

Bi-monthly Report from the Supervisor – July/August 2006

## **Speed Zone, Pandemic, Budget, Art, and Audit – A Busy Two Months**

New York State Department of Transportation has responded to the Town Board's resolution 21-2006 which requested a lower speed limit on Picketts Corners Road. The Department denied the request for a permanently lowered speed limit, but has established a school zone instead. **The county will erect signs that will create a 30 mile per hour zone between the hours of 7:00 -9:00 a.m. and between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** on a half mile length of the road in front of the schools.

The board also passed a resolution stating that the National Incident Management System will be used for all incident management in the Town of Saranac. Basically, the resolution says that the town will attend to public safety in a manner that is nationally recognized.

I attended an Influenza Pandemic Summit in Plattsburgh. If (experts say when) an influenza outbreak hits the United States, know that we here in Town Hall will be prepared to do our part to help the town residents through the period. Also, it will be important for individual citizens to care for themselves in many ways. We have a pamphlet available -- Pandemic Influenza Planning: A Guide for Individuals and Families. **If you would like a copy of this 18-page guide, please stop in at Town Hall.**

I have received many complaints about ATV's zooming willy-nilly on town roads, creating offensive noise at all hours of the day, and disregarding the safety of fellow citizens by recklessly driving their vehicles. Although some may consider this an "inalienable right" others note this disregard for the law as selfish and offensive to the community conscience. Beyond the idea of public courtesy, however, it is important to know that **operating an ATV on our public highways is illegal.**

Student artwork is being displayed in town hall. In mid-July Saranac High School art teacher Noreen Sadue, brought nine pieces of student art work and hung them in the town hall. From charcoal to water colors to computer design to photographs, the meeting room now displays student talent in a public place other than in their home school and **our Town Hall meeting room is decorated with a local flair and a community flavor.** The artwork will be shown until September 8<sup>th</sup> and then moved to the community outreach/ court building. Then, during September and October, local artist Joseph Crouse will exhibit his acrylics. That is scheduled to be followed by another session of student work.

**I have started working on the budget for 2007.** I have asked department heads for their input so I can work up a tentative budget. I have asked the water boards of all three water districts to meet and discuss their past expenses and their future needs.

**We had an audit done on the town's finances** and the town is in sound condition. One negative comment that caused an adverse opinion was based on a new state law which requires that all towns report the value of its infrastructure assets such as roads, bridges, water facilities, and other fixed assets at historical cost. While it's estimated that 75% of the towns have not followed the rules set down in GASB34 – the new law – Saranac will try to meet the stipulations in the future with in-house resources, although other small towns have reported having to hire outside consultants.

As I drive around town and hear the crickets tell us that summer is taking its leave, I continue to appreciate the scenic beauty of Saranac and continue to enjoy working with the genuine people who live here.