

Town of Jewett Newsletter

Winter 2007

Greene County, New York

Website: <http://www.townofjewett.com>

Town Flood Maps to be Adopted

The Town of Jewett has new flood maps for the Town which will soon be considered for adoption. If you would like to see them to check for accuracy, please stop in at the Town Municipal Building on County Route 23C and State Route 296. ~~

East Jewett Fire Department Practices Ice Rescue Drill at Colgate Lake



Town Takes A Close Look At Facilities

Over the last twenty plus years, the growth in the Town has put increasing pressure on the infrastructure of our facilities and will most certainly continue to do so in the future. As a result, the Town Board has contracted with Scott Wallant Associates, an architectural firm in Albany, to undertake a study of the Town's facilities to include the Town House building, the highway garage and the salt barn across the road.

After much discussion it was decided to obtain professional assistance to analyze what we currently have, assess what we need, insure we are in compliance with federal laws and then provide a plan to best meet our requirements.

Some of the information gathering has already started and the process is expected to be completed within a couple of months. The Town has received a grant for \$30,000 from CWC (Catskill Watershed Corp.) for facilities planning and related projects due to the effort of the Supervisor.

Time Warner Request Form

If you are interested in **high speed internet** or cable television, let Time Warner Cable know by filling out an informational form. You can call them at (845)693-5339 ext. 7202, stop in at the Jewett Town Building at Rt. 23c and Rt. 296 or print the form online at <http://www.townofjewett.com/pdf/TownofJewettTWCableform.pdf>.



From the Building Inspector

by Tom Cross

In the Town of Jewett there were a total of 55 permits as of the end of 2006, down 4 from the previous year. Single family homes all types 14, down from 2005, in which there were 26. Seventy-three percent of the 2005 homes (19) have been completed with certificates of occupancy and twelve percent (3) are almost finished. The remaining fifteen percent (4) are between twenty-five and seventy-five percent completed. Most of the 2006 homes are closed in or at some further point.

Although single family home construction was down in 2006, the number of permits have remained about the same. There have been 3-7 inquiries for construction to begin in spring 2007 and it would appear that construction would stay at about this level for the upcoming year. The data supporting this are preliminary perk tests that have been completed with approvals from the DEP. The trend of stable or lowering interest rates may aid homeowners in either adding new construction or improving on existing structures.

Advertise Your Business on www.townofjewett.com

Jewett is accepting business listings on its business/services web pages. Over 9000 visitors came to the site last year and in January of this year, there have already been 1000 visitors. These visitors are often looking for real estate to rent or buy, new construction or remodeling contractors and many other services such as lodging and restaurants. Also listed is the latest information about town events and meetings, or you can download various forms.

There is no charge to services located in the Town of Jewett for a listing and banner linking to your own site. For other mountaintop businesses there is a one-time set up charge of \$75 and an annual placement fee of \$125.

Email webmaster@townofjewett.com for more information. Forms are also available at the Jewett Town Building, Rt. 23C and Rt. 296.

HTC School District Capital Improvement/Renovation Proposal

The Hunter-Tannersville Board of Education approved a \$9,952,040 Building Project to be voted on by the public on March 6, 2007 at the Hunter Elementary School.

The scope of the proposed Capital Improvement/Renovation Project, developed with community input includes five (5) propositions. The HTC Board of Education has made all 5 propositions dependent upon voter approval of Proposition #1. All of the work listed in Proposition #1 is work that was submitted to the State Education Department on their required *Building Condition Survey*.

Proposition #1 \$6,328,840 - Approx. cost after aid is \$3,797,304. New boilers, new roofs, security systems, new energy efficient radiators, masonry repairs, new sidewalks, curbing, asphalt, repair existing athletic fields at both HTC schools.

Proposition #2 \$1,211,000 - Approx. cost after aid is \$744,765. Computer Center/Special Ed Classrooms: Tannersville MS/HS. (If proposition #2 is approved, the work will be completed only if Proposition #1 is approved.)

Proposition #3 \$1,796,200 - Approx. cost after aid is to be determined. New Athletic Fields/Fitness Stations & Trails: Tannersville MS/HS. (If Proposition #3 is approved, the work will be completed only if Proposition #1 is approved.)

Proposition #4 \$385,000 - Approx. cost after aid is \$254,100. (If Proposition #4 is approved, the work will be completed only if Proposition #1 is approved.)

Proposition #5 \$231,000 approx. cost after aid is \$126,819. New playground: Hunter Elementary School. (If Proposition #5 is approved, the work will be completed only if Proposition #1 is approved.)

Adopt-a-Road Program

Residents are pitching in and helping to clean up the Town's roads. If you'd like to participate in the Adopt-a-Road program and have a small sign added to your stretch of road, contact the Highway Department at 518-263-3756. Call the above-mentioned number to have the garbage bags taken away.

Senior Brain Power: Don't Waste Yours

by Barbara Morris, R.Ph.

On a talk show recently, the host and I were discussing retirement. He related the story of a friend, a CEO who couldn't wait to retire at 65. The pressure and stress of running a company had become so burdensome he was counting the days until it was all over.

The time finally came and he spent two years playing golf, fishing and taking his wife on cruises. One day he realized he was bored with the "good life" and wanted to work again, at least part time.

By that time, his business skills were rusty; he had lost his mental edge, and had gained too much weight. He knew he couldn't go back to what he had done before.

After much soul searching, he decided he had to do something - anything -- and he took a job as a security officer at a bank.

How many retired people do you know who are putting to good use, for themselves and for others, their lifetime of skills and education? Probably not many. After the excitement of not having to answer to an alarm clock and the fun of living life as a pastime wears off their self confidence is all but gone.

When you see them you have to wonder: What happened to the valuable stuff locked in their heads? Why is it going to waste? What do they know that could fill a void in just one person's life or benefit society?

There are so many ways retirees can spend their time productively. Many do find ways to contribute. But clearly, we do not value retirees as the treasure they are. Why else are they steered into menial, mindless jobs that require little of them, as if they are incapable of anything more complicated?

You don't have to become part of a wasted generation. The key is to preplan, at least by midlife, to know what you want to do with the rest of your life after you leave your present work.

Even those who have done manual labor all their lives and are understandably ready to

call it quits, can, and should preplan for a new life after retirement. They have physical and mental skills to teach to others who want to learn valuable "do-it-yourself" projects.

Now is the time to learn all you can about the new career or life of your choice. Visualize in detail what you want your life to be like. Think about it every day, constantly expanding on what you want to achieve. Make a commitment to making your vision happen. Commitment is critically important because it will drive the choices you make about how you live your day-to-day life.

Now is the time to start saving your money so you will have enough to launch your chosen future. How do you get enough money? If you are saving in a 401K or other retirement plan, you are well on your way.

Set spending priorities to save even more. You can stop wasting money on clothes, entertainment, and just everyday junk that adds up.

Whatever you do about your future is your choice. But you don't have to become a "used to be" - "Didn't you used to be a teacher?" "Didn't you used to be a lawyer?" "Didn't you used to be an electrician?"

All the "used to be" people are still what they were before they retired, and if they plan wisely, they can say "I still am the person I 'used to be' but I've also become the person I've always wanted to be and I now have the life I've always wanted to have. And by the way, how can I help you with what I know?"

What could be more exciting and fulfilling?

Barbara Morris R.Ph. is a pharmacist and author of Put Old on Hold. www.PutOldonHold.com.

Watershed Office at Windham Town Hall

Greene County's Soil & Water Conservation District has an office in the Windham Town Hall. Program Director Michelle Yost is in the office M/W/F from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She can provide information on septic, stormwater, stream rehabilitation, etc., or discuss individual issues with residents. Call her at 518-734-6026 for an appointment.

Saratoga Tree Nursery

The nursery program in New York has been an integral part of forest stewardship on public and private lands since its inception in 1902. More than 1.6 billion seedlings have been produced to enhance and protect the forest resource. Tree planting is a positive environmental management task that can be accomplished with minimal investment of time and money and does not require technical training to accomplish a successful planting. For this reason, small reforestation projects are popular with private landowners who are interested in environmental improvement.

The Department of Environmental Conservation encourages planting of trees and shrubs by providing nursery service to provide low cost, quality stock that is readily available to the public. Some of the species available are Hardwood, Wildlife, Containerized Stock, Conifer and Mixed Species Packets.

For more specific information on the available species, ordering, planting and school seedling program, visit their website at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/nursery/index.html or call (518)581-1439.

Celebrating Maple Syrup

Experience a taste of the “sweet world of maple sugaring,” right here in Greene County during “New York Maple Weekend” on Saturday, March 24 from 2-5 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Agroforestry Resource Center at 6055 Route 23 in Acra, NY. Admission is free.

Mapling procedures, including demonstrations in their own sugar shack, delicious maple syrup tasting, displays of antique maple sugaring equipment, information about the Greene County Maple Producers Association, an opportunity to buy locally produced maple sugar products and support local agriculture. Other fun and festivities are also planned.

Accessing City Lands in the Watershed



More than 74,000 acres of city land are open to the public, with 36,000 acres available for deer hunting, 7,700 acres for small game hunting and 25,000 acres and 21 reservoirs available for fishing.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently made it easier to apply for a permit to use the lands. Go to <http://www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation>. You will need your driver's license ID number, name and address. You'll be issued a permit and vehicle tag instantly, ready for printing. You can obtain maps of individual management units showing access points, elevation, streams and roads and also sign up for email updates.

The minimum age of access permit and hunting tag has been lowered from 16 to 14, with parental consent. Non-drivers must use a government issued picture ID to obtain a permit.

Rules governing activities on City lands are also available on the DEP website <http://www.nys.gov/watershed> and the DEP's four West of Hudson land management offices.

For more information, call Ashokan 845-657-2663; Downsville 607-363-7009; Gilboa 607-588-6631; or Grahamsville 845-985-0386.

Mountain Top Historical Society Hikes

April 21, 2007 - Huckleberry Point. Relatively flat walk leading to views of the Hudson Valley and Platte Clove. Everyone will meet at St. Francis de Sales church parking lot on Cty. Rt. 16 near Elka Park 9 a.m. and return 5 p.m. This walk is easy with an optional more difficult excursion. After lunch, the group will return to their cars and some may visit waterfalls that are off the beaten path.

The hiking schedule is SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Notification of schedule changes including cancellation due to weather will be made on the website up to the day of any given hike. Check their website schedule for other hikes in the region. <http://www.mths.org/index.shtml>.

The Mountain Top Historical Society does not require membership for hike participation but they request that you register for each hike. Bob Gildersleeve, Box 185, Maplecrest, NY 12454. Tel. 518-734-9701 or Larry Tompkins at 518-734-4264.

First-Aid for Flooded Septics

Flood waters do more than inundate buildings, tear up roads and rearrange streambeds. They also saturate septic system drainfields causing them to cease functioning and potentially contaminating wells and water sources both above and below ground.

If water can't flow out of the septic tank into the drainfield, wastewater can back up into the building. Signs of a septic system in distress include slow running drains and toilets (or toilet makes strange sounds when flushed) and water backing into basement drains.

Before a flood maintain your system so that it's pumped and inspected every three to five years.

If you have a pumped system, waterproof the electrical connections, and, if floods threaten, turn off the pump. If possible, remove the pump from the tank to prevent sediment damage.

If you have advance notice of impending flooding, seal manholes and inspection ports.

During a major rain or storm eliminate non-essential water usage; flush toilets less often.

If ponding occurs over the drainfield, don't use the system; avoid contact with standing water.

After the storm avoid contact with electrical devices part of the system until they are dry.

Do not have the tank pumped under flooded conditions as it may float out of the ground, damaging inlet and outlet pipes.

Check the outlet tee for any materials that may have floated up to block it.

Wash and/or rake any media filters that are part of the system.

Allow waters to recede and the drainfield to dry out. Do not work around the drainfield with heavy machinery while the soil is saturated. While there may be insufficient percolation for several weeks, adverse conditions should gradually correct themselves.

Call a septic contractor to inspect the system if you think it may have been damaged.

This information was taken from the Summer, 2006 issue of Pipeline, a newsletter published by the National Environmental Services Center at West Virginia University.

Colgate Lake Dam Project

An informational meeting regarding work to be done on the Colgate Lake Dam in East Jewett was held on February 1st at the DEC office in Stamford, NY.

The dam was originally built around 1887 and has been rehabilitated several times since that date. The dam, because of the potential to damage homes, public utilities and highways, is rated as a Class B Hazard, however, this classification won't change once the new dam is in place. Due to settling/cracks in the existing structure, seepage and inadequate spillway capacity, it is necessary for the dam to be reconstructed. The new dam, which will be 60' wide and placed further down from the existing structure, will also have an auxiliary spillway which will be a grassy area and approximately 130' wide.

The meeting opened to public comment and concerns were addressed regarding the final appearance of the finished project and parking issues.

The DEC committee appeared willing to work in maintaining the rustic/wildlife feel of the area. There will be a wooden bridge with split rail fence across the spillway, and a type of hand-laid textured stone or capstone and stained concrete to match the stone on the dam. The existing parking area will be modified to allow handicap and rescue squad access and there will also be a drop-off area for boaters/kayakers. A new, somewhat larger, gravel parking area will be located across the road.

It was also questioned if there would be animal rescue of beaver, turtles and fish in the lake.

Comments were also submitted regarding "Adopt a Natural Resource Program" where volunteers help plant trees, etc. which will be provided by the DEC.

Anyone interested in seeing an artist's rendering of the completed dam can stop in at the Jewett Town building.

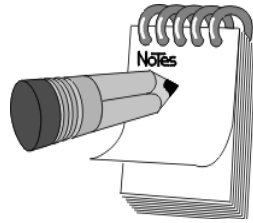
The project will begin about mid-June, which means the lake will be drained down and closed while the work is under way. DEC expects the bulk of the project to be completed by November 2007.

For the latest on Jewett news visit the Town's website at <http://www.townofjewett.com>. This newsletter is also available online.

Jewett Assessor's Corner

by Nancy Bower

A reminder that March 1st is the deadline for all exemption renewals to be filed with the assessor's office.



If you are a homeowner, you are entitled to the STAR exemption on your primary residence. You DO NOT need to re-file every year for it-just one time. However, if you are going to turn 65 before December 31, 2007, you may be entitled to an Enhanced STAR exemption. In addition to the age and residency requirement, the combined 2005 income of any owners and of any owner's spouse who resides on the premises must have been under \$67,850. The Enhanced STAR exemption needs to be reapplied for yearly.

Another exemption, available to homeowners that are primary residents over 65, is the Senior Citizen exemption. The amount of the exemption is based on a sliding scale, with a maximum income limit of \$25,899.99. The income is based on the combined gross income of any owners for the tax year prior to the date of application, and you must have owned your property for at least 12 months prior to applying. There is an initial application to be filed, and then a renewal form must be filed every year by March 1st.

Please feel free to call the office for additional information.

Applications are available at the town hall, or on line at www.orps.state.ny.us

Office hours are Tuesday 9-3, and Saturday 9-1. Other hours are available by appointment. The direct number for the assessor is 518-263-5235.

Trivia Contest

Win a Jewett T-shirt if you are the first person to answer the following correctly. (Employees and their family are not eligible) How many actual town roads are located in the town of Jewett? Email your answer to ewarfield@townofjewett.com.

Comprehensive Plan Workshop Held

Community Planning and Environmental Associates of Schoharie County (CP&EA), headed by Nan Stolzenburg is helping the Jewett Comprehensive Plan Committee put together a vision for the Town's future for approximately the next five years. CP&EA concentrates on the special planning and environmental needs of small communities and rural areas.

Information based on the Town's 2001 Public Opinion Survey, and public input from the November 2006 Public Meeting, were compiled and addressed at a January workshop meeting. The Committee's goal is to understand the direction the residents want to see the Town go, taking into account Jewett's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. The Comprehensive Plan will offer solutions and detailed suggestions on how to get there.

At the workshop Resource Maps were completed by Nan's team member, Don Meltz. The maps presented were: Basic Features: which include wetlands and soil layers. Topography: elevation map. Slope Map: Flood Plains: Hazard areas, which are to be approved in the Town. Bedrock/Geology Map: bedrock formations. Surficial Geology: bedrock, thin soils, outwash/runoff from streams. Watersheds: NYC watershed. Schoharie/Bataviakill. Sub-watershed: Eastkill, Schoharie. Property Class: represents the way parcels are taxed. Agriculture: Farmland: School District: Zoning District: Historic Sites/Archeologically Sensitive Areas: Government and other Agency Owned Sites: Hamlets.

At some point the maps may be available on the website.

There will be an additional public workshop/presentation to see what the community has to say about the proposed Plan, then it will be brought up to the Town Board for adoption.

Notice of the next Public Meeting will be posted in the newspaper, on the Town's website, and also in the Jewett and East Jewett post offices.

Town of Jewett
P. O. Box 132
Jewett, NY 12444
2007 Officials

Building Hours:
Mon - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Town Offices	Term Expires	Phone Number
Town Clerk/Tax Collector - Patricia Merwin	12/31/07	263-4646 Ext. 1
Supt. of Highways - Robert Mallory	12/31/07	263-3756
Assessor - Nancy Bower	9/30/07	263-5235 (Tu. 9-3, Sat 9-1)
Attorney - Tal G. Rappleyea	12/31/07	758-8034
		fax 758-8038
Building Inspector - Tom Cross		263-4646
Cell - 727-2716, Home - 734-5160		
Zoning Officer/Unsafe Bldgs. - William Dwyer		263-4646 Ext. 4
Dog Warden - Bruce Feml	12/31/07	589-6155

Town Board (Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.)**

Michael Flaherty, Supervisor	12/31/09	589-6649
Thomas Hitchcock	12/31/09	589-5495
Charles Kutcher	12/31/07	589-9376
Elaine Warfield	12/31/09	589-6229 (Newsletter)
Harry T. Wilson	12/31/07	589-6269

Assistant to Supervisor - Donna Lukas (M,W,Th)		263-4646 Ext. 3
Health Officer - Terri Church	12/31/07	734-5428
Historian - Janet Nicholls	12/31/07	263-4445
Justice Stanley Tatar	12/31/07	263-4626
Justice Becky McGowan	12/31/08	263-4626
Court is Monday at 6 p.m.		
Court Clerk - Mary Susan Timpson		263-4646
Webmaster - Peter Peters		734-5420

Planning Board (Meetings the 1st Wednesday of month at 7:30 p.m.)**

Jane Bostrom, Chairwoman	12/31/07	589-5027
Carol A. Muth	12/31/08	734-3908
J.R. Quackenbush	12/31/09	589-0559
Gene Beers	12/31/10	734-3445 (County Rep.)
Joan Kutcher	12/31/11	589-9376
Paul Rosedale	12/31/12	734-5654
Janet Nicholls	12/31/13	263-4445
Susan Laubmeier, Secretary		947-0645

Zoning Board of Appeals (Meetings the 1st Wednesday of month at 7 p.m. as necessary)**

Kathleen Williams	12/31/07	589-5199
Tod Mallory	12/31/08	589-5052
Russ Coloton	12/31/09	263-3969
Margaret Flaherty	12/31/10	589-6649
Ann Dwyer	12/31/11	734-4093

Board of Assessment Review (Grievance Day is the 4th Tuesday in May)**

Laurie Hanenberg, Chairperson	9/30/10	
Janet Nicholls	9/30/09	263-4445
Clarence Soule	9/30/11	734-4473

Rose Thompson 989-6637	HTC	589-5400
Barbara Mead 734-6611	WAJ	734-3400
Board of Elections		719-3550
DEP 607-588-7438, 607-588-7453, Fax 607-588-6660		

**** (All board meetings subject to change. Check <http://www.townofjewett.com> for the latest information)**

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Jewett, NY 12444
518-263-4646

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Closed legal holidays.

Building Permits and Zoning Forms available at <http://www.townofjewett.com/forms.htm>

Town of Jewett Merchandise available at the Town Clerk's Office

Mugs \$ 8.00, Magnets \$ 3.00, Tote Bags \$ 10.00, Mouse Pads \$ 6.00,

Youth T-Shirts \$ 10.00, Adult T-Shirts \$ 12.00

EXTRA HELPINGS FOOD PROGRAM

Pay by the 1st of each month

No Age or Income Limit

Call (518) 263-4392 for further information

Pick food up on designated day between 10 & 11 a.m. Items vary month to month.

Save the Town postage. Let us know if you're receiving duplicates or if you prefer to view this newsletter online. Contact Elaine Warfield at ewarfield@townofjewett.com or (518)589-6229.