

# R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 9

November, 2017

## Draft Minutes, Town Board Budget Workshop, October 2, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held the first in a series of Budget Workshops on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were two interested citizens.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the review of the 2018 Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Lounsbury began the review with the General Fund Appropriations. Highlights are as follows:

- ⇒ The Justice Court will now be processing their mailings through the Town Clerk's Office and will no longer need a line for 'postage'. The \$175.00 will be transferred to the 'postage' line item under Office Supplies.
- ⇒ With a new Supervisor on board in January, Supervisor Lounsbury proposed that the Clerk 1/ Bookkeeper line be divided into 2 individual line items.
- ⇒ There will be a \$5,200 decrease in the Supervisor's 'Fees for Services' line item due to negotiations made with MUNIS.
- ⇒ Tabner, Ryan, and Kinery have requested a \$2,000 increase for their annual contract.
- ⇒ The Paramedics annual budget will be increasing by \$2,500 and the BLS (Basic Life Support) annual budget will be increasing by \$40,000.
- ⇒ Under 'Buildings' there will be a decrease of \$40,000 in the 'safety equipment' line due to the fact that the standby generator has been purchased and installed. There will also be a decrease of over \$7,500 in the 'photocopier lease' line due to the contract for the copy machine being renewed and re-negotiated.
- ⇒ Utilities and insurance will be increasing to include the expenses of the Public Safety Building.
- ⇒ The Zoning department as a whole will be seeing a \$4,500 decrease in their budget.
- ⇒ The Safety Inspection department will be increasing by over \$3,000 due

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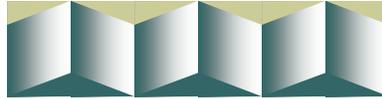
to the addition of a Clerk to the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker,  
Town Clerk



## Draft Minutes, Town Work Meeting, October 10, 2017

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017 at 7:00 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was [sic] Superintendent Bates and four interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

**MINUTES:** Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on October 12, 2017:

- September 12, 2017 – Work Meeting
- September 14, 2017 – Regular Meeting
- September 27, 2017 – Special – Presentation of Tentative Budget

**TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS:** Transfers, if any, will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### **REPORTS**

The regular reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Highway Department, Town Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Center will be given at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Councilman Dolce reported that measurements for the fencing around the standby generator have been taken. A 9' X 13' X 6' high fence will be needed with a 36" service gate. Superintendent Bates has strategically placed jersey barriers out for protection. A 'High-Voltage – Keep Away' sign will also need to be installed on the fencing. Authorization to obtain quotes will be needed at Thursday's Regular Meeting.
2. Attorney Fallati will address the proposed Fee Schedule at the Regular Meeting. A date for the Public Hearing will also need to be scheduled.
3. Town Clerk Kraker presented the Board members with an updated chart outlining the different options available for a new copier. Councilwoman Cooke questioned whether or not the Town could

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## Draft Minutes, Town Work Meeting, October 10, 2017

(Continued from page 2)

upgrade in the midst of the contract if it became necessary. Town Clerk Kraker will report back for Thursday's Regular Meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Attorney Fallati will have the resolution prepared for the Tax Cap Override. A date must be scheduled for the Public Hearing as well.
2. A date must be scheduled for the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget.
3. A Special Meeting must be scheduled for Union Negotiations.
4. Authorization is needed for the Rensselaerville Fire Company to use the Senior/Youth Bus on November 1, 2017 for a trip to the Albany County Dispatch Center.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Jost Nickelsberg wished to reiterate that he feels Highway Superintendent Bates should be given a raise. He feels that Superintendent Bates has done a spectacular job and that the roads speak for themselves. He was also under the impression that the Highway Superintendent's salary had been reduced. Research showed, back through and including the year 2000, that there never was a reduction in salary.

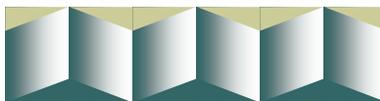
### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir and Wood; Nays (0)*

### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



## Draft Minutes, Town Board Budget Workshop, October 10, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Budget Workshop meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017 immediately following the Work Meeting. The workshop was held at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were four interested citizens.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2018 Tentative Budget.

- ◆ Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh spoke on behalf of his department. He felt the line item for his clerk could be lowered. Also, the Computer Equipment line will be lowered from \$1,400 to \$0 as a new computer was purchased and installed last year.
- ◆ The Medusa Park is asking for \$500 for Specialty Equipment and wishes to lower the Mowing and Misc. Contractual line items by \$250 each.
- ◆ The Medusa Volunteer Fire Company would like to increase their budget by \$2,500 for installation of

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## Draft Minutes, Town Board Budget Workshop, October 10, 2017

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a security system.

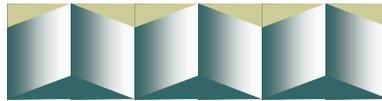
- ◆ Highway Superintendent Bates would like to see the Road Material/Sand/Salt line raised by \$10,000
- ◆ The Road Machinery/Trucks line item will be reduced by \$21,700 due to the purchase of a new truck in 2017. This will still leave \$30,000 towards any future purchases.
- ◆ The Snow Removal/Operator line item may be increased by \$2,300 depending on the results of the upcoming Union Negotiations.
- ◆ Superintendent Bates is interested in purchasing a new loader. The cost would be about \$150,000 to \$160,000.
- ◆ Supervisor Lounsbury estimates Social Security to go up by nearly \$2,000.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)*

### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker,  
Town Clerk



## Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Deputy Supervisor Marion Cooke and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Thomas Fallati, Deputy Supervisor Marion Cooke, Councilman John Dolce, Councilman Gerald Wood, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, and nine interested citizens.

### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Michael Conners, II, Albany County Comptroller, made a presentation on the declining Albany County Sales Tax revenue. Some key points are that:

1. Albany County receives at least 28% of its' sales tax revenue from non-resident sales;
2. Local property taxes are heavily subsidized by sales taxes;
3. As sales taxes decrease, municipalities are going to be facing deficits going forward; and
4. Using 2016 data projections, over the next 10 years, Albany County is at risk to lose at least \$43,119,637 (60%) and cities, towns, and villages are at risk to lose at least \$28,746,424 (40%)

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## Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- September 12, 2017 – Work Meeting
- September 14, 2017 – Regular Meeting
- September 27, 2017 – Special – Presentation of Tentative Budget

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

### TRANSFERS

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to approve the following transfer:

- From 'Senior/Youth Bus Fund' 8514 to 'Vehicle Maintenance' A7610E 44072 in the amount of \$1,080.00 to cover repairs.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS:** General Fund - \$15,120.17; Highway Fund - \$58,037.49; Lighting District - \$702.78; Sewer Fund - \$1,340.36; Water Fund - \$1,371.71; T&A Fund - \$5,880.72. Total Abstracts - \$82,453.23

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to pay all signed vouchers and bills; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deputy Supervisor Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### REPORTS

#### SUPERVISOR

Deputy Supervisor Cooke read the report prepared in advance by Supervisor Lounsbury as follows:

1. Union negotiations have begun.
2. The Town Board continues to work on the 2018 budget.
3. Clerk 1/Bookkeeper, Linda McCormick, has done an excellent job at updating and correcting the retirement records, some dating back several years. Supervisor Lounsbury also received a letter from NYS Retirement System stating that based on adjustments made and correspondence received from the Town, the audit has been closed for the retirement reporting practices.
4. Copies of the Adopted Albany County Shared Services & Property Tax Savings Action Plan are available in the Town Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Supervisor's report as read by Deputy Supervisor Cooke; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**ATTORNEY:** No report, but Attorney Fallati has matters to discuss later in the meeting.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1. Superintendent Bates reported that the Highway Department has finished their paving projects for the season, but continues to do drainage work. Next week they will begin preparing their equipment for winter.
2. It has been discovered that using one of the old plows on the new truck will not work as originally planned. Superintendent Bates has received one quote for \$5,300 for a new plow. There are funds in the Misc. Road Machinery line for this purpose.

## Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017

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3. The Highway is also looking at getting a new loader. A portion of the FEMA funds can be utilized for this purpose. The FEMA audit has been completed and the money is available for the Town to use as needed.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to allow Superintendent Bates to proceed with obtaining quotes for both the snow plow and the loader. The motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to accept the Highway Superintendent's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**TOWN CLERK:** 1. Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of September as follows: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$3,005.50. Paid to the Supervisor - \$859.39- the breakdown is as follows: Clerk Fees - \$134.39; Recycling - \$147.00; Dog Licenses - \$108.00; Building Permits - \$200.00; Zoning - \$270.00. Total: \$859.39

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$18.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$2,128.11

Sewer Rents collected for the month totaled \$1,171.64 which includes \$14.88 in penalties.

Water Rents collected for the month totaled \$910.16 which includes \$15.00 in penalties.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR**

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported one Residential Repair permit; one Accessory Building permit; and one New Home Construction permit for the month of September.

2. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh also reported that the County may be in the process of taking over an abandoned property on Rt. 354. This leaves the Town's hands tied regarding maintenance.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Pine reported that even though the tax-freeze has ended this year, homeowners should still get checks under the new tax-relief plan. Checks will be based on a sliding scale and the average amount will be around \$180.

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to accept the Assessor's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

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**Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017**

(Continued from page 6)

**WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE:**

Town Clerk Kraker read a written report submitted by Water/Sewer Operator John Rice as follows:

The water plant treated 329,800 gallons of water (a daily average of 10,993 gallons) and the sewer processed 217,800 gallons of waste (a daily average of 7,260 gallons).

A break was discovered on Methodist Hill on October 1<sup>st</sup>, which drained the clear well. The 2" galvanized pipe was also used as a service line and to pressurize Methodist Hill. A new curb stop and 50' of new ¾" line was installed; and a new pressure switch at the Methodist Hill booster pump was replaced.

Councilman Wood questioned why the 2" pipe was replaced with a ¾" pipe. The former Water/Sewer Treatment Officer, Doug Story, was in attendance and offered an explanation that the line in question only feeds one house, thus most likely the reason the 2" pipe was replaced with a ¾". Councilman Wood expressed his gratitude for the response, and reiterated that this is the reason he feels a representative from the Water/Sewer committee should be attending the Regular Town Board meetings.

Acceptance of the Water/Sewer Committee report will be tabled until the November meeting.

**REFUSE/RECYCLING**

1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of September: Green Fiber: 1.34 tons; Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 10.32 tons; City of Albany Landfill: 68.38 tons; Sierra Fibers: 4.86 tons; comingled; 4.79 tons old cardboard container; Oil: 59 gallons ; Tires: 61

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to accept the Recycling Coordinator's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**CURRENT EVENTS**

Linda Styer, Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Rensselaerville Library announced the following events:

1. Author Readings – October 25<sup>th</sup> – Marni Graff and November 29<sup>th</sup> – Jill Witbeck Knapp
2. The Library is teaming up with the Albany National Weather Service to provide programs on climate science. There will be two more discussions, one on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and the other on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Both will be held at the Library at 7:00 pm.
3. There are several children's programs available.

The Library also welcomed three new board members: Joe Frisino, Paul Ventura, and Tom White.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Councilman Dolce reported that a 110-volt outlet will be installed on the outside of the building for the trucks to plug into. The outlet will be run by the generator during power outages.

Superintendent Bates has strategically placed jersey barriers near the generator for protection.

Councilman Dolce also reported that measurements for the fencing around the generator have been taken. A 9' X 13' X 6' high fence will be needed with a 36" service gate.

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to allow Supervisor Lounsbury to obtain quotes for the fencing as well as the 'High-Voltage' sign. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

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**Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017**

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2. Attorney Fallati still has some technicalities to work out regarding the proposed fee schedule, but should be ready to move forward by the November meeting.

3. At the Work Meeting, Councilwoman Cooke questioned whether or not upgrades could be made to the copier contract should the needs of the Town change in the future. Town Clerk Kraker reported that changes could, in fact, be made.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the 63-month proposal for a new copier from Eastern Managed Print Network for \$205.00/month and to allow Supervisor Lounsbury to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Attorney Fallati read the resolution for Local Law No. 1 of 2017 as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE  
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State established a ‘tax cap’ that generally limits the increase in the Town’s assessment for Fiscal Year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the tax cap statute permits a local government to override the limit for the upcoming fiscal year through adoption of a local law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board had determined that it may be necessary to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2018 that incorporates a tax increase in excess of the tax cap;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville that pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law and the General Municipal Law, a public hearing shall be conducted at the Town Hall on October 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm on the attached proposed Local Law, and notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published on or before October 19, 2017 in a newspaper circulating in the Town.

By motion made by Marion Cooke and seconded by Gerald Wood, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017 as follows:

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No/Absent/Abstain</u>
Valerie Lounsbury, Supervisor		Absent
Marion Cooke, Councilwoman	X	
John Dolce, Councilman	X	
Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilwoman		Absent
Gerald Wood, Councilman	X	
	End Resolution	

## Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017

Town Law No. 1 of 2017 of the Town of Rensselaerville

A Local Law Overriding the Real Property Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2018

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

### Section 1. Legislative Authority

Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 of New York State, incorporated in § 3-c of the General Municipal Law, established a 'tax cap' that generally limits the amount of a municipality's real property tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year according to a formula set out in the statute, but the statute also authorizes local governments, pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c(5), to override the tax levy limit for the upcoming fiscal year.

### Section 2. Override of Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2018

The real property tax levy limit set out in § 3-c of the General Municipal Law is overridden, pursuant to New York General Municipal Law §3-c(5), for Fiscal Year 2018, and the Town may adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2018 that incorporates a real property tax increase in excess of the otherwise applicable tax levy limit.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

2. A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to schedule a Public Hearing for November 1, 2017 at 7:00 pm on the Preliminary Budget and to allow the Town Clerk to advertise the hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

3. A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to schedule a Special Meeting for the purpose of discussing Union Negotiations and to allow the Town Clerk to advertise the meeting. The Special Meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override on October 25, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

4. A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to allow the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department use of the Senior/Youth Bus on November 1, 2017 for a trip to the Albany County Dispatch Center. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Cooke to enter into Executive Session at 8:15 pm concerning Union Negotiations; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to return from Executive Session at 8:25 pm; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Dolce.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Dolce to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deputy Supervisor Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Cooke, Dolce, and Wood; Nays (0); Absent (2) Lounsbury and Sedlmeir*

**Draft Minutes, Town Board Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017**

*(Continued from page 9)*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk



***Move Breathe Relax***

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

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

Classes Open to All at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT  
savitrisarah@gmail.com, 518.817.8720

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00

All Others—\$12.00

10 Classes—\$100.00

**In My Opinion***Submitted by Marie Dermody*

Once again, I find myself in a position to call out the members of the Town Board for their recent actions at a Budget Workshop and their subsequent inaction.

In explanation, what follows is an email I sent to each Town Board member after the 10/17/2017 budget workshop:

“You as a Town Board need to stop sending mixed messages!

Last evening, when I attempted to comment that the raise you were contemplating for the deputy superintendent/timekeeper stipend represented over a 100% raise, I was admonished that this was your meeting. Meaning? My comments were not welcome.

And yet, later in the meeting, when you knew I had statistical information that would prove useful at that time, you had no problem including me in the discussion. Meaning? You’ll use me when it fits your agenda but exclude me when I might have information you don’t want to hear.

Bottom line? You cannot have it both ways! Please let me know how you intend to proceed. I’m sorry if you don’t like the fact that I’m well prepared with information and data that you have not bothered to gather or compile yourselves. So be it. Just let me know now.”

This email was sent on October 18, 2017. As of today (October 26, 2017), **not one** Town Board member has acknowledged receipt of this message or responded in any way. This is not what I expect from our elected representatives.

How many other citizens have been ignored ... or is it only me?

**POST OFFICE INFORMATION**

<http://www.usps.com>

**MEDUSA POST OFFICE:** Phone 518-239-4826  
(19 COUNTY ROUTE 351 MEDUSA, NY 12120)

**Retail Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:15am

**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:15am

**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Fri 7:30am - 5:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:30am

**PRESTON HOLLOW POST OFFICE:** Phone 518-239-6111  
(2930 ROUTE 145 PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469)

**Retail Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am - 10:30am; 3:00pm - 5:00pm; Sat 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 5:00pm; Sat 12:00pm

**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Sat 12:01am - 11:59pm

**RENSSELAERVILLE POST OFFICE:** Phone 518-797-3231  
(26 COUNTY ROUTE 353 RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147)

**Retail Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:00am

**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:30am

**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am



**RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULE – 2017**

The following series of Rabies Vaccination Clinics for dogs, cats, and ferrets has been arranged

by the Albany County Department of Health in cooperation with the Capital District Veterinary

Medical Society.

**All dogs, cats, and ferrets must be on leashes or in carriers.**

**A record of prior vaccination will be required for a three-year immunization-certification.**

**If no record is presented, a one year vaccination certification will be issued.**

**All clinics are open to any Albany County resident.**

Any inquiry can be directed to Division of Environmental Health Services (518) 447-4620 or 447-4625.

Saturday, **November 4, 2017** 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Village of Green Island

Public Works Garage

Cohoes Avenue - Green Island

*Times: 1:00 - 2:30 pm for cats and ferret*

*2:30 - 4:00 pm for dogs*

**DONATION: \$8.00 PER ANIMAL**



**Rensselaerville Historical Society**

The Research group of the Rensselaerville Historical Society will be meeting in the basement of the Library on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until mid-May because there is no heat at the Grist Mill Museum. Persons wanting help with research questions may email [rensselaervillehistoricalsoc@gmail.com](mailto:rensselaervillehistoricalsoc@gmail.com).



**BLOOD DRIVES**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

**Middleburgh Central School**

291 Main St  
Middleburgh, NY 12122

10 mi | 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

At this drive, you can give:

Blood Power Red

**Saturday, November 25, 2017**

**Norton Hill Methodist Church**

5830 State Route 81  
Greenville, NY 12083

5.5 mi | 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

At this drive, you can give:

Blood Power Red



**RVFD News**

- **IMPORTANT:** Our social number is: **966-0338**. Please update your records. In case of an emergency, call 9-1-1.
- **Is there a fire in you? Please come to a drill or meeting to find out more.**
  - ⇒ Drills are the first two Mondays at 7:00,
  - ⇒ Battalion meeting first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm (no meeting in August), and
  - ⇒ Fire Meeting last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm.



## 2017 NYS BALLOT PROPOSAL #1

The New York State Constitution requires that every 20 years the people decide if a Constitutional Convention should be held to consider amendments to the State Constitution. The purpose of this Ballot Question is to allow the voters of New York State to determine whether a Constitutional Convention will be held in 2019.

If a majority voting on this Question votes NO, there will be no Constitutional Convention.

If a majority votes YES, three delegates from each state senatorial district and 15 at large statewide delegates will be elected in November 2018. The delegates will convene at the Capitol in April 2019. Amendments adopted by a majority of the delegates will be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in a statewide referendum to be held at least six weeks after the Convention adjourns. The delegates will determine whether to submit proposed amendments as separate questions. Any amendments that the voters approve will go into effect on the January 1 following their approval.

If a majority votes in favor of a Constitutional Convention, then the delegates will receive for their services the same compensation as that payable to Members of the Assembly. The delegates also will be reimbursed for actual traveling expenses while the Convention is in session, to the extent that Members of the Assembly would be entitled reimbursement during a session of the Legislature.

The delegates will have the power to appoint the officers, employees, and assistants that they deem necessary and to fix the compensation of those officers, employees, and assistants. The delegates also will have the power to provide for the expenses of the Convention, including the printing of its documents, journal, and proceedings. The delegates will determine the rules of their proceedings, choose their officers, and be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of their members. A vacancy in an office of district delegate will be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates representing the district in which the vacancy occurs; a vacancy in the office of a delegate-at-large will be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates-at-large.

### **Proposal #1: Constitutional Convention Question (2017)**

#### **Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?**

At the general election to be held in the year nineteen hundred fifty-seven, and every twentieth year thereafter, and also at such times as the legislature may by law provide, the question "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" shall be submitted to and decided by the electors of the state; and in case a majority of the electors voting thereon shall decide in favor of a convention for such purpose, the electors of every senate district of the state, as then organized, shall elect three delegates at the next ensuing general election, and the electors of the state voting at the same election shall elect fifteen delegates-at-large. The delegates so elected shall convene at the capitol on the first Tuesday of April next ensuing after their election, and shall continue their session until the business of such convention shall have been completed. Every delegate shall receive for his or her services the same compensation as shall then be annually payable to the members of the assembly and be reimbursed for actual traveling expenses, while the convention is in session, to the extent that a member of the assembly would then be entitled thereto in the case of a session of the legislature. A majority of the convention shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and no amendment to the constitution shall be submitted for approval to the electors as hereinafter provided, unless by the assent of a majority of all the delegates elected to the convention, the ayes and noes being entered on the journal to be kept. The convention shall have the power to appoint such officers, employees and assistants as it may deem necessary, and fix their compensation and to provide for the printing of its documents, journal, proceedings and other expenses of said convention. The convention shall determine the rules of its own proceedings, choose its own officers, and be the judge of the election, returns and qualifications of its members. In case of a vacancy, by death, resignation or other cause, of any district delegate elected to the convention, such vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates representing the dis-

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

trict in which such vacancy occurs. If such vacancy occurs in the office of a delegate-at-large, such vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the remaining delegates-at-large. Any proposed constitution or constitutional amendment which shall have been adopted by such convention, shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of the state at the time and in the manner provided by such convention, at an election which shall be held not less than six weeks after the adjournment of such convention. Upon the approval of such constitution or constitutional amendments, in the manner provided in the last preceding section, such constitution or constitutional amendment, shall go into effect on the first day of January next after such approval.

Source: [https://ballotpedia.org/New\\_York\\_Proposal\\_1,\\_Constitutional\\_Convention\\_Question\\_\(2017\)](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Proposal_1,_Constitutional_Convention_Question_(2017))

**YOU COULD LOSE YOUR PENSION!**

**VOTE NO** 

On Election Day 2017, New Yorkers will be asked if the state should hold a convention to re-write our constitution.  
**It's a bad idea!** - And here's what you need to know:

**WHAT IS A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?**

The NYS Constitutional Convention is a meeting of delegates from each senate district. They convene in Albany and have the ability to amend ANY part of New York State's constitution.

**WHAT'S AT STAKE?**

**PENSION GUARANTEES!**

Public employee pensions of both **active and retired** members are currently protected by the State Constitution, but a convention could remove those protections.

**WORKERS COMPENSATION**

Losing the right to Workers Compensation could make working more dangerous for members who perform dangerous jobs everyday.

**THE RIGHT TO JOIN A UNION & COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN**

Without unions and the right to collectively bargain it would be every employee for himself. Employers could strip your hard earned benefits and slash your salary at will.

## 2017 NYS BALLOT PROPOSAL #2

New York's Constitution now provides that the benefits of a public pension or retirement system cannot be reduced or impaired. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to allow a court to reduce or revoke the public pension of a public officer who is convicted of a felony that has a direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer's existing duties.

A court could determine, after notice to the public officer and a hearing, if a public officer convicted of such a felony would lose part or all of the pension. In reaching this determination, the court must consider factors including the seriousness of the public officer's crime, the proportionality of a reduction or revocation to the crime, whether forfeiture would result in undue hardship or other inequity to dependent children, spouse, or other dependents, and any other factors provided by the Legislature. The Legislature must enact law that puts this proposal into effect, taking into account principles of fairness.

The proposed amendment would define "public officer" to mean the following:

- An official filling an elected office within New York;
- A person holding an office that is filled by appointment by the New York Governor, whether or not that appointment has to be confirmed by the Senate;
- A county, city, town, or village administrator, manager or equivalent position;
- The head of any state or local government department, division, board, commission, bureau, public benefit corporation, or public authority in New York who is vested with authority, direction, and control over that entity;
- The chief fiscal officer or treasurer of a municipal corporation or political subdivision in New York;
- A judge or justice of the Unified Court System; and
- A legislative, executive, or judicial employee who directly assists in the formulation of legislation, rules, regulations, policy, or judicial decision-making and who is designated by law as a policy-maker.

If approved, the amendment will apply only to crimes committed on or after January 1, 2018.

### **Proposal 2: Pension Forfeiture for Convicted Officials Amendment (2017)**

**The proposed amendment to section 7 of Article 2 of the State Constitution would allow a court to reduce or revoke the public pension of a public officer who is convicted of a felony that has a direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer's existing duties. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?**

The measure would amend Section 7 of Article V of the New York Constitution. The following underlined text would be added:

a) After July first, nineteen hundred forty, membership in any pension or retirement system of the state or of a civil division thereof shall be a contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of this section, the public pension of a public officer, as defined in paragraph (c) of this section, who stands convicted of a felony for which such felony has a direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer's existing duties, may be reduced or revoked, following notice and a hearing by an appropriate court, as provided by law. The court determination whether to reduce or revoke such pension shall be based on the consideration of factors including the severity of the crime and the proportionality of a reduction or revocation of such pension to such crime. When a court issues an order to reduce or revoke such pension, the court shall consider and determine specific findings as to the amount of such forfeiture, if any, and whether forfeiture, in whole or in part,

*(Continued on page 17)*

(Continued from page 16)

would result in undue hardship or other inequity upon any dependent children, spouse or other dependents; and other factors as provided by law. The legislature shall enact legislation to implement this amendment taking into account interests of justice.

(c) For the purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, the term "public officer" shall mean: (i) an official filling an elected office within the state; (ii) a holder of office filled by direct appointment by the governor of this state, either upon or without senate confirmation; (iii) a county, city, town or village administrator, manager or equivalent position; (iv) the head or heads of any state or local government department, division, board, commission, bureau, public benefit corporation, or public authority of this state who are vested with authority, direction and control over such department, division, board, commission, bureau, public benefit corporation or public authority; (v) the chief fiscal officer or treasurer of any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state; (vi) a judge or justice of the unified court system; and (vii) a legislative, executive, or judicial employee of this state who directly assists in the formulation of legislation, rules, regulations, policy, or judicial decision-making and who is designated as a policymaker as set forth in statute.

(d) Paragraph (b) of this section shall only apply to crimes committed on or after the first of January next succeeding the date upon which the people shall approve and ratify the amendment to the constitution that added this paragraph.

Source: <https://ballotpedia.org/>

[New York Proposal 2, Pension Forfeiture for Convicted Officials Amendment \(2017\)](#)

### **2017 NYS BALLOT PROPOSAL #3**

New York State's Constitution protects the State's forest preserve as wild forest land and generally prohibits the lease, sale, exchange, or taking of any forest preserve land. The proposed amendment will create two new exceptions to this broad protection of the forest preserve to make it easier for municipalities to undertake certain health and safety projects.

First, the proposed amendment will create a land account of up to 250 acres of forest preserve land. A town, village, or county can apply to the land account if it has no viable alternative to using forest preserve land for specified health and safety purposes. These purposes are (1) to address bridge hazards or safety on specified highways; (2) to eliminate the hazards of dangerous curves and grades on specified highways; (3) to relocate, reconstruct, and maintain highways; and (4) for water wells and necessary related accessories located within 530 feet of a specified highway, where needed to meet drinking water quality standards. The State will acquire 250 acres to add to the forest preserve to replace the land placed in the health and safety land account, subject to approval by the Legislature,

Second, the proposed amendment will allow bicycle paths and types of public utility lines to be located within the widths of specified highways that cross forest preserve land. The work on the bicycle paths and utility lines must minimize the removal of trees and vegetation. The proposed amendment will allow a stabilization device (such as a guy wire) for an existing utility pole to be located near the width of a highway when necessary to ensure public health and safety and when no other viable option exists. The proposed amendment prohibits the construction of a new intrastate gas or oil pipeline that did not receive necessary state and local permits and approvals by June 1, 2016

#### **Proposal 3: Forest Preserve Land Bank Amendment (2017)**

**The proposed amendment will create a land account with up to 250 acres of forest preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using forest preserve land to address specific public health and safety concerns; as a substitute for the land removed from the forest preserve, another 250 acres of land, will be added to the forest preserve, subject to legislative approval. The proposed amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specified highways that cross the forest preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?**

## 2017 NYS BALLOT PROPOSAL #3

(Continued from page 17)

### Proposal 3: Forest Preserve Land Bank Amendment (2017)

The proposed amendment will create a land account with up to 250 acres of forest preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using forest preserve land to address specific public health and safety concerns; as a substitute for the land removed from the forest preserve, another 250 acres of land, will be added to the forest preserve, subject to legislative approval. The proposed amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specified highways that cross the forest preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

The measure would add a paragraph to [Section 1 of Article XIV](#) and a Section 6 to [Article XIV](#) of the [New York Constitution](#). The following text would be added:

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions and subject to legislative approval prior to actual transfer of title, a total of no more than two hundred fifty acres of forest preserve land shall be used for the establishment of a health and safety land account. Where no viable alternative exists and other criteria developed by the legislature are satisfied, a town, village or county may apply, pursuant to a process determined by the legislature, to the health and safety land account for projects limited to: address bridge hazards or safety on county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained; elimination of the hazards of dangerous curves and grades on county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained; relocation and reconstruction and maintenance of county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen and annually plowed and regularly maintained, provided further that no single relocated portion of any such highway shall exceed one mile in length; and water wells and necessary appurtenances when such wells are necessary to meet drinking water quality standards and are located within five hundred thirty feet of state highways, county highways, and town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated, and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained. As a condition of the creation of such health and safety land account the state shall acquire two hundred fifty acres of land for incorporation into the forest preserve, on condition that the legislature shall approve such lands to be added to the forest preserve.

#### Section 6

§6. Where state, county, or town highways listed on the local highway inventory maintained by the department of transportation, dedicated and in existence on January first, two thousand fifteen, and annually plowed and regularly maintained, traverse forest preserve land, public utility lines, limited to electric, telephone, broadband, water or sewer lines as defined in law, may, consistent with standards and requirements set forth in law, and following receipt of all permits or authorizations required by law, be buried or co-located within the widths of such highways as defined in law, and bicycle paths may, consistent with standards and requirements set forth in law, and following receipt of all permits or authorizations required by law, be constructed and maintained within the widths of such highways, as defined in law; provided, however, when no viable alternative exists and when necessary to ensure public health and safety, a stabilization device for an existing utility pole may be located in proximity to the width of the road, as defined in law; provided further, that any co-location, burial, maintenance or construction shall

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 18)

minimize the removal of trees or vegetation and shall not include the construction of any new intrastate natural gas or oil pipelines that have not received all necessary state and local permits and authorizations as of June first, two thousand sixteen.

Source: [https://ballotpedia.org/New\\_York\\_Proposal\\_3,\\_Forest\\_Preserve\\_Land\\_Bank\\_Amendment\\_\(2017\)](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Proposal_3,_Forest_Preserve_Land_Bank_Amendment_(2017))



### Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) 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 Town Hall at 239-4225 if you're interested in volunteering as a driver for our senior citizens..

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

- Department of Aging 518-447-7179
- HEAP: 518-447-2551

**NOTICE: Nov 29 11am-1pm HEAP Outreach Day**

**Town Hall**

A representative from the Home Energy Assistance Program - HEAP - will be available to answer questions and assist with completing the HEAP applications



What's new at the Carey Institute? Sign up at [careyinstitute.org](http://careyinstitute.org) to receive our email updates. The form can be found at the bottom of our home page.



## Helderberg Brewery Fall/Winter Hours Wednesdays 6-10PM & Fridays 6-10PM

### Mission

The Carey Institute for Global Good is dedicated to making a better world by contributing to a strong, educated and just society.

### Values

- **Citizens and civil society should:** be educated, healthy and safe; be informed, empowered and engaged; have their rights protected, sufficient representation and the right to fully participate in the democratic process.
- **Governance should be:** effective, transparent and accountable; responsive, responsible and representative; inclusive, just and participatory.
- **Development should be:** economically, ecologically and socially ethical, equitable and sustainable.



**BREAKFAST  
AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

7:00AM TO 11:00AM



~~September 16, 2017~~

~~October 21, 2017~~

November 18, 2017

December 16, 2017

January 20, 2018

February 17, 2018

March 17, 2018

April 21, 2018



PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Fresh, hot, all-you-can-eat breakfast made  
to order*

Free will offering



Happy  
Thanksgiving

## MCS Superintendent Search

As the Middleburgh Central School District begins its search for a new school superintendent, the Board of Education wants to hear from all community members, including parents, guardians, local residents, faculty and staff about what they are looking for in a new superintendent and what they feel are the district's strengths and areas needing improvement. Community members are also asked to share their thoughts about the characteristics and personal attributes they want their new superintendent to have, as well as what the new superintendent should work on first.

The Board of Education is working with Capital Region BOCES to conduct the superintendent search. Meetings with district faculty and staff and the community are an important part of that search process.

The board hopes to have a new superintendent in place for a March 1, 2018 start date.

### Superintendent Search Process and Timeline

~~Oct. 11: Superintendent Search Brochure prepared and distributed.~~

~~Oct. 18: Stakeholders identified and confirmed.~~

~~Oct. 25: Stakeholder orientation and preparation of interview questions.~~

Nov. 8: Board prepares sets of interview questions.

Nov. 22: Application deadline.

Nov. 29: BOE meets to review candidates and select those to be interviewed.

Dec. 6: 1st Round interviews with BOE at BOCES facility.

Dec. 11: Meet with stakeholder team leaders for final guidance.

Dec. 13: 2nd Round interviews with stakeholders at Middleburgh facility.

Dec. 18: Stakeholder teams report to BOE, board selects finalists.

Dec. 28 or Jan. 3: 3rd Round interviews by BOE.

Jan. 4: BOE meets to select candidate.

Jan. 10 or 24th: Announcement of new Superintendent (time for contract negotiations).

March 1: New Superintendent starts.

Source: <http://middleburghcsd.org/suptsearch.cfm>

*Vision* Forward-Thinking  
 Students *Budgets* Communicative  
*Technology* Curriculum *Inspiring*

# Superintendent

**LEADERSHIP MATTERS.** Search

**Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	
Town Supervisor Hours: M-F :9a.-12pm	Valerie Lounsbury	vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Town Councilwoman	Marion Cooke	mcooke@rensselaerville.com	
Town Councilman	John Dolce	jdolce@rensselaerville.com	
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com	
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com	
Town Justices Court: Mondays, 7pm	Ronald Bates Dwight T. Cooke	Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Supervisor's Clerk	Linda McCormick	clerk1@rensselaerville.com	
Town Clerk Hours: M-W: 9am-3:30pm Th: 1:30pm-6:30pm or by appointment F: 9am-12pm	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com vkraker@rensselaerville.com	
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Highway Superintendent Clerk	Kim Welsch	Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Assessors Clerk Hours: M-Th: 9am-12pm Assessor Hours: M: 1pm-3pm Th: 6:30pm-8:30pm	Donna Kropp Jeffry Pine Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer Office Hours: Th: 8am-10am Th: 7pm-9pm	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Planning Board Meetings: 1st & 3rd Th @ 7:30pm	Richard Amedure	spfleging@rensselaerville.com	
Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings: 1st Th @ 6:30pm	Anthony Guadagno	spfleging@rensselaerville.com	
Board of Ethics	Mary Anne Overbaugh	ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com	
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 728-8082	
Refuse/Recycling Coordinator Refuse Station Hours: W, Sa: 7am-3:45pm	Jon Whitbeck	Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798; Fax: 239-6339	
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339	
<b>Albany Co. Hwy Dept.</b> 239-6715; 239-6710  Town Meetings: Work: Tues. preceding monthly mtg Regular: 2nd Thurs @7pm	<b>Sen. George Amedure</b> 46th District LOB, Room 802 Albany, NY 12247 455-2350; Fax: 426-6751 Amedure@nysenate.gov	<b>Assemblyman Peter Lopez</b> 102nd District LOB, Room 402 Albany, NY 12248 455-5363 LopezP@nyassembly.gov	<b>County Legislator Chris Smith</b> 39th District Alb Co Office Building 112 State Street Albany, NY 12207 447-7168; (H) 447-7117

**Kids' Activity Page**

**Thanksgiving Fill-in-the-Blank**

Plural Noun:	_____
Celebrity:	_____
Celebrity:	_____
Relative:	_____
Family Pet:	_____
Adjective:	_____
Plural Body Part:	_____
Plural Noun:	_____
Adjective:	_____
Verb:	_____
Verb ending in "ing":	_____
Event:	_____
Adjective:	_____
Plural Noun:	_____
Plural Noun:	_____

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time, especially if you like to eat \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(plural noun)**

My family likes to invite \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(celebrity)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(celebrity)**  
 for dinner, but it's usually just \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(relative)** \_\_\_\_\_ **(family pet)**  
 and they're both really \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(adjective)**

I like to do Thanksgiving crafts. We smear paint on our \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(plural body parts)**  
 and make turkey prints on colored \_\_\_\_\_ . Then we draw pictures of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(plural noun)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(adjective)** leaves, cut them out and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(verb)**  
 them so we can decorate the house in festive colors.

My family likes to watch the parade go \_\_\_\_\_ through town before we  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(verb ending in "ing")**  
 watch a football \_\_\_\_\_ on TV.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(event)**

Dinner is my favorite part. Turkey is \_\_\_\_\_ , but yams taste more like  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(adjective)**  
 old \_\_\_\_\_ . Pumpkin pie is the best. I like to eat it with lots of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(plural noun)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **(plural noun)** on top.

## WNY Open Government Report: 97 Percent of Executive Sessions Called Incorrectly

The following is reprinted with permission from *The Schoharie Pulse*. Although the report deals with western New York, the findings can, to some extent, be extrapolated to what is going on in many municipalities around the state, including the Town of Rensselaerville. As you may be aware, this has been an on-going crusade on my part for our Town Board to be more compliant with New York State's Open Meetings Law as it relates to Executive Sessions.

"NYSTATEOFPOLITICS: By Ryan Whalen - 10/27/2017

The Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government has released a somewhat eye-opening report regarding executive sessions in Western New York. The non-partisan group which does its research primarily through the work of volunteers, studied meeting minutes of 16 municipal governments – eight from Erie County and eight from Niagara County – for six months starting at the beginning of this year. What it found, was 97 percent of motions for executive sessions were made incorrectly. The coalition said the top three reasons the closed-door sessions were called were to "discuss litigation," to "discuss a personnel matter," and to "discuss a contract." In any of those cases, attorney Paul Wolf said, the local governments were not being nearly specific enough. "That's not sufficient under the open meetings law. It's not sufficient according to court decisions. It's not sufficient according to opinions of the New York State Committee on Open Government," Wolf said. For instance, when it comes to discussing ongoing litigation, a government has to acknowledge what the legal matter is about. Furthermore, Wolf said, the right to discuss legal matters behind closed doors applies specifically and only to strategy. "This should not be a game of clue where the public is trying to figure out, was it Professor Plum with the candlestick in the dining room. That's not how this is supposed to work. You have a right to meet behind doors but the public has a right to know what you are discussing behind closed doors," he said. According to the report, the Town of Lewiston held the most executive sessions of the municipalities studied. Perhaps more troubling, the town of West Seneca spent 12.5 hours in executive session during the six month period and for five of its seven meetings, the executive session was longer than the public portion. "We all knew from our own individual experiences that there were problems with motions for executive sessions. That's why we took a look at this, though quite honestly, never expected to find 97 percent done incorrectly," Wolf said. The attorney commended roughly a third of the municipalities in the study that held no closed door meetings during the time of the study. He said they were typically the largest bodies, including the Erie County Legislature, Buffalo Common Council and Niagara Falls City Council."

Although it is comforting to know that this is a problem prevalent in other areas of the state, and probably all areas of the state, it is not appropriate to condone it or dismiss it as "everyone does it." The Town of Rensselaerville should be expected to achieve 100% compliance with the law. Why not be a leader for others to emulate rather than a follower of others with lower standards?



**On the Calendar**

Nov 1	7:00pm	Public Hearing on the 2018 Preliminary Budget	Town Hall
Nov 5		<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!!!!</b>	
Nov 5	10:00 am	Medusa United Church of Christ Services	Medusa
Nov 5	11:30–2pm	Annual Turkey Dinner	Medusa Firehouse
Nov 5	11:00 am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services	Rensselaerville
Nov 6	7:30pm	Medusa VFC Firemen's meeting	Medusa Firehouse
Nov 7	6am - 9pm	<b>ELECTION DAY - GET OUT AND VOTE!</b>	
		<b>TOWN OFFICES CLOSED—WORK MEETING CANCELED</b>	
Nov 7	4:30-7PM	Election Day Dinner	Medusa Firehouse
Nov 9	7:00pm	Town Board Regular Meeting	Town Hall
Nov 10		<b>TOWN OFFICES CLOSED - VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVED</b>	
Nov 11		<b>VETERAN'S DAY</b>	
Nov 11		Christmas Décor & Craft Sale at the Greenhouse	Preston Hollow
Nov 12	10:00 am	Medusa United Church of Christ Services	Medusa
Nov 12	11:00 am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services	Rensselaerville
Nov 10		<b>TOWN OFFICES CLOSED - VETERANS DAY OBSERVED</b>	
Nov 14	12 noon	Senior Holiday Dinner at Gavin's in East Durham No charge for members, but you need to sign up.	
Nov 14	7:00pm	Town Board Work Meeting	Town Hall
Nov 18	7– 11am	Medusa VFD Breakfast	Medusa Firehouse
Nov 19	10:00 am	Medusa United Church of Christ Services	Medusa
Nov 19	11:00 am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services	Rensselaerville
Nov 23		<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!</b>	
Nov 24		<b>TOWN OFFICES CLOSED</b>	
Nov 26	10:00 am	Medusa United Church of Christ Services	Medusa
Nov 26	11:00 am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services	Rensselaerville
Nov 29	11am-1pm	<b>HEAP Outreach Day</b> A representative from the Home Energy Assistance Program - HEAP - will be available to answer questions and assist with completing the HEAP applications.	Town Hall

**Planning Ahead:**

Dec 2 & 16	Rummage Sales	Medusa Church
Dec 5	Senior NYC Trip – Radio City Christmas Show - \$100; Bus & shopping only \$45 (RSVP as soon as possible to get a seat)	

For trips contact Janet Nelson @ 797-3963 or Ruth Snyder @ 239-4376

Please get events to Bill Moore...

by phone – 239-4843;  
by e-mail – [whmoore44@yahoo.com](mailto:whmoore44@yahoo.com); or  
by mail to: 11 CR 351, Medusa, NY 12120.

**Welcome**  
  
**November**

## Library News



P.O. Box 188  
1459 County Route 351  
Rensselaerville, NY 12147-0188  
Phone: 518.797.3949  
Fax: 518.797.5211  
[www.rensselaervillelibrary.org](http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org)

**Library Staff**

**Director** - Kimberly Graff  
[director@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:director@rensselaervillelibrary.org)  
**Assistant** - Katie Caprio  
[library@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:library@rensselaervillelibrary.org)  
**Youth Services Coordinator**  
Lee Ackerman-Sawyer  
[youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

**Pages**

Ruby Acker  
Keara Kelley  
Emileigh Tanner  
Leah Waldron

**Library Board of Trustees**

**President**  
Janet Acker  
**Vice President**  
Linda Styer  
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Paul Kelly  
**Treasurer**  
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Carol Ash  
JR Delia  
Penny Grimes  
John Gordon  
Hans Soderquist

*The Rensselaerville Library works to preserve a comfortable historical gathering place that is open, free and inviting to all of the residents of the 5 hamlets and environs. We strive to awaken and promote a life-long love of reading and learning by fostering personal connections and providing access to a stimulating variety of texts, technology and programming.*

The Rensselaerville Library is a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

## Upcoming Library Events

Celebrate International Game Day on November 1 at the Library. It is an annual celebration of games and libraries where you can play, and costs absolutely nothing! Come check out our collection of games.

Friday November 3 at 7pm David Barnard from the Helderberg Earth and Sky Observatory will be presenting the results from NASA's Cassini mission to Saturn.

The Rensselaerville Library is teaming up with the Albany National Weather Service to provide programs on climate science. The programs described as Science Café meets a Book Club are an effort to make science technology engineering and math (or STEM) programs available for adults. The program encourages anyone with an interest in climate change or extreme weather to read books on the topic and discuss issues facing our area. The last discussion will take place on November 8 at 7pm. More information can be found at <http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org/pushing-the-limits.html>

The Library monthly Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 at 7pm. Board meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of every month except when noted. All Board meetings are held at the Library in the downstairs meeting room and are open to the public.

Poetry Group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, November 14 and 28. Come share your work, receive feedback and spend time working on your own project. The Poetry group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Library.

The Writing Group meets on the second Thursday of the month. On November 9th the group will meet at 7pm in the downstairs meeting room. Come share your work, receive feedback and spend time working on your own project.

The Library will be CLOSED on November 23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a happy and safe holiday.

Wednesday, November 29th at 7pm Jill Whitbeck Knapp will be reading from her new book *The Time for Redemption* a nonfiction work about William Witbeck of East Greenbush who was charged with murder during the Anti-Rent wars.

The Library's Annual Greenery Sale will be held on Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you are interested in being a vendor please contact the Library by November 24. There will be fresh cut trees sourced from Medusa, wreaths, sprays, and roping. Inside we will have local vendors, cookie sale, used book sale and activities for the kids. We are looking for volunteers to make cookies, please contact the library if you are interested in helping.

Tuesday, December 12th representatives from Albany County Department of Health and the Sheriff's Office will provide a presentation on preparedness. Are you and your family prepared for an emergency? Each household will receive a preparedness backpack. YOU MUST REGISTER. Contact the Library to register.

(Continued on page 30)

## Library News

Youth Programs - Visit the online calendar for all of the weekly events at <http://www.rensselaervillelibrary.org/calendar.html>

*Wednesdays at 3:30pm and 6:00pm*

November 1: People have been making edible dessert sculptures - and decorating cakes - for a very long time. Come try your hand at creating beautiful objects out of sugar doughs. Best of all, you can take them home, share them, or eat them yourself!

November 8: We might not be able to do anything about the weather, but we can try to predict it! Come and learn about weather lore, and build an instrument or two to try to predict what will happen next!

November 15: For hundreds of years, people have made pictures and other works of art out of thin strips of rolled, glued, and shaped paper. It looks complicated, but is easier than you would think - and fun too!!! Come and try it! There will be no 6pm program, instead we will read with Lefty at 5:30pm.

November 22: Tape bracelets are easy to make, and a great way to express your creativity. Come and have fun experimenting with different ways to make them!

November 29: Papercutting is thought to date back to early Chinese history, shortly after the invention of paper. Many cultures have embraced the art, which many know by a number of different names, including Wycinanki, Scherenschnitte, kirigami, and papel picado. Come learn about this mazing decorative art!

*Wednesday at 4:30 – StoryTime*

StoryTime includes stories, music and movement, designed as early literacy instruction aimed at developing and reinforcing the skills that children need to be successful learners.

Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30pm Kids Read to Lefty

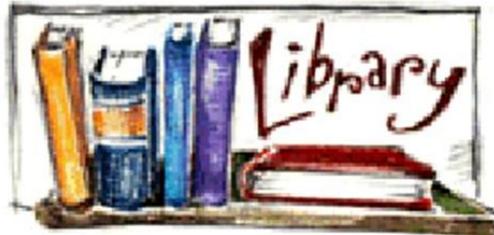
Children are often more comfortable reading aloud to a dog because dogs aren't judging their reading - just enjoying the attention. Even reluctant readers and children who are self-conscious about reading out loud enjoy reading to, and petting, an attentive dog. Come meet Lefty and share your favorite story.

Monthly Craft Project – kids stop in and check out the craft table downstairs and discover crafts to work on your own.

Homework Help - Please see Lee Ackerman-Sawyer or email [youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:youth@rensselaervillelibrary.org)

The Library has a number of Museum Passes this year. Borrow the USS Slater Family Pass to tour the USS Slater berthed on the Hudson River in Albany through the end of November. We also have the Clark through the end of the year and the Albany Institute of History and Art in Albany. Museum passes are available to check out with your Library card for seven days.

For the rest of the 2017, in addition to our morning hours on Tuesday and Wednesday we will be opening at 3:00pm in the evening.



### History and Social Justice: New Titles in the Library

The Rensselaerville Library has recently begun the expansion of its materials related to history and social justice issues, in memory of Rensselaerville resident Tim Miller. This collection has been expanded thanks to the generosity of the friends, neighbors and family of Dr. Miller, a historian and teacher, as well as a Rensselaerville Town Justice. Among Tim's many academic interests, the most important to him was the study of American and world history, with an emphasis on the holocaust, slavery, Native American history and culture, as well as the study of the civil rights movement and other social justice movements in the United States and globally. Thus, the library's new additions include books on many of these subjects. Please come in and check out this ever-expanding collection. You can always view all of our new titles online at <http://reports.uhls.org/newitems/RVLL/index.html>

Rensselaerville residents Linda and David Miller, and the rest of the Miller family, are very appreciative of the community's generosity in making this expansion of library materials possible, and of furthering the remembrance of Tim Miller in such a meaningful way. If anyone else would like to contribute to this collection, please send a check to the Rensselaerville Library, and indicate that it is to be used for the Tim Miller memorial collection.

### Conkling Hall Event



**Saturday, November 11 at 5 PM - 9 PM**

The beautiful island of Vieques, Puerto Rico was recently devastated by Hurricane Maria. Thousands are without the basic necessities. Water, food, shelter, medicine, and toiletries are all in short supply.

Please join us to raise funds to help our neighbors in need. The event will feature:

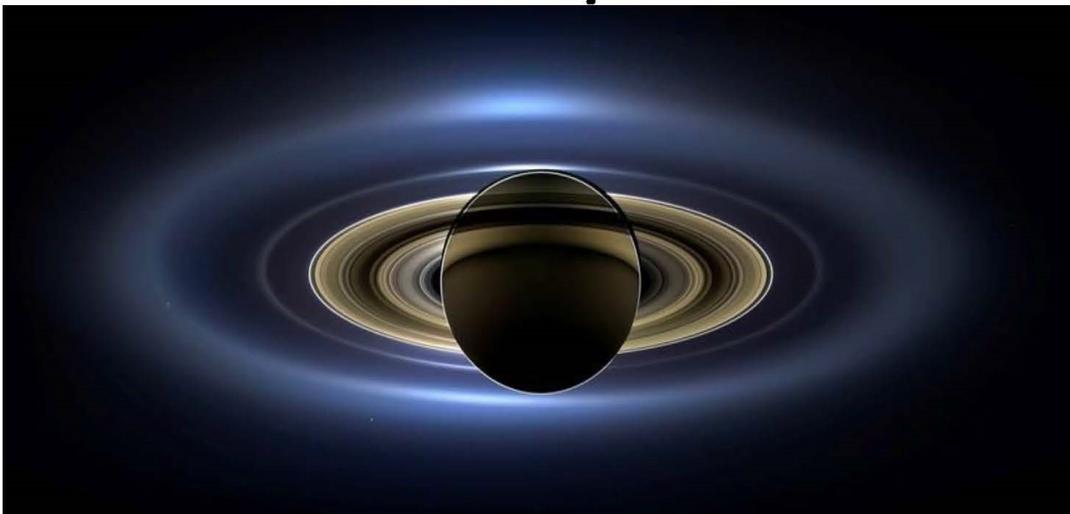
- live music from Byron Cortex, Black Mountain Symphony, and more!
- an extensive silent auction featuring items generously donated by community members: A few highlights include a Pig Roast from Crosby Farm, an original photograph by Dudley Reed, and a one-week (2019) Caribbean getaway to Vieques!
- Traditional Puerto Rican cuisine prepared with local ingredients!
- Craft beer provided by local brewers!

Suggested donation: \$10

There will also be a collection of non-perishable food items/toiletries.

## Library News

Rensselaerville Library  
"STAR-TALK/STAR-WATCH"  
SATURN 'Lord of the Rings'  
with results from NASA's Cassini Mission  
Provided by: DAVID BARNARD  
Friday, November 3, 2017  
7:00pm



David Barnard is a retired Physicist, who worked for many years at Wadsworth Laboratory as an optical engineer the chief electron microscope designer & engineer. He is a long time member of the Albany Area Astronomers, and is the Vice President of Helderberg Earth & Sky Observatory, which is planning to place a 'dark-sky' Astronomical/Geo-physical Science observatory & learning resource facility in the Rensselaerville area.



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[www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org](http://www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org)

Library News



# PLACE

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ADVANCING  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**WHAT:** A FREE reading, viewing and discussion series for adults. Each 90-minute facilitated program has a science café/book group format - participants read the selected books prior, view short videos followed by an open discussion on climate change.

**WHO:** Anyone interested in discussing accessible strategies for adapting to a new climate and building community resiliency.

**FACILITATORS:** Scientists from Albany's National Weather Service Forecast Office

**WHERE:** Rensselaerville Library, 1459 County Route 351, Rensselaerville, NY 12147

**REGISTER & RECEIVE BOOKS:** [director@rensselaervillelibrary.org](mailto:director@rensselaervillelibrary.org) or 518.797.3949

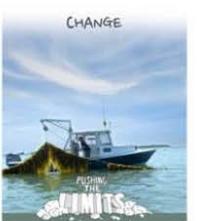


**PUSHING THE LIMITS OF  
COMMUNITY**  
Preparation for Impacts –Communities  
& Families Working Together

**SEPTEMBER 18 • 7PM**



**BOOK DISCUSSION ON  
"ODDS AGAINST  
TOMORROW"  
BY NATHANIEL RICH**

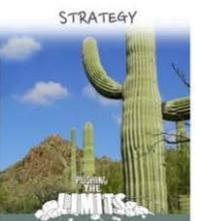


**PUSHING THE LIMITS OF  
CHANGE**  
Climate Change Impacts on Your  
Community

**OCTOBER 23 • 7PM**

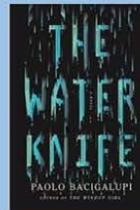


**BOOK DISCUSSION ON  
"MEMORY OF WATER"  
BY EMMI ITARANTA**



**PUSHING THE LIMITS OF  
STRATEGY**  
Building Community Resilience

**NOVEMBER 8 • 7PM**



**BOOK DISCUSSION ON  
"THE WATER KNIFE"  
BY PAOLO BACIGALUPI**



*Pushing the Limits: PLACE* is a library hosted reading, viewing and discussion program for adults in underserved and rural communities, made possible by grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Science Foundation.



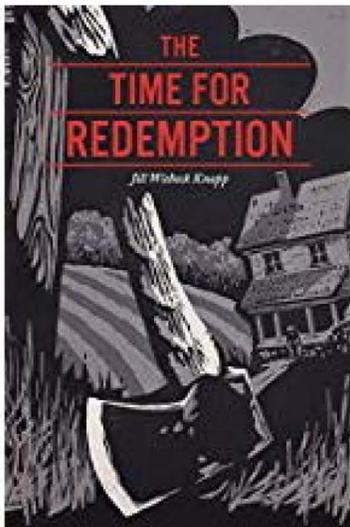
## Library News

# Rensselaerville Library Author Reading

Jill Witbeck Knapp

Wednesday, November 29

7:00pm



"The Time for Redemption" is a non-fiction work about William Witbeck of East Greenbush who, along with two of his sons, was charged with the murder of Deputy Willard Griggs during the Anti-Rent Wars in Albany and Rensselaer counties. To this day, Deputy Griggs is the only Rensselaer County Sheriff Deputy to die in the line of duty, and his death is remembered annually by the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department. One of the other deputies who accompanied Griggs that fateful day was William Southard from the Town of Rensselaerville, who was also employed by Col. Church in the collection of his rents and evictions.

This incident captivated the Capital District in 1869 and 1870 as documented in over 300 pages of newspaper articles. The unusual legal proceedings associated with the incident led to editorials in the

Albany Law Journal concerned with pre-trial publicity and juror selection.

Jill Witbeck Knapp grew up in Latham, NY and received her BS in general agriculture from Cornell and MS in agronomy with a minor in vegetable crops. She received a Ph.D. in agronomy from Purdue where her research focused on wheat production. She has had numerous and varied career positions from Horticulturist at Hancock Shaker Village, to Executive Director of Conservation Districts of Iowa, Agriculture Program Leader at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County, and adjunct professor at Ramapo College in New Jersey. From 2005 to 2013, Jill was the Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. After returning to the Albany area in 2005, Jill became interested in her family history. Over the past decade she amassed a significant volume of information on the Witbeck family. The result of this research is her book, "The Time for Redemption," the story of her great great grandfather who was charged with the murder of a

Rensselaer County, NY Deputy Sheriff during an anti-rent incident in 1869.



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**Library News**

Saturday  
December 2, 2017  
**GREENERY SALE**

Rensselaerville Library  
9am-2pm

Trees (local from Medusa)

Wreaths, Sprays & Roping  
Vendors

Local Business Gift Certificates

Homemade Cookie Sale

Used Book Sale

Cookie Decorating for Kids

Pinecone Birdfeeders

Rensselaerville Library

1459 County Route 351  
Rensselaerville, NY 12147

518-797-3949

[www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org](http://www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org)



**Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department**

**Children's Holiday Party**

starts @ 4:00, Santa @ 5 & Tree Lighting @ 6:00

## Library News

# Rensselaerville Library

## 72 Hours - Is Your Family Prepared?

### An Emergency Preparedness Training

Provided by: Maureen Casale-Reidy & Garry Horne

# Tuesday, December 12

# 7:00pm



Participants will receive a preparedness backpack, one per household.



If an emergency happened in your neighborhood, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Get Informed.

Presented by the Albany County Citizen Corps.

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Maureen Casale-Reidy, MPH, is a Public Health Planner for the Albany County Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program. She also coordinates the Albany County Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.

Garry Horne is the Director of Community and Emergency Services for the Albany County Sheriff's Office. Garry is responsible for all human needs during emergencies. The Special Needs Registry is a major function of the unit. The program assists County of Albany residents who are either mentally or physically disabled or unable to evacuate their home in case of emergency on their own. Garry also coordinates sheltering plans for all County residents during disasters in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Garry also is the Coordinator of the Albany County CART - (County Animal Response Team) to provide humane/proper care and treatment of animals affected by a disaster or emergency, to protect livestock, domesticated animals including companion animals.



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**Library News****11/1, 15, 29 - 11:00 AM -****Middleburgh Library Discovery Wednesdays** - You never know what Miss Andrea will

**11/1, 15, 29 - 11:00 AM - Discovery Wednesdays** - You never know what Miss Andrea will come up with in her Discovery Wednesday! Art, science, stories and more in this interactive program for ages 3 and up and their caregivers.

**11/1, 8, 15, 22, 28 - Wednesday Matinee - Free Popcorn - Movies to be announced.**

**11/2, 9, 16, 30 - 7:00 PM - Knitting Circle** - These friendly ladies (men are welcome, but we haven't seen any yet!) knit and crochet, embroider and quilt, and more. You can learn a new skill here or share your own special talents with others- or just craft in the company of friends. Drop in anytime! No registration is required

**11/3, 17 - 10:00 to 12:00 - Home Educators of Schoharie County** - HEGS (Home Educators Group of Schoharie County) is a group of homeschooling families with a wide variety of backgrounds, approaches to education, and religious affiliations. We exist to provide secular support for homeschooling families, offer information about homeschooling, and to allow for sharing of educational opportunities. We hope to increase public awareness, acceptance, and support of home education in Schoharie County.

**11/6, 22 - 5:00-6:15 PM - Kundalini Yoga** - Join us for Kundalini Yoga. Kundalini Yoga involves repetitive movements with the breath, building strength, toning the nerves, and clearing the adrenal glands. Wear comfortable clothing and bring two blankets or a mat and blanket. A \$5 donation is requested. *Please use the back entrance when entering the building. No registration is required.*

**11/7, 14, 21, 28 - 5:15 PM - Insight Meditation** - Join us for a simple group Zen meditation practice. All are welcome. No registration required.

**11/8, 11:00 AM - Discovery Wednesdays** - Join Miss Doreen for Discovery Wednesday! This week's theme is "Explore our Senses!" We'll be reading books about our five senses and more in this interactive program for ages 3 and up and their caregivers.

**11/9 - 5:00-7:00 PM - "Energy Healing"** At any stage of life optimum health is necessary for us to lead a fulfilling existence. Come explore the potentials energy healing can have on your physical, mental and emotional well being. Eileen Knott uses a non-invasive, hands off technique (Reconnective and Matrix Energetics Systems) of working with your body's energy fields to initiate your own innate healing abilities. This work is particularly effective for acute pain, anxiety and depression. **Registration is required.** For more information contact Eileen at 518-410-4402

**11/11 - Veteran's Day - The library will be closed to observe the holiday.**

**11/13 - 6:30 PM - Library Board of Trustees Meeting - Public is welcome.**

**11/14, 21 - 10:45 AM - Drop-in Storytime** - Get ready to move in this interactive storytime designed especially for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. We'll read books, sing songs, recite fingerplays, dance and watch a short movie based on a weekly theme. No registration required.

**11/14, 21, 28 - 1:00 - Mahjong Mania** - Every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 a spirited group of people get together in the Community Room to play Mahjong. Don't know how to play? No problem! They will teach you how. No registration required.

**11/16 - 7:00 PM - Concert - Zoe Lewis** - A worldbeat-vaudeville extravaganza! Zoe Lewis is a band in a body! She plays jazz, jump jive, Latin grooves, swing, international folk, funk originals on anything from the piano to the spoons! Troubadour, vaudevillian, storyteller, adventurer, singer-songwriter! *Tickets are available at the door. A \$10.00 donation is suggested*

**11/18 - 11:00 AM - Essential Oils and Kick'n Chemicals to the Curb** - Every momma and grandma knows that once school starts all bets are off. The viral and bacterial infections are in full force and

## Library News

### Middleburgh Library

*Continued from Page 35*

your house is under siege. Also, what about the effects of everyday chemicals on your body? This class will cover essential oil uses in general and how to eliminate chemicals from your home that are contributing to disease. You'll also learn what oils work best and how to use them. There are all natural solutions that work! Kick chemicals to the curb and take control of your health naturally. *Registration is required.*

**11/18 - 2:00 PM - Cooking by the Vegan Book - Book to be Announced** - The Middleburgh Library presents its monthly book club, "Cooking by the Vegan Book." We pick the cookbook, you pick and make the recipe! The book club is free and open to the public. How the cookbook club works; Every month, a cookbook will be selected and will be at the circulation desk, for you to look at and we will print up the recipe of your choice. Sign up online or at the circulation desk, let us know what you're cooking so we don't have duplicates. **Registration is required.**

**11/20 - 2:00-3:00 PM - Adult Coloring** - Come and experience the latest trend in relaxation, adult coloring books! Studies show coloring can have a calming effect on the adult mind and helps promote overall wellness. Coloring pages designed especially for adults as well as colored pencils will be provided. This will be a recurring program. We will meet every 3rd Monday of the month from 2 - 3pm

**11/22 - 11:00 AM - Discovery Wednesday** - Join Miss Doreen for Discovery Wednesday! This week's theme is "Cool Kids Cook, Counting Soup!" We'll be reading books about families! All kinds of families from all over the world! We'll be making Counting Soup with Miss Rebecca and more in this interactive program for ages 3 and up and their caregivers. Please let us know if your child has dietary restrictions and we will do our best to accommodate. **Registration is required for this program.**

**11/23 - Thanksgiving Day - The library will be closed to observe the holiday.**

**11/25 - 2:00-3:00 PM - Lego Free Play** - Come join us as we pull out the Legos and Keva Planks and let our imaginations go! This program is for kids in Kindergarten thru 6th grade.

**12/2/2017 - Holiday Bus Trip to New York City** - Registration is required. You may either register and pay for your ticket in person at the Middleburgh Library, or you can register and purchase your ticket through EventBrite with a credit card. Please be aware that there is a \$4.02 fee assessed by EventBrite for payment online. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. For details see our web site @ [www.middleburghlibrary.info](http://www.middleburghlibrary.info) or stop in the library.

**Please check our Calendar on our website at [www.middleburghlibrary.info](http://www.middleburghlibrary.info) for future programs.**

Contact information: 323 Main Street,  
PO Box 670,  
Middleburgh, NY 12122  
(518) 827-5142

<i>Hours: Monday 1:30 - 8:30</i>	<i>Tuesday 10:00 - 5:00 &amp; 6:30 - 8:30</i>
<i>Wednesday 10:00 - 4:00</i>	<i>Thursday 10:00 - 4:00 &amp; 6:30 - 8:30</i>
<i>Friday &amp; Sunday - closed</i>	<i>Saturday 9:00 - 2:00</i>

### Notice to Rensselaerville Voters

It is truly a sad state of affairs when a gentleman in our community who simply wants to enjoy his retirement is unwillingly thrown into the public spotlight as a result of the actions of others.

According to the 10/26/2017 issue of *The Altamont Enterprise*, David Bowdish (who is on the 11/7/2017 ballot as a Republican candidate for Town Supervisor), did not seek nor want the nomination, did not accept the nomination, and will not serve if elected. Although he was not present as the 8/22/2017 Republican caucus, he was notified that very evening of his nomination by Republican chairman Richard Tollner. At that moment, Mr. Bowdish declined the nomination and conveyed that to Tollner, which Tollner admits. However, Tollner did not follow the rules regarding amending the notarized nomination certificate and so Mr. Bowdish's name remains on the ballot. Although Tollner said he is putting the word out that Mr. Bowdish is not interested in running, that is simply not enough!

Richard Tollner and the Republican party owe Mr. Bowdish a very sincere apology for causing him unwanted and unnecessary attention, and they owe the Town's voters an apology for making a mockery of our election process.

(You can read the full article in the October 26, 2017 issue of *The Altamont Enterprise*.)



November 7, 2017

6AM - 9PM

### Rest in Peace, Phil Bates

The Tri-Village Vol. Fire Co. is sad to announce the passing of life member and Past Chief Phil Bates. We will be holding a memorial service to honor Phil's many years of dedicated service to our community on

**Wednesday November 1, 2017**

**6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

**At our station, 3096 Route 145 Preston Hollow, NY 12469.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

**A final call will be given at 7:00 PM.**

**Library News**

**Greenville Library**

*Toddler Time*

The library’s Toddler Program is held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 – 9:45 & 10:00 – 10:45 for Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers.

The program helps to foster early literacy development and play skills. Children and their parents enjoy stories, games, singing, marching and socializing. They can also choose books to take home and enjoy during the week. The instructor is Devon Balta. **For a full listing of the Toddler Time Program see the link below.**

– if Greenville Schools are closed, running on a 1 or 2 hour delay, we will not meet.

The following Tuesday and Friday dates in red are the days we will be meeting.

Please remember we follow the Greenville School District calendar **If Greenville Schools are closed due to weather or running on a 2 hour delay, we will not meet.**

November 2017							December 2017							January 2018						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

**Health & Safety Policy:** Please do not bring your child to group if he/she has been ill with fever, vomiting, diarrhea, flu like symptoms, pink eye, unexplained rash or skin infection, croup, any childhood contagious diseases. Children should not attend if they have exhibited any of the symptoms within 24 hrs of group. Children must be fever free without the use of Tylenol or Motrin for 24 hrs prior to coming to group. THANK YOU!!

*Beginner Ballet at the Library*

**Instructor: Madeline Balta**

Come join Miss Madeline for beginner ballet classes! This class is for 1st-6th grade children. Each student should wear a leotard or shorts (no jeans) and each must bring ballet slippers or socks. Madeline is currently a senior academy student at the School of the Albany Berkshire Ballet and has also taught at Redemption Dance Institute. No experience needed. **Just Drop In!**

**Classes will be held in the large community room on the following dates:**

**Nov. 7, 21, 3:00 – 4:00**

## Library News

Continued from Page 34

### Lego Fun!

Do you love to imagine and build? Do you enjoy the rush of satisfaction when you find the perfect piece in a pile of colorful plastic bricks? Do you love the satisfying snap of a well placed Lego? Do you feel little pain when you step on a scattered Lego brick? If you answered yes to these questions then this program is meant for you! Bring your imagination, we'll provide the Legos! **Just Drop In!**

**Ages 4 & Up 3:00 – 4:00**

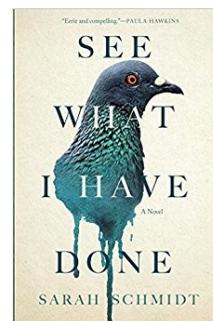
November 14, 28; December 5; January 9, 23; February 6, 20; March 6, 20; April 10, 24; May 8, 22

### Greenville Public Library Book Club

**November 15 6:60-7:30 pm In the library**

Discussion led by Melissa Palmer, Greenville HS English Teacher

People should come having already read the book.



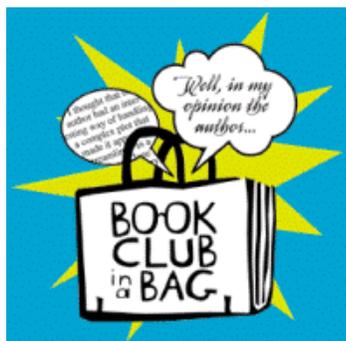
### Greenville Local History Group

Don Teator, Town Historian, invites the public to attend the Greenville Local History Group meetings held in the libraries large community room the second Monday of the month, April thru November, at 7:30.

The Greenville Local History Group newsletter can be found at <http://www.dteator.com/glhg/glhg.htm>

The Town of Greenville Historian's holdings are listed in a nearly 50 page long Word document (as of May 2012). Click [Historian's files](#) to download. For further information, contact Historian Don Teator ([dteator@gmail.com](mailto:dteator@gmail.com)).

The Boarding Houses / Resorts of the Greenville, Greene County, NY Area is another document that Don has made available to the public. The purpose is to document the boarding house era establishments, give locations, supply additional information and indicate their fate. <http://www.dteator.com/zResort/resortweb.htm>



Brought to you by participating libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System  
**Everything you need to help you run your own book discussion group.**  
**Just add people!**

### What is the Book Club In A Bag Program (BCB)?

A book club kit that contains:

- ✓ 10 copies of a book title
- ✓ Discussion questions
- ✓ Discussion leader tips
- ✓ Book sign-up sheet – to help you keep track of the books!

In addition to a HEAP grant, there are other simple steps you can take to stay warm and help manage your energy costs:

For information on programs that could decrease your energy costs, please contact the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority at 866-NYSERDA (866-697-3732) or visit: [www.nyserda.ny.gov/residential](http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/residential)

If your home is in need of weatherization services, please contact the New York State Homes and Community Renewal at 866-275-3427 or visit: [www.nyschr.org/programs/weatherizationassistance](http://www.nyschr.org/programs/weatherizationassistance)



## Keep the Heat on with HEAP

New York State makes it easy for low-income New Yorkers to get HEAP benefits that help them pay for their heating bills.

*The only way to know if you qualify is to apply.*

To find out when HEAP benefits are available during the year, visit [otda.ny.gov](http://otda.ny.gov) or call **800-342-3009**.

Check your eligibility for a range of benefits and apply for HEAP at

[myBenefits.ny.gov](http://myBenefits.ny.gov)



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

[otda.ny.gov](http://otda.ny.gov)

Pub-4735 (Rev. 08/15)

## Keep the Heat on with HEAP



A Program of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

# HEAP

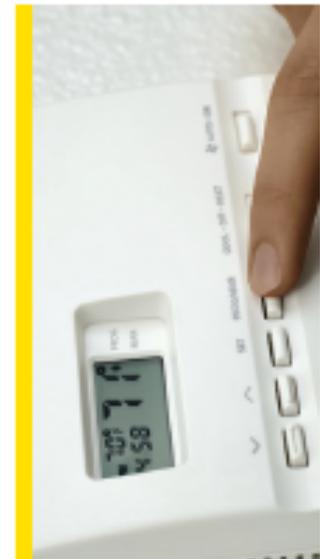
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income New Yorkers pay for their energy bills. If your bills are more than you can handle, HEAP may be able to help you heat your home.

## HEAP May Be Able to Help You if Your Source of Heat Is:

- Electricity
- Propane
- Natural Gas
- Wood/Wood Pallets
- Oil
- Kerosene
- Coal
- Corn

## You May Be Eligible for a Regular HEAP Benefit If:

- You and your household members are United States Citizens or qualified aliens - **and** -
- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guides for your household size. The guidelines can be found at: [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap](http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap) - **or** -
- You receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits - **or** -
- You receive Temporary Assistance - **or** -
- You receive Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone)



## How Do You Apply?

You can apply for a Regular HEAP benefit the following ways:

- **In Person:** You can apply at your local department of social services or at many local community organizations - **or** -
- **By Phone and Mail:** You can call your local department of social services and ask them to mail you a HEAP application or you can download and mail-in a HEAP application\* - **or** -
- **Online:** If you live outside New York City, you can visit: [myBenefits.ny.gov](http://myBenefits.ny.gov) to apply online

HEAP benefit amounts will vary depending on your household income and may be available even if your heat is included in your rent.

You may be eligible for a regular HEAP benefit even if you have money in the bank, stocks, bonds or other resources.

If you qualify for HEAP, you may be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. You can check your eligibility and apply for SNAP at [myBenefits.ny.gov](http://myBenefits.ny.gov).

\*Visit [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap](http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap) for a list of local department contacts and the HEAP application.

## What if You Have an Energy Emergency?

If you have an energy-related emergency, such as a utility termination notice or less than a quarter tank/ten-day supply of heating fuel, you can apply for a HEAP emergency benefit at your local department of social services. If you are eligible, a HEAP emergency benefit may be issued in addition to your regular HEAP benefit, if the regular benefit has been exhausted.

## You May Be Eligible for a HEAP Emergency Benefit If:

- Your income is at or below the current income guidelines, or you receive Family Assistance, Safety Net Assistance, SNAP or Code A Supplemental Security Income, and you do not have available liquid resources to meet the emergency - **and** -
- Your natural gas or electric heat is off or scheduled to be terminated - **or** -
- You are out of fuel (oil, kerosene, propane) or have less than a quarter tank of fuel - **or** -
- You are out of wood, coal, or other fuel source, or have less than a ten-day supply - **or** -
- Your electricity is necessary for your heating system to work and it is either terminated or scheduled to be terminated.



**Michael Weber****Candidate: Town of Rensselaerville Assessor**

## Background:

- ◆ Served as Rensselaerville Assessor 2009-2013
- ◆ Resident of Town of Rensselaerville since 1988
- ◆ Certified NYS Assessor and Appraiser
- ◆ Served 2 terms on Rensselaerville's Board of Assessment Review
- ◆ Served 2 terms on Rensselaerville's Zoning Board of Appeals
- ◆ NYS Licensed Real Estate salesperson 30+ years
- ◆ Background in field engineering related to real estate
- ◆ Background in finance as a Certified Financial Planner
- ◆ Graduate college for financial planning
- ◆ Graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University
- ◆ Honorably served in the US Navy

## My Mission:

A return to more effective, efficient, and less costly government, providing for lower taxes with fairer and more equitable assessments for all our residents, while being more responsive to the needs of our taxpayers.

## Contact Information:

Home office: 518-239-6733

Email: michaelweberrealestate@gmail.com

Website: <http://michaelbweber.featuredwebsite>

**Hebert Joseph****Candidate: Town of Rensselaerville Assessor**

## Background:

I've been a resident of the Town of Rensselaerville since 2010 and more than twenty years within New York State. I am a wonderful neighbor, a great father, a friend and a truly devoted family man.

I have a Bachelor's degree with Civil Engineering, a Master's degree in Electric Power Engineering, an MBA and am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning.

I am a public servant and have worked in various capacities in New York, most recently as Engineer-Power System Planner IV, Office of Electric, Gas & Water.

As well, I am proud to say that I am a Veteran of the Armed Forces of the U.S.

## Why am I running?

Well, I think there needs to be a change in leadership and in the way in which the assessor's office is being run.

I seek the position of Tax Assessor because I want to give back to the community; to ensure that the job is done correctly and that everyone is treated equally and fairly and that you can approach me whenever required. I will fight for a fair and equal tax system and to protect our interests so that we all can have the Rensselaerville we deserve.

I hope that my honesty, integrity and willingness to do whatever it takes will convince you to vote for me. My goal is to serve you, the people, to the best of my ability.

**Robert "Bob" Tanner**  
**Candidate: Town of Rensselaerville Town Board**

**Background:**

- ◆ I have lived in the Town of Rensselaerville my entire life. In fact, 4 generations of my family have lived here. And my 2 adult children currently reside in the area.
- ◆ I have actively served in the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department for 38 years and presently serve as the Chief.
- ◆ I am retired from the US Navy as a Senior Chief having served for 26 years and with 4 deployments: 2 in Iraq and 2 in Afghanistan.
- ◆ I have worked for the Albany County Department of Public Works for 34 years and presently serve as Highway Foreman III.

**My positions:**

- ◆ I have been a public servant all my life. It's what I do; it's how I was raised. You helped your neighbor, you helped your community...fire department, ambulance, Little League coach... because I was needed.
- ◆ I believe in open and transparent government.
- ◆ I believe in bi-partisanship. If we work together, we should be able to solve any problem.
- ◆ We need to keep looking at ways to cut taxes, but not at the expense of services.
- ◆ We need to keep working to bring Internet to all residents of the town.
- ◆ I have always been one to do things that make sense.
- ◆ You may not like what I say, but I will never lie to you.
- ◆ If you tell the truth, it's not hard to remember what you said.

**Marie Dermody**  
**Candidate: Town of Rensselaerville Town Board**

**Background:**

- ◆ Founder & co-editor of the *R'ville Community Newsletter* since February 2014
- ◆ Town Supervisor 2010-2012
- ◆ Town Board member 2008-2010
- ◆ Board of Assessment Review for 15 years
- ◆ Retired in 2003 after 33 years as elementary teacher in the Onteora School District (Ulster County)
- ◆ Graduate of SUNY New Paltz with a BA (1970) & MS (1973)
- ◆ Graduate of Greenville Central School District (1966)
- ◆ Resident of the Town of Rensselaerville since 1958 (minus a 10-year residency in Kingston, NY)

**My positions:**

- ◆ I believe in open and transparent government. I will continue to expect open & public dialogue and not resort to Executive Sessions when unwarranted and illegal.
- ◆ I believe that we, as elected officials, are your employees... responsible for representing your wants & needs. There is no room or place in local government for personal or hidden agendas.
- ◆ I firmly believe that "what is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right." I will always opt to doing what is right.
- ◆ I also believe that "if you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got." We need to look at innovative ways to meet the needs of our town with minimal negative effect on the taxpayers.
- ◆ I will always be available to the taxpayer via phone (518-239-4552) and email (moe2703@gmail.com) and will always tell you the truth.

**Steven Pflaging****Candidate: Town of Rensselaerville Supervisor**

## Background:

- ◆ I'm a 1994 graduate of Catskill High School
- ◆ I studied physical education at Columbia Greene Community College & SUNY Delhi
- ◆ I have been a member of the Medusa Volunteer Fire Company since 2002 (15 years)
- ◆ I have been chief of the Medusa VFC since 2013
- ◆ I have 3 children: Callie (17 years old; senior at GCS); Kasey (15 years old; sophomore at CGS); and Caleb (10 years old; 5th grader at Scott M. Ellis Elementary School)
- ◆ I am the sole proprietor of a contracting business since 2000
- ◆ I've been a full-time resident of Medusa since 2012
- ◆ I enjoy coaching my son's baseball teams and continuing to help my daughters in their sports (softball, basketball, & soccer)

I enjoy living in the Town of Rensselaerville and would like to continue to see it prosper. I will put my best effort in serving the residents of the Town of Rensselaerville as the Town Supervisor.

**POLITICO**

"After thoroughly reviewing the Issue, the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York has determined that a state Constitutional Convention is unnecessary, would be overly costly, and could result in the reversion, elimination or diminution of many current constitutional rights and safeguards..."

**...Therefore, we urge a 'No' vote on Proposal No. 1."**

Justice Deborah Dowling

President of the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York

## The Back Page

### Contributors:

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Marie Dermody  
Georgette Koenig

### **From the Editors:**

*As always, we ask that you make a copy or two of this newsletter to share with friends and neighbors who may not have Internet access. Our readership continues to grow, but we invite others to sign on by sending their email address to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com). We look forward to getting your feedback.*



**To unsubscribe:** Send an email to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com) with the word "Unsubscribe" on the subject line. We'd be sorry to see you go, but we will honor your wishes immediately.



**Reminder:** Audio tapes of Town Board meetings are now available. Those of you wishing to receive such material simply have to shoot an email to [rvillenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rvillenewsletter@gmail.com) and let us know that you would like to be put on our recipient list. It is our expectation/hope that these files will be sent to you immediately following the meeting or the very next day.

Audio files tend to be quite large. Therefore, if the audio file is greater than 25 MB (and most of them will be), Gmail automatically adds a Google Drive link in the email instead of including it as an attachment. You, the recipient, can download it so you'll have access to it even if it is removed from Google Drive. A download link will be included in your emails.

**Remember to turn your ballot over to vote on these proposals!**

**They are all listed on the BACK of the ballot!**