

Town of Johnsborg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Short Takes

Occupancy Tax Group Pushes Two Tourist Positions

The Warren County Board of Supervisors Occupancy Tax Committee has approved the creation of 2 positions, funded by occupancy tax dollars, aimed at enhancing tourism in Warren County Communities.

The first position is aimed at retention of a qualified person to market the county to convention business. The second is aimed at enhancing the relationship between communities along the First Wilderness Rail Corridor by establishing complimentary, non conflicting seasonal events..

Both positions stand to benefit the Johnsborg economy by promoting more year round tourism and rendering Warren County more competitive with other destinations

Insurance Refund

Supervisor Sterling Goodspeed received a refund check in the amount of \$3600 from the NYS Insurance Reciprocal, the entity which writes the town's insurance. The refund occurred as a result of the multi-year insurance that the town is provided by the Reciprocal.

Cell Work Update

A citizen's committee is working in conjunction with town officials to attempt to establish consistent cell service in town. The project is complicated by legal requirements associated with several ideal sites within the Park as well as topographical issues. More to come. Note: Supervisor Goodspeed met on 3/11 with cell company officials in an effort to jump start the project.

Regional Support

Towns and villages across the region have passed resolutions in support of the Gore Ski Bowl Interconnect which will ultimately be presented to ORDA.

New York Times Article Highlighted Region

A publication with a larger reader base than the Town Newsletter has recently focused attention on the Greater Gore Region and North Creek in particular.

The March 13 issue of the *New York Times* carried a major travel article describing Gore Mountain as a "sleeping giant" of the Eastern ski industry. The article concluded that with the completion of the interconnect at the Ski Bowl, along with other positive changes in North Creek including the Copperfield's reopening, the giant stands ready to awake.

The article highlighted several other local businesses including BarVino, Broderick Real Estate and the Alpine Lodge, carrying pictures of Main Street and the inside of BarVino with owner Mike Bowers being interviewed. (see *Times* cont. on pg. 2)

Town Secures Lift Line Parcel

Step by step the interconnect project linking Gore to the Ski Bowl is edging toward reality.

On March 2, signed legal documents were delivered to the Warren County Clerk's Office for recording. The net impact of the documents is to convey legal title to the parcel of land running from the base of the Ski Bowl to a point of intersection with state land near the summit of the historic mountain.

The ski lift parcel roughly shadows the path of the 1941 cable t-bar which operated into the mid 1970's servicing such historic ski trails as Ridge, Oak Ridge and Hudson.

As the real estate transaction was completed the new lift, an attached triple chair lift, was expected to be delivered at Gore.

In April, the ORDA Board will meet to decide about operation of the lift. (lift line, cont. on next page)

Town Considers EMS Space Request

The Johnsborg Town Board is considering a request by the Johnsborg EMS to expand its usable space at Scout Hall by a 12 foot extension into the community space used for family events and parties. The partition would be a temporary one only providing additional EMS space until the squad locates to a new facility.

The space proposal was initially reviewed in a favorable light at a board meeting on 2/24. On 3/3 concerned citizens appeared opposing the proposal and expressing a concern that the space may eliminate public gathering capacity at Scout Hall. (EMS, cont on page 2)

Fly Like an Eagle

One welcome but unexpected guest attended the March 4th ceremonies commemorating the 75th anniversary of the ski trains. Midway through the presentation a solitary bald eagle began circling above the train platforms.

The eagle has been photographed recently in North River and at Ski Bowl Park.

Keep your eyes open for a possible sighting of this gorgeous bird.

Ball Fields

A third grant application has been filed with our congressional office in an effort to add new baseball and softball fields in Ski Bowl Park. Thanks to Kelly Nettle for her last minute efforts in assembling the grant package. Hopefully the third try will prove successful with a request for in excess of \$200,000.00 directed to the Park.

Supervisor Goodspeed has submitted documents to Warren County in an effort to access federal stimulus dollars for shovel ready projects in the Park.

CHIPS Restored?

County Supervisors who were recently briefed regarding a 43% reduction in CHIPS funding for road and capital improvements have now been advised the funds may be restored.

Governor Patterson advised recently that the CHIPS funds would be restored in his budget proposal at a meeting attended by Warren County Board of Supervisors Chairman Fred Monroe. Hopefully more confirming information will follow.

Not an Audit, But....

An auditor from the New York State Comptrollers Office recently spent several weeks in the Town reviewing town books, record keeping policies and accounting systems. The auditor conducted interviews or meetings with Supervisor Goodspeed, Highway Superintendent Dan Hitchcock, Town Clerk Bill Rawson and Town Bookkeeper Candace Lomax. While not a full audit, the risk and assessment review is intended to determine whether a more in depth procedure is called for and whether suggestions may be made. It is not expected that the auditor will be required to return for work beyond that recently performed.

April Town Board Meetings will be held on April 7 in Wevertown and April 21 at the Library.

Times, cont.

The upbeat travel article also played prominently in the Times website and concluded with ORDA President Ted Blazer's comment that "Gore is getting ready to blossom."

Blazer noted that Gore is closing in on 250,000 skier/boarder visits in its current season.

Picture Yourself in a Boat on a River

Work is continuing on the rafting take out project just over the Town of Indian Lake border on Route 28. It is still hoped that work may be done this season to render a safe rafting take out spot with adequate bus parking that does not require rafters to cross this busy stretch of highway.

Board of Elections Grant

Warren County Democratic Election Commissioner Bill Montfort recently presented the Johnsbury Town Board with a check in the amount of \$12000. The sums were the result of a grant received to upgrade parking at Noxon Hall in Wevertown to provide better parking for the building which now handles voting for all three town election districts.

ZEO/Planning Board

Town Zoning Enforcement Officer Ed Tuttle and the Town Planning Board have reached an agreement to move planning board meetings to permit Tuttle to attend while still fulfilling volunteer responsibilities to the North Creek Fire Department

Alive at 25

Warren County Supervisors have authorized County District Attorney Kate Hogan to participate in the "Alive at 25" program which requires drivers from 16-25 years of age to participate in safety programming before receiving plea disposition offers.

75th Success

A variety of events marked the highly successful 75th Anniversary celebration of the arrival of the first Ski Train in North Creek. Events included a wine and cheese reception, presentation of historic ski movies, a presentation at the train station, a big air jump competition at Little Gore capped off by a great fireworks display.

(EMS, cont)

The matter has been placed on the agenda for the Town Board meeting on March 17 with both sides expected to speak to the issue.

Supervisor Goodspeed will suggest at that meeting that no vote be taken until the board meeting on April 7 so members of the public reading this newsletter may contact town hall to express their opinions.

You can also email your comments to info@johnsburgny.com

(lift line, cont)

While ORDA and all of New York State faces significant economic challenges, the interconnect is one bright spot on a dreary landscape.

A New York State Comptroller's Report addressing the proposed interconnect lift several years ago concluded that installation of the lift will increase annual skier visits by 74,000, provide an additional revenue for the ORDA budget estimated at \$1.8 Million and add \$7.4 Million to the regional economy.