



# DRYDEN TOWN NEWSLETTER

December 15, 2009

## *A note from the Supervisor's Office*

By Mary Ann Sumner, Town Supervisor

Sandwiched among the usual meetings this month, I've had a couple of pleasant opportunities to represent the Town of Dryden.

Last Tuesday I attended a meeting of the Dryden Solutions Discussion Group at which the Dryden High School Sustainability Club made a presentation about their work. The club, now in its third year, includes 75 students. They initiated and continue to monitor recycling and composting programs in the high school. By sending food waste to Cayuga Compost and separating recyclable materials, they have saved the school district an estimated \$3,000 in garbage tipping fees. They are now bringing the concept of sustainability full circle by using some of the compost created from their school lunches to feed apple trees to be planted in the spring. It was truly inspiring to hear the students talk about how this project has made them feel more connected to the land and the community.

At the other end of the age spectrum, on Monday I joined Dryden Seniors for lunch. More than a hundred people gathered for a festive lunch followed by Christmas carols sung by long time Dryden resident Gabe Jerome in his lovely tenor voice. There were many familiar faces and many interesting new people to meet and chat with. Dryden Seniors meet for lunch and cultural programs at the Dryden fire station twice a month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays). I'm told the age limit for seniors is only fifty five. Even I am over that. I think I'll go more often.

## *Public Meeting to Discuss Zoning Update*

In 2007 the Planning Board began working on proposed changes to town zoning regulations. The work has centered on descriptions of zoning districts to enhance land use patterns that will help "preserve the rural and small town character of the Town of Dryden."

Dozens of people have participated in the discussions over the past three years. Now we want to know what you think.

The current draft of the proposed law is available at the Town Hall and on our website ([www.dryden.ny.us](http://www.dryden.ny.us)).

For more information call 844-8888 ext. 216.



*The Town Hall at 93 E Main.*

### All Tax Bills to be mailed

All Town & County Property Tax Bills will be mailed to property owners this year with a notice regarding the public meeting to be held on January 26th. They will be mailed around Dec 31st.

(See Zoning Update below)

If you have an escrow account and your bank has requested a copy, a number appears in the bank code field on the bill and we have sent it to them. No action is necessary on your part. If you have questions, please call us at 607-844-8888, #3.

**Please join us January 26, 2010 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall for a presentation and discussion of proposed new zoning districts.** (Snow Day January 27)

#### New Zoning Districts:

- Rural Residential
- Rural Agricultural
- Conservation
- Hamlet
- Commercial
- Light Industrial/Office

New **Subdivision** Concepts

New **Design** Guidelines

New **Density** Patterns

## Town of Dryden recognized

"The Town of Dryden Town Board has allotted \$30,000 to town residents as grants of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency upgrades."

Since 2006, Sustainable Tompkins board members have tried to spot individuals and organizations emerging on the local scene, all doing their part to help advance community sustainability. At its annual holiday party, Sustainable Tompkins honors these new activists in order to connect them with others involved in similar endeavors. Awardees are celebrated for their contributions and receive a "Sign of Sustainability" certificate for their initiative.

Each year, Sustainable Tompkins acknowledges the following categories of Signs of Sustainability: a new sustainable enterprise; a brand new program or non-profit organization supporting some aspect of sustainable development; and a new sustainable program element rolled out by an existing business or non-profit organization. In 2008, we identified over 80 new sustainability initiatives in our community. This year we found over 140 Signs of Sustainability!

This year's Award Ceremony was held on Sunday, December 6, from 4:00 - 6:30 pm in the Women's Community Building, Seneca St., Ithaca, NY. For a full list of the organizations and programs that were recognized for their initiatives in 2009, go to: [Sustainable Tompkins](#)

## From the Recreation Department



The Town of Dryden Recreation Department invites you to support our Youth Wrestlers at the Annual Winter Thaw Tournament on Jan. 30th! Over 400 participants from all over the state come to wrestle at what is becoming known as a premiere regional youth tournament.

**DATE: January, 30 2010**

**PLACE:** Dryden High School, Dryden, NY

**TIME:** Wrestling will start at 9:00am

(Please check in between 7:00 - 8:30am)

**PRE REGISTRATION ONLY (NO WALK-INS)**

More info: <http://dryden.ny.us/recreation-department>.

## Boards & Commissions

Excerpt from a letter to the multiple Dryden Boards written by:  
Henry Slater, Director of Building, Zoning & Environmental

All functioning Boards are part of a team effort here at the Town of Dryden. While all but the Conservation Board are provided decision making authority, often a team approach is required and certainly adds significantly to the effectiveness of responsible land management.

The authority for Town Government, its responsibilities and functions, are established and detailed within the Consolidated Laws of New York State.

The principal functioning Board is the Town Board. In addition to managing the business of the Town, the elected officials adopt the policies and regulations of the Town.

The Town Board is authorized to adopt ordinances and appoint persons to administer ordinances. More specifically, zoning and planning requirements are established within Chapter 62 Article 16 Sections 261-285.

Forgoing any discussion of creation and adoption of a zoning and subdivision ordinance authority, duties and responsibilities each are clearly detailed within Article 16 Section 267, a, b, & c for Town Zoning Boards of Appeals, (ZBA) and Article 16 Section 271 for Town Planning Boards.

Article 16 Sections 274-a and 274-b discuss the requirements of Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit review. Typically these administration duties are assigned to either or divided between the ZBA and Planning Board; however, the Dryden Town Board has retained Site Plan and Special Use Permit authority.

While Site Plan, Special Use and Subdivision are effective land use management tools, the ZBA more typically considers approval (variances) of land use tools.

Conservation Advisory Councils and Conservation Boards authority is not found within Chapter 62 but within Chapter 24, "General Municipal Law" Article 12-F. Generally, Conservation Advisory Councils, (CAC), evolve to Conservation Boards. CAC develop and forward, for adoption consideration, a Town-wide open space inventory and map. Once the inventory has been accepted and approved, the legislative body may, by resolution, re-designate the CAC as a Conservation Board.

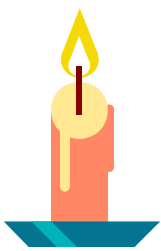
The Conservation Board was created by the Town Board following an adopted conservation open space inventory. Local Law #1 of 2004 elevated the then CAC to a Conservation Board, (CB). Section 3, Purpose, clearly describes the duties of CB. Once a CAC is elevated to a CB, they become a referral. Board. Each of the above mentioned permit authorities may refer, prior to decision, projects to the CB for consideration of environmental impact. Once the CB has completed analysis, they forward a written recommendation to the referring board.

While much of the information here is merely a reference to existing state and local laws. There is more information for each Board on their individual web pages and we'll discuss each in upcoming newsletters.

## What's Happening in the Code Office

By Kevin Ezell, CEO (Code Enforcement Officer)

This is the month where people put up the fabled and beloved Christmas Tree. Having a fresh tree and the scent that it gives off, can make anyone think of joyous memories of the presents and time with family. This can also be a time for fire and loss of life and property if the tree is dry; the electric wiring for the indoor and outdoor lights has frayed or cracked insulation, and the improper use of candles.



The use of candles is one of the greatest memories that we have in our home as we sat around with the children during Advent times sharing about the Season and eating cookies. The scent and the ambiance created by the smell of the candles

and cookies is something that will always be near to my heart (and my belly). But the improper use of candles, cooking equipment and electric lights can pose a serious threat to life and property.

Candles left unattended and/or in improper holders can start a fire where you may lose every thing you own and your life. Two years ago, a candle fire was responsible for starting a fire in an apartment building that had 4 units in it. Two of the dwellings lost all of their belongings and the other two had major smoke and water damage. My son and daughter-in-law were one of the latter ones. Fortunately, there was no loss of life but for a pet. Always use candles in proper holders and never leave them unattended. That also means that you should not go to bed without first extinguishing them.

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## The Town History Corner

By Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

Occasionally the question is raised, "Is my house on the Register of Historic Places?" This past summer a question was asked of this Historian, "Do I have to repaint my business place the same color maroon-red?" Published here is the most recent of such listings in the Town of Dryden. At the conclusion of this column is a list of "caveats," as to the inquirer's choices. Certainly, it is expressed that an owner of a home or structure not use some gaudy or psychedelic scheme.

### Listings in the Town of Dryden on the Register of Historic Places in NYS

*Known listings as of 29 October 2009*

#### Dryden (Town):

Dryden District No. 2 School: At 2670 Slaterville Rd.

District No. 5 (8 Square) School: At 1748 Hanshaw Rd.

Ellis Methodist Episcopal Church: At 1768 Ellis Hollow Rd.

West Dryden Methodist Episcopal Church: At 606 West Dryden Road at Sheldon Road, West Dryden.

#### Dryden (Village):

Historic District: Encompasses an area roughly bounded by East Main, James, Lake and South Streets. It is a historic section of the village of 44 properties, mostly residential, built during the period 1800-1905

Jennings - Marvin House: At 9 Library Street.

Lacy--Van Vleet House: At 45 West Main Street.

Luther Clarke House: At 39 West Main Street.

Methodist Episcopal Church: At 2 North Street.

Rockwell House: At 52 West Main Street.

Southworth House: At 14 North Street

Southworth Library: At 24 West Main Street.

#### Steps to Obtaining Registration of Historic Places in Dryden, NY

Carefully document in writing (with good quality photos and records) the history and uniqueness of the property.

Contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (addresses may be found at <http://nysparks.state.ny.us> for particulars and to be sure that the property is not already on the Register of Historic Places.

Criteria for listing include:

It must be significant in American history.

Is it associated with events that made a valuable contribution to the broad pattern of history?

Is it associated with the lives of persons significant to the past?

Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, a period of time, or a particular method of construction?

Does it represent the work of a master builder, or possess high artistic characteristics?

Has it yielded or might be likely to yield information about history.

Obtain and complete the form and submit.

Count on at least 3 to 6 months through these steps for final acceptance by the National Register.

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## Code Office - Continued from Page 3

Lights that are only used once a year and then stored for the remainder of the year in closets and attics where mice or squirrels may have access to, can pose potential hazard for shocking or arcing of electric that could start a fire or electrocute someone. When installing any electric lights, be sure to check the wiring for any frayed or cracked insulation. Discard any wiring that you find in this poor condition. Cut off the end so that you are not tempted to use them next time.

Natural trees are the best in my mind due to the fragrance and the connections that family have when getting them. But they can be potential hazards. The first year that we were married, we got a live tree and placed it over a forced hot air duct in the bay window of the apartment we lived in. When I removed the tree after about 3 weeks, not one needle was still on the tree as it went out to the curb side to be picked up. This tree would have been tinder for a fire if electric lights on it were poorly maintained or candles near it. Make sure that any live trees are set in a cool space and are watered daily.

Cooking for many hours is another potentially hazardous situation. Cooking with propane or natural gas when your dwelling is shut up can raise Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxide to unsafe levels. Sometimes the Thanksgiving Dinner is where we see more CO poisonings than any other time because this is when you do more cooking than normal and you have just closed up the dwelling in preparation for the cold winter months. If you are cooking with electric, you do not have this problem since you are not using combustion to cook your food. Just remembering to crack a window or open the door leaving the storm door shut will allow some air to enter and keep the potential for CO<sub>2</sub> and CO poisoning lower. Also, have your propane or gas-fired appliances checked by an approved contractor for efficiency and proper working condition.

The first of the year is a good time to replace batteries in your Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Please stay safe and if you have any questions about Code related issues, please do not hesitate to call. Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### History - Cont'd from Page 3

#### Some caveats to Registration

- Anyone can nominate a property, however it cannot be listed without the owner's consent.
- National listing is an honor!
- Real protection comes from local and state laws and regulations.
- Listing does not mean that a building can not be altered or even demolished.
- It does not restrict the owner's rights to choose what they want to do with the property.
- It is not a guarantee that listing will survive the centuries unscathed against the throes of progress.
- Listing generally affects activities that are funded, licensed, owned, or managed by "Federal undertakings" (i.e. Federal agencies).
- Any final nomination record form cannot be altered.
- The process of nominating a property includes the expense of photography, research documents, legal searches, etc., and may cost hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Town Board**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. @ 7 pm

**Planning Board**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 7 pm

**Conservation Board**, Last Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

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

**Recreation Commission**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 7 pm

\*\* No December Meeting

**Technology Committee**, Last Wednesday @ 8:30 am

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

**Finance Committee**, Last Wednesday @ 11 am

### The Ellis Hollow Community Center

The Ellis Hollow Community Center is alive and well. Our annual Ellis Hollow Fair brings in enough revenue to keep the center up and running and pays for the other repairs not donated by the citizens who use it. It is home to the Boy Scout troop in the area, a nursery school, and various classes, workshops, and other community related activities as well as home to our Ellis Hollow Board of Directors. It still boasts a marvelous pool in summer. Fields are available for soccer, football or baseball. There are also tennis courts, a playground, pavilions for picnicking and parties, and wonderful trails to walk and enjoy nature. In winter, members of the Ellis Hollow Board clean up and flood a small area to make a pond for ice skating.

The community center building- although looking its age - is kept in good form by the loving population who use it. Many of its contributors spend a few hours each summer or fall cleaning up, doing minor repairs, planting and generally giving back to the center, in order to preserve that which no longer exists in other neighborhoods. That is part of the charm of living in Ellis Hollow.

Quilts are still done by the women in the Hollow. The finished Quilt for the year is then raffled off at the Annual Ellis Hollow Fair each September. And an annual Holiday Craft Fair is held in December. We hold Scrabble nights monthly and Dish To Pass events every season. **We're looking forward to our next fifty years of community involvement!**