

Town of Spafford Newsletter

Mary Bean, Supervisor

April, 2015



Lourdes Camp is offering Summer (Day) Camp for Spafford Kids 7-11 years old. Call Lisa at 673-4144 to reserve your place. Applications will be mailed soon. See enclosed flier.

Highway Department Changes

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Carl Wiers

After 31 years of service, Carl has decided to take his well-deserved retirement. After serving for 20 as a Spafford Highway crew member, and 11 years as Highway Superintendent, Carl is embarking on a new career as a long-haul truck driver. He will get to see the East Coast from Florida to Eastern Canada and all parts in-between. Since he was often up very early in the morning so he could check on the snowfall during the night, he's had plenty of practice in the fine art of being awake at odd hours and sleeping on command. Best of luck to you, Carl. Remember to wave when you go by!

Help Wanted – Interim Spafford Highway Superintendent

With Carl's retirement, the Town Board will need to appoint an interim Highway Superintendent. In Spafford, the Highway Superintendent is an elected position with a two year term of office. The position will be on the ballot in November. We need someone to serve in the position until the elected individual takes office January 1st, 2016. Letters of interest and resumes will be accepted until **April 30th**. Candidates will be responsible for the overall operations of the Highway Department, managing both personnel and equipment in an efficient and effective manner. Changing laws and demands from NY State now require Highway Superintendents to demonstrate computer literacy, and have skills needed to write grant and permit applications. Send resumes to Supervisor, Town of Spafford. Candidates must be registered to vote in Spafford.

Seeking Cemetery Management Services Provider

Margaret Ireland has resigned from her position of Cemetery Superintendent. That leaves an important vacancy in the Town of Spafford. After no volunteers have come forward, the Town Board has authorized the creation of this position. The Cemetery Management Services Provider will be a contracted position. The position will report to the Town Supervisor. This is a part time position that will require flexible hours and weekend work as needed to support the families that choose one of our cemeteries as the final resting place for their loved one. The position also requires maintaining accurate records to comply with State and local regulations. The successful contractor will need to

supply his or her own liability insurance. Terms of the contract and payment are negotiable.

Estimated 6-10 burials per year. Job description:

Act as administrator of the cemetery: Convey cemetery rules and regulations; convey to potential buyers, location and costs associated with purchase of lots; work with the existing mapping system to accurately identify used and unused plots.

Burial preparation and closing: Locate and stake graves for opening; oversee interment and stake or flag graves; ensure that interment costs have been paid to Town Clerk; be present at burials; bury cremated remains.

General Duties: oversee installation of foundations for graves and headstones; report needed maintenance and repairs to the Board; oversee mowing operations and spring cleanup.

Interested parties should contact Mary Bean, Town Supervisor, at 315 391 8477

Cemeteries in the Town of Spafford

The Town of Spafford is responsible for 4 cemeteries, Otisco Valley, Borodino, Spafford and Cold Brook. The Otisco Valley Cemetery is behind the houses on the northwest corner of Otisco Valley Road and Church Road. Apparently, at one time there was a church near this location. Legally, the State of NY considers it “Abandoned” and the town’s obligation for its maintenance is mowing 3 times per season, although we do mow on a regular schedule. The Town acquired the Cold Brook Cemetery two years ago when the trustees could no longer manage the property. Although the cemetery association still had money in its treasury, the gravesites had never been mapped and there was no sign identifying the cemetery. Borodino, Spafford and Cold Brook are still active cemeteries: grave sites are sold, burials occur and they are maintained according to the community’s standards.

In January 2015, Margaret Ireland announced her resignation as the voluntary superintendent (assisted by Jeff) of the Borodino Cemetery. A meeting with Merrill Clark and Jim Clark, voluntary superintendents of Spafford and Cold Brook Cemeteries, respectively, was held to decide how to cover the superintendent’s responsibilities at Borodino Cemetery. Merrill Clark told that he was limited in being able to manage Spafford Cemetery and could not do more. Jim works full time and is also limited in helping out. An appeal for a volunteer to step up as Borodino Cemetery Superintendent brought no responses. As a result, the Board has no choice but to create a paid position of Cemetery Management Service Provider and bring all administrative activities under the care and supervision of the Town Clerk. A job description is being written and the salary for the position is yet to be decided.

Our own R & L won the mowing contract for this summer—good news, since they did a good job last year. Spring cleanup and reclamation at Spafford Cemetery is also included in the contract. Cold Brook Cemetery needs to be mapped per state regulations and that will be paid for out of the funds that came with that acquisition. A sign will be installed and fencing needs assessed. Jim and Merrill will continue in their roles for the foreseeable future and we appreciate the time, attention and civic contribution they make. Thank you to Jeff Ireland for his years of voluntary service as Superintendent of Borodino Cemetery.

Town Board Business



Truck Purchase Update: Buying a truck isn't simple! The Board has spent much time over the past few months listening to Carl Wiers and the Highway Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding replacement of our 15 year- old truck. We all agreed that it was time to move ahead with the purchase. However, the decision was made more complex because much of our equipment is old, and we need a plan to replace several more pieces of equipment within the next few years. We could have used all of the funds that had been set aside for equipment, borrowing only the

remainder. But, we anticipate we will have to replace our loader or another truck soon and will need reserve funds for that purchase also. Working with our accountant and lawyer, serial bond funding was recommended as our best option. The Highway Committee is now working on a long-term plan for replacement of highway equipment so the Board will have a better idea of how much must be set aside each year to fund the plan. With the tax cap, there will never be enough tax revenues to fund the plan to the amount needed so we must look to saving money on current operations, mostly in the Highway Department, if we are to continue to provide the services needed.

Unsafe Building: In 2005, a house at 66 Spafford Landing Rd was badly damaged by flooding, and then sold to a new owner. The town spent the next 9 years unsuccessfully trying to get the owner to clear or remediate the property. With the hiring of a Town Attorney in Jan. 2014, the Board began to press this case in a manner that would allow us to attach the cost of demolition to the owner's tax bill. We were ready to schedule the demolition for late March when the heavy snow caused the building to collapse into the road. As a result of the emergency situation the collapse created, the building was demolished and land cleared. The owner will be charged the costs of demolition and neighbors on Spafford Landing Road are relieved that the derelict and dangerous building is gone.

Borodino Hall Improvements: The Town received confirmation of a \$23,000 Community Development grant for installation of a wheel chair lift in Borodino Hall. Borodino Hall has been designated by the Town Board as a Community Center. It is important that Borodino Hall be fully handicapped accessible as it is the largest public meeting space in town and we are running out of room in the Town Hall for large public meetings. With the installation of the lift and other renovations, it is planned that Borodino Hall will be more widely available for community activities, classes, meetings and cultural events. Watch the Skaneateles Press for upcoming events in Borodino Hall.

Highway Committee Update: The Highway Dept. Advisory Committee, Mark Delaney, Chair, Kathy Adams, Leland Springstead and Taih Taylor, continues to present information to the Board that is used in making decisions about operations in that department and long term financial plans for the town. Recent presentations included recommendations re the new truck, a spread sheet showing the potential savings to be realized by changing the mix of salt and grit we use on the roads and a long term plan for equipment replacement with costs and options. Saving money wherever we can in our most costly department and having a plan for future expenses are critical to staying under the tax cap in the years to come.

Luke DeWitt has resigned from the committee due to his busy spring and summer schedule. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank him for his service to the community. Taih Taylor has been appointed to fill the vacancy

on the Highway Dept. Advisory Committee. Taih is multi skilled as a result of his years in the Army and looks forward to researching ways we can operate the Highway Dept. effectively at lower cost.

Upcoming Town Board Workshops: In addition to its regularly scheduled monthly meetings, your Town Board has been scheduling workshop meetings to hear from committees and Boards and allow more discussion of important issues. Please check the Town web site for these workshop meetings that are outside of the regular schedule. Some very important issues remain undecided and will require more study and discussion. Those issues include:

- Increased use of salt to treat snow covered roads and the many implications that presents
- Future of Town Highway Garage that we have outgrown
- Hiring of a temporary Highway Superintendent pending the Nov. election.
- Schedule of equipment replacement and type of equipment to be acquired
- Funding for equipment and garage replacement

SPAFFORD FOOD PANTRY

We are always looking for volunteers! We have two mornings each month that offer an opportunity to help. The first is Delivery Day – usually the third Thursday of the month around 9 a.m. at least 40 cases of food are delivered from the Food Bank. The cases need to be brought inside and shelved. The second opportunity is the third Friday of each month when perishables are collected from the grocery store or local farm stands and Pantry shelves are stocked in preparation for the clients. Call Lisa Valletta 315-636-9542, Rose Clark 607-749-2753, or Debbie Brown 607-749-7780 for information updates.

Ethics Committee Delivers Report

In April of 2014 an incident occurred that was potentially a violation of the Town's Code of Ethics. Our Town's local law on Ethics was quite brief, provided Ethics Committee little direction and failed to identify precisely what constituted a violation. For years the Town Clerk annually read off the names of the members of the Ethics Committee but the Committee had never met in over 40 years of existence on paper. Fortunately, the citizens on the newly constituted committee in February were willing and very capable of accepting this referral for investigation of a possible ethics violation. In the process of deliberating this case, the Committee did scholarly research on the topic of governmental ethics. Their research and conclusions will be the basis for a revised Code of Ethics. Their reported conclusion will establish a new, higher standard of ethical behavior for officials and employees of the Town of Spafford. I want to thank Committee members Will Hier, Deborah Hole, Sandra Weigel, and Joyce Larrison for their hours of work and diligent examination of the law and circumstances of this case.

Volunteers

Phil Haines of the Borodino Fire Department reminds us that volunteers are critical to their being able to provide the community with affordable, rapid response emergency medical and fire services. Please consider becoming a volunteer and serving your community.



The **Otisco Lake Preservation Association** has a neat website full of information. The Association has meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 6PM. This year they will move their meeting sites to the hamlets surrounding the lake to encourage participation.

Spafford Town Hall will be the meeting site for May 6th at 6PM.

Two dumpster days will be held this year, May 16th and August 22nd. The dumpsters will be located across from the County Park on the Otisco Valley Rd at the north end of the lake. There is a fee per load, they do not take hazardous waste, and metal is OK. The **Watershed Run will be held on July 25th.**

NEWS FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Spring Clean-up:

We all need to work together on clean-up and maintenance in our town. Recent studies show that run-down and abandoned properties negatively affect the value of homes nearby by five to ten percent.

Please keep in mind when you start your spring clean-up that there is a burn ban effective (Per DEC) from March 16th through May 14th due to increased risk of wildfires.

If you are going to be digging please call **Dig Safely New York**. Simply dial **811** on your phone.

Building Permits:

Most building projects will need a Building Permit. If you are not sure if you need one feel free to call the Building Department before you start your project. We will help guide you and answer any questions you may have. Most building permits are issued in a timely manner. Applications are available on the Town of Spafford web site or you can come into the office and pick one up.

List of handy contacts for future use:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Department E-mail- building@townofspafford.com • Building Department Phone #(315) 673-9557 • Onondaga Health Department (315) 435-6600-Jeff Till • Onondaga County Department of Transportation (315) 435-3176 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Department of Transportation (315) 672-8151 • Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District (315) 677-3851 • City of Syracuse Water Department (315) 685-6486 • NYSDEC (315) 426-7504 • US Army Corps of Engineers-Local Field Office (315) 255-8090
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Town of Spafford Planning/Subdivision Board

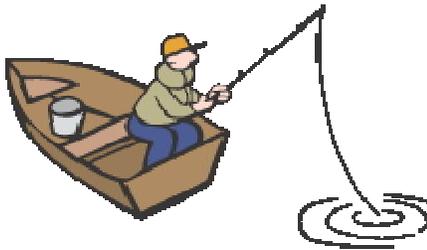
What does the Planning Board do for you and your Town?

The role Planning Board's is to make sure that the development of land shall be guided and regulated in such a manner as to meet requirements for orderly and harmonious growth with proper provisions that fit the character of our community.

In 2014 the Planning Board took on an extensive project updating and amending the subdivision regulations, definitions and updating the application and fee schedule. The Planning Board members met and worked diligently to achieve that goal. The new regulations were adopted into local law.

Currently the Planning Board is working to amend the Town of Spafford Zoning Regulations, update a site-plan review process and begin to explore comprehensive plan strategies.

The Planning Board meets every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Spafford Town hall.



FAMILY RECREATION

The Town of Scott has an enviable park at the southern end of Skaneateles Lake. The Town of Spafford, lacking similar facilities, provides Scott with an annual stipend to assure access to the facility for Town of Spafford residents. The park has a large parking lot, boat launch, tennis courts, basketball court, good fishing and a pavilion. The

Town of Scott has received a grant and is in the process of expanding and improving the facilities including new bathrooms. This year, a \$5 fee per launch will be charged to all users of the boat launch. Seasonal users can buy a pass. Contact the Town of Scott to purchase a seasonal launch pass or rent the pavilion.

The Town of Spafford Recreation Committee had a very productive meeting last week. A big THANK YOU to Ann Furze, Frank Moran, Mary Becker, Gretchen Krantz, and Joyce Green. We are all proud of our day camp opportunity for Spafford kids. The committee is working on a family recreation opportunity for the fall and winter. The Otisco Lake Fishing site on Otisco Lake at the causeway at the bottom of Churchill Road is the only access to that Lake in Spafford. Although it is not a public park, we know that many folks swim, fish and picnic there. Mary and Gretchen have taken the site under their wings and are determined to keep it cleaned up and looking nice. They were successful in getting the state to put up new signs and the county to stop by more often to haul trash. See their flier about lending a hand with keeping the place clean. The Committee is working on another project that you will hear more about next issue. We welcome your input and ideas.

Broadband4All Campaign

Governor Andrew Cuomo has launched [#Broadband4All](#), a campaign to ensure that every New Yorker has access to high-speed internet service by the end of 2018. A new website ny.gov/BroadbandForAll provides more information. The plan requires private-sector investment. Broadband providers will contribute at least 50% of the capital needed. Local input will guide development. Below is a survey, the first step in determining what our needs are in Spafford. Please complete the survey and return it so we can develop a plan to get your needs for broadband met.

Internet Connectivity in Spafford

1. Do you have a computer at your house that you use regularly?

Yes No

2. Are you able to connect to the internet?

Yes No Comment: _____

3. What is the primary use of your home computer?

- Entertainment?
 Communication with friends and family?
 School/homework?
 Work from home?
 Other?

4. Are you connected via the Time Warner Cable?

Yes No

5. If not, how do you obtain your internet connection?

6. Are you satisfied with the speed and reliability of your current service provider?

Yes No

7. Does the cost of service prevent you from being connected to the internet?

Yes No

8. For future planning by the Recreation Committee, please give us the ages of children in your household.

Send survey to Mary Bean, 1984 Rt. 174, Skaneateles, NY 13152, or drop off at Town Hall or give to Charles at the Transfer Station on Saturday.

Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony and Reception



Sunday, May 24th at 1PM

Again this year, the Town of Spafford will be honoring members of the armed forces, both living and dead, who have served our country and protected us well. A memorial service preceded by a parade from the Borodino Fire house to the Veterans Memorial Park will start at 1PM on Sunday, May 24th. Military and Elected dignitaries will speak. The oldest veterans will be honored. Beverages and cookies will be served at Borodino Hall following the ceremony. Citizens are invited to view and share old photos of the area during the reception.

Earth Day – April 25th Bring trash picked up from shoreline and roadsides in plastic bags to transfer station on that day and tell Charles it is Earth Day trash so it can be tagged for OCRRA disposal.