

Bi-monthly Report from the Supervisor – May/June 2007

Truck, Bridge, Plaque, DVD, Local Law, Youth Programs, and More...

Thanks for the good response from the business owners in town who have sent in your information for our now-completed Welcome Packet. There are more of you out there, though, and we hope you will mail, call, or e-mail about yourself to us so we can include you in the packet.

In order for all of those living in flood-vulnerable areas to be able to receive the optimum treatment from insurance companies and banks, we needed **to update our town law regarding flood damage management**. FEMA, DEC, and our code enforcement officer and town attorney helped us with the wording and specifics to get this important law restructured.

Our three water districts – Saranac, Redford, and Standish -- receive valuable help from New York State Rural Water Association. For a very modest amount in yearly dues, we receive significant assistance from that organization. NYRWA receives financial support from the federal government and their funding this year was in jeopardy. I wrote to Representative **McHugh who responded quickly** and told the town board that he acted not only in favor of supporting the funding for the rural water initiatives in the Federal budget but also requested increased funding.

All the Annual Water Quality Reports – Redford, Standish, and Saranac – have been either mailed or hand delivered to all customers. **They are posted on our updated website** -- which is currently still under construction but you are able to view them at www.townofsaranac.com.

The town received a DVD copy of *An Inconvenient Truth* from Pastor Pearson of the United Methodist Church. If you have heard about the movie, are curious about its contents, and have not had a chance to view it, **you may come to Town Hall and sign it out**.

Recreation Leader Brent Cringle has been busy getting the ball diamonds ready for baseball and softball as well as organizing this year's coaches and participants. Park Manager Ken Carter is working on the upcoming swimming programs.

I met with Steve Hunt, Governor Spitzer's Regional Representative, and asked him to tell the Governor of our concern for expanding broadband availability throughout the town. He said that right next to initiating statewide government reform, revitalizing the upstate economy is high on the Governor's agenda. Obviously, widespread broadband accessibility would help drive economic development. I also mentioned the increasing burden that property taxes are exerting on personal budgets.

We had to replace the old 1975 Ford Buildings and Grounds truck. We have been piecing it together for some time and last year after we performed the needed repairs we just barely squeezed out a passing inspection; it's no longer safe. We priced used pick-ups but decided to get bids on a stripped down "job truck" through competitive bidding that will have a good warranty and that will last for 25+ years.

I attended three functions recently: the public dedication of the Clinton County Airport, the fourteenth annual Senior Celebration, and the North Country Salute to Labor. I was far in the background at each function (a comfortable place to be); nonetheless, **I was proud to symbolize Saranac's support** for all three organizations.

Code Enforcement Officer Eugene Dickerman recently received a two-day training course from Business Automation Services on his new software program. The program will help him process and track building permits, certificates of occupancy, inspections, complaints, parcel history, field inspections, application status, and also help him generate reports.

I met with Steven Englehart, Executive Director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage regarding the Soper Road Bridge in Moffitsville. He gave me the name of a NYS Historic Preservation Program Analyst whom I contacted and I received a form that could start the process to see if the bridge might be designated "historic" in the eyes of the state. Since the bridge belongs to the county, I also met with Highway Superintendent Al Rascoe to ask of the county's plan for the bridge. **All of this information gathering is in anticipation of future changes, whatever and whenever they might be.** Please give me or any town board member your opinion on the bridge.

Eagle Scout Travis Sperle has added to his project at Town Hall: he erected a wrought iron fence in front of the lean-to which displays the three pieces of Redford glass slag. **We hope to have a plaque/sign to describe the contents soon.**

This time of year, even if we have to co-exist with the bothersome deer flies, we are able to take a measure of comfort in Peter Quinn's words:

Greenness to hills and the growth back bringing,
When flowers together shall stand not alone.
The sweetness of joy will lit like a flame,
And give back its colors from grey and dead;