

# TOWN OF DANUBE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #1 OF 2003

**WHY HAVE A NEWSLETTER?** This newsletter is an attempt to provide more information to the residents of the Town of Danube. Knowing about the many events that go on with the Town Government will assist the town residents in getting more value from the money the town spends. Additional information is available at the town's website, **www.townofdanube.com**. If you have an internet connection, be sure to check it out. If you have suggestions for future newsletters, please let one of the Town Officials know.

## Town Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Records Management Officer

Town Clerk, Mary Lou Herringshaw, holds office hours on Tuesday mornings from 8:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m., at the Town Garage 438 Creek Rd. Mary Lou will also meet anyone by appointment and can be reached at home 315-823-8813. The Town Clerk can issue marriage licenses, sell dog licenses and renewals, and can sell all D.E.C. licenses through the office computer on Creek Rd. The Town Clerk is also responsible for researching genealogy. The Town Clerk for the Town of Danube is also The Registrar of Vital Statistics and The Records Management Officer. The Town Clerk is also a Notary Public for the State of New York and will notarize for any town resident free of charge.

## Town of Danube Cemetery Report April, 2003

The Town has five cemeteries under its control and maintenance:

Garlock – located on Johnnycake Road

Bellinger – located on Bellinger Road

Houpt – located in Newville

Ostrander – located on West Fiery Hill Road

Gardinier – located on Paradise Road

These parcels have been cleared of all brush, weeds and unwanted trees and are constantly maintained throughout the summer months by caretaker Fina Kulla. Yearly community involvement known as “Cemetery Cleanup Day” has taken place annually for each of the last five years which has contributed to returning to them the dignity and respect these historic sites deserve. This year's cleanup date will be May 10. Future commitments include finishing the enlargement of the Ostrander Cemetery, made possible with the donation of additional land by the Delnero Family, and the beginning of the enlargement process for the Houpt Cemetery made possible by the likely donation of additional land by the Casadonte Family and the Von Wellsheim Family. These projects will double the size of each cemetery to provide for future generations within the township. Lots are presently for sale in the Expanded Ostrander Cemetery at \$200 each for Town residents, and \$600 each for non residents. Money from lot sales will go into a perpetual care fund. Donations to the Cemetery Fund are accepted at any time. The goal is to make the cemeteries self-sustaining. Anyone intersted in more information can contact any of the Cemetery Board members.

Rick Mosher 315-823-4363  
Sharon Polnak 315-823-0540  
Leonard Pross 315-823-4527

## Dog Control Officer

Kathleen Hysack is the Dog Control Officer for the Town. Her phone number is 315-823-1255. She has an answering machine and will return calls as soon as she can. The Town contracts with the Herkimer County Humane Society to accept dogs taken there by the dog control officer. It costs about \$60 for each dog taken to the HCHS shelter. Neither the Town nor the County offers Animal Control or Cat Control in Danube at the present time.

## NO NEWS

In case you've wondered, the Evening Times, the Town's “Official Newspaper,” no longer sends a reporter to the town board meetings. That's why coverage of town government events has been spotty to non-existent in recent months.

## THE TOWN BOARD PHONE NUMBERS & EMAILS

Allan G. Edmunds	Councilman	315-823-2921	edmunds@localnet.com
Donald H. Klock	Councilman	518-568-2377	None
James L. Lasher	Councilman	315-823-0859	jameslash@ppcs.net
Lee Ann Stock	Council-woman	315-823-4710	lee_ann33@hotmail.com
Charles M. Welden	Supervisor	315-823-3089	weldenc@telenet.net

## THE TOWN ASSESSOR, HIS PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL- Bruce I. Keeney, 315-823-4625, bkeeney@localnet.com

**The Board of Assessment Review will meet Tuesday, May 27th from 2-4 PM and 7-9 PM for Grievance Day.** Forms for filing and instructions are available from the assessor or from the Herkimer County Real Property Tax Service, 867-1153, or online at **www.orps.state.ny.us**. It is not necessary to attend in person as long as the papers are filed and **in the assessor's possession** by the day of the meeting (5/27).

As part of the continuing effort toward increasing the accuracy of the assessment rolls, the Town has contracted with Herkimer County for data collectors to gather property record card information throughout the town. Approximately 1/3 of the town will be visited each year to see that the information on the record cards is correct. The data collector will have identification that will allow the property owner to be sure that they are who they say. It is the intention of the assessor to give the property owner advance notification in the form of a letter. This year's data collection will concentrate on the properties along and to the north of Route 5-S. It is anticipated that Creek Road will also be done. It is to the property owner's advantage to have the correct data listed. This way the owner can be sure they're not being assessed for something that's not there.

## Town Applies for LGRMIF Grant

The Town applied for a records management grant, written largely by Shane Badger, at the end of January. The grant will aid in the inventorying and proper storage of all of the Town's records, both current and historic. Besides many years of recent records, there are records dating back to the early 1820's. A result of this project, which will require a second grant next year to complete, will be to allow microfilming of these valuable records. It is anticipated that this will allow controlled access to these records and a better understanding of the history of the Town.




**NEW CHIPPER IN USE ON FOLEY HILL ROAD**  
*Upper Photo* shows Darrin Fisher making a small tree disappear into the chipper.

*Lower Photo* shows Mark Warner cutting with the chainsaw while Bernie Mosher picks up brush.

THE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS THEIR PHONE NUMBERS (all 315) & EMAILS			
Blair Frasier	Chairman	823-2954	blairfrasier@yahoo.com
Charlie Pueschel	Member	823-0412	cpusechel@burline.com
Michael Weiner	Member	823-2423	jwalker@ntcnet.com
Donald Giarrusso	Member	823-1937	none
Kay Lipiec	Member	823-4761	none
Shane Badger	Alternate	823-8670	shane@walkingclover.com
The Planning Board consists of five members and an alternate. Their duties are to study, develop, and recommend laws governing land use in the Town of Danube. Recent laws that have been passed are the <b>Site Plan Law</b> , and the <b>Telecommunications Law</b> , The <b>Industrial Commercial Law</b> , The <b>Landfill Law</b> , and The <b>Floodplain Law</b> . The Planning Board holds their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30. The public is always invited.			
DANUBE JUSTICE COURT			
On the FIRST MONDAY of each month Justice Loren G. Horender and the Justice Clerk, Joan Miller hold court at the Town Garage, 438 Creek Road. Court opens at 6:30 PM and runs until business is completed. The Justice Clerk holds office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM. The phone number is 315-823-4210. The Fax number is 315-823-3518. It is always wise to check with the Justice Clerk before scheduling an appearance at court.			
CODES ENFORCEMENT			
On January 1, 2003 New York State put into effect the International Building Codes which it adopted last year. These state mandated codes are stricter and more wide ranging than the codes under which the the Town operated in the past. The best procedure is to check with the Codes Officer before beginning any building or repair project. Many projects will require permits. The current Codes Officer, John Jennette, holds office hours from 9-11 AM on Saturdays at the Town Garage, 438 Creek Road. His residence is at the manager's house at the Homestead Mobile Home Park. 315-823-1949.			
<b>FACT</b> —The Town Tax Rate for 2003 is \$4.50 per thousand of taxable value. If your taxable assessment is \$50,000, your Town Tax for this year was \$4.50 x 50 = \$225. This tax bill is due in January along with the County Tax and fire protection.			
UP FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR			
Position	Currently	Length of Term	
Supervisor	C. Welden	2 years	
Highway Supt.	L. Pross	2 years	
Town Clerk	M.L. Herringshaw	2 years	
Tax Collector	M. Mosher	2 years	
Council	A. G. Edmunds	4 years	
Council	J. Lasher	4 years	

NOTICE
Rabies Clinic at Town Garage 438 Creek Road on September 11th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. \$5.00

THE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	
<b>Leonard Pross, Highway Superintendent</b> <b>Full-time Employees:</b> <b>Darrin Fisher</b> <b>Bernard Mosher</b> <b>Mark Warner</b> <b>Phone 315-823-3400, Fax 315-823-3518</b>	
<p align="center">—WINTER IS OVER— <b>HERE COMES SPRING</b></p> <p>The 2002 - 2003 winter surely was one for the record book. The Town spent more money than usual to keep the 16 miles of Town roads and 33 miles of County open and passable. All has not been lost—FEMA to the rescue! Thanks to the extensive records of Superintendent Pross, the Town will receive a sizeable amount of money from the Federal and State government. The Town stands to receive its share of about \$20,000 and an additional \$7,000 from the County's share for the Christmas Day and January 3rd storms. Despite many extra hours of work there were no major equipment failures.</p> <p>The new International Plow Truck should be delivered before the end of the summer. Word has been received that the chassis will be built sometime in May. The box, plow, and other parts will be installed shortly thereafter.</p> <p>The Highway Superintendent is working with the Town Board to finalize the contract for the summer road work. The Town Board accompanied the Highway Superintendent on a four hour trip around the Town on Monday, April 21st, to better understand the condition of town roads and to hear Superintendent Pross's suggestions as to the necessary work to maintain the roads and to reconstruct certain roads. As always the amount of funding available will determine the scope of the projects. At this time the exact nature of the projects is undetermined. Although the County contracts with the Town to plow the County Roads within the Town, the maintenance of the County Roads (brush-cutting, mowing, ditching, resurfacing and rebuilding) by law is the responsibility of Herkimer County.</p> <p>The first spring work by the Town Highway Department will be to sweep the town roads and remove offending brush along the rights-of-way. Later a more extensive brush removal project will be commenced on the roads that will be rehabilitated. The Town's new chipper will be used in this work. Be sure to watch for it! Chipped mulch will be available while it lasts at the Town gravel bed to residents who want to stop by and get it.</p>	
<b>Danube Town Highways are all (or parts of):</b> Canal Lock Road, Cramer Road, Cronkhite Road, Dingman Hill Road, Fincks Basin Road, Florian Road, Foley Hill Road, Bush Road, Frog City Road, Graudon Road, Lovers' Leap Road, Mussmaker Road, North Gardinier Road, Old Herkimer Road, Schall's Hollow Road, South Gardinier Road, The Lane Road, Tibbitts Road, Tisi Road, Ucasz Road, and West Fiery Hill Road. All other roads are Herkimer County Roads, State Highways—Route 5-S and Route 169, or private.	