

September 2014 Issue

GROVELAND NEWSLETTER by, Supervisor
WILLIAM E. CARMAN aka "Bill"

Where did the summer go! Kids are back in school – hope everyone got their summer trips in with quality family time. The buses are out an about, please keep a watch for those flashing yellow and red bus lights.

Wow, with school back in session how about those mosquitoes! Just in case you thought they are just in the station area-they are not; of course the Keshequa Creek runs through there and may harbor a few extras. I have contacted the Livingston County Health Department to be sure they are monitoring our area for West Nile Virus and any other new diseases the mosquitoes are carrying these days. I am happy to report Department of Health (DOH) is monitoring and stated there are no signs of West Nile in our area. However with no reported cases I would consider protecting yourselves with the appropriate clothing and spray. We all need to be diligent in making sure we prevent stagnate water on our properties; such as bird baths, old tires, garbage cans to name a few. The NYSEC takes the lead in mosquito control and can learn more by going to their website link at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8532

As I mentioned in May we worked on the town budget early and with good reasons as we dissected deep in the town finances we are poorer than originally thought with already limited services. We are plagued with the state and federal mandates that squeeze the tax cap to benefit them and not the local jurisdictions to serve its community. Groveland has little to no commercial tax base with the exception of the American Salt Mine and we are so grateful for them, but other than that we have minimal ability to share the tax burden. Under the Town Board you will read more details of the proposed budget and welcome you to come to the pubic hearing to see where we are heading and why and open to hear any ideas to what we have viewed that may have missed. I don't see

a way to stay under the tax cap!

Town Board: The Tentative Budget was presented to the Councilman after a few months of budget workshops with a .82 increase in the tax rate. Yes it seems extreme with being under last year's tax rate. You ask what is wrong with us! I said the same thing! Which is why I encourage all to come and attend the public hearing; we will have boards set up at the town hall to let everyone see what we see. For those who want to know ahead of time, I will do my best to explain some of the factors.

- A recap of why we will be at least \$100,000 in the hole going into the 2015 budget process. In 2014 \$75,000 of surplus monies was spent, a truck was purchased and \$25,000 loss in Multi Motto along with a decline in revenues, this puts us if we had the \$100,000 only able to spend \$8,000 to stay under tax cap; so with the health insurance and contract raises that eats the \$8,000 up and puts us at least \$125,000 in the hole for the 2015 budget process.
- The NYS Comptroller suggests we should hold 10% of our budget in surplus and our Accountant Tom Baldwin recommends we hold a minimum of \$100,000 in Highway Funds Surplus and \$60,000 in General Fund Surplus – the Tentative Budget I presented shows us NOT using any surplus and balances projected to be at \$12,327 in Highway Fund and \$88,534 in General Fund. The budget was accepted by the board and moved as the Preliminary Budget.
- With the new reevaluation of assessments this year we added \$7 million to our assessments; and you ask why does \$7million not lower our tax rate, good question? The short answer is we would have needed an increase of \$46 million in our assessments to come close to being under the 2% tax cap.
- To lower the proposed budget we would have to cut \$10,000 in spending to even

make a .07 cent decrease in the tax rate (1.89%) or \$30,000 cut to get to a .62 per thousand tax rate.

- End result of this budget no matter how we can slice it, we will be over tax cap! We as a board cannot find \$100,000+ in the budget to come close to being under the tax cap.

Town Clerk: From the office of Town Clerk, Sandra Bean: Despite the torrential rain during the community picnic it was a nice get together for the 140 folks that did attend. The food, music and company were wonderful.

Rifle regulations have gotten approval in our county this year; be safe as those bullets travel a little further than a regular shot gun.

Crossbow is open this year as well, but regulations look like you may need to carry a muzzleloader license in order to hunt with the Crossbow.

NYSDEC has opened the hunting sales and DMP's (doe management permits) are available up to October 1, 2014. Those of you who hold a lifetime license should have gotten their camouflage color license in the mail and when you go to get your DMP's don't be alarmed if you get yellow color tags. The new software this year is finally working but the hardware is not so much – the gloss on the new camouflage paper is giving the new printers a run for their money. The NYSDEC had to allow the agents to utilize last years yellow paper temporarily until they can convert the new paper with the printer. By next year hunting season all the kinks should be resolved.

Town Hall: The Town Clerk and I attended Citizens Preparedness Corps training by NYS Army Corp. Stop by the Town Hall to see the basic necessities and how they easily fit in a backpack.

Severe storms are the new normal, the class was more than informative but a huge eye opener to actual things that we all take for granted and not preparing for possible disasters.

We certainly have had our share of rain and ice storms over the years. I learned of a website that I encourage each person to go to www.nyalert.gov to register your cell phone, land line or even emails for any weather, travel alerts as our county emergency management office utilizes and would go through. I want you to know as a town we do have plans in place for emergencies but after attending this class we will take a closer look and be sure we have included pet evacuations plans and list shelters for both human and animals within our plans.

Have you had a family discussion on where they should go or where to meet if such an event would happen? Make a family plan: Prepare, Plan-Respond and Recover! (I have created a full checklist for you and attached at the end of this newsletter for your personal use.

Town Court: Stephanie gave birth to a boy named Malcolm. We wish her enjoyment while on her maternity leave with her bundle of joy!

From the office of our court clerks: So have you ever gotten a traffic ticket and wondered what the process is? In most instances the driver will ask the officer what to expect; they usually give a general answer but may not know each courts policies as there are too many to try and remember. NYS Office of Court Administration and the NYS Comptroller's office regulates the filing process of a ticket but not the procedures each jurisdiction has to follow; therefore it is suggested to always call the court the ticket falls within to learn of their process as what works for one court does not always work for another. Drive safe and respect the law!

Historian: - Hello again from Phyllis Dreywood – If you could choose, what one item would best represent Groveland's Contribution to the history or this county? And what story would it tell?

This is the challenge that Anna Kowalski; Director of the Livingston County Historical Museum, has posed to the varied communities which would make up our county. Anna is in the early stages of developing a display that is

scheduled to open in the spring 2015 to be called "Our Towns the History of Livingston County in 25 Objects."

Groveland rich historical heritage gives us much good material to draw from, but what to choose? Will it be the Sullivan Campaign and the chain events which shifted migration into the Genesee Valley into high gear? Would it be the settlement of the Shakers, or later, the Revolutionary idea that epilepsy was a treatable condition, first practiced in the US at the Craig Colony at Sonyea?

I would love your input, please contact me with your ideas or suggestions about what item, and why would best represent this Town! You can email me at historian@grovelandny.org or call me at 585-243-0106.

Assessor: From the Office of Assessor Tammy Baker: It is that time of year again to be thinking of exemptions. **I will be mailing out renewal forms.** The Senior Citizens exemption, the Enhanced STAR Exemption and the Agricultural Exemption must be applied for every year, those that have signed up for IVP (Income Verification Program), through the Enhanced STAR program do not need to reapply. These forms **must** be returned to the Assessor's office no later than **March 1, 2015**. For any one that may be turning 65 in the calendar year of 2015 (ex. if you turn 65 in September 2015) **please** come in and see me prior to March 1, 2015. This is to see if you may qualify for the enhanced STAR, I will need proof of age and proof of income, the income must be 2013 income and the adjusted gross income must be below \$83,300. For those that have not already applied for the BASIC STAR Exemption (under 65 years of age, income under \$500,000) you must apply for this exemption by March 1 as well.

My office hours in Groveland is Thursday's from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and I am also available in the Genesee Town office Located at 4630 Millennium Drive, Genesee, NY 14454; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Ambuscade Park: Also known as Boyd & Parker Park on the NYS Historic Registry List.

Schedule for Park grant for a New Pavilion: Well the bureaucracy is still working strong on this project: we have finally gotten approval on the design of the building and now working on having a well and septic system designed and installed. We apologize but the Park will not be useable the remainder of the year during construction.

I do want to give a huge thank you to Bill Devine and John Driscoll for all their hard work and constant reviews of the plans and their accessibility as this project would not be this far without them.

Lake View Cemetery: No new news to report here:

If anyone is interested in purchasing a plot, contact Snyder Services @ 335-9820. They provide a wonderful service to the town and are very knowledgeable of the available plots.

Groveland Fire Department: The town board was presented with the Fire Departments proposed 2015 budget. As we all appreciate their hard work as they serve us well, but with the state and federal mandates we as a town are shocked with the cost of such equipment. I have asked the Fire Department to put a letter together on their costs to help educate us all. I have enclosed at the end of the newsletter their input. As part of the boards financial decision making we did not support their entire request for budgetary reasons; but I truly believe with good planning schedules they will make plans to prepare themselves for a better future and we will all learn more about the day to day operations. (See attached marked Fire Department letter)

Groveland Highway Department: From the office of Highway Superintendent Greg Adamson: We worked jointly with the Town of Genesee on Crossett Road paving using crushed millings that we received at no charge from the NYS DOT.

We chip sealed 4 miles of blacktop roads, changed several crossover and driveway pipes, worked several weeks for Livingston County highway to meet our revenues for budget. We finished some of our FEMA projects and continuing to work on the others while the

weather allows it. It will take months before we see the reimbursement of FEMA work.

Conesus Lake: Have you seen the sticker ConesUS Lake? Well it represents a cohesive set of actions designed to educate watershed residents on the impact they have on the lake's water quality, and to promote lake-friendly residential best practices. Through these actions and programs, we hope to assist and inspire all watershed residents to become proactive stewards of the future health of our lake. Get your sticker by going to their website and for all their updated Lake information by viewing the Conesus Lake Association - Laker News @ www.conesuslake.org

Points of Interest & County Level:

- The next election is the General Election on November 4th with all polling sites open 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Livingston County has funding available for single family home owners. For more or information, contact Bishop Sheen Housing @ 585-657-4114, this can include those who are experiencing leaking roofs, septic problem or even dangerous electric can apply. (must meet income eligibility)
- I want to wish Louise Hainsworth a belated 99th birthday that was June 10th. I look forward to visiting you on your 100th birthday.
- The Livingston County Sheriff's Office now has a drug collection unit at the main entrance to the Sheriff's Office located at 4 Court Street in Geneseo, NY. The drug collection unit provides a safe, discreet, and environmentally responsible way for citizens to safely turn in excess and unwanted prescription drugs. Anyone can drop off 7 days a week 24 hours a day.
- We hear the Correctional Facility Water project is a smidge closer to being a go; we have blank petition forms at the Town Clerk's office for those who would like to be considered for the water line to be expanded to their area.

- Thank you to each department for providing updates for this newsletter.
- Any time you need town information check out our town website on a regular basis by logging onto www.grovelandny.org

It may be until January before my next newsletter so until then don't forget exercise your right to vote in the upcoming November Election! Until the next time, be well, and be safe!

Sincerely,
Bill

Steps to take to create a household emergency plan

Step 1: Make A Plan

- Meet with your family members and discuss the dangers of possible emergency events including fire, severe weather, hazardous spills, and terrorism.
- Discuss how you and your family will respond to each possible emergency. Know how to contact all family members at all times. Think 24/7 and 365.
- Discuss what to do in case of power outages or personal injuries
- Draw a floor plan of your home. If possible, mark two escape routes from each room.
- Select two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home (a real possibility during the day when most adults are at work and children are at school).
- Identify an out-of-town friend or relative as your "emergency family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Make sure all family members have the correct phone number. It is often easier to call out-of-town during an emergency than within the affected area.
- Post emergency contact numbers near all telephones. Include local police, fire and health departments, poison control, your children's schools, doctors, child/senior care providers and insurance agents.
- Make sure everyone knows how and when to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency medical services phone number.
- Install safety features in your home such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Inspect your home for potential hazards - and correct them.
- Have your family learn basic safety and first aid measures.
- Keep family records in a waterproof and fireproof safe.
- Have emergency supplies on hand.
- Teach adults how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches. If for any reason you do turn off natural gas service to your home, call your natural gas utility to restore service. DO NOT attempt to restore gas service yourself.
- Make arrangements for your pets. Most shelters do not allow pets. Prior to an emergency, contact your county or local emergency management office and ask them where you could leave your pet. Have ID, collar, leash and proof of vaccination for all pets. Have current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- **PRACTICE the Plan!**

Step 2: Prepare an Emergency Kit

Often during an emergency, electricity, water, heat, air conditioning or telephone service may not work. All New Yorkers should have some basic supplies on hand in order for a family to survive if an emergency occurs. The emergency supply kit should be robust and contain enough food, water, medications and other consumables to last seven to ten days. Following is a list of basic items (based on a family of four to survive for seven to ten days) that every emergency supply kit should include.

Food and Water

- Bottled water - one gallon per person per day, collapsible, sterile water container.
- Ready-to-eat canned foods - vegetables, fruits, beans, meat, fish, poultry, pasta, soup, juice.
- Milk - powdered, canned or shelf-stable brick pack.
- High energy foods - peanut butter, jelly, nuts, dried meat (for example, jerky), granola, trail mix, energy bars.
- Staples - sugar, salt, pepper, instant coffee, tea bags, cocoa.

- Candy - chocolate bars, hard candy.
- Instant and small children's needs - baby food, formula, disposable diapers.
- Specialty food - for elderly or people on special diets.
- Pet food (if needed).

Health and Hygiene Supplies

- Prescription medication - at least one week's supply.
- Toilet paper.
- Pre-moistened hand wipes - pre-moistened baby wipes.
- Hand sanitizer
- Toiletries - toothpaste, deodorant.
- Feminine hygiene supplies.
- A list of family physicians, important medical information, and the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.

Personal Supplies

- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes for each family member. Sleeping bags, bedding or blankets for each family member.
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and solution (be sure to check expiration dates).
- Document Holder with identification, credit cards/traveler's checks/cash, and photocopies of important family documents including home insurance information.

Household Supplies and Equipment

- One gallon liquid chlorine bleach.
- Battery-powered radio or TV.
- Flashlights - one for each room of the house.
- Lantern LED
- Glow sticks
- Extra fresh batteries for radio, TV, lantern and flashlights.
- Whistle
- Gasoline (if you plan to use a generator outdoors).
- Propane fuel (if you plan to use a grill or camp stove outdoors).
- Charcoal (if you plan to use a barbecue grill outdoors).
- Disposable tableware, including paper towels and napkins.
- Manual can opener.
- Plastic bags - zip sealing, garbage.
- Fire extinguisher (small canister A-B-C type).
- Food thermometer - able to measure temperature from 0 to 220 degrees Fahrenheit.

Tools

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rope (for rescue, tow, tying down) • Shovel • Hammer and nails • Multi-Tool with pliers • 4 in 1 Emergency Tool (w/ gas & water shut off) • Reflective Vests • Work gloves • Mop • Paper towels • Rags (to clean with) • Rubber gloves • Scrub brush/sponge • Garbage bags with ties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye Goggles • Utility Tape • Electrical tape • Clean-up supplies • Broom • Buckets (5 gal min, with lids) • N-95 particulate masks • Disinfecting spray |
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Emergency First Aid Kit

Have these supplies on hand: First aid manual, assortment of sterile gauze pads and adhesive bandages, medical tape, ace bandage, CPR mask, Quik Clot, over-the-counter drugs (aspirin, antidiarrheal medications, and activated charcoal), antiseptic ointment, soap, nitrile gloves, SAM splint, oropharyngeal airways set, thermometer, tweezers and needles, and tongue depressors.

Step 3: Be Aware

It is important to be aware of what hazards may impact your community. New Yorkers have many ways to be aware and stay informed of what is happening in their community. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

In addition to getting emergency information and updates through radio and television news, you can sign up for [NY-ALERT](#) to receive emergency information via the web, cell phone, email, and other technologies. (www.nyalert.gov)

Step 4: Get Involved

Many of the tips on the Aware Prepare page are designed to help you and your household. Here's what you can do to help your community recover from all kinds of emergencies.

Become A Volunteer

- It is best to affiliate with a recognized disaster volunteer organization such as the [American Red Cross](#), [New York Cares](#) or [The Salvation Army](#) or join [CERT](#) *before* a disaster happens. Getting involved with a disaster volunteer organization before an emergency will increase your ability to help when help is needed.
- After a disaster, before going directly to volunteer at a relief organization, hospital or a disaster site, wait for instructions from local officials, or check with specific organizations.
- Be patient. In the immediate disaster response period there are often many people waiting to volunteer. There may be a greater need for volunteers during the recovery period, weeks and months after disaster strikes.
- To learn about additional disaster preparedness volunteer opportunities, see the [Citizen Corps](#) information page.

Be sure to visit the [New Yorkers Volunteer](#) website to find volunteer opportunities near you!

The Groveland Volunteer Fire Department is requesting a \$30,000 increase to the annual fire protection contract with the Town of Groveland to help us cover our operating expenses. The cost of running the fire department continues to go up every year and our previous town contracts have failed to cover our operating expenses in the past by about \$20,000. Of the \$30,000 we plan to allocate \$10,000 to defraying the cost of our current operating expenses. We feel this increase is necessary to help us continue to meet the needs of the town. Due to current State and National Fire Protection Agency regulations the Department is forced to spend large amounts of money annually to maintain compliance and safety for our members responding to residents' emergencies. For example, outfitting a firefighter in turn-out gear cost \$3,000, and that gear needs to be replaced every 10 years to prevent injuries from the material breaking down. The annual cost of maintaining and updating our equipment to meet these standards is increasing at a rate greater than the increase given to us in our current contract.

The additional \$20,000 would be placed in our Truck Replacement Fund. The average cost of replacing a fire truck is \$500,000 to meet the new safety and emissions standards required. The NFPA standards recommend replacing fire trucks after 15 years of service, and removing them from front line service after 20 years of service. Currently the Department only deposits \$20,000 of the annual contract for the Truck Replacement Fund which does not provide enough savings to replace our fire apparatus on this schedule. With the requested increase, we will save \$40,000 a year, making replacing our trucks on schedule a more realistic goal. Our pumpers were manufactured in 2001 and 2008, and the Department will have to look at replacing our trucks starting in 2016. Under the current contract replacing this truck would be impossible and cause additional financial strain on our budget.

The \$30,000 increase to the town contract would result in an increase in the town fire tax \$0.21 per \$1,000 of property value assessed. For a resident with \$100,000 of assessed property, the fire tax would be \$70 this year. To further decrease this tax burden the Town Board can look at transferring the Town's ambulance contract from Geneseo Fire Department to the County's EMS. Currently the Town spends \$7,250 of the money collected for the Town Fire Tax to cover the ambulance contract. The County can cover this contract for no expense to the Town. If the money allocated from the Fire Tax for ambulance service was applied to the requested increase, Groveland Town fire tax would only increase about \$0.16 this year. Please come review our financial breakdowns and budget for this year at the Town Hall, and contact the Fire Department with any questions. Also contact your Town Council Members to voice any comments and support for the Fire Department. It has been a pleasure serving the Town of Groveland for the last 75 years, and we look forward to 75 more.