

February 2014 Issue



**1883-2013**

*GROVELAND NEWSLETTER* by,  
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*SUPERVISOR*

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Happy New Year!

It has been a cold winter so far, but hope all the holidays with family and friends provided much warmth.

This is my first attempt at providing you with town information and hope to make it as informative as possible. I am hoping to publish at least 2 issues this year.

Any time you need town information check out our town website on a regular basis by logging onto [www.grovelandny.org](http://www.grovelandny.org)

**Town Board:** With Mr. Merrick's retirement we have a few changes. I have been appointed your Supervisor until the next general election this year and hope to serve you all well. Bill Devine has been appointed as Councilman until the next general election. John Driscoll will continue to serve as a Councilman and added serving as the Deputy to Supervisor. At the end of this letter you will find a list of all town meeting and dates. We will need to implement a computer and part-time secretary to the Supervisor in the near future as Mr. Merrick was able to utilize the county staff for much of his work.

There is a retirement party scheduled for Mr. Merrick on February 21, 2014 at the Valley Oak Inn @ Quality Inn, Tickets are \$35.00 /person; for more information contact Sandy Bean @ 243-1750 or Greg @ 739-0696.

NYS Comptroller's office has done a full audit on our town; we await their final comments to see how we did. Some of the verbal findings have already been implemented in our January Organizational meeting. As far as we have been verbally informed, we have operated fairly well and no signs of inappropriate use of funds. In the next few weeks we shall all know the findings.

**Town Clerk:** It is back to the busy tax collection season; along with a new NYS DECALS hunting & fishing system. The Tax bills had a newer look to them this year as we do utilize a free county software program. They are correcting some of the glitches for next year such as which portion to mail back. The new DECALS is up and running and definitely takes a lot longer to process a license. Go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95007.html> to see the new rates. Don't forget there are cookbooks & Sullivan Campaign books left to buy at the Town Clerk's office @ \$15.00 each.

Geneseo Transfers Station has new prices effective January 2014.

The residency/recycling pass is \$25.00. Coupon booklets are \$20.00 for 20 coupons and \$40.00 for 40 coupons. The increase is mainly to the cost of hauling and the need for an additional compactor. All previous purchased denomination coupons are valid to be used.

**Town Hall:** Congressman Chris Collins has scheduled a visit at the town hall on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 3:30 p.m. for anyone interested in visiting with him or a representative of his office.

**Town Court:** Justice's Jenean Love and David Livingston welcomed 2 new court clerks this year with Stephanie Schweitzer and Terri Rider. Kathy Watkins has taken a job with the Unified Court System. The new staff has transitioned well thus far.

**Historian:** Hello from your Historian, Phyllis Dreywood! I'd like to let you all know of three projects underway and that I would welcome your input. 2013 was an eventful year as our town celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am

currently compiling a “Groveland 2013 in Review” report which will include these memorable events. I would also like to include a section that acknowledges those happenings most memorable to *you*, as a resident of our fair town. Did your family grow with a birth or have a child enter service in the military? Were you especially affected by any local, state or national news or political decision of this past year? The second project is a compilation of recorded interviews with veterans of WWII. I have some volunteers for this project but would welcome more. If you know a veteran either born in Groveland, or currently living here, which would be willing to be interviewed, please let me know. The third project is the establishment of a Groveland Historical Society. Preliminary feedback suggests the most interest lies with local history or family genealogy. The first goal of the society is to establish an online presence, a dedicated website, which will serve as a means for members to stay connected and, eventually, a repository of records and resources accessible to all. We face our first challenge of raising the \$400 federal filing fee for 501(c) 3 non-profit status, which is necessary to access free website hosting services. If you would like to contribute to any of these projects, or have more information, please contact me through email [historian@grovelandny.org](mailto:historian@grovelandny.org) or leave a message on my home phone 243-0106.

**Assessor:** Our Assessor is busy doing field work with the countywide reassessment year. All property owners will receive an impact notice in March telling them what their Assessed Value is going to be. If you are in disagreement with the Assessed Value the Assessor will be holding informal hearings in March and you can schedule an appointment to meet with her. There will be a book with a list of all the sales for you to review and use your own comparables if you feel that the value you were given is inaccurate. Then if you still disagree with your assessment you have the opportunity to grieve with the Grievance board in May on May 29, 2014 you must fill out the form RP524 prior to Grievance, which is

located on our town website under Assessor Department.

**Ambuscade Park:** Also known as Boyd & Parker Park on the NYS Historic Registry List. Schedule for Park grant for a New Pavilion:

- Receipt of RFP responses – March 31, 2014
- Candidates selected for interview – April 3, 2014
- Interviews completed – April 7, 2014
- Consultant selected – April 10, 2014
- Design development – May 2014
- Construction/contract documents completed – July 2014
- Bids received – August 2014
- Contract awarded – September/October 2014
- Construction begins – October/November 2014
- Construction completed – May 2015

\* Please note that these dates represent targets rather than deadlines.

**Lake View Cemetery:** This is the year we are hoping to develop a section of land to have more options for plot sales. We are waiting for the court system to approve the use of town secured funds.

Our Highway Superintendent, Greg oversees the sales and burials at Lake View Cemetery but 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:** Fire Chief, Steve Teeter says their election for department positions is coming up in March. The department is always in need of volunteer members so stop down and see how you can join the team.

The Department is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Find us and like us our Facebook page under Groveland Volunteer Fire Department to get updated information.

Don't forget about the pancake breakfasts as there are only 2 left; February 9<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Groveland Highway Department:** Hello from Highway Superintendent, Greg Adamson. He writes: As we have been experiencing a cold, windy and snowy winter which I think hasn't been like this since the early 1980's. We have received a few calls claiming "there has not been a snow plow on my road all day" when in fact the roads had already been done 4 or 5 times. Please keep in mind when it is snowing heavy or the wind is blowing that it is nearly impossible to keep roads clear at all times. When temperatures are low the effect of the road salt is minimal and really worsens the conditions and is not recommended to use in extreme cold conditions.

For your safety and well being during inclement weather, you should reduce your speed and allow adequate time to drive according to the highway conditions. If your vehicle becomes stranded, contact the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at 243-7100 or 911.

Snow Removal Law: Section 1219 of the NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law and Section 214 of the NYS Highway Law specifically prohibits the placing or leaving of snow, ice or other substances upon any highway which includes pavement, shoulders and ditches. Any vehicle left on the side of any road may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Please keep in mind that if you deposit snow into a road and a motor vehicle accident occurs because of the deposited snow, that you the property owner becomes liable for the cause of the accident.

Seasonal Use Roads in Groveland consists of 7 portions of the following Roads: Mill Gully, Hunt Hill, David Gray Hill, Barber Hill, Wise, Lattimer and Bennett Hill of which the Town does not plow or maintain these portions of these roadways during the winter season, November 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Travel usage of these posted roads during the winter season is prohibited and any usage of these roads will be at the drivers risk and may not be covered by users auto insurance.

Mailbox damage during snow storms in course of plowing or from the force of snow being thrown by plows. If such damage is indeed caused by snow removal, it is not intentional but is an unfortunate consequence of snow removal. As far as the particular agencies replacing damaged mailboxes, it must be pointed out that there is no statutory or legal authority which grants a property owner of resident along a public highway any right to place a mailbox in a highway right-of-way. Regretfully to say, that a mailbox is on town, county or state right away is a courtesy to the postal service. Thus, when the necessity of keeping open conflicts with the individuals' reception of the mail, the latter must stand aside; the owner might even be compelled to remove the box under Highway Law Section 319. From past experience, we have found that plastic mailboxes do not withstand the abuse of snow from plows hitting them are not recommended.

I am in the process of planning summer road projects. However, it is a bit premature do to until we determine what damage the winter has done and where, which we may not be able to final plans until end of March or early April - if we have any money left over with all the usage of fuel from snow plowing! Be Safe.

**Conesus Lake:** Get all the updated Lake information by viewing the Conesus Lake Association - Laker News @ [www.conesuslake.org](http://www.conesuslake.org)

**Points of Interest & County Level:**

- No new information on the Water project to the Correctional Facility
- The Desalination Plant in Leicester remains operating with pumping out less
- Thank you to each department for providing updates for this newsletter.

*William E. Carman aka Bill*