



LETTER FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Following many months of discussion and research, the Town Board took action at its August meeting to commence a project that has been long overdue – the 100% reassessment of the Town. In an effort to create fairness and equality in our property assessments, the Town Board resolved to return the Town to Full Market Value. Market value is the price most people would pay for a property in its current condition.

The last 100% reassessment was conducted 30 years ago. Obviously, market value in 1978 was significantly different than it is today. Some properties in Town have greatly appreciated while the reverse is true for others. In an attempt to assure equitable property tax allocation, the State Office of Real Property Services assigns an equalization rate for those taxing jurisdictions, such as Hamlin, which are not at 100% of market value. For Hamlin, the equalization rate is currently 45%. Essentially this means that the average property in Hamlin is being assessed at only 45% of its full market value. Although the equalization rate is an attempt at fairness, even it is not completely equitable because that 45% rate is applied equally to all properties. In fact, some properties may actually be 100% or more of market value – others may be less than 45% of market value. The only way to ensure that everyone is paying his or her fair share of taxes is to ensure that every property in the Town is assessed at the same percent of value. By returning to 100% of market value, we will be creating the fairest, most equitable situation for all property tax payers.

A 100% reassessment is a daunting task, which will be conducted over an almost two-year period. Each property will be individually visited and reviewed from the exterior. No one will enter your home, unless the owner desires. All data collectors will have proper identification during field inspections. To assist in the effort, the Town has retained GAR Associates, Inc. as contractor. Please note that the bulk of the cost of these professional services will be coming from the special cable fee fund reserve, not from your taxes. The first phase of the program will begin in September 2008, with the verification and collection of property inventory data. Each property owner will be mailed an informational letter and a Property Inventory Survey. In addition, a series of informational work sessions are planned to keep you informed of the process and how your input can help the project overall. The revised assessments will ultimately be reflected in the September 2010 school taxes and the January 2011 Town and County taxes.

For more information on assessments and equalization rates, you can go to the State Office of Real Property Services, www.orps.state.ny.us. I invite your attention to the Assessor's article on this subject contained on page 2 of this newsletter. I also want to refer you to two important tax payer articles from our State Senator, George Maziarz and our Town Clerk, Kathi Rickman, which are contained in this newsletter.

Finally, as we enter the fall season, the time of harvest, it's a good opportunity to pause and reflect on the labors of our busy summer activities as well as those of our Hamlin farmers. I invite you to visit the Hamlin Farmers' Market, Sundays 9 am-1pm (through October) at the Town Hall parking lot or stop by any of the road side stands to take advantage of the wonderful local crops.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

ASSESSMENT NEWS

Revaluation of All Properties Underway

At the August, 2008 Town Board meeting the Town Board voted unanimously to approve a town wide Revaluation Project for the Town.

The last town wide revaluation was completed in 1979. Updates were carried on until 1984. Since that point in time we have worked off a base year of 1984 values.

New York State Law requires assessments be at a "uniform percentage of market value" recommending 100% as an ideal. Our current level of assessment is 45% which is far below the ideal level, thus indicating the need for assessed values to be brought up to current market value.

GAR Associates, Inc. from Amherst, New York has been contracted to assist the Assessor's office with this task which started this fall and will continue to completion in 2010.

The Assessment Roll for 2009 will continue to use 1984 as a base year with all new values not going into effect until 2010.

Watch for announcements of informational meetings and updates on the project in future editions of the HAMLIN EXPRESS and the HAMLIN CLARKSON HERALD.

STAR Exemption Applications and Renewals

STAR Exemption applications for the 2009-2010 school year are available in the Assessor's Office. Those already enrolled in the program at your current address need not re-apply except Seniors 65 years of age and over that have been receiving Enhanced STAR or new seniors that will turn 65 years of age by December 31, 2009 and had an adjusted gross income of \$73,000 or less in 2007.

Renewal applications for Enhanced STAR should be mailed to you by mid-October.

New seniors need to bring:

1. Birth certificate.
2. Drivers license of each owner with current address.
3. Copy of 2007 Income Tax filed in 2008.

New BASIC STAR applicants need to bring :

1. Drivers license of each owner with current address.

The signature of each owner is required on all applications and renewals.

All applications for STAR must be filed in the Assessor's Office by March 1, 2009.

TOWN AND COUNTY AND SCHOOL TAX NEWS

ATTENTION HAMLIN RESIDENTS WHO PAY HILTON TOWN AND COUNTY AND SCHOOL TAXES:

Credit card payments for Town and County and School taxes will no longer be accepted at the Hamlin Town Hall. You can now pay your Town and County and school taxes online at www.monroecounty.gov. Click on the right side on "View/Pay Taxes. You will then come to a log in page. Log in and enter your account number or house address. Non-credit card payments, cash or check will be taken at the Hamlin Town Hall for residents paying their Hilton Town and County and School taxes.

If you have any question you can call the Town Clerk's Office at 964-2421.

ATTENTION HAMLIN RESIDENTS WHO PAY BROCKPORT SCHOOL TAXES:

You will NOT be able to pay your taxes for the Brockport School District at the Hamlin Town Hall. Payments for Brockport School Taxes will be accepted at the Brockport Central School Administration Building, 40 Allen Street, Brockport. If you have questions, please contact the Brockport Central Schools at 637-1824. Thank you.

Guest View from Senator Maziarz



(Note: This column is the first of what's hoped to be a regular column from our New York State Senator, George Maziarz)

With good reason, the economy has been on everyone's mind. Not just in Hamlin, but all over the State. That's why I returned to Albany twice in August for special legislative sessions to pass important taxpayer protections and spending controls.

The Senate passed legislation (S.8738), which I supported to enact a Constitutional spending cap that would limit year-to-year State spending increases to no more than 4%, and force both houses of the Legislature and the Governor to live within its means. The spending cap is needed more than ever given concerns about the State's economic climate and the spending cuts being made to close budget deficits.

This amendment would reduce state spending by \$2.8 billion in the next fiscal year. In addition, had this constitutional amendment been in place the last five years, State taxpayers would have saved \$13.1 billion, half of which would have been returned to taxpayers and the other half placed in a rainy day reserve fund.

With this cap in place, we could make a structural change to reduce State spending and increase accountability in future years and prevent the kind of fiscal challenges we are dealing with right now.

The Senate also passed legislation (S.8736) that would place a cap on School property tax increases. This proposal, advanced by the Suozzi Commission and Governor Paterson, is a good step forward in easing the tax burden on local residents.

We need the Assembly to join on both of these efforts to help Upstate taxpayers make ends meet. The tax and spend policies of the past simply are not working. We need new ideas, and these ideas can help turn our State around.

News from the Dog Control Office:

The office of Dog Control for the Town of Hamlin will continue to conduct the dog census through the remainder of 2008. Per New York State Law, all dogs reaching four (4) months of age must be licensed. A Rabies Vaccination Certificate is required from a licensed veterinarian and must be presented to the Hamlin Town Clerk in order to obtain a dog license. When a notice is issued due to a dog being unlicensed, there is a five dollar fee assessed for each unlicensed dog. This can be paid to the Town Clerk when the dog license is obtained.

Anyone having more than three (3) dogs must have a Harboring Permit, which can be obtained from the Town Clerk for a one-time twenty five dollar (\$25) fee.

There is a LEASH LAW in the Town of Hamlin. All dogs not on the owner's property or on another person's property without permission are in violation of the Leash Law. Any dog that is picked up by Dog Control that is not wearing a license tag is presumed to be unlicensed. A twenty five dollar (\$25) fee must be paid for the first violation. An unlicensed dog cannot be returned to its owner until it is licensed.

Any dog picked up by Dog Control is considered to be at large. A twenty five dollar (\$25) fee is charged to the owner for the first violation. Fees for subsequent violations increase progressively--\$45 for the second, \$65 for the third, \$75 for the fourth, and \$100 for the fifth in a one-year period. Violations are assessed by occurrence of the same owner, not necessarily the same dog.



Dog Control con't

Any dog picked up by Dog Control that does not have a current Rabies Vaccination cannot be returned to the owner per New York State Law. A twenty five dollar (\$25) fee violation is issued to the owner for transportation to the veterinarian. The dog owner is also responsible for any fees incurred at the Veterinarian office. The owner must then license the dog at the Town Clerk's office prior to taking possession of the dog.

Copies of the Hamlin Dog Control Laws are available at the Hamlin Town Clerk's Office.

Jim Atkins, Dog Control Officer
585-525-1608 (pager)
Dave Maynard, Asst. Dog Control Officer
585-703-8245

Lions Club Update:

Recreation Building for Public Fields

It is with a great sense of pleasure, pride and joy that the Lions Club of Hamlin announces the soon-to-be-delivered Recreation Building for the Town of Hamlin Public Fields.

The Lions could not have done this alone. A huge THANK YOU goes to the following:
HAMLIN VETERANS ASSOCIATION (our first donor—they never doubted us!)

NYS AND BERMUDA LIONS FOUNDATION
TOWN OF HAMLIN
SAM'S CLUB

CITIZEN'S BANK-HAMLIN BRANCH
TOPS FRIENDLY MARKETS-HAMLIN

The Hamlin Lions would also like to thank the members who spent countless hours working on the fundraisers, surrounding Lions Clubs, local merchants and the public who supported us. THANK YOU.

Medical Loan Closet

The Medical Loan Closet is sponsored by the Hamlin Lions Club. There is no charge to borrow equipment. However, we ask that the equipment be returned as soon as possible after use.

All equipment goes out clean, sanitized and in good repair. You can arrange to pick it up yourself or have someone from the Lions Club deliver it.

Equipment available for loan include: hospital beds, wheel chairs, over-bed tables, commodes, shower chairs (various styles), crutches, canes, walkers.

Lion Tim Crawford is the coordinator for the Loan Closet. He can be reached at 964-3379. If you know of anyone who would like to donate any equipment please contact Tim Crawford.

SAVE THE DATE for Casino Night II

Saturday October 11, 2008

VFW Post 6703

\$20 Single or \$30 Couple (only 150 tickets available)

Cash Bar

Doors will open at 6 pm which will allow you time to check out the silent auction items (real money), or live auction items (play money). Always remember to bid high on silent auction items.

Gaming starts promptly at 7 pm and ends about 9:30. Live auction starts about 10 pm--play money only—is used to cover the amount of the bid.

DJ Ed Evans will spin the discs throughout the evening. Lion Austin Warner will be the auctioneer for the live auction.

Remember, only 150 tickets will be sold. Obtain tickets at the Town Hall, VFW, or by calling Lion Dan at 964-5442. No tickets will be available at the door.



HAMLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Munchkin Mondays will resume on Sept. 29 at 10:30am. These storytimes are designed for children ages 2-5. There are stories, poems and a craft every session. Drop-ins are welcome.

Munchkin Monday Themes

Sept. 29 – “Fall is Here!”
Oct. 6 – “Wockets and Pockets”
Oct. 13 – “Fire Safety” Don’t miss the opportunity to see a fire truck up close!
Oct. 20 – “Night & Day”
Oct. 27 – “Pumpkins A-Plenty”
Nov. 3 – “All About Babies”
Nov. 10 – “Gingerbread Fun”
Nov. 17 – “Irresistible Bears”
Nov. 24 – “Thanksgiving”
Dec. 1 – “Dinosaurs Rule!”
Dec. 8 – “How Are You Feeling?”
Dec. 15 – “Building Big”
Dec. 22 – “Winter is Here!”
Dec. 29 – No storytimes this week.

Thursday Evening Storytimes will resume on Sept. 25 at 6:45pm. These storytimes are designed for children ages 4-10 and also feature a craft each session. Drop-ins are always welcome. There will be no storytime on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year’s Day.

Knitting Programs! Teri Gunsher will lead knitting programs throughout the fall for knitters who are just getting started, as well as for those with more experience.

Sept. 20, 2-3pm – “Knitting for Fun.” Stitch and visit with other yarn-obsessed folks.
Oct. 21, 5:30-6:30 pm – “Knit a Shawl” Suitable for beginners.

Nov. 22, 2:00-3:00pm – “Knitting for Fun”
Dec. 16, 5:30-6:30pm – “Knitting for Fun”
Finish up those last minute gifts.

Kid Crafts occur the third Saturday of each month, beginning in October. These programs stretch the mind and sometimes the dexterity of kids ages 6 to 11. Registration is required for these programs.

Oct. 18, 2 pm – Corn Husk Dolls
Nov. 15, 2 pm – Paper Airplanes
Dec. 20, 2 pm – Flying Bird Ornaments

Planting Bulbs with Gert Hauck
Sept. 27, 1 pm. Would you like to be refreshed with a beautiful garden this spring? Now is the time to start thinking about it. Ms. Hauck is a Master Gardener and can help you decide what will be right for your garden.

“Designs for Death: Victorian Mourning Art” with C.W. Lattin
Oct. 7, 6:30 pm. Mr. Lattin, the Orleans County Historian, will present a number of artifacts over 100 years old that reveal our forefathers’ attitudes about death and grief.

Monster Movie Matinee Madness!
Every Saturday in October at 12:30 pm, watch a classic monster movie. Join us on Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25, if you dare!

Food For Fines The week of Nov. 3 – 8 will mark our second Food For Fines week. For every canned or prepackaged food item that is brought in, \$1 in fines will be waived. All items that are brought in will be donated to Hamlin Life Solutions.

VISIT THE HAMLIN LIBRARY TODAY!

NEWS FROM THE HAMLIN LIBRARY

Heard a Good Book Lately?

Thought books were just something you read? Think again. Books are also something you can listen to. Audio books are just one of the many types of materials we offer at the library beside “traditional” books. Here you can find books on tape, books on CD, and downloadable audio books through the Monroe County Library System website.

Many of you drive at least a half hour to work every day. Instead of suffering the tedium of the Parkway for the umpteenth time, or worse yet, morning radio, why not listen to James Patterson’s latest novel? If novels are not your cup of tea, we also have a modest selection of nonfiction titles. Nathaniel Philbrick’s *Mayflower* is an absolutely fascinating listen about the origins and development of the Plymouth Colony. Audio books are also a great way of getting around to “reading” those classic books you think you should read, but haven’t yet. Whether your car has cassette or CD, we can help. (Sorry, no 8-tracks!) Do you taxi your kids to sports practice and other activities? We have audio books for kids, too. Relive life on the prairie with Laura Ingalls Wilder.

However, the car is not the only place to listen to an audio book. Occupy your mind as you crochet or knit. Listen to one while you cook dinner. Some of our patrons like to listen to audio books as they go to sleep. With MP3 downloads from the MCLS site libraryweb.org, you can save an audio book on your MP3 player and listen to a book anywhere – whether you’re walking the dog or exercising at the gym, you can be entertained by Janet Evanovich or edify yourself with Einstein and His Universe. If we don’t have what you’re looking for, we can order it from another library and it will be here waiting for you in just a few days. Give audio books a try, you may be very glad you did.

NEWS FROM THE BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

OPEN FIRES

No person shall burn any refuse in an open fire. Fires in outdoor grills and outdoor fireplaces for the purpose of preparing food should be located far enough away as to not create a fire hazard.

Safety precautions should be taken for campfires and fires used solely for recreational purposes and will only be allowed if a nuisance is not created.

Portable fire pits that are currently being sold should not be placed on or near a combustible surface.

The burning of leaves, lawn and garden debris is not considered recreational burning and is prohibited in the Town of Hamlin.

The Hamlin Fire Marshal’s office should be consulted for further information on other restrictions at 964-8181.

IT’S COLD OUTSIDE

Just a reminder from the Hamlin Building Department that all new wood burning, pellet, gas stoves and fireplaces that are installed in your home require a permit and need to be inspected before use. This is for safety reasons and for insurance purposes.

The cost of the permit is \$35.00. If you have any other questions please call the Building Department at 964-8181. The Building Department is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am-2:30 pm.

BUILDING PERMITS

A building permit is required in the Town of Hamlin for a shed, fence, pool, deck, addition, garage, pole barn, gazebo, pond, wood burning stove, emergency generator and sign. This is not an all inclusive list.

Re-roofing requires a permit when a tear off occurs. A dumpster must be on-site before the work begins. The cost of a permit is \$10.00. Failure to obtain a Building Permit is subject to a \$125.00 fee plus the cost of the permit.

If you have any questions regarding a building permit or if you need to get a building permit please contact the Building Department at 964-8181 Monday through Friday 8:30 am-2:30 pm. A complete list of requirements and costs can be found on our web page at www.hamlinny.org.

WANTED

According to Hamlin Town Code NO un-registered or junk vehicles are allowed to be stored on your property. This is any vehicle that does not have valid NYS license plates on it. A vehicle storage permit can be obtained to restore old or antique cars. This permit is valid for one year only and the cost is \$25.00.

You can apply for a vehicle storage permit in the Building Department if you own the property, have the vehicle title and ID number for the vehicle. There are places that will take your unwanted vehicle as a donation.

The Code Enforcement Officer will be issuing violations notices during the month of September for unregistered or junk vehicles within the Town of Hamlin. For more information call 964-8181 Monday through Friday 8:30 am –2:30 pm.



HIGHWAY NEWS

BRUSH PICK UP

The Town of Hamlin will be holding their Fall Bush Pick Up the week of October 27th. One pass will be made down each road. Pieces should not be any longer than 8 feet long.

Also remember, if you have a fire hydrant in front of or near your residence, please keep it cleared of snow during the winter months.

Thank you.



Gifts Available

Get Your *Remembering Hamlin* Book on sale now at the Town Clerk's office or the Hamlin Public Library. The book is available in either hard cover for \$22.50 or soft cover for \$15.00.

Remembering Hamlin makes a nice Christmas Gift. Each book is signed by the author.

Other great gifts found at the Town Clerk's office include:

- Folk Art Prints \$10 & \$15
- Wheel Fest Travel Mug \$5
- Town of Hamlin Pin \$2

Hamlin Wheel Fest 11th Annual Cruise In 2008 (Sponsored by Monroe Extinguisher Company)

Awards were presented to the following:

- Special Interest:** Ken Troyer, owner, Wilber Hebing, driver #6 asphalt modified stock
- Oldest Vehicle:** Kevin Noon 1928 Model "A" Ford truck
- Long Distance:** Anthony Raggi, 1995 Mitubishi Youngstown, NY
- Ladies Choice:** Dick Whelan, 1957 Plymouth Fury
- Cruise Crew Choice:** Douglas Reed, 1969 Chevelle
- Best Truck:** Ron Polizzi, 1944 Ford
- Best Motorcycle:** Steve Curthbert, 2000 Harley
- Best Import:** Stanley Rogers, 1965 V-W (Herbie)
- Popular Choice:** Joe Ruffino, 1955 Mercury
- Spirit of the Cruise:** Lewis Dubois, 1951 Mercury
- Chairman's Choice:** Gary Gay, 1961 Pontiac Bonneville
- Best Bicycle:** (ages 1-12 yrs) Kayla Wade
- Hamlin Lion's Choice:** Kevin Noon, 1928 Ford Model "A" Truck

See you next year 6/6/09!!



Thanks to Heberle Farms for the Donation of the Beautiful Christmas Tree at the Town Hall.

Thanks from the Hamlin Wheel Fest Committee to Krony's Pizza, Dr. Lang, Hamlin Post Office and Hamlin Volunteer Ambulance for allowing the little red wagons with flowers in front of your establishments.

AMERICAN RED CROSS NEEDS YOU!

Give the gift of life

Hamlin Town Hall is sponsoring a Blood Drive December 12, 2008 From 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm. To give blood, you must be healthy, at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated in the last 8 weeks.

"Healthy" means you feel well and can perform normal activities. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes, "healthy" also means that you are being treated and the condition is under control.

Don't Forget To Vote



NOVEMBER 4, 2008

If you're a new voter, remember to register by October 10, 2008



The Westside Communities Relay for Life held in June 2008 was phenomenal with a sea of glowing luminaria candles flickering throughout the night with names of over 2,000 people whose lives have been touched by cancer. Over \$100,000 was raised this year. To help with the 10th Annual Westside Relay on June 5, 2009, call Anne or Ronn Klein 964-3415.

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