

# **VOTE Tuesday NOV. 3**

**Both districts vote at Town Hall 6A to 9P**

## **Town of Spafford Newsletter**

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**Mary Bean, Supervisor**

**October, 2015**

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### **2016 TOWN BUDGET**

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the Town Board approved a Preliminary Budget. A Public Hearing will be held on the budget on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing will provide opportunity for public input and consideration of changes. The Board will vote on the budget at the conclusion of the Public Hearing. At this point, the Preliminary Budget is under the tax cap by just a few dollars.

The discussion leading to a preliminary budget was long and difficult. No department got all they asked for and most requests were trimmed significantly. Several major decisions about the highway budget were deferred pending the election of a new Highway Superintendent (HS) in November. The newly elected HS will need to do an assessment of our roads and come up with a plan for maintenance and improvement and to prioritize replacement of highway equipment so the Board can effectively budget in the future.

During the budget discussion the possibility of overriding the tax cap was openly discussed. Many towns in Onondaga County will be overriding the tax cap this year. Our accountant advised that until the Town has a firm long term plan for repair/replacement/upgrading of buildings and equipment he would not advise overriding the tax cap. We will likely have to include a large contingency line item in the budget to cope with the increasingly frequent weather related events that damage our infrastructure.

Development of the budget is the single most challenging activity for the Town Board because the budget then defines what we can do in the year ahead. With the tax cap we are now locked into depending on grants for improvements as we can only maintain the status quo with our current tax income. Both the Church Road Bridge project and the Moon Hill project were partially paid for with grants. Those grants are not available every year and their frequency is very unpredictable. We need to be able to plan ahead depending solely on Town tax money. That will be the challenge for 2017.

# PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Ann Furze

## OTICSO LAKE CAUSEWAY STATUS

Throughout the summer various individuals have helped to keep this valuable resource safe and litter free. We thank you and encourage others to join the “cause.”



The state DEC is investigating building a boat launch just south of causeway on West Valley Rd. Our committee will monitor this situation. We want to especially thank Gretchen Krantz and Mary Becker for their regular clean-up of the fishing site area thru the summer.

## SKANEATELES YMCA DAY PASS OPPORTUNITY

### TOWN OF SPAFFORD RESIDENT DAY PASS

#### SKANEATELES YMCA

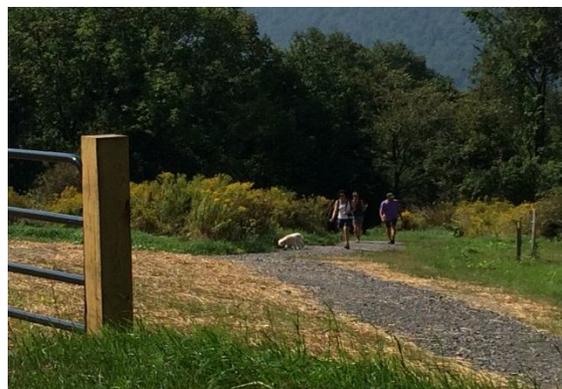


**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Town and the Skaneateles Y have agreed to offer town families a FREE day pass to the facility. The whole family can spend the day at the Y enjoying all the offerings of the facility. Swim, skate, exercise, etc. We hope this opportunity will help families especially during winter school vacations. The procedure is to call Lisa Valletta, Town Clerk, or stop by the office to obtain your voucher on a first come basis until we run out of funds for this project. Lisa can mail the voucher to you for use any day.

Should families wish to use the Y on a regular basis, memberships and classes are available on a sliding scale.

## **HINCHCLIFF FAMILY PRESERVE TRAIL OPENS**



The Finger Lakes Land Trust has created a 206 acre preserve located on Covey Rd. off Rt. 41 about a mile south of the Spafford Fire Hall. A 1.4 mile trail winds through field, forest and over creeks, all over-looking Skaneateles Lake. It is indeed a treasure. Please check it out.

## **HUNTING SEASON IS HERE**

The various NYS hunting seasons are now in effect. Please protect yourself and hunters by wearing bright clothing when hiking, fishing, kayaking or whatever outdoor activities you enjoy. Complete details of various seasons can be found through the DEC web site.

## **LOURDES SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR SPAFFORD KIDS**

This past summer, 12 children attended day camp at Lourdes for a week at a nominal cost. The feedback from the kids, some of whom had never been to camp, was heartening. Several asked if they could attend the overnight camp and the committee is looking into setting up a campership fund of donated money to partially fund overnight camp for kids from Spafford.

## BORODINO HALL COMMUNITY CENTER

Digging for the drainage system around Borodino Hall will begin in the next few weeks. The big pine trees had to be removed for the project but the local garden clubs have donated money and their expertise to design new landscaping including walkways to be installed when the drainage project is completed. Once we have the basement dry, the rotted wooden floor will be removed and a new cement floor installed. The cement floor will help stabilize the old rubble stone basement walls. The new basement will be clean, warm and dry allowing maximum use of that space for a small kitchen, office, display area and meeting space. The wheelchair lift is on order and scheduled for delivery and installation before Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. The lift will be paid for from an Onondaga County Community Development grant to provide handicapped access to the main floor. The work on the drainage system and basement will be paid for by a grant from Onondaga County for infrastructure improvement. Spafford does not have a school or a building with a large meeting room that is readily available for community events, meetings and group activities. Preparing Borodino Hall for use as a community center using grant money and your donations saves the cost of building anew while preserving a valuable piece of the Town's history and a symbol of its character. Due to construction, the building will be unavailable for community events until Dec. **However, mark your calendar for the Annual Christmas Covered Dish Dinner, Saturday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and another Delaney Brothers Concert on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.**

## ZONING AND CODES

Thank you to the residents who show they are good neighbors by correcting code violations that affect all residents. The condition of your property affects the value of your neighbor's property and is a public safety concern where first responders may be endangered by unknown conditions. Over the past 18 months, Howard Tanner, Codes Enforcement Officer, and the Town Board have initiated legal action against several citizens whose properties have a history of code violations dating back to 1997. The properties negatively impact the value of neighboring properties by their appearance but of greater concern is their potential impact on the environment from the presence of stored fuels, trash and chemicals. First responders could be endangered by rotted floors, blocked doors and windows and improperly connected electrical/fuel lines. The most egregious of the violators have been prosecuted and their cases are winding their way thru the courts.

Howard Tanner has been working with citizens who have old mobile homes that need to be demolished and removed. Give Howard a call and he may be able to point you in the direction of affordable demolition and removal.

## BROADBAND 4 ALL

In the spring the State announced an initiative intended to bring high speed internet service to rural areas throughout the state. That is the last we have heard from the state on this issue. This is becoming a bigger issue as more residents work from home, children require internet access to do homework and more interesting entertainment is available on line. We also recently learned that Verizon will no longer service land lines as of next year and there are residents dependent on their land lines due to poor cell phone service. Citizens have sent me articles about what other communities are doing but all the initiatives I've seen are either just upgrades to existing cable systems or county wide initiatives involving more money than the entire Spafford Town budget.

Spafford currently has a franchise contract with Time Warner that expires next year. The Town is paid approximately \$9000 per year for this franchise granted by the Town approximately 10 years ago. The Time Warner lines serve residents on Rt. 41 to the Borodino light, west down Nunnery Rd, and east along Rt. 174 down to the dam serving the Glen Cove and Olanco Rd areas. Per NYS law, cable companies are not required to serve areas where there are not a minimum of 35 subscribers per mile. That is most of Spafford. Running cable is becoming cost prohibitive and satellite service has become the most efficient vehicle for high speed broadband service.

I am not a techie so I need help with this challenge. The Town of Spafford needs to pursue all options for reliable telephone service and high speed internet service for all residents. To this end and also to be prepared to negotiate the franchise agreement renewal, I have found four citizens who volunteered to form a committee to advise the Board on this issue. We will be meeting soon and I invite any additional residents or supporters to let me know that you are willing and able to help so we can add you to the committee.

## Seasonal Roads

The following roads are considered "Seasonal Roads" within the Town of Spafford. They are not plowed, sanded or maintained from Nov. 15 to April 15.

**Bacon Hill Road** – from the end of the pavement near NYS Route 41 to the intersection of Holzworth Road.

**Bromley Road** – from Town line to the dead end.

**Covey Road** – entire length of road.

**Morris Run Road** – entire length of road.

**Ten Mile Point** – entire length of road.

**Ripley Hill Road** – from Cold Brook Road to the first house on the south end.

Many roads in Spafford are maintained and plowed by Onondaga County. Onondaga Co and The Town of Spafford use different methods for clearing roads of snow. As we go thru the winter and you drive around town, note the difference in road conditions so you are prepared to evaluate proposed changes in methods and equipment used by the Town in the future.

# **Vote Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6AM to 9PM**

## **Both Districts Vote at Spafford Town Hall**

**Learn About the Candidates, Ask Questions**

**Candidate Forum**

**Thursday October 22, 2015, 7 PM to 9 PM, Spafford Town Hall**

**The Town of Spafford Republican and Democratic Party Committees will jointly be hosting a Candidates Forum at the Spafford Town Hall, 1984 Route 174, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015. All voters are welcome to meet the candidates for Town Supervisor, Town Board, Highway Superintendent and Tax Collector. The Forum will be moderated under the guidelines of the League of Women Voters. Light refreshments will be served.**