



Newark Valley News

December 2018

On the Web at www.townofnewarkvalley.com

"News from Your Town"

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

We have recently finished the budget process and adopted the budget for 2019. We were able to keep the tax increase well under the 2% tax cap this year.

One of the difficulties facing the town board is keeping our various other boards fully staffed. We currently need two members to fill out our Variance Board. We also need an ag member for our Town Planning Board.

As winter approaches I urge everyone to use caution. Drive appropriately for the weather conditions and keep your vehicles in good condition with winter tires. When plowing your driveway remember it is illegal to plow snow across the road. It can be a serious safety issue.

Wishing all a safe and happy holiday season.

Stuart Yetter, Jr., Supervisor



TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

**Hours: Monday thru Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed Fridays. 642-8746**

Cash, check, or money orders are accepted for transactions, NO CREDIT CARDS.

DOG LICENSES

If you own a dog and live in the Town or Village of Newark Valley:

You are required to license your dog(s). Your dog **must** have a license. In order to get a new dog licensed, you must have a current Rabies Certificate and the appropriate fee amount. If your dog is spayed or neutered, please provide a certificate, for a discounted license fee. Please put the dog tag on the collar of your dog (highly recommended), if your dog gets lost, we will be able to identify the animal and owner easier. The tag is good for the life of the dog and just like the license is non-transferrable. If the tag is lost, a new one can be issued for a charge of \$3.00.

You can get a new license or renew a license by mail. (You will receive a renewal notice when the license is due). You will need:

- * A current Rabies Certificate (all the required information about the dog and you should be on the Rabies Certificate, if not please provide the information)
- * A spayed or neutered certificate, if it applies
- * A check or money order made out to the Town of Newark Valley in the amount of **\$10.00** for a spayed or neutered dog or **\$20.00** for an unspayed or unneutered dog for a year license
- * Mail to: Newark Valley Town Clerk, 109 Whig Street, Newark Valley, NY 13811

We will mail back all originals, the license and if needed, a license tag. You can buy a one, two, or three year license as long as your rabies certificate doesn't expire before the license does.

If you no longer have your dog, if you change your phone number, or you have a change of address (even if you move to another town), please contact the Town Clerk's Office to update our records. Your cooperation is vital in keeping our records current.

Get to know your Officials!

Supervisor -

Stuart Yetter, Jr.

Office: 642-8746

Can be reached during
daytime hours at
642-8084

Town Board Members -

Timothy Dalton

Joseph Tomazin

Daniel Cheresnowski

Warren Smith

Court Officials -

Justice Todd Smith

Justice John Schaffer

Clerk Yvonne Tuetken

642-5278

Dog Control Officer -

Denise Liske

642-3287

Code Enforcement

Officer/Fire Marshal -

Tom Larson

642-3617

Highway Supt. -

Charles Meade

642-9927

Every month we have to generate delinquent dog notices and we do not like to send them any more than you like to receive them.

Starting July 1, 2018, there is a \$10.00 late fee per delinquent dog.

So...to avoid this, please update us on the status of your dog(s) and renew your dog license(s) promptly. Thank you.

HANDICAP PARKING FOR TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY

If you need a handicap parking tag, you need to get a form from us, or your doctor's office, have the doctor fill it out, fill out your part (both of you need to sign and date it) and bring it into our office along with your driver's license. We will then fill the request from the application. There is no cost to you. If you live in the Town of Newark Valley you must get your tag here. If you live in the village you must go to the village office.

REGISTRAR MARRIAGE LICENSES

Getting married? If you plan to get a marriage license from us, please note the following:

License Fee is \$40.00, payable by check or cash.

1. Both Bride and Groom must be present at time of the application.
2. Proof of identity (driver's license, non driver's license)
3. Certified Birth Certificate for proof of birth, name, and age.
4. Certified Divorce decrees from all previous marriages.
5. There is a 24 hour waiting period between the purchase of the license and the wedding ceremony.
6. The license is valid for 60 days.

The license has to be filed where it is purchased, not where the marriage takes place.

You may apply for a marriage license in any Town or City office in New York State. If you choose to apply at the Town of Newark Valley office, you must arrive one hour prior to this office closing.

If you need a copy of a birth, marriage, or death certificate, contact the office at 607-642-8746. You will need to fill out an application form. There is a \$10.00 charge for each copy.

Barbara S. Mock

Newark Valley Town Clerk

109 Whig Street

Newark Valley, NY 13811

Phone – 607-642-8746

Fax – 607-642-5060

HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

I can't believe another year is about over! This year with all the hard rains, we have been super busy. I have some big flood damaged areas yet to do. I am still waiting on (FEMA and SEMO) Federal and State Government Officials to get assistance. I had a kick off meeting in October, but nothing yet! Hey, Smokey Zimmer Road Property Owners, we did get the pipes down and some ditching done and more to go. We were trying out a new Excavator and I had more pipes to put in around the area, but not enough time to do them before it left us. Maybe do more this year; I don't know yet. The Snow is teasing us right now! We here at the Highway Department hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday and remember to get your Snow Tires On! Take your time and drive safely! I'm looking for more icy times this winter than snow. (I hope I'm wrong)

Thank you, Charles E. Meade Highway Superintendent



HISTORIAN HAPPENINGS

When the first settlers came from Stockbridge, MA, in 1792, first requirement was housing. Ezbon Slosson, with help from his friends at Brown's Settlement to the north, who had come in 1789, built his cabin on the bank of the creek about where Fortunato's is today. He stayed that first winter, alone, finding fish and game, plus the cornmeal he had brought with him. In the spring, he created spiles to tap the many maple trees, then used hollowed out willow branches for tubing to collect the sap in the large kettle he had brought from home. He was able make enough sugar to last for his family of 10 until next spring. Ezbon went back to Stockbridge later in the spring to get more tools to make a better log home. There were bunks built into outside walls, crude furniture plus the fireplace. His wife, Electa wanted to come with him, but he said "No, you come later with Ma and Pa". She felt that was too long to be apart, and said "The baby and I may not be with them when they come."

Food was not a problem. Lots of trout in the stream, wildlife – deer, squirrels, rabbits, even bear, all of which he had learned to cook over the open fire. . Berries of all kinds and in the fall, lots of nuts – hickory, chestnuts, butternuts

Crops were needed, so Ezbon took his oxen and sled he had built, north to Brown's Settlement (today's Berkshire) to visit with and borrow seed from the folks who had come that far 3 years earlier. Today this trip takes 10 – 15 minutes, it took Ezbon a whole day as he had to ford the creek twice. After lunch, he laid down on his sled and rested. He awoke to voices! There were two Indians looking down at him! He remembered the tales of the savage Indians and was a little worried, but these two indicated they were hungry, so he gave them the leftovers from his lunch – johnny cake and dried venison, told them where he was headed, They ate, thanked him and left. 3 surveyors had come earlier and laid out the lots. They made friends and paid the Indians a fair price for the land, and so these Indians were friendly.

Happy to see someone from home, all the neighbors joined together for a big dinner and visiting. Ezbon laid out what he needed and each household contributed a little – corn, squash, turnip, potato and pumpkin seeds, which would be repaid in the fall after the first harvest.

After dinner, a sugaring off party was held, with hot syrup in wooden bowls, then sunk into the snow bank, making wonderful maple candy.

They all noted what they still needed from home and 2 men would return to Stockbridge to get another ox team, wool, and cows, which they would share.

Not long after returning from Brown's Settlement, Ezbon heard someone hollering and a wagon came into view. Ma & Pa did come, and Electa and Caroline were with them, along with Ezbon's siblings. All 10 of them crowded into Ezbon's small log cabin and made do until another larger cabin could be built.

The new larger cabin for Enoch and his family was built, with a loft overhead for the children. When it was done, Enoch entered first and said a prayer of thankfulness when he heard a strange noise. There was a rattlesnake on the hearth, coiled and ready to strike! Ezbon hollered, "Don't move!" and ran for a large stick. He managed to kill the snake and then the cabin was searched, before they let anyone else inside.

A while later, there was a hard rain, with strong winds which lifted the roof off Ezbon's cabin. They waited the storm out, getting soaked, then packed up and went to Enoch's cabin. In the morning, the sun came out, dried things out and the men put the cabin together again.

It's May and planting season. There was a large flat area near the cabins, which they burned off. Next, into the woods to cut a special tree, with branches growing in definite directions. They cut those branches and sharpened the ends. This was hooked to the oxen and dragged over the burned over field. Cheers, it was plowed! With more work with shovels and hoes, the ground was ready for planting.

Using the seed Ezbon had borrowed from the northern neighbors, a garden was planted. In the fall, after harvest, winter wheat was sown. This was virgin soil, so things grew really well. Only problems were with the crows.

Hides of the deer that were shot were tanned to make gloves, clothing, bear skin rugs were created. Food was plentiful. One day while picking blackberries, Electra heard a noise, turned around and there was a large black bear. She flapped her apron at it, said "shoo, you nasty thing," and it left! There were butternut, hickory and chestnut trees for variety with the strawberries, elderberries, and wild grapes.

Cont. on page 4

Historians Happening cont.

Thanksgiving, 1793 - They all gathered in Enoch and Sarah's cabin. They had a great variety of food from the garden, the game and the dried fruits. Enoch offered a prayer of Thanksgiving.

After dinner on the way home, Ezbon and Electa spoke of wishing for more children. 3 more children were born to them in 1796, 1805, 1808.

Gradually, cottage industries grew as more settlers came. A blacksmith was needed, mills were built on the various creeks for grinding the seeds, and also for sawing wood, a chair factory appeared, a Leghorn bonnet home business. Grain cradles were made on Bridge St., small tanneries popped up, a wheelwright, Jesse Truesdail, had a shop on Spring Brook. One of his spinning wheels can be found in the farmhouse; one room schools, a wagon shop, which grew too big for its Main St location, so moved to Clinton St.; eventually it was sold to Kemp Manure Spreader Factory from Syracuse., RR came through in 1869, we had horse drawn stages to get to Owego, Brown's Settlement.

A large tannery grew up around our business center, hiring many of our local people. It lasted until 1898.

Immigrants moved in – the Irish to work in the tannery, the Polish to farm, after reading glowing reports in a Polish language magazine.

Eventually, traffic became so heavy!!!!!!! that the town fathers decided we needed a traffic light.

An acetylene powered one was placed at the corner of Main and Water Sts., (no electricity yet) a little off center, so the new fangled cars had to slow down to make the turn. One day a car spooked a horse and it took off, coming north, with someone ahead of it clearing the way, and it ran over the traffic light and into the bank! Only the horse was injured, but not badly.

And so we grew, until a 1910 newspaper article says we have 4 large general stores, 1 furniture store, 1 shoe shop, 2 millinery shops, 2 clothing stores, 2 hardware's, 2 meat markets, 2 bakeries, a jewelry shop, 2 drug stores and 2 farm implement shops.

LIGHTS ANYONE?

Gilbert Purple tells us in his book Village of Newark Valley as we remember it 1885-1937, for a number of years previous to 1912, the greater part of the business places of Newark Valley, along with the Congregational Church were lighted with acetylene. By 1913, the plant had become so nearly worn out that only 2 or 3 places and the church were using it. (The new traffic light at the corner of Main and Water also used acetylene, before it was run over by a runaway horse!).

In April of 1912, a proposal for a new acetylene plant was defeated by a vote of 87 to 83. By 1913, the Businessmen's Association decided to start another campaign to spend \$13,000 for an Electric Lighting System for the village. The proposal passed 107-63. There were very few interruptions for 10 years from 1918 to 1925. There were many requests for more power. Not long after this, Chesebrough Whitman began operations here. The amount of electricity used in the town was many times what the local plant could have produced.

Thanks to several people, we now have an original street light (c1912) to add to our collection.

The base of the streetlight was given to Clark Smith many years ago. After his passing, Ray Shaver acquired it – years passed and Ray had an occasion to look at some of Bob Connelly's treasures. He discovered the glass bulb needed to restore the light, and now has assembled it and placed it in the Town Historian's "Library Room. Thanks for doing such a great job, Ray.

The Historian's Office has had a busy few months. We participated in the annual Summerfest Parade (formerly Newark Valley Days), the rally of Chevy 6 cylinder car owners, worked with Jim Raftis with his WW I display at the VFW in Owego, Veterans' Day Dinner, Apple Fest and created a Rollie Noble Flag display. In between, several families have asked for help in tracing their ancestor's homes and history. One of our volunteers served as a museum guide during the event, and presented information on needlework typically done on a farmstead in the early 1800s.

We are still missing the following NVHS yearbooks:

1962	1983	1997	2012
1963	1985	1998	2013
1978	1988	2001	2016
1980	1991	2002	2017
1981	1996	2004	2018

Your donation will help fill in the collections of the Historian's Office, the Alumni Association, NV High School, and the Tappan-Spaulding Library.

Shirley Callahan, Historian

Ginny Mullen, Volunteer Historian

Marty Schneider, Volunteer Historian



Newark Valley Fire Station
on
December 15th,
8-11 am.

DOG DATA

Winter Healthy Dog Tips

- **Outdoor Sheltering** - A doghouse should be 2" from the ground, water-proof and size appropriate - the dog needs to be able to stand up, lie down and stretch out without touching the sides or roof but not too large that it can't retain its own body heat. Please be sure to have a windbreaker on the entrance during the winter months. It is recommended to utilize wood homes versus plastic homes as it is more weather resistance as well as straw or wood shavings since blankets and beddings tend to hold the moisture which decreases a dog's body temperature.
- **Food & Water** - Access to water should always be provided as well as adequate food - dogs will need more calories in the winter to accommodate for their increased need for body heat.
- **Ice** - Keep the hair trimmed between their paws to reduce the risk of ice retention which increases their risk for frostbite and hypothermia.

Salt - It's recommended to keep the dog off the sidewalks, driveways and roads whenever possible where salt is utilized to melt ice – preferably walking them on the grass or snow to prevent chemical burns to their paws. These toxic chemicals can be ingested by the dogs licking their paws – prevention is achieved by wiping the dog's paws when coming back inside.

LOST/FOUND DOGS - please immediately contact the Newark Valley Dog Control Officer @ (607) 642-3287 for any potential sightings and sharing information. Keep in mind that most individuals that retrieve a lost dog or are searching for theirs which has become lost will contact the Dog Control Officer - so let's bring these dogs home quickly & safely. AND please affix their ID tag to their collar for identification as well, as it is mandated by the Newark Valley Town Local Law.

Happy Holidays to All The Fur Babies Out There & Their Families!!

Denise Liske – Dog Control Officer

CODE COMMENTS

Holiday Fire Safety: As we approach the holiday season, many of us use products that increase the likelihood of an increased fire threat. I hope that all the citizens of Newark Valley will just take a moment to mentally inventory the seasonal items we have pulled out of the attic and say to yourself, "have I done all I can to use this as safe as possible?" Of course, nobody uses candles or Christmas Trees with any bad intent, but with the rush of family coming and going, meals to prepare etc., we might miss something. So, take a moment to review. Here is an example of a holiday error that happens all too often: Stringing too many light strings in a row. Trust me, if the manufacturer says it will take three strings in a row, they mean it, not four. They will not make the wire extra thick out of the kindness of their heart. It also means that the wire will take 3 strings of their lights not others, so mixing brands can be dangerous.

Home Power Generators: It is getting popular to have an emergency generator of some type available when the power goes out. I have one available at my house. I use mine to give me power for my furnace, lights, and my refrigerator-freezer. In a recent NYS DOS tech. bulletin, we are reminded that NFPA 70 of the NEC states: a sign shall be placed at the service-entrance equipment indicating type and location of "on-site legally required standby power sources, and optional standby power sources." When firemen come to your home to stop a fire, one of the first things they do is disconnect the power to the pole. Water and electricity do not mix. We do not want our firemen to think the power is cut when the home is still electrified by a generator. This is very dangerous for the firemen. If we have a generator installed, let us all follow the code and support the safety of our firemen by placing a sign on our home as required by NFPA 70.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday
Tom Larson, CEO/FIRE MARSHAL

Officials cont.

Town Historian -
Shirley Callahan
Volunteer Historians -
Joan Shaver
Ginny Mullen
Marty Schneider
Nellie Snapp
Gwen Stephens
Janet Frieman
JeanEllen Parmalee
642-8705 – Office
642-5541 – Ginny

Town Clerk - Barb Mock
Tax Collector - Wanda
Grover
642-8746

Assessor - Douglas Barton
642-8666

These are your local officials. We are all here to serve the needs of the Taxpayers. Please don't hesitate to call us for help or to offer suggestions to improve "Your" local government.

Newark Valley News
Town of Newark Valley
109 Whig Street
Newark Valley, NY 13811

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Removal of Spring/Summer Decorations at the Cemetery

The Board of Trustees of Hope Cemetery asks that you please remove Spring and Summer decorations from the cemetery no later than Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018.

This includes artificial flowers/plants that are faded, worn, and damaged as well as potted plants that are no longer living and any broken pots or ornaments. Anything that meets this criteria and is left will be removed and disposed of.

Thank you for your help in keeping our cemetery looking nice!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Town Board Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM.

Town Planning Board Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Town Court: 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7PM. 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6PM.

Town Clerk: Monday thru Thursday 10 AM to 1 PM. Closed Fridays. .

Town Assessor: Mondays 2 to 5 PM

Town Hall Receptionist: Monday through Friday 10 AM to 1 PM.