

Henrietta Happenings



Spring 2014

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Town Supervisor

Jack W. Moore

Town Board

William J. Mulligan, Jr.
Janet B. Zinck
M. Rick Page
Kenneth H. Breese

Town of Henrietta

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585-334-7700
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From The Supervisor



Dear Friends,

During my campaign as I met with Henrietta residents, it became apparent to me that there are many households that do not have access to computers. This meant those individuals may not be aware of many of the Town Services or Henrietta community resources.

One of my goals as Supervisor is to enhance two way communications within the community as well as between Town Departments. As a result, now each

household will receive "Henrietta Happenings" quarterly. Each issue will contain information about proposed projects, and information from the various Department heads. It will also serve as a conduit for me to share with all our residents what is going on in Henrietta and in my office. I have an "open door policy" for anyone wanting to discuss a concern or recommendation, as well as anyone wanting to do business with the Town. This winter with all the snow and cold it has been difficult for all of us. Through it all, Craig Eckert, Commissioner of Public Works and his entire crew did a superb job in keeping our streets and roads clear, well maintained and safe for travel.

I want to thank those of you who voted me into office and to those who did not, I hope by the end of my term I will have earned your respect and confidence.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Moore, Supervisor

Town News

TOWN BOARD ADOPTS A RESOLUTION – **NO CASINO IN HENRIETTA**

As Town Supervisor, I have made it very clear in the news and to many of you individually that I do not support a Casino being built in our community, nor do any other members of the Town Board. Through your phone calls, attendance at standing room only Town Board meetings and visits to my office your voices have been heard.

Therefore on March 19, 2014 we (The Town Board) adopted a resolution of no casino gaming in the Town of Henrietta. Unfortunately, this is just the first step in the casino decision making process. The final decision is now in the hands of your state and federal representatives and it could take several years.



If you are for having the casino or against it, to ensure your voice is heard by those making the final decision I recommend you contact the state governor, your senator and assemblyman. For your convenience their contact information is listed below:

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NY State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12224
Office phone: (518)474-8390

Assemblyman Harry B. Bronson
840 University Avenue
Rochester, New York 14607
bronson@assembly.state.ny.us

Senator Patrick M. Gallivan
Monroe County Satellite Office
900 Jefferson Road, Suite 202
Rochester, New York 14623
gallivan@nysenate.gov

SUPERVISOR HIRES FINANCE DIRECTOR

On February 3, 2014 I hired Barbara Chirido. Barbara was hired to ensure development and implementation of sound Financial Management and Internal Controls. Please see her impressive biography on page 4.

REDESIGN OF TOWN WEB SITE

In January we began the redesign of the town's web site. The new web site will be more efficient, quicker and last but far from least, more user friendly. Our target date for it to be up and running is during the month of April.

Town News

RESPONSE TO STATE COMPTROLLER'S AUDIT COVERING JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 29, 2013

Within the first month of taking office, I was presented with the final audit report issued by the New York State Comptroller's Office. The scope of this audit was the financial management and purchasing practices of the Town. The audit identified specific deficiencies, including:

- Lack of long-term financial plans, policies or procedures for budgeting practices and the level of unexpended surplus funds to maintain thereby leading to accumulation of significant surplus funds.
- Insufficient oversight of financial operations and procedures, failure to provide substantive financial reports to the Town Board.
- Inadequate policies and procedures over the use of credit cards.
- Town's Code of Ethics not reviewed or updated since 2001.
- No certification of payroll by Supervisor.

It was my responsibility to develop a "Corrective Action Plan" in response to the findings of the audit detailing how the Town will correct the problems identified. This response was submitted to the Comptroller's Office on March 14th and I received a notice of acceptance on March 21st. This plan is on file in the Town Clerk's Office for public view.

In cooperation with the Town Board, I have already implemented the following actions in my plan:

- Board adopted credit card policy & procedures.
- Provide detailed monthly revenue and expense to the Board.
- Developed a new Code of Ethics.
- Bi-weekly review and notarized certification of payroll.

It is vitally important the Town move forward with a strategic plan for the surplus funds identified. As Supervisor, it is my role to ensure any plan is in the best interest of our community. The Board and I are exploring several possibilities and I will have a defined, long-term plan in place before year end.



DOG PARK FOR HENRIETTA

The Town of Henrietta is proposing the installation of a dog park designed to suit the needs of our many residents who would like an area to exercise their dogs, in a safe environment. The preferred location is within the area of **Lookup Park**.

In our June Newsletter we will have more specific information regarding the dog park. We welcome any input or recommendations from our dog lovers out there. You may e-mail them to Meribeth Palmer at MPalmer@Henrietta.org.

Town News

Henrietta Welcomes New Director of Finance

Barbara Chirido joined the Town of Henrietta on February 3, 2014 as our new Director of Finance. Barbara brings with her an extensive background in municipal finance having worked for the Town of Greece for twenty years, most recently as its' Assistant Finance Director. Barbara comes to us with a solid reputation for innovation, adherence to policies and best practices, and a sound record of fiscal success. Her skills in budgeting, forecasting, long-range planning and knowledge of municipal finance regulations will be put to great use as we implement stronger financial controls. She brings a thorough background on reserve fund regulations and will put forth plans for maintaining Henrietta's exceptional Town services and low taxes, while implementing plans for long-term financial stability.

In addition to her role as Director of Finance, Barbara has also taken on the responsibilities associated with the Human Resources function of Town government. Her role includes payroll and benefits oversight; employee relations; as well as personnel policy development and implementation. Barbara is an effective communicator and a skilled listener with the essential proficiencies to work cooperatively with all Town employees.

Barbara has a Bachelors degree in Political Science and History from the University at Albany and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the College at Brockport. Barbara was born and raised in Greece, NY where she still resides today.

RHAFT/FISH NEEDS OUR HELP

(These are all-volunteer non-profit Organizations that work with Lifespan of Monroe County)

If you have a day or a few hours each month to:

- ✓ Drive someone to a medical appointment
- ✓ Deliver food to homebound individuals
- ✓ Take telephone calls for ride requests

Please call Lifespan's answering service at 453-2370

Community Calendar

Tinker Nature Park Programs

Held at the Hansen Nature Center 1525 Calkins Rd. 359-7044

Apr.26th: **Earth Day at Tinker Nature Park:** 10am-2pm. Howling at the Moon - Live Animal Program @11:00am presented by World of Wildlife Educational Encounters (WOWEE). Learn about the life history of Wolves and see a Wolf Ambassador at the Hansen Nature Center. Also, Wetland Studies with RIT Environmental Science Students and Children's Activities.

May 3rd: **Birdwatching at Tinker Park:** Meet at the Hansen Nature Center at 9am and join naturalist Liz Magnanti from the Bird House Store for a morning hike through Tinker Park looking for migrating song birds. Bring your binoculars if you have them, limited number available for use at the nature center. Please call 359-7044 to sign up.

Hansen Nature Center is Open Tuesday - Saturday from 9am - 4pm closed Sunday, Monday and Holidays.

Tinker Homestead Tours available by appointment

The Henrietta community is invited to experience the future at **the seventh annual Imagine RIT: Innovation and Creativity Festival**, a showcase that displays the ingenuity of the students, faculty and staff at Rochester Institute of Technology. This signature event, for RIT and the Town of Henrietta, will be held on Saturday, May 3, rain or shine, and will feature some 400 interactive presentations, exhibits, hands-on demonstrations, research projects and live performances. The exhibits and entertainment will be of interest and fun for both adults and children of all ages. Admission is free and open to the public. Visit www.rit.edu/imagine for more information.



Town News

From the Office of Building & Fire Prevention

Spring will soon be here (we hope!) and the annual yard cleanup will begin. Just a reminder for all yard waste: all yard waste must be disposed by your garbage vendor. There is no open burning of brush, leaves, branches, twigs, etc., in the Town of Henrietta nor in the County of Monroe. Please do not burn these or any other items, as a Notice of Violation will be issued upon complaints. There has not been any open burning permitted except for Agricultural purposes, since 2001 in Monroe County as the County Legislature and the Monroe County Health Department amended Article V of the Monroe County Sanitary Code (Open Burning Control). So please abide by the rules and regulations in place.

Also, as we progress towards the adoption of new Town Codes and Amended Codes, you will notice some changes that will not allow what you have always done. Knowing that these changes will effect people in different ways, my Office will make a point of educating the public on any and all changes, thru the Town Website, newsletter articles and " Good Neighbor " letters sent to those addresses that may be violating these Codes. These letters are for your information and are not Violation notices! We ask that you read the letters completely and if at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Code Enforcement Office at : 585-359 – 7066.

Have a happy jump into Spring and don't forget : if you have not changed your batteries in your smoke detectors, please do so now for you and your families protection.

Terry L. Ekwell
Terry L. Ekwell, Director
Building & Fire Prevention

From the Assessment Office

The property taxes you pay are based on the assessed value of your property. The principal function of the Assessor's Office is to maintain a fair and equitable assessment roll, which is the basis for the property taxes levied by the Town of Henrietta, Monroe County, and the Rush-Henrietta Central School District. Also, special district charges for the Henrietta Fire Department and the Henrietta Volunteer Ambulance, among others, are based on the assessed value of each property in the town.

Our goal is to maintain a current assessment roll, where each assessed value represents 100% of its market value. That way, no one pays more or less than the fair share of the overall tax levy.

The assessment roll is prepared annually, through analysis of real estate market conditions and maintenance of property ownership records. Any property owners whose assessments will be changing will receive "Change Notices" within the next few weeks, indicating their tentative 2014 assessments. These assessed values should represent the actual market value of your property, as of the required valuation date of July 1, 2013.

If you believe your property is over-assessed, you may appeal your assessment before the Board of Assessment Review. The Board holds annual hearings, by appointment, at the Henrietta Town Hall beginning on Grievance Day - May 27, 2014. The deadline for filing an application for a hearing is Grievance Day, and hearings are held for several days after that.

Sales books and cross reference books of tentative assessments will be available at the Town Hall and the Henrietta Public Library reference desk for your review, during their normal business hours, starting May 1st.

For more information, or if you have any questions, feel free to call the Assessor's office at 359-7032.

Town News

PURCHASE OF EXECUTIVE SOUTH FAMILY GOLF CENTER

The Town Board purchased the Executive Family Golf Center from the Henrietta Foundation, formally owned by Charlie Lookup. In appreciation for Charlie's outstanding support to the Town of Henrietta, the property has been renamed **Lookup Park**. The following are just a few of the ways he has supported the Henrietta community over the last 40+ years:

- Rush Henrietta Rotary member since 1967, President in 1975 and 1994
- Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leader
- Rush Henrietta Education Foundation - Trustee
- Christmas/Senior Citizen Outreach
- LPGA Tournament 1st Operations Chairman in 1979
- President and LPGA Tournament Chairman 1984, 1985, 1989 and 1992
- Vice President of RHAFT and FISH
- Rush Henrietta Rotary Club – Community Service Award -1994

Thank you Charlie! You are an inspiration and role model for the entire community.



The Henrietta Department of Public Works would like to thank all of the residents for hanging in there with us throughout this extended and bitter cold winter. It has been a fairly continuous operation to keep the roads clear and safe for travel. Your cooperation throughout this winter was very much appreciated. We will continue to diligently maintain the roads until spring arrives. We would also like to thank the Town Supervisor for showing up at 3:00 am the night of our worst snow storm and for doing a great job as wing man. Once the weather warms up the Highway Department will begin their spring work to

prepare roads for paving. They will be repairing broken gutter sections, catch basins and any necessary drainage issues. I will be posting the 2014 Road Maintenance Schedule shortly. This schedule will be posted on the Town's website and updated accordingly when any changes arise. The schedule can be located under Departments/Public Works/Highway/Road Work Updates.

The Parks Department will also soon be gearing up for spring projects and maintenance. They have already started looking into the installation of Henrietta's first dog park, the rehabilitation of the bathrooms outside Bushman cabin and an additional parking lot across the street from Tinker Park, just for starters.

The Drainage Department will also be gearing up for spring. Soon they will begin their annual pipe flushing and maintenance program. The 2014 Sanitary Sewer Repair project will soon be finalized and posted to the Town's website. Please check the website for updates and for those of you without access to a computer, we will keep you updated in our new quarterly newsletter.

Thank you,
Craig Eckert

Commissioner of Public Works



Henrietta Town Hall
475 Calkins Road
Henrietta, NY 14467

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #298
Rochester, NY

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
West Henrietta, NY 14586

Town Clerk's Office

As dog owners ourselves, we look forward to the future dog park in our town. This is also a reminder that all dogs need to be licensed in our office. Did you know that New York State Law requires all dogs older than 4 months to be licensed? Licensing ensures that all dogs have been properly vaccinated against rabies for the protection of both you and your neighbors. The license also makes it much easier to locate the owner of a lost dog when he or she is found. Any dog living with you for more than 30 days must be licensed. Licensing is simple. Visit the Town Clerk's Office with the necessary proof of rabies vaccination, spayed/neutered information and a licensing fee of \$9.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$18.00 for unspayed/unneutered dogs. The Town Clerk's Office will issue you a license and new dog tag. If necessary, replacement tags can be purchased for a \$3.00. Every year we'll mail a reminder postcard for renewing your dog(s) license. As the warm weather approaches, please remember to keep your dog from running loose in your neighborhood.

Hanging handicap permits are available for town residents with a doctor's authorization. For your convenience, you can come to either our office or the Building Department to obtain a permit. Many people report their tags stolen so keep it locked up. Please remember it is "illegal" to drive with the tag (or any object) hanging from your rearview mirror, because it may obstruct your vision and cause harm to you or others.

Summer travel season will soon be upon us. Passports are done by appointment only daily between the hours of 9:30AM and 3:30PM. Please call our office for further information at 359-7038.