



Town of Jewett Newsletter

Summer 2007

Greene County, New York

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

Middle Class Star Rebate Program for 2007

Nancy Bower, tax assessor

The state budget for this fiscal year includes an expanded property tax relief program for middle-class taxpayers and increased benefits for seniors.

Taxpayers who are property owners will receive these benefits this fall in the form of a rebate check.

Property owners who receive a basic STAR exemption on their 2007-2008 school tax bills will have to apply for the rebate check. The Tax Department will be sending you an application form and instructions. This rebate is NOT done through the assessor.

Senior citizens who are property owners and receive an enhanced STAR exemption on their 2007-2008 tax bill will receive a rebate check automatically. For seniors with enhanced STAR, NO application is required.

The Tax Department will notify property owners of the program and provide application instructions. Please check our Web site in August (www.townofjewett.com) for the timing of the mailings to your area. You must complete the application process and income verification to qualify for a rebate check.

The application process is currently under development. Applications are not yet available nor are rebate checks.

Jewett Receives LTAP Grant for Ground Water Study

In conjunction with the preparation of the Town of Jewett's Comprehensive Plan, Town Supervisor Mike Flaherty applied for and received a \$44,620 grant from the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) to evaluate the town's ground-water resource potential. This will be used as a guide for planning residential development/growth within the town.

The ground water resource assessment is divided into two phases. The first phase, which is already complete, consists of identifying and mapping the aquifers throughout the town. The potential recharge per unit area of each aquifer type and the potential yield to individual wells within each aquifer will be evaluated also. During this evaluation, Alpha Geoscience (geology, hydrology and environmental science consultants) takes into account published regional hydrogeologic data, unpublished data such as local drilling reports and their experience regarding neighboring towns within the Catskill Mountain area. Alpha Geoscience has extensive experience in the evaluation of well yields in the neighboring Town of Hunter and in aquifer recharge capabilities in similar terrains within the Catskills.

In phase one maps have already been prepared showing aquifer types and zones of different recharge potential based on existing information.

The second phase will consist of drilling and testing of least one well within each major aquifer type within the Town. The results of this second phase will be provided in the form of tables and graphs with a narrative that explains the significance of the results. Generally, the testing results can be used as a general guide for conditions throughout the Town.

Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting

A Public Meeting will be held in the Jewett Town Building, County Rte. 23c and State Rte. 296 at 10 a.m. on September 1, 2007, so that Jewett residents can review and comment on the proposed Comprehensive Plan. It is suggested you review the Plan before the meeting. Copies are available at the Town Building or on the website.

The Comprehensive Plan is a written document that identifies the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, and strategies for the growth and development of the community. It is not a law in itself, but New York statutes require that all land use laws in a municipality be consistent with a comprehensive plan. The Town of Jewett is authorized to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan by NY State Town Law Section 272-a.

New York considers adoption of a comprehensive plan to be a critical tool to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the Town and to consider the needs of the residents. This plan is a policy foundation upon which communities are built. It is a roadmap for future decision making.

This newsletter is also available online.

Conservation News

Rene VanSchaack

In April, 2007 the Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) and NYCDEP completed the development of Stream Management Plans (SMP) for the East Kill and Schoharie Creek. The SMP was the first step in implementing a long range strategy for both streams. The SMP is available at the Town Hall as well as on-line at www.gcswcd.com/stream/schoharie-eastkill. The GCSWCD is working with NYCDEP on a five year contract that will focus on implementation of SMP recommendations.

A key component of SMP implementation involves establishment of a Project Advisory Committee to work with the GCSWCD and its agency partners. The goal is to create a single committee for the entire Schoharie watershed, with representation from each sub-watershed (Batavia Kill, East Kill, West Kill, Schoharie) and the municipalities. We encourage streamside landowners who have an interest in participating on this committee to contact Amy DeGaetano at 518-622-3620 or amy@gcswcd.com.

Could your streamside property use some vegetation to help hold your streambanks together? If so, the GCSWCD has secured over \$850,000 in funding to re-vegetate streamside buffers. In cooperation with NYCDEP, the GCSWCD will implement a Streamside Assistance Program, providing technical as well as planting assistance. Interested landowners will have their sites evaluated, and if plantings are appropriate a design will be completed and planted by the GCSWCD. Further details will be forthcoming this fall.

Landowners who need assistance understanding the programs available in the NYC watershed are reminded that the GCSWCD Watershed Assistance program is available to help you. Do you have questions on watershed rules and regulations or need information on programs that may be available to watershed landowners? If so, contact WAP coordinator Michelle Yost at the programs Windham Office, 734-6026 or michelle@gcswcd.com. You can get further information at www.gcswcd.com/wap and/or http://www.catskillstreams.org/stewardship_wc.html.

Jewett Town Building Renovation Project

Interior renovations are planned for the Jewett Town Hall/Senior Citizen Dining Hall and kitchen.

There are two broad issues being addressed in the renovation project. The goal is to make the building safer in general, therefore measures will be taken to enclose the kitchen in its own fire-rated construction as best as is practical.

The kitchen/cooking area will receive commercial range hoods with fire suppression and also a fire shutter and fire door on the two existing openings of the kitchen will be installed.

The existing drop ceiling will be replaced with a fire-rated gypsum wallboard ceiling and sheetrock will be added to the walls adjoining the dining room for extra fire protection. Also planned are the addition of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Since the dining room is too large to be considered an accessory use to the Town's business occupancy and must be considered an assembly space, there will be added/carved a small Senior Dining Program office out of the dining room to bring its square footage below 750 ft. sq. This allows it to be considered an accessory use to the Town's "B" office occupancy of the building.

Announcements are currently posted in several local newspapers requesting contractor bids on the project.

Are you Eligible for Septic Help?

Eligibility requirements for the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) septic Rehabilitation and Replacement Program have been revised to allow more homeowners to participate. If you live within the NYC Watershed and your septic system is within 150 feet of a watercourse or 500 feet of a reservoir or reservoir stem, you may sign up to have your system pumped out and inspected. Participation is voluntary. If the system has failed or is likely to fail, the CWC will reimburse full-time residents 100 percent of the cost of replacement. Part-time or nonresident property owners will be reimbursed 60 percent of eligible repair or replacement costs. Questions? Call (845)-586-1400 or toll free (877) 828-7433.

**** For the latest on Jewett news visit the Town's website at www.townofjewett.com ****

Town Wide Clean-Up in September

In September the Town of Jewett will hold a town wide Clean-up for all Town residents. This is a RESIDENTIAL PICK-UP only -- no commercial sites. The full pick-up schedule is listed on the website, www.townofjewett.com. If you do not have internet access, call the number listed below.

The following ARE NOT eligible:

House hold kitchen garbage.
Chemicals (paints, insecticides, glues etc).
Construction debris, (asphalt shingles, etc).

Please sort your items as follows:

Woods together.
Metals together.
Appliances together.
Tires together. (no more than 8 (eight).
Plastics together.

You must call in to the Town of Jewett Town Hall, Phone # 518-263-4646 with your 911 # and physical address a few days before the pickup date for your area.

We would like to keep this an organized project, so public cooperation is important. If we miss your pick-up, please call us at the above phone number. Please do not obstruct roadways with your debris!

Superintendent of Highways, Bob Mallory

Old Photos and Memorabilia

The town is interested in adding to the Jewett pictures on our website. Anyone who has documents or pictures of historical interest and would let us borrow them for scanning, please email ewarfield@townofjewett.com or call (518) 589-6229. All documents will be safely returned.

The town historian, Janet Nicholls, is also interested in such documents for adding to the town's historical archive. Janet is currently compiling genealogy information from obituaries she's researching from old Windham Journal newspapers.

Some new photographs have been added to the website courtesy of Tom Hitchcock, depicting the newly paved Town roads. Also shown are recent photographs of the work still underway on the Colgate Lake dam and the Shadow Mountain Road bridge.

Who's New?

J.R. (James) Quackenbush is the newest member of the Jewett Planning Board as of January 2007. He's excited to be working with a great group of community-minded people.

J.R. and his wife Diane have been part of the Jewett community for 5 years and they live on Colgate Road.

J.R. was involved in helping to form "The Friends of Colgate Lake", so the community would have more say in the DEC's reconstruction of the Colgate Lake dam.

Nancy Wyncoop Bower has lived in the Town of Cairo since 1991, and has been enjoying her position as Assessor for the Town of Jewett since December 2006.

Nancy has worked in the Real Estate industry since 1978; first as a real estate salesperson/broker, and in the early 1990's became a full time Real Estate Appraiser. In addition to appraising, Nancy has been teaching NYS qualifying and continuing education courses for appraisers, assessors, and real estate agents.



What is the P.E.T. project?

The P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation) project provides mobility to those with the greatest needs and least resources.

The P.E.T. is a hand-cranked wheelchair designed to provide mobility to the twenty-one million persons who have lost the use of their legs to polio, landmine injury, amputation, etc. Many are children.

The P.E.T. project was started in 1994 and is currently in over 60 different countries. Local P.E.T. volunteers are on the mountaintop in East Jewett and Platte Clove.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer or how you can help in other ways, contact: Don Muth, Director, cdmuth2@earthlink.net, phone (518) 734-3908 or Robert Lawrence, President PET NY EJ Inc., rdlawrence@juno.com, phone (518) 263-4887. You can visit the website at www.petnyej.org

Town of Jewett
Town of Jewett Newsletter
3547 County Route 23C
P.O. Box 132
Jewett, New York 12444

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Jewett Municipal Building
3547 County Rte. 23C, P.O. Box 132
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. Visit www.townofjewett.com, and go down to the bottom of the home page to see the available merchandise and designs.

Extra Helpings Food Program - Pay by the 1st of each month, no age or income limit. Items vary each month.

Senior Citizen Meals-on-Wheels - Call (518) 263-4392 for further information.

IS YOUR DOG LICENSED? "New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Law"
Every person who owns or harbors a dog over the age of 4 months and resides in the Town, by law, has to license that dog or dogs. REQUIREMENTS are a current rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate. Licenses can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. Spayed or neutered dog is \$4.50. For an unspayed or unneutered dog \$12.50. Licenses are renewed annually through Agriculture and Markets. A rabies tag IS NOT a LICENSE.

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.