

## NOTES ABOUT TOWN

2/27/10

As we approach the last days of February.... Winter has finally arrived. WOW!!

Our Town Hall/Courtroom has the last of its finishing touches being done by Andy Perkins. Thanks to our newly retired Town Clerk, Chari Smith, most of the improvements are paid for by a grant from the New York State Court System.

I appreciate the patience of all our taxpayers, judges and town staff...and thanks to our library crew for the use of the "Adirondack Room" for our meetings.

Improvements and energy saving measures are also on tap for our Highway Barn and Town Museum.

The Fuel Consolidation Project with the Town of Arietta and Hamilton County is off to a great start with the timely application for shared services funds winning a \$709,000.00 Local Government Efficiency Grant.

This will allow planned improvements to the county and Piseco's fueling depots to be dove-tailed with our own cleanup of the Town Municipal Center; resulting in a safe, efficient fueling station for our municipal and first responder equipment, better cost controls and an emergency backup site, as well (Piseco).

January and February were busy for training schools for our new Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent and Supervisor. Thank goodness for Nancy Seifts, our Principal Account Clerk for her steady hand in our transition and the support of Vicki Buyce and Faith Cleveland, as well.

Oak Mountain Ski Center, and the hearty crew of staff and volunteers, put together by the village, has had a good season... despite the scarcity of snow in mid-winter. Working with the town school and surrounding communities, many wonderful family fun days and youth events have been made possible once again.

As we go forward, examine this year books and the fiscal future of Oak, we will have a joint meeting with the village and with the Village and Town Boards to hear from our residents and explore all options.

Recently, our local municipalities and school districts took a tough economic hit with the 480a Exemption filing of the 70,000 acres of Lyme Timber lands. This is a fairly complex, committed placement of forestry lands into a tax shelter that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation oversees.

The net result is an 80% decrease in the real dollars that these lands have historically generated in real estate taxes to the Town of Lake Pleasant, Town of Arietta, Village of Speculator and our Schools!

Not long ago, it was the proposal by some, to exempt or reduce the taxes paid by our largest landowner..... New York State.

Recently, our local governments, have been constrained from any controlled brush burning; effectively adding new and very costly solutions be found to provide municipal services to our residents.

I urge you once again, reach out to all your elected representatives...here in our town and county ... and especially at the state level.

We are squeezed by proposed snowmobile trail closures, our regulations and under funding. Our state needs to be redirected from the sweetheart deals for the Albany connected, to the true stakeholders of our beautiful Adirondacks.

Positive change is just a concerted effort away.

Warm Spring Wishes

*Neil P. McGovern*

P.S. Please remember to “take 10” minutes and respond to your census mailing. It is critical that we are all counted. Let’s make the Town of Lake Pleasant the leader in participation in this important tally of civic involvement!!

Cell: 518-637-5890  
[Supervisor.mcgovern@yahoo.com](mailto:Supervisor.mcgovern@yahoo.com)