

# Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

## Supervisor's Report

### Short Takes

#### Board Protests Postal Closings

The Johnsburg Town Board adopted a resolution opposing the Federal government's proposal to close local post offices in Bakers Mills, Wevertown and North River. The Board previously passed a resolution opposing closure of the Riparius post office. The documents have been forwarded for review to appropriate federal government postal office.

#### Mill Creek Black Hole Area Under Review

Town Councilmen Ron Vanselow and Arnold Stevens are working to revamp and stabilize the infamous Mill Creek Black Hole site which the town manages. At a recent Board meeting, Vanselow presented a series of ideas intending to stabilize soil and redirect traffic to the area.

### Cemetery Management Modified

The Town Board authorized proposals to out-source cemetery care and ultimately awarded the work to a lawn care company. Supervisor Goodspeed will propose a budget line in October which permanently removes this responsibility from the Park's Department to the private sector. It is hoped that cemetery care can be dramatically improved without budgetary impact. The Town maintains cemeteries by Town Law where no association to maintain the cemeteries exists. Johnsburg maintains 13 cemeteries town wide. Under the new proposal, the contract specifications would require one mow to be completed before Memorial Day, one complete mow in mid-summer and one in mid to late August depending on weather conditions.

### Steps Toward Reval

Supervisor Goodspeed will propose moving former book keeper Candace Lomax on a part time basis to the Assessor's Office to assist Ann Deppe. Candace has continued with the town to train new part time book keeper Stacy Leonard. The move will permit necessary catch up work in the assessor's office to be completed so the Town can move toward a much needed reval.

### Mosaic Emerges

Under Kate Hartley's leadership, the gray concrete wall on Main Street is emerging as a beautiful Adirondack mosaic. Kate is being assisted by a host of volunteers

### Short Takes

#### FEMA Efforts Continue

Town work with FEMA to secure funding for highway damage during April flooding continues. The Federal Government has made designation for the time period in question and Supervisor Goodspeed, Highway Superintendent Dan Hitchcock and Secretary Cherie Ferguson have had ongoing meetings with FEMA officials.

#### Front Street Edges Forward

The Town Board recently approved Front Street's application for infrastructure associated with the sewer system associated with the development. The approval came after some weeks of difficult negotiations associated with bonding requirements to protect the town's interest in the event of developer failure.

## DELAWARE OPERATIONS, INC.

<u>Assumption</u>	<u>Remedy</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Pond needs to be drained annually	Install drain	\$25,000
Pond needs a dedicated source of water into the bathing area	Install well & related appurtenances	\$27,000
	Install electric service	\$11,000
	Install new dam (J.E. Hutchins estimate)	\$60,000
	Modify inlet pipes to bring water to bathing area	\$8,500
	Install aeration system	\$5,000
Pond needs to be aerated	Install electric service	\$11,000
	Engineering services for regulatory agencies review & design work	\$28,000
Beach transitions to park	Beach closure report, signs & revegetation	\$3,500

### Board Orders Beach Closure Report Be Prepared

Expressing concerns over costs, lack of use and viability of repair, the Johnsburg Town Board ordered a local engineering firm to prepare a report required by New York State to close the Town Beach. The split vote came on the heels of an engineering report that identified issues with water aeration and clarity, consistency of depth, regular drainage as financial roadblocks to reopening the beach.

The NYS Department of Health has closed the beach for 2 successive summers and efforts to revive the beach have been largely unsuccessful.

Contrary to some comments, the intent is not to let the pond become a bog, but rather to integrate it into the park as a non-swimming waterfront area with multiple uses and an attractive appearance.

The vote seems to end a long period of successful swimming followed by more than a decade long struggle to rehabilitate the area. The struggle resulted in the expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars at the site with no consistent public swimming.

Accompanying this article is the engineers cost estimates associated with re-opening the facility. (See Above)

### Budget Process Begins

August & September mark the beginning of budget preparation season at Town Hall. Each year brings unique challenges, particularly in a difficult economy, with state government attempting to move costs to the towns and counties. The goal, as always, is to provide services without harming the taxpayer. More details will follow as this process moves forward in coming months.

### Farmer's Market

As of this newsletter deadline, the Farmer's Market at the Kellogg/Waddell property is enjoying another hugely successful season. Likewise, the Music by the River concert series is thriving, bringing visitors and residents alike to our beautiful waterfront for music in a truly Adirondack setting.