



# DRYDEN TOWN NEWSLETTER

February 15, 2010

## *A note from the Town Clerk's Office*

By Bambi L. Avery, Town Clerk

With the ever increasing restrictions on Travel to foreign countries, especially the changes in requirements for crossing between the US and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean, we wanted to make sure you know that we accept and process passport applications here at the Dryden Town Hall. Even if you already have a passport and only need to have extra pages put in or renew your passport, we have the forms that you need. We are also equipped to take photos for your passport application that fit Department of State requirements.

Our website has a sheet with the full requirements, but in a nutshell, a new applicant needs:

- certified birth certificate
- photo ID (preferably driver's license) or ID of parents if applicant is under 16
- 2 passport photos (or \$10 for the Town to take photos)
- \$60 or \$75 processing fee (Under 16/16+) for the Department of State
- \$25 processing fee for the Town of Dryden

As always, if you have any questions, we are here Monday—Friday and accept applications between 8 am and 3:45 pm.

## *The next Zoning Update Public Meeting*



In 2007 the Planning Board began working on proposals to change zoning regulations developed in 1988 and amended many times since then. The work has centered on descriptions of zoning districts to enhance land use patterns that are working well “to 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 and now we want more comments.

Please join us on **Monday, March 22, 2010, at 7:00 PM** at the **Varna Community Center** for a presentation and additional discussion of new zoning district proposals.

### **Highlights**

- New Zoning Districts: Rural Residential, Rural Agricultural, Conservation, Hamlet, Commercial and Light Industrial/Office.
- New Subdivision Concepts
- New Design Guidelines
- New Density Patterns



*The 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](mailto: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](#).

## Marcellus Shale Water Quality

By Henry Slater, Director of Building,  
Zoning & Environmental

Recently discussions about merits and concerns of Hydraulic Fracturing, horizontal drilling, of the Marcellus Shale natural gas field have been an everyday subject of the media and general community. Hardly a day passes without either area newspapers having a feature page one story. Most of these articles center on the experiences of citizen in areas of our nation where hydraulic fracturing of one shale field or another is being experienced. Typically, these page one features present the less pleasant side of the experience.

Of course, there are 2 sides to every saga, however, bad news sell best so the dark side gets more attention.

This discussion is not about hydraulic fracturing or gas exploration of any type. This discussion is about water, clean and stable water. Water we drink, water for wildlife and aquatic life both plant and animal.

The quality of water within Town of Dryden is significant for several important considerations.

The most important of which is for public and private well water. The Town by far utilizes private wells in significant number for residential potable, (drinking water). Within the Town are numerous State and Federal regulated wetlands which are connected by a substantial number of streams many of which are New York State classified as sources of public, (multiple uses), drinking water. Many other streams are classified as waters of fish habitat and related aquatic life. Many of these streams have headwaters within adjacent towns and counties passing through our Town on to other towns. Some have headwaters within the Town but pass on to other Towns becoming important drinking water resources for adjacent communities.

If one were to study the ground system of the Town of Dryden, it becomes quite oblivious that water within the Town of Dryden has a large impact on not only the Town and its environment but downstream users who depend upon upstream water for their potable water.

Over the past few decades both Federal and State agencies have established many regulations and requirements which have been aimed at quality water management. Each has been very successful as the Town of Dryden water resources are plentiful and high quality.

In November, I discussed effective storm water management. Essentially effective storm water management provides clean water. Clean or dirty contaminated water passes from property to property, water body to water body. Rate and volume controls mitigate impacts from erosion to near zero. Clean water is free of sediment, (fine soils), as well as manmade contaminates. Man can filter water or nature can perform the filter task. Working together, man and nature, is the most effective way.

Both man and nature may contaminate water too. Typically man provides the biggest influence by controlling flow and rate of discharge. Filtering out erosive soils provides the best quality water.

## Important Notice

### Amanda's Law

#### Carbon monoxide alarm requirements to go into effect February 22, 2010

As the result of legislation, [Amanda's Law](#) will go into effect on February 22, 2010. It requires essentially all residences, both new and existing, to have carbon monoxide alarms installed. The specific requirements differ for new and existing residences and also on when the buildings were built and subcategories of occupancy groups.

Probably the most asked question will be the requirement for existing one and two family residences. They will be required to have one carbon monoxide alarm installed on the lowest story having a sleeping area.

The proposal to modify the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, in order to comply with Amanda's Law, is in the process of being adopted as an [emergency rule](#). The following link provides the [proposed code text](#) and legislation, [Amanda's Law](#).

For more information:

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/code/COAlarm.htm>

## From the Recreation Department

We've been keeping busy this winter with activities like: in-house basketball, a father-daughter dance, and a wrestling tournament. While that is definitely not all we did this winter, those are some highlights.



Coming up soon:

Summer Sports like Travel Baseball, Softball

PLUS

Music in the Park and Music in the Hollow



Last year's line up of artists is still on the website. That will give you a taste of what is in store for this year as well!!

## Public Meeting on Amended Zoning Ordinance for Town of Dryden

By Joe Laquatra and Tom Hatfield,  
Planning Board Members

In compliance with New York State law, the Town of Dryden is currently amending its zoning ordinance to reflect the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Members of the Town Board, Planning Board, Conservation Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals have been working together to draft the ordinance with the help of Behan Planning Associates. The intent of the ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the community; to conserve land and community resources; to establish zones that regulate the use of land and structures in ways that encourage the most appropriate development of the town; and preservation of the rural character of the community. That last point is what a majority of town residents considered as most important when they were surveyed at the beginning of this process almost 15 years ago: preserve the rural character of the Town of Dryden.

The current draft of the proposed ordinance is available for review on the Town website: [www.dryden.ny.us](http://www.dryden.ny.us). In order for the new ordinance to work, it must serve the public. To that end, we welcome participation from town residents at a public meeting in the Dryden Town Hall on January 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. (January 27 is the snow date). This meeting will give everyone an opportunity to understand the new proposed zoning districts – Rural Residential, Rural Agricultural, Conservation, Hamlet, Commercial, and Light Industrial/Office – and a chance to provide feedback to town officials. We will also discuss new subdivision concepts, such as cluster development and conservation subdivisions. New commercial and residential design guidelines that have been approved by the Town Board will be discussed, as will be new density patterns for the town. Members of the town boards have been working very hard on the new zoning ordinance, but we need to hear from town residents as we move forward to finalizing the process. We welcome your participation in this important endeavor.

— See page 1 for details on our next public meeting coming up in March.

## The Town History Corner

By Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009:

RESOURCES Provided: Office space, desk (Sic. large table), mail box, postage, stationary, photocopy machine, internet access. (NOT provided: office phone, computer, travel funds, student intern, office staff, volunteers).

Weekly office hours: Generally one mid-week morning (9-ish am to 1:00 pm or so) averaging 4 hours per week, plus 2 to 5 hours at home (email replies, etc.) and 3 to 4 hours per week (research, etc.) at other places (e.g. local Historical Society). In addition: Chair of Town History Committee (three Town Board appointed members) meeting once a month (approx. 3 hours each month).

RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS: “Town Historian’s Corner” printed in Town Newsletter once a month and a weekly column “Anecdotes and Brevities” (always about some historical event or incident in local Dryden or central New York history) in the “Finger Lakes Community Newspapers” (a consortium of eleven weekly community newspapers).

PUBLISHED: 52 (Jan. thru Dec.) Newspaper columns and 3 (Jul. thru Dec.) Town History Corners.

CURRENT “work-in-progress” PROJECTS: Identifying location of all cemeteries (current and abandoned) and creating a meaningful listing of historical roadside markers in the Town of Dryden.

ATTENDANCE at public gatherings (in audience): The presentation of historic plaque (Bethel Grove Community Center) and the presentation of a Historic Place plaque (Eight Square School House).

ATTENDANCE at professional meetings (as a member): Two of three meetings (July thru December) of the Municipal Historians of Tompkins County and (as Chair) three of three meetings of the Town History Committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Member of 1) Municipal Historians of Tompkins County, 2) Dryden Town Historical Society, 3) (*pending enrollment Feb. 1, 2010*) Association of Public Historians of New York State.

### CONCLUSION

Major accomplishment during the past current term of office was to establish myself as the recognized “official” Town Historian. Goals and plans for 2010 are to continue chairing the Dryden Town History Committee and better make available the history of the Town to the general public through public presentations and publications.

Don’t forget, you can see back issues of **The Town History Corner** on the town’s website at <http://dryden.ny.us/historian>.

## Marcellus Shale Water Quality (Continued from Page 2)

Sometime mans influences is negative but far more often than not mans influences is positive.

For water management to be effective the water cycle must functions as close to how it did prior to mans existence. Man has the ability to analysis conditions and responds where nature does not. Careful attention to development conditions are generally very effective, a practice which must always prevail.

Obviously any of mans interference with natures infrastructure will have an impact. Before man, natures system contained water bodies and vegetated earthen surface. The earthen surfaces were generally vegetated, trees, grass and brush.

Vegetated surfaces absorbed rain allowing runoff to slowly filter to water bodies. Erosion was pre-mans basic containment. Man arrived and immediately disrupted nature's efforts.

As man began to clear the vegetation erosion and contamination increased. As man advanced his presents and technologies, man also added new containments. Man also removed the vegetation leaving surfaces which could not absorb water. Buildings, roads, parking lots, sidewalks do not absorb any water. All falling water lands on these surfaces run-off is 100% and carry containments which further degrade the water system. Many of the added containments are foreign to the water system and certainly provide negative influence.

Over the past few decades many effective efforts have been implemented to, in spite of human presents, balanced water flow and quality to what or near to it was prior to human presents. Clean water at a rate and volume prior to vegetation disturbance, (removed or covering), is the basic goal. Preservation of wetlands rather than removing them is a second important factor. Wetlands slow and clean water with amazing proficiency. All and all, the Town of Dryden and neighboring communities have been very successful at water quality management. It has been proven, human presents can indeed be positive. This is a fact that can never ever be set aside because human presents can inflict terrible consequences just as easily.

It is natural for human presents to evolve and that is a good thing. However, as we move forward, we must exercise effective management of our water system for without clean water, we shall surely parish.



### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Town Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</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, 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 7 pm

Youth Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

## Community Centers

The Varna Community Association, Inc. (VCA) has been active in the hamlet of Varna NY for nearly 60 years. It was founded in 1950 by a group of community-minded residents, and it has been in continuous operation ever since. Varna is located in the [Town of Dryden NY](#).

Anyone living in the hamlet of Varna is automatically a member of the association. There are no membership fees. Other persons who wish to participate in VCA activities are also welcome.

The VCA exists exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, which include enhancing the quality of life in and around the hamlet of Varna and providing for wholesome recreational and educational activities and a gathering place for the youth, senior citizens, other charitable organizations, and other members of the community of Varna and neighboring communities.

The VCA is a non-profit corporation with 501c3 (tax deductible) status. A volunteer board of directors oversees activities of the organization and maintains the VCA's buildings and property.