



DRYDEN TOWN NEWSLETTER

October 1, 2009

Introduction: The First Dryden Town Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Dryden Town Newsletter. With all of the technology available today, we thought this would be a great way to reach out to residents of the Town of Dryden to let you know what we're doing to serve you and provide you with information about what is going on in Town Government and around the Town.

We're not sure yet if the newsletter will be quarterly or monthly. Feel free to share the newsletter with others. The email that is sent out will be more of a teaser telling you that a new edition of the newsletter is available. The full newsletter will be available on the Town's website: <http://www.dryden.ny.us> We'll also try to put some copies on area bulletin boards for those who don't have internet access. We are trying to keep this low cost, so we are not mailing it.

If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, feel free to let me know. You can reach me at 607-844-8888 x211 or at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm or at patty@dryden.ny.us.

Patty Millard, Deputy Town Clerk

What's happening in the Town of Dryden? It's Budget Season.

The biggest single item to occupy the town staff during the fall is budget planning for the next year. Each year, we review our budgets for the current year and try to figure out what we'll need for the upcoming year in terms of supplies and equipment, with an effort to keep the cost to the taxpayer as low as possible.

For a full list of dates, you can visit the [budget page](#) on the town's website.

Where do I go for that?

Directory of departments inside the main entrance



The biggest single question we get is, "I need _____. Who do I talk to about that?" The Town of Dryden has 7 distinct departments. While I could put et cetera after every department, these are just a few things that each department does. You can read more on our website.

Court (Justice) - Appearance and traffic tickets, small claims court, etc.

Highway - Plow, pave, and maintain our 162 roads for a total of 118.6 miles of town highway.

Public Works - Maintain town parks and trails, buildings & grounds owned by the town, water & sewer districts. Schedule the Dryden Lake Park Pavilion.

Recreation - Provide recreational programs and leisure services.

Supervisor - Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive Officer.

Town Clerk - Dog, Hunting, and Marriage Licenses, Town/County Tax Collection, Passport Services, FOIL requests.

Zoning - Building, Zoning, and Stormwater Management Permits, Subdivisions, GIS.

For a list of FAQs, see page 3.



The new Town Hall at 93 E Main.

Ask a Code Officer...

Have you ever wondered how high a fence can be before you need a permit? Or what the rules are on swimming pools—even some of the inflatable ones? Or how to subdivide your property?

What are the burning questions you have that our Code Enforcement Officers can answer for you? Submit your questions to the Zoning Department at Zoning@dryden.ny.us. Not only will you get an answer, your question may be included in a future newsletter.

Some application forms are also available [online](#).

Expanding Roles in Town Government

Town Government is one of the smallest units of government available to serve the public. We serve the public by being your voice. If you attended the presentation by the Dryden Historical Society in April called, "The Role of Local Town Government: How Has It Changed?" you learned some amazing facts about how our Town Government started and how it has gotten to what it is today. The following is from our Director of Building, Zoning & Environmental, Henry Slater.

With the conclusion of World War II, (WWII), the nation underwent a tremendous period of expansion. Returning WWII veterans were provided a great opportunity to obtain a college education, secure new homes, and generally participate in and contribute to a new upwardly mobile "American life style." Local Government was also a benefactor in the post WWII expansion. Never before had a nation and its people expanded and prospered so rapidly. One must consider, much of this was possible as this nation was moving forward rather than rebuilding as much of the rest of the world was. America was on the move forward in every sense of the word, including the good old home rule concept.

Communities like and including the Town of Dryden realized our nation contained a bountiful quantity of natural resources. If the community was going to grow, the community was going to oversee the growth.

The era between the beginning of the 20th Century and the conclusion of WWII had demonstrated an overall lack of understanding of the values and sensitivities of natural resources. That trend had to be overcome. Resource stewardship would fall to local governments as the local community could provide a hands on first line presence.

By the mid 1960's local governments had become much more active in community asset management. The Town of Dryden was very typical of the local hands on trend. Just a few years prior, there was not any local zoning or planning or land use management; however, that strategy was changing. In the mid 60's, there was an active Planning Commission who aided in the development of the Town's first land use management tool, the "Dryden General Plan." Although voluntary, as it was not formerly adopted, it set a baseline guide for what was to evolve.

In September 1969, the Dryden Town Zoning Ordinance went into effect, which was followed in 1974 by a Subdivision Ordinance. Many other land use management tools would follow.

These two (2) events lead to creation of two (2) additional appointed functioning boards, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board, where previously there was only the governing Town Board.

The initial staff support for these two (2) ordinances and boards was a part time zoning officer.

By 1984, the State adopted and mandated local enforcement of a statewide life, safety, and building construction code.

With a construction code, the Town now needed to add a new position, Code Enforcement Officer, (CEO), and did. At first the CEO position was also part-time. See **ROLE** on page 4

Contact Info: pattv@dryden.ny.us or 607-844-8888 x211.

A note from the Supervisor's Office

My apologies for not publishing a 2008 Annual Report yet. So many projects; so little time. Many thanks to Town Clerk, Bambi Avery and Deputy Town Clerk Patty Millard for launching this Dryden Town Newsletter. I'm inspired and I promise to finish the essential parts of the annual report this month and post it on the website. And I promise to update the Supervisor page on the website.

It turns out Supervising is more time consuming than I imagined. There seem to be three categories of work. The incredibly mundane: approving vouchers, signing checks, reading reports, compiling the board meeting agenda and so forth. The medium mundane: attending the many, many meetings. And the fun part: big picture planning and meeting with residents. I hope that if we can give you more news, you will talk back to us. Please email me to let me know if there's something we should be doing differently or something you think we're doing well.

Supervisor@dryden.ny.us.

From the Recreation Department

Come support the Town of Dryden Recreation Football Players and Cheerleaders at our home games at Dryden High School!



Game times:

10/3: 3:00 and 5:00

10/10: 3:00

10/11: 3:00

10/17: 3:00 and 5:00

10/31 1:00 and 3:00

We are also hosting a 2K and 3K Cross Country Race for kids ages 7-12 at Dryden Lake Park on 10/3. Registration begins at 9:00. We hope to see you there!

The Town of Dryden Recreation Department presents the first Annual Mother-Son Dance on November 7th 2009. The dance will be held at the Village Hall from 6:00-7:30. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Please visit our website for more details. www.dryden.ny.us/recreation

PLEASE JOIN US!



The Etna Community Association is looking for volunteers to help build their new playground at Etna Park!

The build is on October 10, from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Snacks and lunch will be

provided! Even just a few hours will be much appreciated. Please contact Alita Howard, 347-4415 and alita-howard@yahoo.com or Skip Thorne, 347-4996 for details or directions.

The Town History Corner

by: Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

It is a pleasantry to announce that this Town of Dryden's officially-appointed Town Historian is actively in pursuit of collecting and preserving all sort of materials relative to our Town's political subdivision, as mandated by New York State law (NYS Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, Chapter 57.13) that created the Historians system in New York State; which states that the historians duties are in part, as follows:

- To collect and preserve, materials relating to the political subdivision for which he or she is appointed.
- To file such material in fireproof safes or vaults in the...town...offices.
- To examine into the condition, classification and safety from fire of public records.

To call to the attention of local authorities...any material of local historic value which should be acquired for preservation.

As such, all duly appointed historians, are Officers of their local government. Since the inception of municipal historians in 1917, every devoted historian have availed themselves to be a historical resource person in each and every local (state, county, town, city and village) government jurisdiction in the state. Local historians research and make available in various methods the history of their responsible community.

It is a fact that many local municipal government historians are not only involved to have, at one time or another, been advocates for historic preservation of historically significant documents, records, structures, and objects that detail their community's heritage, but also to assist in the promotion of their community through various activities. Such activities as: civic and patriotic functions, historical anniversaries and celebrations—the list is virtually endless of any historians engagements.

And, if this isn't enough?—Many historians across the State in the last year for which statistical figures are available researched and wrote 2,478 newspaper and magazines articles about the history of their 1,627 jurisdictions. And they wrote, researched and published 1,318 historical pamphlets and brochures; presented 37 academic scholarly papers and published 96 books, produced 617 newsletters, radio scripts and historical plays.

Wait, there's more!—Local historians often prepare cultural resource surveys, identify historic buildings and structures, sites and districts, develop and manage historic roadside markers worthy of historical recognition. Again, in the last year that figures were made available, local government historians engaged in 756 individual historic preservation projects and placed 425 historic markers in their respective communities; and that's factual for sure, that's for sure!

To these objectives: The Town of Dryden Board. has authorized the creation of a Town History Committee composed of up to five persons of the town community, one of whom shall be the Historian, as Chair, and one a Board Legislature. The three others are to be town residents, at large! If you think you might be interested, please contact the Town Offices at 844-8888 or by email at historian@dryden.ny.us.

Perhaps, you will recognize me as being at one time (i.e. 1983-92) Historian for the Village of Dryden; a charter member (in 1981) and a longtime (twenty-three years) Trustee of the Dryden Town Historical Society, a weekly columnist (Anecdotes and Brevities) since the year 2000 with the Finger Lakes Community Newspapers and a resident-owner for the 53rd consecutive year.

This Town was first surveyed in 1789 and 1790, for settlement by Pensioners/Veterans of the American Revolution, with the first to arrive in 1797. A university history professor once told me, "It is impossible to know what lies ahead, if you don't know about what's behind." You and I have almost 220 years of recorded history to be aware!



FAQ from the Town Clerk

Town Clerk, Bambi L. Avery, put together a list of questions we are asked

most often in the Town Clerk's Office. If you have others you would like answers to, send them to Bambi at townclerk@dryden.ny.us.

Q: Who do I talk to about my real property assessment, or exemptions?

A: Tompkins County Assessment – 274-5517

Q: Who do I talk to about my school tax bill?

A: Dryden Central Schools – 844-5361;
Ithaca City Schools – 274-2217;
Groton Central Schools – 898-5301;
Lansing Central Schools – 533-4294;
Cortland City Schools – 758-4100

Q – What is the post office's phone number ?

A – Dryden – 844-9276;
Freeville – 844-8410;
Ithaca – 1-800-ASK-USPS

Q – Who do I call for trash collection?

A – That depends on your address. If you live in the Village of Freeville (844-8301) or Village of Dryden (844-8122), your trash pickup is provided by the Village. Call the Village office to find out where to purchase tags. If you live outside the Village boundaries, you will contract with a hauler of your choice. Check the yellow pages, local newspapers or ask your neighbors who they use.

Q – When is recycling and how do I get a recycling bin?

A – When depends on your location. Call Tompkins County Recycling at 273-5700 for the schedule and to obtain a bin. For more information on trash collection/disposal and recycling visit www.recycletompkins.org

Q – Who do I call about a dead deer in the road?

A – For a Town road – 844-8888; option 8; For a County road – 274-0300; for a State road – 756-7072

Q – What is the phone number for the Dryden library?

A – It is called the Southworth Library and the number is 844-4782

Q – How do I reserve the pavilion at Dryden Lake?

A – Call the DPW Department – 844-8888, option 8 or download a reservation [form](#).

What's Happening in the Code Office

By Kevin Ezell, CEO (Code Enforcement Officer)

The Town of Dryden is required by New York State to enforce the Uniform Fire Prevention & Building Code, hereafter the "Code." This office is where you find persons certified by New York State Department of State to enforce that Code.

We are here to protect the Town and its citizens by enforcing the Code for all construction, demolition, alterations, change of use, enlargement, improvement, removal, relocation and the installation of "solid fuel burning heating appliances". The last one is one that we should talk about in this first issue of "What's Happening in the Code Office".

Wood stoves, coal stoves and pellet stoves are appliances that are used typically to supplement the central heating. They differ in style, type and size according to the need and preference of the individual. The one item that they have in common is the need for a Building Permit. This would include the chimney and protection of the interior framing and finishes. We grant 6 or 7 permits of this type each year.

So if you are thinking about installing any solid fuel burning heating appliance, please do not hesitate to call the Code office during normal business hours. You can reach us between the hours of 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. The office number is 844-8888, option 2. We look forward to talking to you and being of service if you have any code related needs.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Town Board, 2nd Wed. @ 7 pm

Planning Board, 3rd Thursday @ 7 pm

Conservation Board, Last Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals, First Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

Recreation Commission, 3rd Wednesday @ 7 pm

Youth Commission, 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

Technology Committee, Last Wednesday @ 8:30 am

Loans & Grants Committee, Last Wednesday @ 9:45 am

Finance Committee, Last Wednesday @ 11 am

We also strive to keep a complete list of meetings on the Town Website at: <http://www.dryden.ny.us/calendar/>

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By the end of 1986 it became clear, the Town would require a fulltime Town employed Zoning and Codes Offices which they staffed.

By 1990 a second, part-time, codes officer was added. In 1998 that position became fulltime.

As the new century arrived another board was taking form, a Conservation Advisory Commission. In 2004, known as the Conservation Board, it took its place as a formal entity along side of the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Staff was also growing. As resource management and technique evolved, it became clear the Town required a full-time staff person to guide those efforts and the position of Environmental Planner was added. That was followed a few years later by a Geographical Information Technician.

Other areas of Town service were also evolving. A recreation commission was formed. A staff recreation position was created and was followed by a second, permitting the Town an ability for many youth and adult recreation opportunities throughout the Town.

Some suggest there is too much government and to some degree I understand that position, however; when provided locally there are benefits.

Local supports, government, has an opportunity to be hands on, administered by local talent who understand and appreciate local needs and provide an opportunity for local resident participation in a variety of methods.

Today the Town of Dryden is a respected leader in effective land use management. Our community has and continues to benefit from the Town's ability to provide leadership and dedication to effective land use management.



ELECTION INFO

With Election Day coming up on November 3rd, we wanted to remind you of how important it is to vote.

If you are unsure of your polling place, not sure if you are registered, need to update your address, or need to register, you can call the Tompkins County Board of Elections at (607) 274-5522. They also have information online at:

<http://www.tompkins-co.org/boe/>