

Spring Projects – Some Done, Some Lined Up

Businesses in town, **we ask for your help** on two projects. We have plans to put together a **“Welcome Packet”** for people who are new to Saranac. We would like to include a list of businesses in town so that the newcomers will be aware of you. The other project is **updating our website** to include the same information. If you would like to be mentioned on this list of local businesses, please send me the following: Business name, address, contact person, phone number, fax number, e-mail address, website address, and a description (50 words or less). See the related separate article.

For the first time in about seven years, we (well, actually secretary/bookkeeper Patti LaMora – not me) **updated our mailing lists for the Town Crier** for the 12918, 12929 and 12952 zip codes (12981 is sent to “box holder”). We hope all 1,837 of them are accurate. If you know of a problem, please contact us.

A quick reminder that **the Nutrition Program for the Elderly provides a tasty and nourishing meal in Town Hall** every Wednesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. This wholesome meal is a bargain at \$2.25. Younger folks can also join in the socialization and easy conversation for \$5.00 a meal (still a bargain – dessert is included!). Co-site Directors Charlotte Patnode and Betty Tedford are eager to serve you. The healthful meal is open to all. As an added bonus to the meal on the first Thursday of the month, the RSVP Kitchen Band plays for your enjoyment. And on the third Thursday, you can have RN Pat Goslin take your blood pressure.

Glen Hamel, buildings and grounds worker, moved a thermostat in the Court House/JCEO building and that seems to have **corrected the heating problem** we were facing over there.

A new exhibit of art work is hanging in Town Hall. Through the efforts of Noreen Sadue, high school art teacher, and the whole art staff of Saranac Central, we have twelve new pieces, all done by students in grades one through five. Please stop in and browse if you get the chance. **You’ll be amazed what the kids did with crayons and markers.**

Gerald Delaney passed away. He served the town in many roles including being a town councilman for 16 years. We are saddened by his death, and we express our condolences to his family. Gerald was widely known, well-liked and provided valued town service in so many ways.

I attended a breakfast whose featured speakers were State Senator Betty Little and Assemblywomen Janet Duprey and Theresa Sayward. Each representative spoke of the necessity to give property tax relief. Our town budget went up 3.3% this year, which, we are proud to say, rose less than the Consumer Price Index, less than most of our neighboring towns, and a lot less than the county. Nonetheless, our representatives are hearing our cries for relief and hopefully will help us and give us assistance and a reprieve from the steadily escalating property tax. At an Association of Towns meeting I also heard Governor Spitzer and US Senator Schumer speak to the same issue; they, too, are promising relief. Senator Schumer said that in 38 of the 50 states the property tax is

causing alarm. Governor Spitzer said that in the last five years property taxes in New York have risen 42% and wages have gone up 12%. This is not just a Saranac issue; it's a state and nationwide problem. We promise to continue to watch the pennies in Town Hall, but **this anxiety represents a larger unease that needs to be addressed by county, state, and national leaders, too.**

We are still working through water district issues. I've asked in the past and will forward again the invitation: if you are a water district taxpayer – Saranac, Redford, or Standish – and you would like to serve on your water district advisory board, please contact me or any councilman.

In order to serve our town's people in a more efficient manner, to join the 21st Century, and also to give the town better record keeping capabilities, we bought a computer program and two days of training for Codes Enforcement Officer Eugene Dickerman. We hope to have that system up and running by this summer.

You might have noticed that the 13 historical markers throughout the town are missing and their empty poles stand bare. Well, the markers aren't really missing. Cindy Waldron has volunteered to restore them. **After Lee Vann's crew gathered them up, Cindy and her family are currently sandblasting the signs removing the old paint right down to the metal and will soon repaint them.** The newly refurbished signs will add to the town's natural good looks.

Speaking of good looks, with spring (hopefully) right around the corner, I'll get on my soapbox for a paragraph. When the spring bug hits you and gives you that fit of renewed energy, think of doing something to improve the good looks of your home or yard. I'm not asking you to pass judgment on your neighbor's yard, just yours. Nor am I advocating you should be featured in House and Garden. Just maybe a little attention to something that you had already been thinking about doing for a while but never got to.

Robins, rakes, and maple "syrple," -- we're ready for you.