Town of Ulysses

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Emergency Medical Services in Challenging Locations

In response to concerns raised by residents living in the steep areas along Cayuga Lake, the Ulysses Town Board held a special meeting in March for residents to meet with officials from the Village of Trumansburg's Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as well as the 911 Dispatch Center to clarify several questions. Below are the highlights from that meeting.

Does Trumansburg have 4WD drive vehicles to reach people in difficult terrains?
YES. Although no emergency provider in Tompkins County or nearby areas has a 4-wheel drive (4WD) ambulance (due to expense and known maintenance and repair problems), Trumansburg has two 4WD vehicles equipped with supplies for steep slopes or other challenging road conditions. To reach patients in a gorge or on a trail, Trumansburg EMS has an all-terrain vehicle with tank-like treads that can carry a patient to a waiting ambulance.

Is the Trumansburg Ambulance staffed with paid professionals 24/7/365?
YES. Trumansburg has two ambulances. The first crew is always staffed with a paid Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and commonly additional assistants. If the first ambulance is busy responding to a call, the second ambulance will be called by 911. Simultaneously 911 also calls Bangs Ambulance Service to provide mutual aid to be sure an ambulance crew of emergency responders arrives as quickly as possible.

How well trained and experienced are the volunteers who respond?
Paramedics or EMTs working for Trumansburg or Bangs all receive the same training, whether paid or volunteer. The average experience of Trumansburg's paid staff is 13.2 years and of volunteers is 13.6 years. All staff and volunteers routinely update their training to meet NYS certification requirements.

Does the Trumansburg EMS have a policy to prohibit emergency vehicles from going down steep driveways?
NO. Both the Trumansburg Fire & EMS and Bangs Ambulance Service evaluate each situation and decide the best access plan based on conditions and safety for patients as well as crew members.

What is the Town of Ulysses doing to improve EMS and fire services?
Based on discussions with residents and emergency responders, the Town of Ulysses feels they can help make the excellent emergency services even better. In addition to surveying for properties with access challenges (see sidebar), Town representatives will explore avenues of activating the closest responder for a 911 call. The Town will also work with emergency responders to provide a list of simple steps for residents to take in emergencies to save precious time.

The Town of Ulysses will be asking for feedback from for all those served by Trumansburg EMS, and residents are encouraged to call the Town at 387-5767 ext. 221 or Village EMS at 387-7131 with questions or concerns. Check the Town's website www.ulysses.ny.us for more info on EMS services & billing.

A summary of EMS services is on the town website at ulysses.ny.us/pdf/EMS-handout-2015-03-21-STB-mtg.pdf.

Your Role in Emergency Planning

Document your driveway conditions
An outcome of recent talks is to enlist residents to provide more information on individual properties that have challenging features such as steep slopes, stair access to buildings, narrow driveways, etc. Having this information will enable the 911 Dispatch Center to alert all emergency responders to bring the appropriate vehicles and equipment to better reach, and promptly serve, all residents. Look for a survey and provide details on your property.

Is your residence properly marked?
Does your property have a green sign on the road with your house number? If not, contact the Town Clerk for a replacement. If your driveway is shared, will emergency responders be able to easily determine your location by house number? If not, make sure to mark your location at forks or turns in a shared driveway .

Follow the tips
Our local emergency responders are compiling tips to help residents be prepared and take responsibility for helping to keep themselves and others safe. Look for announcements of this document on our listserv news. Not on our listserv? Contact Carissa at clerk@ulysses.ny.us.

EMS Billing

How does it work?

The cost for emergency medical services (EMS) has been increasing at rates that exceed inflation and the State's new tax cap. In 2015, EMS costs for Ulysses residents increased by 7.2% and constituted 11% of the budget. This means to pay for EMS, the Town had to either cut expenses elsewhere, raise property taxes, or find other revenue to balance the Town's budget.

The Town's decision to start billing for ambulance service will help alleviate the overall property tax burden for this service by shifting some costs to insurance companies. If a patient is transported by ambulance, either
-a bill will be sent to their insurance company **OR**
-if uninsured and financially able, the bill will be sent to the patient **OR**
-if the patient is uninsured and has a household income that falls at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guideline, he or she will be eligible for financial assistance.

Patients are responsible for paying their co-pays and deductibles but even these are subject to the town's financial assistance policy.

See the policies and fees at ulysses.ny.us/departments/department-emergency/

FEEDBACK

Our town staff and board members want to make sure we focus on needs, issues, and projects that matter to town residents. We are interested in your ideas on how to make our town an even better place to live, work, and play. If you have comments, complaints, or compliments that can help us do a better job of serving the town, please call or write to let us know how we are doing and how we can do better at: Issuing licenses • Billing & collecting taxes• Maintaining roads & bridges• Permitting & inspecting building projects• Planning for the future• Maintaining safety through courts, fire & EMS• Reporting on our activities.

A Look Back

2014 Accomplishments

Town Board members are committed to be being accessible and responsive stewards of our community, its environment, and town finances. In addition to overseeing on-going town services including: issuing licenses & permits, maintaining roads, ensuring emergency services are at the ready, overseeing building and development, providing a court, and supporting other community services, the Town Board made progress on many other items on its 2014 work plan:

Increased access

Opened Clerk's office during lunch; created semi-monthly listserv announcements; increased outreach to Jacksonville; hosted Solar Tompkins informational meeting; Established Affordable Health Care and Social Services outreach hours at the Town Hall.

Efficiency & Tax Savings

- ◊ Reduced the cost of billing for water services.
- ◊ Adopted Ambulance Billing policy to offset the need for tax support.
- ◊ Maintained and explored shared services with other municipalities, such as: record keeping, youth recreation, emergency planning services, courts, highway departments, and code enforcement.

Safety and Environment

- ◊ Replaced culvert along lakeshore to reduce future risk of flooding.
- ◊ Developed a no-cost policing agreement to allow Tburg Police jurisdiction in the Town when providing aid to the Sheriff or State Police.
- ◊ Wrote a successful grant with the Village to improve sidewalks, including from the Fairground to ShurSave/Kinney.
- ◊ Adopted a stronger Building Maintenance Code to deal with neglected & abandoned buildings
- ◊ Researched methods to improve water quality in Water District 3 & contracted with Bolton Point to assure back up help.
- ◊ Collaborated with the Village to plan for emergencies.
- ◊ Implemented Storm Water plans.
- ◊ Advocated with other municipalities to have NYS adopt renewable energy policies, preserve local towns' rights to ban fracking, prevent storage of liquid propane gas under Seneca Lake, and to encourage the County to allow alternative energy tax exemptions.

Preserving history and quality of life:

- ◊ Completed an inventory of historic buildings in the Village and Town to help preservation efforts.
- ◊ Advocated for restoration of the old church in Jacksonville.
- ◊ Began planning for revitalization of Jacksonville.
- ◊ Contributed to programs for children, seniors, the library, Community Science Institute, and Winterfest.

Improved governance

- ◊ Adopted an updated personnel policy.
- ◊ Made improvements in recordkeeping.
- ◊ Secured a grant to update zoning.

A Look Ahead

2015 Work Plan

And what is on our 2015 work plan? Already this year, we have taken steps to recruit members for an Agriculture Committee to support ag and preserve farmland in the town. The Town Board held a special meeting in March to address concerns about emergency service access to properties in challenging locations . We will also be initiating work on all three of the grants we received funding for.

Also on the to-do list is an effort to hone our emergency management plan, continue with revitalization efforts in Jacksonville, encourage more alternative energy use and production in Ulysses, investigate legislation aimed at testing septic systems along water bodies to ensure they do not pose a hazard to water quality, improve affordable housing, and potentially add new water districts based on need, available infrastructure and funding.

Wish us luck!

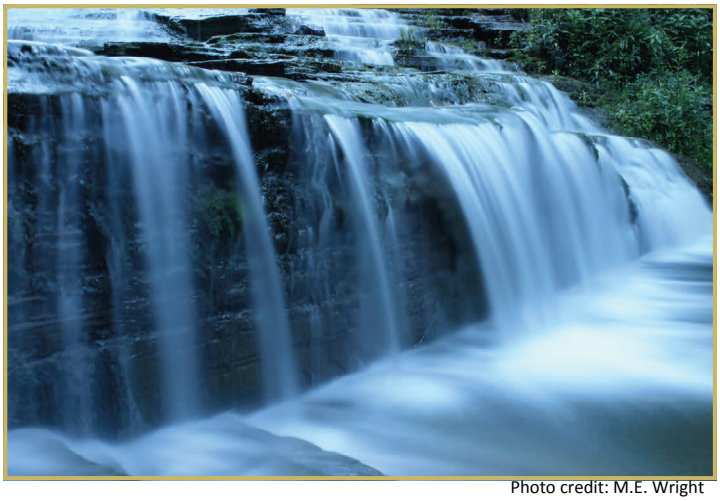


Photo credit: M.E. Wright

Interested in Agriculture?

A reminder to farmers and those involved in agriculture: the Town of Ulysses is seeking members for the Agriculture Advisory Committee that will assist the Town Board in preserving farmlands and promoting agriculture based on the Town of Ulysses Ag and Farmland Protection Plan (AFPP). Interested candidates should contact Deputy Supervisor, Michelle Wright for more information at deputysupervisor@ulysses.ny.us or call 387-5767 ext 234. **Applications are due by May 8.** See the AFFP and the goals http://ulysses.ny.us/pdf/AFPP-Final.pdf.

Commemorating Trumansburg's First African American Voter

May 16th at 10:30am

Lloyd Dorsey escaped slavery and purchased his Trumansburg home in 1851, which allowed him to vote in New York State. A historical marker has been erected in his honor near his former home, which is located on the hill leading up from Lake Street to Cayuga Street—this section of the street has been renamed "Dorsey Hill." The community is invited to celebrate and honor Mr. Dorsey and his legacy on May 16th.

Schedule of Events

10:30am: Dedication ceremonies: 1 Dorsey Hill (formerly 1 King St)

Events at the Farmers' Market

11:30am: Tburg Community Chorus
11am-1pm: Chicken BBQ Lunch
1pm: Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers

Historical exhibits will also be on display at the Farmers' Market and at the Ulysses Historical Society 10am-2pm

Broadband

Potential Improved Service

Tompkins County, in conjunction with ClarityConnect, was granted funding to improve high-speed internet throughout Tompkins County. Work to build out the system will be prioritized based on areas that register the most need for improved high-speed internet service. To register your need, visit ClarityConnect at www.clarityconnect.com and complete an online inquiry form. Click on the blue box labeled "Contact Me About Wireless Internet Connection."

For the latest summary of the *Connect NY Broadband Expansion Program for Tompkins County, go to* clarityconnect.com/site/view/1000093. We realize all this is hard to do without a good internet connection. Let us know if you need assistance.

The pedestrian/traffic interface on Route 96 by the Fairgrounds provides no separation.

South Street—a little too much sharing of the road?

Grant Winner #1

New sidewalks for Trumansburg and Ulysses

In late 2014 the Village of Trumansburg and the Town of Ulysses were awarded a grant of $811,000 from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the construction of three sections of sidewalk. This grant was co-written with both Trumansburg and Ulysses elected officials and staff.

The three sidewalk locations are: 1) on Lake Street from Main Street to the Trumansburg Creek bridge; 2) on South Street from Whig Street to Tamarack Lane; 3) on Main Street/Route 96 from the Fairgrounds to the ShurSave grocery store.

For years to come these sidewalks will provide safe connections for residents to travel between their homes, stores, and the school without relying on a vehicle—not only a healthy option, but one that relies less on fossil fuels.

Design elements, such as which side of the road the sidewalk will be on, are still uncertain and will be based on input from residents, recommendations from a design/engineering firm, cost, and final approval by the NYS Department of Transportation.

The Village and the Town are committed to hearing the voices of all stakeholders regarding the specifics of the sidewalk project. In the future, be on the lookout for a notice of a public information session, with the opportunity for public input. Watch the newspaper, the Village and Town websites, or contact Ulysses Deputy Supervisor Michelle E. Wright (deputysupervisor@ulysses.ny.us, 387-5767 ext. 234) to be put on an e-mail list for notifications related to this project.

Know Who to Call:
Environmental Emergencies

The Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response Office not only coordinates emergency response for public safety, they also serve as a hub of information and assistance for environmental disasters or concerns. If you experience or witness a non-life threatening issue such as an impassable road due to a downed tree or spill of oil or chemicals, **call the County Emergency Response Office at: 273-8000.** To be clear: if there is *any* immediate risk to human life call 911 immediately.

Grant Winner #2

Update for zoning

In June 2014, the Town of Ulysses applied for grant funding to update the Zoning Law to reflect the goals of the 2009 Comprehensive Plan. The grant application was successful, and the Town will receive funding through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Cleaner, Greener Communities Phase II Implementation Grants program.

The Town first enacted zoning regulations in 1960, and has revised them over the years. In 2009, the Town updated its Comprehensive Plan to guide subsequent zoning amendments. With the grant funding, the Town will work with a committee and a planning firm to amend the zoning to support the existing assets of the community and include creative ideas to meet the needs of current and future residents based on the recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan. The grant focuses on two main areas—agricultural lands and the hamlet of Jacksonville, but work may also be extended to the Krum's Corner area and land adjacent to the Village of Trumansburg.

Look for announcements in the future for how to participate in public meetings on the project as it moves forward.

Grant Winner #3

Tompkins County Trails Mapping

Tompkins County is full of excellent trails for biking, hiking, skiing and running, but finding a trail for just the right outdoor experience can be difficult, especially for tourists and newcomers. Taking the lead, and based on input from the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Ulysses submitted a successful proposal for funding from the Tompkins County Tourism Program to build a website of Tompkins County trails. The site will be searchable for criteria such as difficulty, distance, scenic views, picnicking facilities, etc. Users can either access maps using a mobile device or print out maps from the website to take on the trail. This project involves partners from the Tompkins County Parks and Trails Network. Working together we are trying to make Tompkins County and even better place to live and visit.

FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The clerk's office is open Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm (including lunch time hours); and Saturdays, 9am-12 noon. Stop by and say hello! Please contact us with questions or concerns at 387-5767, ext. 221, or: Carissa (Clerk) at clerk@ulysses.ny.us Patty (Deputy Clerk) at deputyclerk@ulysses.ny.us.

Tax bills and receipts

After March 31, the town can no longer accept Town and County tax payments. All bills and payments should be sent to Tompkins County Budget and Finance office at 125 E. Court St. in Ithaca after this date. If you are unsure whether your bill has been paid OR you need last year's receipt for your tax payment, information is available on our website at: http://www.ulysses.ny.us/departments/dept-clerk/clerk-town-county-tax/.

Dog licenses

To help prevent the spread of rabies, dogs are required to be licensed in the Town of Ulysses. If your dog is not licensed, please stop in anytime during office hours with a proof of rabies vaccination. If your dog is spayed or neutered, the fee is $13.50. If not, you will pay $20.50. Licenses are valid for one year. To license your dog by mail, download a form from our website here: http://www.ulysses.ny.us/departments/dept-clerk/clerk-dog-control/. Reminders are sent out prior to your renewal date. If we don't hear from you, a delinquent notice is sent. If we still haven't heard from you, a ticket and fine are issued.

Hunting and fishing licensing

The clerk's office is currently issuing fishing licenses. Stop in any time during office hours to buy a license, or get one online at http://licensecenter.ny.gov/sporting-and-recreational-licenses.

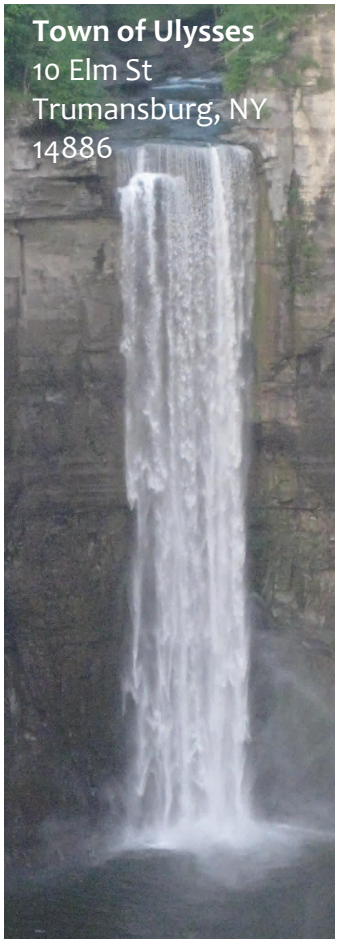
Water bills

If you are in the town's water system (Jacksonville area), please note that a late penalty (10%) will be added for bills received 30 days after the due date.

Join the listserv!

The town has a handy listserv to keep residents updated on important information. Approximately two messages per month are sent. Sign up to get the latest town information and emergency updates by e-mailing clerk@ulysses.ny.us.

Town of Ulysses **spring 2015** Newsletter



Town of Ulysses
10 Elm St
Trumansburg, NY
14886

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Trumansburg, NY
14886
PERMIT NO 63

Quick Reference Numbers

Town Hall: (607) 387-5767

Clerk's Office: ext. 221 clerk@ulysses.ny.us

Town Court: ext. 224 court@ulysses.ny.us

Zoning & Planning: ext. 222 Kiley@ulysses.ny.us

Code Enforcement: ext. 231 Rachun@ulysses.ny.us

Supervisor: ext. 232 supervisor@ulysses.ny.us

Deputy Supervisor & Bookkeeper: ext. 234
deputysupervisor@ulysses.ny.us

Town Barn/Highway: (607) 387-6230
highway@ulysses.ny.us

Town Board Contact Information:

Rich Goldman: goldman@ulysses.ny.us
John Hertzler: hertzler@ulysses.ny.us
Dave Kerness: kerness@ulysses.ny.us
Nancy Zahler: zahler@ulysses.ny.us

Staff directory: ulysses.ny.us/contact/directory/

From the Supervisor

After an especially long and cold winter, everyone is eager to hear the peepers once again. Staff at the Town Hall do stop to hear the peepers too, but only after long busy days and evenings working to make the Town of Ulysses a great place to live, work, and visit.

I am especially pleased to announce Town staff have written three successful grant applications totaling over $865,550—that's money to benefit Trumansburg and Ulysses without increasing property taxes. And to ease the burden more, the Town Board initiated billing for ambulance service in 2015. We are working hard to be as efficient as possible and provide the services we think contribute to the quality of life we are fortunate to have here in Ulysses and Trumansburg.

Stop by any time. We are here to serve you.

- Liz

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY: Help us save time, money and resources.
Receive this newsletter by email. Send your address to deputysupervisor@ulysses.ny.us