

Hello Ulysses,

Wishing you a great holiday season!

Read on for some news...

GENERAL TOWN OF ULYSSES NEWS:

Holiday hours:

The Town Clerk's Office will close at 1:30pm on Wednesday, December 23 and Wednesday December 31. All town offices will be closed on Dec. 24-25 as well as Jan. 1.

Tax season is approaching!

You will receive your Town & County tax bills late this month or in early January, depending on when we receive them from the county. They will need to be paid on or before Monday, Feb. 1 to avoid a penalty. Payments can be made by check, in cash, or by credit card (on-line or in-person) **for a fee**. For more information, visit our webpage.

Town Board meeting

The Town Board has cancelled its Dec. 22 meeting. It will meet again on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 8am for its Organizational Meeting. At this meeting, the Town Board chooses its meeting schedule and procedures; designates a newspaper and financial institution, makes appointments to various boards and committees, etc. The agenda will be posted in advance of the meeting on-line here, and at the Town Hall.

Planning Board members sought

For more information on member duties and meetings, visit our website.

TOMPKINS COUNTY NEWS:

ENERGIZE NY

County Administrator Joe Mareane sent the following information:

"As you may know, the City and County recently passed legislation authorizing "property assisted clean energy", or PACE, financing to be available to commercial property owners throughout the County. PACE financing allows long-term, low cost loans for energy-related improvements to existing properties--with loan repayments made through the annual City or County property tax bill. Most commercially-owned properties are eligible, including multi-family residences and buildings owned by non-profits".

A kick-off event is planned for January 7th at 5:30 p.m., The [Space@Greenstar](#). To RSVP, or get more information, e-mail energizeny@tompkins-co.org.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

This Federal program helps low-income households meet the high costs of home energy. The season runs from 11/16/15- 3/15/16. Emergency assistance is also available. View income guidelines and apply on-line at www.mybenefits.gov or call our local Dept. of Social Services (DSS) at (607)274-5264.

As a reminder, the Tompkins County DSS is at the Town Hall every Wed. from 1-4:30pm and can assist with this program.

NY STATE info:

DEC Announces Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for Deer Damage Management in New York- Public Invited to Comment by January 15

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) entitled "White-tailed Deer Damage Management in New York." The EA, prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services' (WS) New York Office, describes the need to manage white-tailed deer to reduce and prevent damage associated with these animals in New York; discusses potential issues associated with managing damage caused by deer; and the environmental consequences of alternatives for WS involvement in deer damage management throughout New York State.

The proposed action (preferred alternative) is to implement an integrated approach using a variety of methods to reduce deer damage. DEC issues permits to landowners, municipalities and resource management agencies to address deer damage and as a cooperating agency on this EA, DEC is encouraging the public to review and provide comments on it.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the EA and submit comments on it by entering "APHIS-2015-0093" in the search box at the Regulations.gov website (link leaves DEC website.) Comments may also be sent to USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 1930 Route 9, Castleton, NY 12033-9653, but electronic submission of comments is preferred. All comments must be received by the close-of-business on January 15, 2016 to receive full consideration. All comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record and will be released for public review as required and allowed by law.

Health care info:

A new resource guide is available on-line from Attorney General Schneiderman to help New Yorkers purchase health coverage. To order hardcopies or get more information, call the Attorney General's Intergovernmental Affairs Bureau at [212-416-6044](tel:212-416-6044).

Health Insurance through the Affordable Care Act

Every Wednesday from 1-4:30pm, the Town of Ulysses hosts Cassandra Aikman, a Healthcare Navigator for the Affordable Care Act. Residents are welcome to drop in to find out more about their healthcare options. To contact Cassandra or make an appointment, call 273-8686, ext. 264 or e-mail caikman@hsctc.org.

Forward this message to anyone else that you think would be interested. We'd love to connect with more residents. To send questions or comments, or be removed from this list, please e-mail clerk@ulysses.ny.us.