

Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Town of Johnsburg—Occupancy Tax Awards

Short Takes

Landfill Hours Expanded

Hours at the Town Landfill have been expanded effective immediately. The new hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The expanded hours are intended to provide more landfill access on weekends as many residents have requested more weekend hours.

County Rejects Sales Tax Proposal

The Warren County Board of Supervisors voted against a sales tax increase after a heated debate in the waning days of 2009, forcing the county budget shortfall to be filled by an increase in property taxes. The vote split largely on up-county vs down-county lines with up-county supervisors supporting the 1% sales tax increase as a measure to stabilize land taxes

Contractor	Funds Granted	Recipient
Town of Johnsburg	\$225	Advertising in Gore Mag.
Town of Johnsburg	\$5,500	Fire Works
Town of Johnsburg-Pride	\$800	Beautification
Town of Johnsburg	\$3000	Promotion- COC
Town of Johnsburg	3000	Snow Removal/Beautif.
Friends of Johnsburg Parks	\$450	Extravaganza
Upper Hudson Festivals	\$4000	Music by the River Series
NC Farmers Market	\$3245	Annual Farmers Market
NC Farmers Market	\$2011	NC Farmers Market Brunch
NC Business Alliance	\$5000	Shuttle Service
Hudson River Trading Co.	8668	Lights On Celebration
White Water Derby	\$1200	53rd White Water Derby
NC Depot Museum	\$1000	10th Annual Event

County Fiscal Woes Continue

While the books are barely closed on 2009, there is little doubt that fiscal 2010 may provide even greater challenges to Warren County.

The County continues to struggle with unfunded New York State mandates and threatened reductions or delays in state funding back to the counties.

The cash flow crisis is so significant that the County has been forced to borrow some \$8 million to cover expenses anticipated in the month of January alone. Further, the failure to establish a revenue source to replenish the depleted county fund balance will likely result in still further reductions to the county's credit rating, possibly to junk bond status.

(woes, cont. next page)

Park Extravaganza

The Annual Winter Extravaganza in Ski Bowl Park is scheduled for February 20, 2010. The events include 2 hours of free tubing for residents, ice sculpting, skating and many more family oriented winter activities. Refreshments will also be on hand. Come enjoy this wonderful day that celebrates the diversity and fun of the winter season.

More Short Takes

Monroe Named Chair

Chestertown Supervisor Fred Monroe was again named Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors at the Board's organizational meeting on January 5, 2010.

It's Baseball Time Again

It's not too early to start thinking about Summer Youth Baseball and Softball for the upcoming season. Organization members met January 12, 2010 to begin preparatory work for the beginning of the season in April.

Cell Stall

Efforts to establish cell service in the region are slowed due to the high level of tower visibility on the proposed site. More on cell issues in a future issue.

County Committees

The slate of Warren County legislative committees for 2010 has now been established. Supervisor Goodspeed will serve on the budget, finance, personnel, and tourism committees as well as chair the real property tax committee.

Thomas to Head Historical Society

Former town supervisor Bill Thomas has been named President of the Johnsbury Historical Society effective 1/2010.

Parks/Landfill Restructure

As a part of the budget process for fiscal year 2010, one town position was eliminated which affects how we staff the landfill, do work in the park and handle building checks. Matt Olden has been working closely with Town Hall to reschedule employees responsibilities and in certain instances move responsibilities to other employees. After some stress it appears the Town can absorb the lost position without a meaningful loss of services. Late Spring and Summer however provide a whole new set of challenges and as we near warm weather, further meetings will occur to address those concerns.

New Lodge Building

The new lodge building at Ski Bowl Park opened on December 26, 2009. The project was a combined effort of the Town and ORDA and will serve to benefit both entities in the years to come.

Alliance Septic Proposal

At a town board meeting on January 9, 2010 business owners in the hamlet of North Creek asked town officials to begin consideration of establishment of a municipal septic system in the business district. The matter will be a topic of discussion at future meetings.

County Eyes Johnsbury Bridgework

With so many eyes focused on the closure and subsequent destruction of the Lake Champlain Bridge, it seems appropriate to review upcoming county efforts on bridges in the Town of Johnsbury.

Under a federal aid process, construction will begin later this year on the Harrington Road bridge project. This project will result in a detour during the construction phase.

Work is also slated for the Chatiemac Road bridge which creates challenges since a detour is likely not an option at that site.

Deck work on the Peaceful Valley Road bridge will result in a temporary lane closure later this year.

Work on the Hudson Street bridge and the arch on the South Johnsbury bridge over Mill Creek as well as a small bridge on Crane Mountain Road will in all likelihood be scheduled for 2011.

Shuttle Service in Operation

Though Mother Nature has not been fully cooperative, operations of the shuttle linkage between Gore Mountain, Ski Bowl Park and the North Creek Business District are off to a quick start.

North Creek Business Alliance member Joel Beaudin advises that skiers have shuttled from the mountain to shop in North Creek during the recent holiday season and that family members have split up to rejoin later after Mom and Dad ski while the children tube at the Ski Bowl.

Approximately 60 people made use of the shuttle, operated by Brant Lake Taxi, on a recent day.

The balance of the 2010 ski season will continue with shuttle operations, but with the estimated opening of the Interconnect Lift in December, the shuttle should come into its own in a big way.

(woes, cont)

The County Board will be working aggressively in early 2010 to address the budget crisis.

Preliminary steps have been taken by reorganizing the budget finance and personnel committees with an increase in membership of town supervisors rather than at large supervisors who have had less budget experience at the town level. More employment reductions are under consideration as are a number of other cost cutting measures.

It is likely that fewer county services will be provided in future years in an effort to cut costs. The county is also exploring the sale of assets including the Gaslight Village property and a county nursing home.

How deep the county spirals will likely depend on matters outside of our control, most notably the State of New York's fiscal condition.

The County is also exploring a lawsuit in conjunction with other counties in an effort to attack mandated but unfunded programming.