hallenbeck's Legislative Resolution (Senate No. 3409) reads as follows:

Honoring Kathleen A. Hallenbeck upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished public service to the Town of Rensselaerville

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, attendant to such concern, and in full accord with this long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kathleen A. Hallenbeck upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished public service to the Town of Rensselaerville; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Town of Rensselaerville, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, a life-long resident of Rensselaerville, and in 1966 graduate of Greenville Central School, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck was elected to the office of Town Clerk in November of 1973, and began her term of office January 1974; and

WHEREAS, as Town Clerk, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck served as Registrar, Records Management Officer, Water and Sewer Rent Collector, and Notary Public; in August of 1991, she completed a three year educational program at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, under the auspices of the New Eng-

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### WELCOME

Welcome to this first inaugural issue of the R'ville Community Newsletter. Send your comments and submissions for publication to [rville-newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rville-newsletter@gmail.com). See our flyer on page 2 regarding submissions and our vision.

## Welcome R'ville Community Newsletter

Welcome to this inaugural issue of the R'ville Community Newsletter. We do not undertake this task lightly— there is tremendous responsibility to report truthfully and accurately, and it is our intention to do so.

We realize that this newsletter is not sanctioned by the Town Board, and has not been represented as such. However, more than one year ago, the Town Board decided to abandon a 23-year tradition by abolishing the Town's newsletter, the only consistent means of maintaining communication within the Town. This void needed to be filled until such time that the Town Board is ready to reinstate the official monthly newsletter in its full form. When/if that ever happens, we will be more than happy to suspend our publication.

This newsletter is in its infancy; growing pains are inevitable and changes may need to be made. But we want it to be what you need it to be. So any feedback you wish to share will be greatly appreciated. Enjoy...and let us know what you think. Below you will find our flyer.

A grassroots effort is underway to provide the residents and taxpayers in the Town of Rensselaerville with a newsletter after more than a year since the Town Board abolished the original, official monthly newsletter.

This is a fledgling operation with absolutely no budget so it will be a digital version only distributed by email on or about the first of each month. There will be NO censoring of content provided the following requirements are met:

1. All submissions must be true and accurate.
2. All submissions must be verifiable.
3. **All submissions must be sent as an attachment preferably in Word format.**
4. No submission will be accepted if it contains obscene/profane or any other inappropriate language.
5. All submissions must be accompanied by the name, phone number, and email address of a contact person.

All submissions are welcome ... from groups, from individuals, from businesses. We ask that local civic organizations limit their submissions to one page monthly. Businesses are limited to a business card size ad...at least for the time being. All submissions should be sent to **rvillenewsletter@gmail.com**. The deadline for all submissions will be the 25th of each month. There can be no exceptions to this deadline.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to this free newsletter is asked to send their email address to **rvillenewsletter@gmail.com**. We ask that you inform your friends and neighbors of this latest development so we can attain town-wide distribution.

NO email addresses will be shared; everything will be done using BCC in order to protect your privacy.

Please understand that this is a work in progress and adjustments to policies will be made as needed. Please also know that this is a non-political effort to keep T/O Rensselaerville residents and taxpayers informed on many topics. If and when the Town Board resurrects the official newsletter in its full newsworthiness, we will consider suspending this publication.

Editors of the R'ville Community Newsletter  
Nancy Class  
Marie Dermody  
Georgette Koenig

## NYS Senate Honors

*(Continued from page 1)*

land Municipal Clerk's Institute; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Town Clerks Association of Albany and Schenectady Counties, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck has served in various capacities including President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary; she is also a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks; and

WHEREAS, During her 40 year tenure as Town Clerk, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck has had countless accomplishments; she secured two records management grants, and was instrumental in having all Town Laws codified; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck has been unifying force throughout these four decades of changes to the Town Board and Town Supervisors, and has truly exemplified patience, professionalism, and exceptional customer service; and

WHEREAS, Active within her community, Kathleen A. Hallenbeck currently serves as Secretary of the Clarke White American Legion Auxiliary No. 589, Secretary/Treasurer of the Rensselaerville Democratic Social Club, and a member of the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company Battalion; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband Frank, their three children, Kathleen, William and Jennifer and four grandchildren Seth, Morgan, Lauren, and Gene, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kathleen A. Hallenbeck upon the occasion of her retirement after many years of distinguished service to the Town of Rensselaerville; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kathleen A. Hallenbeck.

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON  
February 4, 2014

By order of the Senate  
Francis W. Patience, Secretary

### *Kudos...*

...to the Town Board for their sound judgment in rescheduling the February 13 Town Board meeting to Friday, February 14, due to the assault of a true "nor'easter". Although it is important to conduct Town business in a timely manner, no one should have to risk their life and limb to attend such meetings. Good call!

### **\*\*\* 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 ([rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com)).

## Help Wanted for the Rensselaerville Cycling Festival: All Offers Considered

Hundreds of cyclists will head to Rensselaerville on September 28, 2014 for the Rensselaerville Cycling Festival, and we need the whole town to come out and be involved to make the event a success! The Festival organizers, Tyler Wren, Jon Kosich and Dave Warburton, are working hard to make sure that the day will be as fun for volunteers as it will be for the riders. There will be fun aid stations to man, like the Sutter Home wine & cheese stop, and encouragement to provide on our ambitiously graded HILLY roads around town. In addition, volunteers will get special event t-shirts and have chances to win prizes, just like the riders! It will be our time to get creative and show the cyclists what gracious and quirky hosts we are here in Rensselaerville. Everyone in town (and all your friends outside of town) is invited up the festivities up at the Carey Institute after the rides, with a barbecue, live music, kids' events and activities, a farmer's market, vendor expo, and more.

You can sign up for the Festival volunteer e-mail list here:

[www.rensselaervillecycling.com/volunteer/](http://www.rensselaervillecycling.com/volunteer/)

You can learn more about the Rensselaerville Cycling Festival here, and/or register for the 8-mile Festival Ride, here:

[www.rensselaervillecycling.com/](http://www.rensselaervillecycling.com/)

You can stay connected to the Festival via Facebook as well here:

[www.facebook.com/rvillecyclefest](http://www.facebook.com/rvillecyclefest)

We hope to see you all on September 28, 2014, with or without a bike!



### *Did you know...*

that the recycling center earned over \$14,000 in payments to the Town in 2013 due to the sale of recyclables? And materials recycled saved the Town \$52 per ton and reduced what entered the waste stream.

## RHDA Honors

Not many people may be aware of an honor bestowed upon Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck by the Rensselaerville Historic District Association (RHDA) in June of last year. A letter he received from Sharon Costello, Chair, reads in part:

"It is our great pleasure to inform you that the Steering Committee of the Rensselaerville Historic District Association (RHDA) has selected you to receive the 2013 Founder's Day Award. Each year, this award recognizes one or two residents of the Town of Rensselaerville for their special contributions to the betterment of our community.

You have been selected because, in your role as town "garbologist," you have demonstrated what it truly means to embrace your community and all its members. Under your leadership, going to the transfer station has become an important part of our community's social interactions, information and resource sharing. While we are pleased that you have also been responsible for many initiatives to improve productivity and profitability to the town's recycling efforts, the RHDA award recognizes the social benefits gained by the friendly welcome and helping hand that you extend to all who come to your "establishment." No one leaves without a bit of news, helpful advise and a smile."

Congratulations, Jon, on your well-deserved award!

**SENIORS CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 5** – Carolyn “Mike” Schultz will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**March 11** – Seniors Meeting 12 noon at Medusa Fire House.

**March 15** – Winter Rummage Sale at Medusa Church Hall 8am-2pm

Breakfast at Medusa Fire House 7-11am

**March 30** – Community Retirement Party for Medusa Post Master, Janice Duncan, from 1-4pm in Medusa Fire House. Bring some food to share.

**April 1** – Senior Club members bus to Saratoga Racino. Call Ann Vogel.

**April 8** – Seniors Meeting 12 noon at Medusa Fire House

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

**April 19** – Breakfast at Medusa Fire House 7-11am

**May 3** – Medusa Festival: Flea Market & Food at Fire House from 9am – 4pm.. 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

**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.

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

Department of Aging	447-7179
HEAP:	447-2551
Food Stamp Program	447-2551

## Town Board Minutes

Editors' Notes: In an attempt to keep the community informed on what's happening in Town government, it was our hope and expectation to share with you the minutes of Town Board meetings. A Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request was submitted to the Records Manager/Town Clerk on February 11, 2014, seeking the minutes from all Town Board meetings from December 2013 and January 2014. An email dated 2/25/2014 seeking a status update to the FOIL request went unanswered. As of the deadline for submissions to this issue of the *R'ville Community Newsletter*, we are sorry to report that we have received nothing to share with you.

According to the Open Meetings Law,

### "§106. Minutes.

1. Minutes shall be taken at all open meetings of a public body which shall consist of a record or summary of all motions, proposals, resolutions and any other matter formally voted upon and the vote thereon.
2. Minutes shall be taken at executive sessions of any action that is taken by formal vote which shall consist of a record or summary of the final determination of such action, and the date and vote thereon; provided, however, that such summary need not include any matter which is not required to be made public by the freedom of information law as added by article six of this chapter.
3. Minutes of meetings of all public bodies shall be available to the public in accordance with the provisions of the freedom of information law within two weeks from the date of such meeting except that minutes taken pursuant to subdivision two hereof shall be available to the public within one week from the date of the executive session."

We realize that the Records Manager/Town Clerk is new to the position and requires a bit of time to get her bearings and become familiar with the requirements of her position. However, when minutes are 12 weeks past the December Town Board meetings (especially when retiring Town Clerk Kathy Hallenbeck had prepared the December minutes prior to leaving office) and 7 weeks past the January Town Board meetings, it begs the question as to whether we are truly getting open and transparent government.

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## Historical Society Needs Your Help

On Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, the Rensselaerville Historical Society will open for the summer season at the Rensselaerville Grist Mill in the hamlet of Rensselaerville and needs a few people to be volunteer hosts/hostesses for two hours on Saturdays.

Free mill tours are offered to the public and access to the extensive archive of Town history papers and family genealogies is available. The Exhibit Room features a new exhibit each summer as well as permanent exhibits on various local history events such as the Van Rensselaers and the Anti-Rent War and information about local soldiers who took part in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars as well as in more modern wars. Training is available for new volunteers.

The Grist Mill is open from mid-May to mid-October for five hours each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and two hours on Saturdays (noon to 2 p.m.) from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Several volunteers on the Research Group meet on the Wednesdays.

Anyone who can donate even one two-hour time slot this year, please e-mail Janet Haseley at janethaseley@gmail.com for details. Those without e-mail can drop a note to her at Rensselaerville Historical Society, PO Box 8, Rensselaerville, NY 12147. Let her know which day/days you are available and she will get in touch with you.

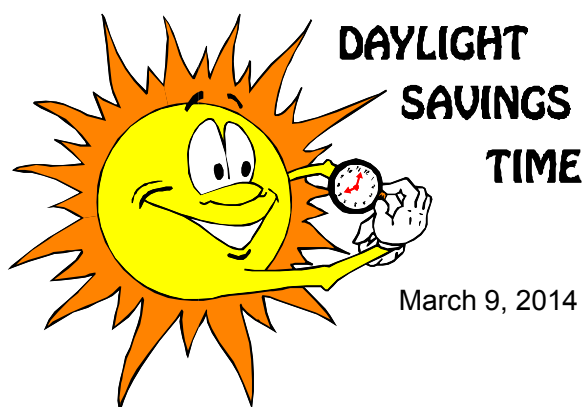
The Rensselaerville Historical Society has information on the whole Town of Rensselaerville, not just the hamlet of Rensselaerville. During 2013, 99 visitors signed the guest book from six foreign countries, 12 states, and 26 towns and cities in New York State.



## Newsletter Contributors

Kathleen Hallenbeck  
Janet Haseley  
William Moore  
Jeffry Pine  
Ruth Snyder  
Jon Whitbeck  
Tyler Wren

Editors:  
Nancy Class  
Marie Dermody  
Georgette Koenig



March 9, 2014



March 17, 2014



March 20, 2014