



Town of Ulysses

SPRING NEWSLETTER

10 Elm Street, Trumansburg, NY

April 2013

Ulysses Municipal Boards

Town Hall 387-5767
Ulysses.ny.us

Town Board 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7:00pm

Town Supervisor 387-5767
Roxanne Marino Ext. 232

Town Council Members

Kevin Romer
Lucia Tyler 387-3484
Dave Kerness 227-0536
Liz Thomas 387-8170

Planning Board 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Ken Zeserson—Chair 256-7139
Rod Hawkes—Vice-chair
Rebecca Schneider
Stan Beames
Sarah Adams
Peter Fry
John Wertis

Board of Zoning Appeals 3rd Wed. at 7:30 pm

George Tselekis—Chair 272-1808
Barbara Bristow
Carl Mann
Andy Glasner
Richard Coogan

Ulysses Town Offices

Town Clerk 387-5767
Marsha Georgia—Clerk Ext 221
Patty Halloran—Deputy Ext 223

Highway Department
Jim Meeker—Superintendent 387-6230
Dave Reynolds—Deputy

Town Court 387-5767
Tom Schlee—Justice Ext. 225
Mark Dresser—Justice Ext. 226
Michele Townley—Court Clerk Ext. 224

Code Enforcement and Zoning 387-5767
Alex Rachun—Building Inspector Ext. 231
Darby Kiley—Zoning Ext. 222

Accounting & Payroll 387-5767
Mary Bouchard Ext. 227

Town Historian
Nancy Dean 387-9323

Changes at the Supervisor's Office

It is with great regret we inform you of the resignation of the Ulysses Supervisor, Roxanne Marino. Roxanne has a long history with the town, having been first elected to the Town Board in 2003. She ran for the position of Supervisor in 2009 and has contributed endless hours of time, energy and incredible intellect to issues facing the town over that time.

It was under Roxanne's leadership that the Town, along with Dryden and Ithaca, lead the movement to ban hydrofracking within our borders under our right to home rule. In support of the Towns of Dryden and Middlefield—both towns currently in lawsuits challenging their municipal right to determine what land uses are allowed—Roxanne coordinated efforts to submit *friend of the court* briefs signed by 53 municipalities and three statewide support organizations.

Just this past February, Roxanne ushered through the passage of the Town of Ulysses' first Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (see more on page 3). Preserving the rural character of Ulysses is important to Roxanne as is supporting and

encouraging agricultural enterprises in the area. This new plan is a blueprint for ways that the Town and community can support farms and farm markets in hopes of keeping farmland active and agriculture innovative and vibrant.



Roxanne leaves the town in great fiscal shape, more organized and with a pile of completed projects. Notably, the Town created an environmental planner position and took large steps to increase information access to the public, initiating this newsletter and better utilizing our website. We can't

thank Roxanne enough for her service and wish her a well-deserved break.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Town Board has the option of appointing a new Supervisor on or after April 15 when the office becomes vacant. If no appointment is made, the Deputy Supervisor, Liz Thomas will serve as Supervisor until the Board makes a decision. If a current Town Board member is appointed as Supervisor, there will be an opening on the Town Board. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest to Marsha Georgia, touclerk@twcny.rr.com.

Zoning Changes Along the Lake

If you live along the lake, you've probably heard about proposed zoning changes for the areas west of Cayuga Lake along the delicate, steep and wooded slopes. These areas already fall under the Town's current zoning, but due to the extreme topography, proximity to numerous streams, and the fact that a large percentage of the area being considered has been designated by the County and the Town as *Unique Natural Areas*, the Town feels obligated to add an extra element of oversight to future construction projects.

When cleared, soils along the hillsides can easily begin to erode causing problems not only for the property owner but potentially their neighbors too. And erosion adds to the sediment load of Cayuga Lake affecting all of us who treasure this resource .

In addition, the town is considering regulation of structures along the lake such as docks and boat hoists.

Work on this re-zoning has been moving deliberately through the process since 2009 with the most recent draft of the zoning released in September 2012. Based on a well attended Public Information Meeting held in October 2012, the Town Board appointed an ad hoc committee to revisit specific parts of the draft zoning. When this group has finished, a new draft will be released to the public and further public comment opportunities will be established. The Town is drafting a *Frequently Asked Questions* document to clarify the often confusing domain of zoning and outline in plain terms what the new protections mean.

For questions, or to be notified of the completion of the new draft, contact Darby Kiley at 387-5767 extension 222 or Ulysses.planner@gmail.com. The next draft document will be available at the Town Hall or on the website at <http://www.ulysses.ny.us/>

OWN A BOAT?

Do you know about hydrilla, the invasive water weed?

Hydrilla was discovered in Cayuga Inlet in 2011. As one of the world's most invasive plants, it can grow up to a foot per day and be spread by boating activities. Herbicides applied in 2012 appear to be effective, but management will need to continue for years to come.

Find out more at stopHydrilla.org

Transitioning to Solar

Have you passed by the Town Hall on Elm Street or the Town Highway Barn on Colegrove Road lately? If not, take a look at the new solar panels on the roofs. With concerns about climate change and the safety of hydraulic fracturing, the Ulysses Town Board decided to take steps in support of a more renewable energy future. And the best part—the total cost is guaranteed not to exceed the town's cost for electricity before the panels were installed. The photovoltaic systems are leased to the town through the Solar Liberty Municipal Solar Lease Program. Incentive funds from New York State Energy Research Development Agency (a.k.a. NYSERDA) offset the cost of the systems. The solar panels collectively will produce approximately 40,000 kWh with an estimated annual savings of \$1,900.



Solarize Tompkins

Solarize Tompkins Southeast is a new initiative taking place in the Towns of Caroline, Dryden and Danby. The goal is to install solar systems in at least 30 locations in 2013. Working with state and county organizers, area residents, and solar energy installers, this campaign will streamline the purchase and installation process making solar energy easy and affordable. The program is open to residences, farms, businesses, municipalities and institutions in those towns.

How about here in Ulysses? Solarize Tompkins SE is willing to share their experience and help expand solar installations throughout Tompkins County. We need a core group of people to work with our neighboring towns to put the same communal purchasing power in place here. Sound like something we should do? Please help! Contact Liz Thomas at 387-5767 ext 229 or liz.graeper.thomas@gmail.com. See more about the program at solarizetompkinsse.org/.

EMS Update

Although the Town of Ulysses still believes that a single, town-wide contract and shared service agreement with the Village for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would be the most cost effective for all residents and show that both municipalities are committed to supporting a service with policies that are responsive to the needs of all residents into the future, the Village of Trumansburg is not interested in exploring this option at this time. Therefore, the Town of Ulysses is proceeding to

create its own ambulance district.

What are the advantages? The Town needs to have an ambulance district to contract for EMS if the service is not provided town-wide. The Town can decide whether it will bill for EMS service and if so, it can set its own fees and create its own charity policy. The Town can also weigh the pros and cons of all the EMS service combinations that are available in the area and associated contract options in the future.

COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDICATION DISPOSAL DAY

Saturday, April 27

The next Safe Medication Disposal Day will be held on April 27, 2013. The event gives residents the chance to safely dispose of household medications that are old, expired or no longer needed. The collection will occur at two locations—the TCAT garage and the Slaterville Fire Station. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at both locations.

Unwanted medicines can also be disposed of in the County's "Med Return" drop box, located at the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office at the County Public Safety Building. The box is accessible 24/7.

For more information about the collection event or the "Med Return" drop box, call 2-1-1, e-mail Ed Gottlieb at egottlieb@cityofithaca.org or visit www.healthyyouth.org.

BROADBAND EXTENDED

In early March, after years of work, Tompkins County was awarded \$2.2 million to extend high-speed Internet service to unserved and underserved areas of the county including parts of Ulysses. In a truly combined effort, County Administration, County Legislators, rural towns and local experts worked together with local provider, Clarity Connect, to submit the proposal. Partners in the build-out project will also include Finger Lakes Technologies Group and Haefele TV. A big thanks to all who have worked to bring the entire county into the 21st century and the Town looks forward to cooperating in this effort.

NEW ELECTION DISTRICTS

Election District lines in Ulysses are being redrawn for this fall's elections. Residents will be notified by postcard in August. Keep your eye open for this important change to where you vote. 597 voters in Ulysses will have a different Election District and 551 voters will have a different polling place.

Agricultural Assessment Changes

Many residents who own large parcels of vacant or agricultural land have recently been notified of changes to their assessments. Tompkins County Department of Assessment has provided an explanation of why this has occurred and a reassurance that the effect on taxable value should be minimal on lands that are registered under the agricultural land exemption (Ag Ceiling Exemption). The Department of Assessment has not reviewed ag properties since 2008 and based on recent sales, the assessed value (to 100% of fair market) has increased. However, the taxable value of agricultural land that receives the *Ag Ceiling Exemption* is determined not by our local county assessor but by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services.

Read the complete article at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/assessment/ag%20report.pdf>.

Agriculture and Farmland Protection

After several years of work, on February 26, the Ulysses Town Board adopted its official *Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan*. A great deal of land in Ulysses is farmed and with the local foods movement going strong, and the 2009 Comprehensive Plan survey indicating residents strongly support agriculture, the Town Board felt it important to encourage preservation of its prime agricultural lands and farming enterprises. Increasing marketing opportunities and awareness of local agricultural activities, matching farmers with available farmland, and offering incentives to preserve the best lands for farming are all part of the plan.

The next step will be for the town to create an Agricultural Advisory committee with a diverse membership to move toward the plan's goals. If you are interested, contact Darby Kiley at Ulysses.planner@gmail.com, 387-5767 ext 222. Check out the plan at ulysses.ny.us/pdf/AFPP-Final.pdf

Town of Ulysses
10 Elm St
Trumansburg, NY 14886



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JACKSONVILLE RESIDENTS

***Brush with Kindness* coming to Jacksonville.**

Does your house need new steps, a little paint, windows repaired, some tender loving care? The *Brush with Kindness* program is run by Habitat for Humanity and uses its system of volunteers to do small (and some bigger) repairs for homeowners with qualifying incomes. The Town of Ulysses is partnering with Habitat on this pilot project in our area, using grant funds targeted for home repair. For more information, contact Liz Warner at 607-844-3529 or liz@tchabitat.com

NEEDED SOON: Town Historian

The Town Historian, Nancy Dean, has faithfully maintained her office for many years but announced she would like to step down at some point soon. If you have a pocket of time to spare and an interest in the history of Ulysses, please contact Nancy Dean for more information jacksonvilledean@aol.com, 387-9323

FOR YOUNG RESIDENTS

Information from your local Trumansburg-Ulysses Youth Commission

LIFEGUARDS NEEDED

Looking for a well-paid summer job? The New York State Parks are seeking qualified young adults to lifeguard at area parks this summer. Test dates for qualifying exams are run from March to June. For more information, go to nysparks.com or call Bonnie Jepsen at 387-7041 ext. 113 or John VanValen John.vanvalen@parks.ny.gov.

SUPER SUMMER SIGNUP (for kids activities)

Parents looking for one-stop summer camp shopping can find it all at the Youth Commission's *Super Summer Signup* on Thursday, May 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Trumansburg Elementary School cafeteria.

SUMMER MOVIE DATES SET

Summer movies at the Trumansburg Farmer's Market have become more and more popular. This year, movies will be shown on July 24, July 31, August 7 and August 14. Come join your neighbors to watch family-friendly movies together. Shows start at 7:30 and frequently feature local entertainment prior to the movie.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY: Help us save money.

Receive this newsletter and other notifications by email. Send your address to liz.graeper.thomas@gmail.com