



Town of Ulysses

FALL NEWSLETTER

10 Elm Street, Trumansburg, NY

September 2013

Ulysses Municipal Boards

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

Town Supervisor	387-5767
Liz Graeper Thomas	Ext. 232
Town Council Members	
Dave Kerness	227-0536
Kevin Romer	387-3379
Lucia Tyler	387-3484
Nancy Zahler	279-4792

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

Ken Zeserson—Chair	256-7139
Rod Hawkes—Vice-chair	
Rebecca Schneider	
Stan Beames	
Sarah Adams	
Brian Cutler	
John Wertis Sr.	

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 Hall	387-5767
Ulysses.ny.us	
Open Mon - Fri 8-4, Sat 9-12	

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

Mon 1-6PM, Tues—Fri 8am-4pm	
Tom Schlee—Justice	Ext. 225
Mark Dresser—Justice	Ext. 226
Angela Champion—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
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Town Historians

John Wertis Sr	387-4331
Michele Mitrani	387-9466

Who's Who and Who's New

Our last newsletter bid farewell to Supervisor Roxanne Marino, and since then, a number of staff and elected officials have changed. In April, the Town Board appointed Liz Graeper Thomas to fill the



Liz Thomas

position of Town Supervisor. Nancy Zahler was then appointed to the seat left by Liz. Both have been working the extra hours needed to be ahead of the learning curve and to make sure the town is meeting its obligations. Nancy is the Town's liaison to the Trumansburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the Village of Trumansburg, the Joint town-village youth commission, and historians.



Nancy Zahler

Also new is the Court Clerk, Angela Champion. We hope you don't meet Angie on the other end of a ticket, but if you do, Angie is friendly, knowledgeable and helpful.



Angela Champion

Ulysses and Trumansburg have a rich historic past. By

NYS law, towns are required to have a historian. Nancy Dean has faithfully fulfilled this position but has stepped down. We thank Nancy for her years of service. The Town of Ulysses and Village of Trumansburg worked on a new collaboration to replace Nancy with two historians. John Wertis Sr. will focus his efforts on the historic past of the Town while Michele Mitrani will tune in to the Village's historical record.



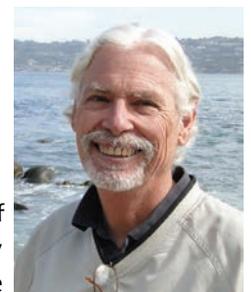
John Wertis

And there's MORE. Andrea Murray was appointed to represent the Town on the Joint Youth Commission and Brian Cutler was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Town Planning Board.



Michele Mitrani

Thanks to EVERYONE who has stepped up to meet the needs of the Town. As they say...Together We Can!



Brian Cutler

Village of Trumansburg

The Village of Trumansburg Board of Trustees invites all Village Residents to join them for a “State of the Village” event on Saturday, 9/21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Trumansburg Fire Station.

Topics of Discussion:

UPDATES ON: *Second Water Source;
*Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades;
*Nuisance Wildlife and *Traffic Issues.

PLUS : *Proposed Local Law #5 “Chicken Law”; *Discussion of Video Surveillance of Main Street; *Winter Maintenance of Side Walks; *Sewer Rates: flat fee or “pay as you go” based on usage *Topics from the Floor

State of Our Youth

A community forum on the strengths and needs of Trumansburg students will be held in Trumansburg on Monday, September 30, 2013 at 7pm at the Ulysses Historical Society, 36 South St. Trumansburg.

Learn about and discuss results from two county-wide surveys about the state of our local youth and their families.

Ag and Farmland Protection

New York State recently approved the Town’s plan which outlines strategies to encourage farming and protect prime farmlands. Let us know if you are interested in becoming part of a committee to implement the plan.

FROM THE CLERK

Hunting

Deer Management Permits are now available for sale until October 1. The Town Clerk’s office can also guide you on licenses for other game and fish.

Dogs

Remember, if you have a pup, it should be licensed by the Town annually. And if Rover passes on to the place of endless biscuits, please notify the Town Clerk’s office so they can quietly take his name off the renewal reminder list. 387-5767 ext 221.

Zoning Changes

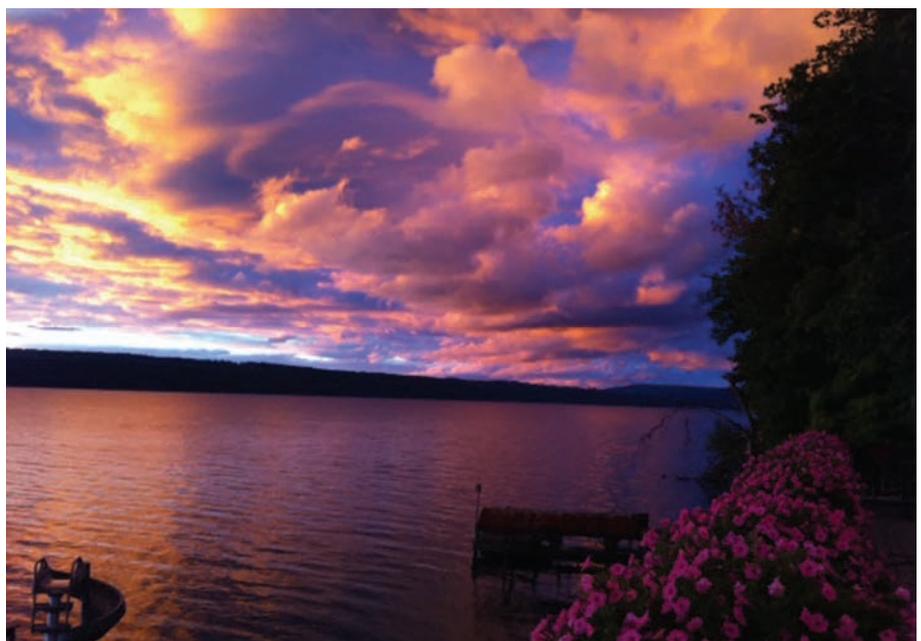
Lakeshore Zoning The last two newsletters have had updates on zoning changes along Route 89. The Town is continuing to follow its Comprehensive Plan by deliberating how best to preserve the steep slopes, creeks, officially designated Unique Natural Areas, and lake shore character through changes to the current zoning.

Non-conforming structures and uses throughout the Town As part of the Lakeshore zoning efforts, the Town Board is clarifying the non-conformance (or “grandfathering”) language in the Zoning Law. Many houses were built before zoning took effect in Ulysses in the 1960’s. Since then, the zoning has changed and due to these changes, some buildings or businesses no longer conform to the new zoning. For example, long ago, a house may have been built 15 feet back from the road, but is in an area that now specifies a 50 foot setback according to the current zoning. That house is non-conforming or “grandfathered” and can be rebuilt in the same spot should it be destroyed. The non-conformance language in the current zoning is difficult to interpret (zoning often is!), so the Town has drafted new language to clarify what can and cannot be done on non-conforming properties.

See an explanation, examples and frequently asked questions at our website and watch the calendar for public meetings on this and other matters before the board. If you would like to be notified via email of public hearings, please send your email address to townofulysses@gmail.com or call the Town Clerk’s office at 387-5767 extension 221.

Once the non-conformance language is in place, the Town will work to finish the zoning changes to areas directly east and west of Route 89.

For questions, contact Darby Kiley at 387-5767 extension 222 or Ulysses.planner@gmail.com. And keep an eye on the website where new drafts and information are posted at <http://www.ulysses.ny.us/>.



Too Many Garbage Trucks?

Be Part of the Answer

While the majority of garbage trucks rumbling through town come from downstate, any garbage we discard here in Ulysses contributes to truck traffic for communities north of us. Want to be part of the solution? Tompkins County has a robust recycling program and many rural households compost their biodegradable waste in their back yards. But if you live where composting is difficult, Ulysses residents (which includes Trumansburg) are now able to make a quick diversion off Route 96 to dispose of compostable items at Cayuga Compost on 3225 Agard Road in Ulysses. M-F 8-4 & Sat 8-2.

What composts?

Food scraps—including meat; Paper products—plates, cups, towels, Kleenex; Compostable utensils and cups; Yard waste. Questions? Call 387-6826.

And thank Jim Dennis and other County Legislators for their forward thinking on securing this contract for all County residents. We can all be part of the answer.

Poll Watchers Needed



The Board of Elections is currently looking for Poll Site Inspectors and Managers. Inspectors sign in voters and distribute ballots. Poll Site Managers open and close the voting machines and assist voters as needed.

For Primary Elections, Inspectors are paid \$100 and Poll Site Managers are paid \$130. For the General Election, Inspectors are paid \$160 and the Poll Site Managers are paid \$190. The trainings are throughout the summer and fall. You may sign up by calling the Board of Elections at 607-274-5521.

Fracking Update

Ulysses is once again taking the lead to organize 50+ municipalities to submit a friend of the court (or *amicus*) brief in support of the towns of Dryden and Middlefield in their defense of the rights of towns to decide what uses of the land are appropriate. Although both of the lower level courts in NYS have ruled in favor of Dryden and Middlefield, the highest court in NYS, the Court of Appeals, has agreed to also weigh in. Based on their decision, the Ulysses ban on hydrofracking will either stand or be declared invalid.

For Kids

Recreational programs offered by the Ithaca Youth Bureau are available to children and families in the Trumansburg School District at reduced cost through the Inter-municipal Recreation Partnership, to which the Town of Ulysses contributes. For more information about fall programs, pick up a brochure at the Town Hall or call 273-8364.

AREA SERVICES

Want Broadband? Speak Up.

New York State awarded a \$2.2 million grant that will extend broadband service to Ulysses and other communities in Tompkins County. Register interest in receiving internet services by visiting the Clarity Connect web site at clarityconnect.com and complete the online inquiry form or call at 607-257-8268.

Need Assistance? Dial 211.

The 2-1-1 Tompkins/Cortland Community Services Help-line connects people with services in the community. No question is too big or too small.

Wondering about Food Pantries in the area? Trying to find after school programs for your child? Need to find housing or health care? Call 2-1-1 or (877) 221-8667 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Or email iandr@hsctc.org.

Medication Drop Box

The Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal has expanded to nine locations in Tompkins County, making it even easier for people to safely and securely dispose of expired or unneeded household medications.

A “Med Return” drop box is now available at the Trumansburg Police Department. Other locations and hours, along with disposal guidelines, are posted at the Coalition’s web page at www.healthyyouth.org, and the information is available by calling 2-1-1.

Free Water Testing

Cornell University’s Soil and Water Lab is offering free methane testing for domestic water wells.

The lab is conducting a study to evaluate baseline methane concentrations in groundwater in Tompkins County. To schedule a free testing, e-mail tompkins groundwater@gmail.com.



Town of Ulysses
10 Elm St
Trumansburg, NY 14886

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CRIME PREVENTION

A Word to the Wise

There have been a number of thefts from cars and homes in the Town of Ulysses in the last few months and we encourage you to lock your cars and homes to avoid the crimes of opportunity. Call the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department at 272-2444 to report suspicious activity or a theft. For emergencies, call 911.

In response, the Town has requested additional patrolling from the Sheriff's Department.

To share information with neighbors, join the Jacksonville listserv by contacting Diane Hillman at metadata.maven@gmail.com. Willow Creek area residents can contact Nancy Cusumano at ne-cusumano@yahoo.com

Basic STAR Exemption Recipients Must Re-Register This Year

New York State is requiring all those who receive the Basic STAR exemption to re-register this year.

In August, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance sent a registration letter to property owners who received the Basic STAR exemption on the 2013 Assessment Roll. The letter included contact information for eligible property owners to enter information to determine their eligibility for the exemption.

The deadline to apply for the re-registration is November 30, 2013.

Property owners who do not reapply by the deadline will lose the exemption on their 2014 School Tax bills, which will increase their bills by \$500-\$600. In early 2014, the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance will notify the County Department of Assessment of those who have not re-registered for the exemption, and the exemption will be removed from the 2014 Assessment Roll. This decision is not contestable at the local level, and any disagreement the property owner has with the state's decisions must be taken up with the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.

The Basic STAR exemption is open for the property owner's primary residence. To qualify, the property owner's Adjusted Gross Income must be less than \$500,000. Questions? Call (518) 457-2036.

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY: Help us save time, money and resources.

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