

TOWN OF DANUBE NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4—OCTOBER, 2009

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE TO BE USED THIS NOVEMBER

Election Day will be November 3rd this year with voting from 6 AM to 9 PM. New York State and Herkimer County have determined that the Town of Danube will be using the new electronic voting machine this year. It was used successfully for the Primary Election on September 15th. Using it will require darkening in your choices on a paper ballot. The paper ballot will then be fed into the machine where it will be “read” and the choices stored. The ballot will also be stored automatically in the machine. The machine reads both sides of the ballot, so it doesn’t matter whether it’s fed in “face-up” or “face-down.” The results will be available shortly after the polls close.



(Above) Election Inspector Eileen Warner feeds a sample ballot into the voting machine at the practice session on September 12th.

Town Clerk

Mary Lou Herringshaw is the Town Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics and Records Management Officer for the Town. The Town Clerk will meet with residents by appointment. Mary Lou is a Notary Public for NYS. The Town Clerk is responsible for issuing dog licenses, marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, hunting licenses, fishing licenses and also issues handicap parking permits. As an informational side note the Town Clerk and Court Clerk are separate positions and as the town clerk she can not give out any information about the court. Mary Lou can be reached 315-823-3400 (please leave a message for the town clerk).

TOWN OF DANUBE BOARD

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Alicia B. Cook Councilwoman	315-868-9589	Acookdanube@gmail.com
Patricia A. Jodway Councilwoman	315-823-4466	Pjodway@localnet.com
James L. Lasher Councilman	315-823-0859	Jamesllash@gmail.com
Lee Ann Stock Councilwoman	315-823-4710	Leeannstock@gmail.com
Charles M. Welden Supervisor	315-823-3089	Weldenc@telenet.net

Who's Running for What in This Election in the Town Government?

The following town positions are up for election this year. The term lengths and the names of those running for each position and their party are:

Highway Superintendent—2 years—Choose 1

Robert Sekel—Democrat
Joseph Alberico—Independent
Corey LaPorta—Independent

Town Board Member—4 years—Choose 2

Patricia A. Jodway—Democrat
Lee Ann Stock—Republican
Michael Weiner—Independent

Town Clerk—2 years—Choose 1

Mary Lou Herringshaw

Town Supervisor—2 years—Choose 1

Charles M. Welden

Tax Collector—2 years—Choose 1

Mary Mosher

Town Completes Second JCAP Grant

The Town of Danube is just completing the second of two Justice Court Assistance Program grants. The two grants have enabled the Town to upgrade the courtroom and meeting room facility. The grants have totaled just under \$50,000. We have applied for what will be the final grant that will allow us to upgrade the ceiling, insulation, lighting and parking lot.

From the Desk of Highway Superintendent

Joe Alberico

The 2008-2009 winter started early and ended late. We actually had to go out and plow like we were in the dead of winter on October 23rd! It was a real old-fashioned winter, just like I remember as a kid. Every day brought snow or ice. The Highway Department workers – Mark Warner, Darrin Fisher, and Bernie Mosher – along with our part-time wing team people – were out anywhere from twelve to seventeen hours at a time, trying to keep up with it and to make sure our school buses were able to have clear roads before 6AM and 3PM, when the kids returned home. We always try to focus on when everyone is going and coming home from work. I'm on the road, checking conditions around 3AM each winter morning. You may not always see me in the Town truck; I'm usually in my personal truck, a green Ford F150.

A brochure was sent out with my personal cell phone number. Just in case you missed it, here it is again: (315) 868-1911. If you can't reach me on my cell phone, I'm probably at the Town Garage on Creek Road, which has no cell coverage. Please leave me a message and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, or you may need my help, please call me, as I'll be up anyway. This year I'm going to set things up so that I will be available at the Town Garage during the evening hours and through the night, because I'll be out checking roads anyway. When the guys come in to work or plow, then I'll take my break, if I don't have to plow myself. My goal is to always have someone there to take your call during normal working hours.

The Garage Phone Number is 315-823-3400

As for this summer, I sure hope it's not an indication of how this winter is going to be. We had a lot of road work scheduled this year and lost so much time because of rain. We would get 2 days in, and it would rain for 3. The upside was we were able to complete much needed in-house work, like modifying a used stainless steel sander and getting all our trucks back to being winter-ready. In spite of all the rainy weather, we were able to complete all of our road agreements for the year. Unfortunately, some of the normal maintenance projects fell a little behind schedule, like cutting grass and chipping. I wanted to focus on utilizing as much of our CHIPs funding as possible.

I would like to explain a little about our road work programs. Each year the NY State Department of Transportation offers grant money which is paid to us quarterly. The program is known as Consolidated Highway Improvements Programs (CHIPs). They reimburse us for certain road work we do on Town roads so our taxpayers don't have to come up with all the money, as in higher taxes to keep our roads in good working condition. In 2008 no road work was performed in the town of Danube, which left the grant money unused. Each township has always been able to rollover unused money to the

next year. This year legislators voiced their concerns of the possibility that the unused money would not be rolled over due to the current economy and the fact that the governor is "tightening the belt" on municipal spending. I went to Albany to fight for our CHIPs money, and we got it rolled over! The word on the street is that the economy is so shaky that there is no guarantee that the funding would be rolled over from year to year, so if you don't use it, you lose it. That is why I elected to make the road work my top priority and to use all the free CHIPs money possible. My wife and I don't want to pay higher taxes, nor should you, when there are other opportunities for funding out there.

If you have any questions, please call me. We can set up a time at the highway Department to sit and talk more on these subjects, or any other concerns you might have. I don't bite; honest!

As for the coming year, we should be back to normal and be able to do road work and use up any leftover CHIPs money as well as getting back on track with our normal maintenance duties.

Some of this year's accomplishments:

- * Pulled shoulders, oiled and stoned all of Foley Hill Road, North Cramer Road, Old Herkimer Road, Tisi Road, Ucasz Road and sections of Dingman Hill and West Fiery Hill Road.
- * Fixed the ditches and stripped banks on North Gardinier Road and Finck's Basin Road – just to name a few.

In April, we all attended training classes to get certified to be able to inspect air brakes. We all passed, so now we can legally work on our truck brakes.



We got an estimate to fix the '94 Dodge 4X4 pick-up of \$6,500. We decided to do it in-house, and it cost the Town only \$1,491.48 – and that included the new exhaust system and shackles for the rear end. Kudos to Mark Warner for all his hard work!

A comparable new truck would have cost the town at least \$40,000.



The Highway department replaced the sander on the 1978 Mack 4X4 with a used stainless steel sander and fabricated it to fit our trucks. Darrin worked very hard on this project, and did a great job.

**THE CURRENT PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS
AND THEIR PHONE NUMBERS (all 315)**

Charlie Pueschel	Chairman	823-0412
Kay Lipiec	Member	823-4761
Allan G. Edmunds	Member	823-2921
Open	Member	
Open	Member	

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. The Planning Board also administers the **Site Plan Review Law**.

Building Code Department

One common misunderstanding seems to be the issue of project size and if a permit is needed.

If your project is less than 240 square feet you don't need a permit, unless it is something that is residential. If you are not sure, please call and ask, my phone number is (315) 868-6195, if I am unavailable please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Another issue that seems to come up a lot is lot size and setback requirements. The set back requirement from the road is 50 feet from the right of way, not the road. Please make note of the following.

**MINIMUM LOT SIZES AND SETBACKS IN THE
TOWN OF DANUBE**

Minimum Lot Sizes are as follows: Lot size shall be 43,560 square feet, one acre (1) of land and shall not have less than one-hundred-fifty (150) feet of road frontage. The minimum Set-Back requirements for ALL lots, existing and future shall be no less than fifty (50) feet from a public right-of-way and ten (10) feet from all other property lines. For most locations 50 feet from the a public right of way will be 75 feet from the center of the road. That would be for a 3 rod road (49.5 ft. wide right-of-way). Most, but not all of the town roads are 3 rods wide. For a 4 rod road (66 ft. wide right-of-way) it would be about 83 feet from the center.

Greg Lynch—Town of Danube Codes Enforcer
(315) 868-6195

E-mail: danubecodes@hotmail.com

Always check with the codes officer if you're unsure.

Danube Town Highways are all (or parts of): 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. The Town plows only the Town and County Highways.

By law the Town cannot do any work on private property.

DANUBE COURT

A lot of work has been done to upgrade the courtroom and meeting room in the Town building. Most of the work has been paid for with grants from the Justice Court Assistance Program. The new court features a bench across the front. The bench also is used by the Town Board for their meetings. It has telephone and computer connections as well as a light system that makes working at the bench easier.

The number of Court sessions is doubled so that court now meets twice a month. The days are the first and third Mondays. If there is a holiday on either day, that session is moved to the following week. The DA night is always on the first Monday session.

Contact Information:

Court phone number: 315-823-4210

Court Cell number: 315-219-9083

FAX NUMBER: 315-823-4210(NEW)

Email: danubecourt@hotmail.com

Personal Email: rpetrie@wildblue.com

**Any questions please contact
Judge Richard Petrie**

Remember if you get a traffic ticket for a specific court appearance date, it is important that you appear on that date or make arrangements with the Court for an adjourned date. If you miss your court date and do not contact the Court, a notice will be sent to the DMV to suspend your drivers License. If the ticket goes unanswered or unresolved, the court will notify the NYSDMV to suspend your license. The NYSDMV will send a notice to the address that they have on record, so make sure the address on your license is correct or you will not receive the notice. The DMV will allow 37 days to get the issue taken care of before the suspension is enacted. Then if the ticket is still unresolved you will have to pay the DMV a \$70.00 Scoff Fee in addition to any fines. Also, if you are stopped by ANY police agency and you're license is still suspended you may be issued a MISDEMEANOR unlicensed operator, which if found guilty will record on your criminal record not just your license. For many people a suspended operator's license first becomes evident to them when they go to renew their license or when they are stopped for a traffic violation. You can go to the local DMV and request a transcript of your license or go to the DMV web site at WWW.NYS DMV.com and request the transcript.

The Court now has a new phone system which allows people to leave messages for and send faxes directly to the Court.

ATTENTION TOWN RESIDENTS

“TRASH DAY is COMING”

The Town of Danube will be holding a Trash Clean Up for the residents of the Town. The date is on Saturday, October 17th from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Town Garage, 438 Creek Road. The reduction to a single day for this Fall is due to the uncertainty of the economic conditions. The large response to the days in May 2009 used over 68% of the amount budgeted for the whole year (\$5,000). It is projected that even holding only one day this Fall will exceed the budget by 28%. This money will have to be made up somewhere. Only Town tax money goes for the Trash Days projects.

The following items WILL NOT be allowed: Household Garbage, Liquids (gasoline, oil, anti-freeze), empty or full Paint Cans, Pesticides, Chemicals and any Hazardous Materials, Batteries, and Propane or other Gas Tanks. Also NO RECYCLABLES.

Tires not on rims will be accepted at the following rates: up to 17” @ \$2 per tire, 17.5” to 19.5” @ \$7 per tire, 20” to 22.5 “ @ \$10.00, rear tractor tire @ \$50. Please try to have the correct change for the tires. A personal check made out to “The Town of Danube” for the amount is also acceptable.

This is open to any and all residents of the Town of Danube with a maximum of 2 trips per resident. You will be asked to sign a registration book each time you deliver something verifying that you are a Town of Danube resident and that the trash you leave is from the Town of Danube.

Residents will be expected to remove the articles they wish to dispose of from their vehicle to prevent damage to the vehicle.

Please, no trash is to be left after the designated hours as this could result in canceling any future clean-up dates for the Town.

This is the last for this year in the Town of Danube and we hope to do it again next year, depending on the availability of funds.

Any questions?

Please call

Highway Superintendent Joseph Alberico
at 315-823-3400 or any
Town Board Member.

Greetings from the Assessor's Office:

The Enhanced STAR renewals have been mailed out and are due back in my office by March 1st 2010. If you received the Enhanced STAR last year and did not get a renewal form please contact me for an application at 867-1636.

For those who will be 65 years of age before December 31, 2010 you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR and should request an application so that it can be processed before March 1st, 2010. Your adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$74,500 for the 2008 tax year and the home must be owner occupied.

Agricultural Exemption renewals will be mailed out the first week of January. Please remember that the applications must be completed and returned by March 1st in order for the exemption to remain on the property.

I am available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at 108 Court Street, Suite 3200, Herkimer, NY 13350, 315-867-1636. My email address is www.dreska@herkimercounty.org.

Further information regarding exemptions can be found through a link on the county website at www.herkimercounty.org or directly through the state website at www.orps.state.ny.us.

From the desk of the Assessor,

Denise Reska

FROM THE TOWN HISTORIAN

Linda Welden

The town historian receives inquiries from people by phone, mail, and e-mail. The Herkimer County Historical Society refers people to this town historian if the questions are related to this town. Usually people are tracing their roots and need information on such things as what cemetery the person is buried in, their date of birth or date of death. I have taken photographs of headstones and sent them to the person's relatives. I always welcome people to send information about the town whether it be photos or articles they may have acquired. I can be reached by telephone at (315) 823-3129, by writing to me at 412 Dillenback Road, Little Falls, NY 13365 or by e-mail at danubehistorian@gmail.com

THE TOWN OF DANUBE CEMETERY BOARD

OCTOBER 2009

Since the last news letter the town has acquired the Hess Cemetery just off Route 5-S at the top of Fall Hill bringing the total number of cemeteries the town is responsible for to six. Through the combined efforts of Jacky Gehring, George and Nancy Demeree, Norman Mastromoro, the Danube Town Board and the Danube Cemetery Board, the cemetery was adopted through resolution at the Nov 8, 2006 meeting. This is another historically significant cemetery located in the town with the land being set aside in 1837 by Peter Bellinger in deed to August Hess. The oldest stone is that of David Hess, dating back to October 7, 1826.

We continue to work with the adjacent land owners Pete and Carol Casadonte and Ellie Von Wellsheim on the enlargement project at the Houpt Cemetery in Newville. This has been an ongoing project that is beginning to take shape with the rough draft of the deed being nearly completed for the landowner's approval. Hopefully closure will come this year. When this project is completed it will nearly double the size of the existing full cemetery once again allowing burials at this historic site dating back to 1808.

The Ostrander Cemetery located on West Fiery Hill road, has nearly 90% of the brush cleared through the efforts of many volunteers that come out in the spring for our annual cemetery cleanup day. With the help of the Herkimer County road crew, several yards of fill has been brought in which will be used to level off the area and make it mower accessible. When completed, this will nearly double the size of this cemetery.

Signs have been installed at the Garlock, Hess and Ostrander cemeteries. We have signs purchased for the Houpt, Gardiner and Bellinger Cemeteries which will be erected by the town's highway department as time permits. A plaque was erected at the Ostrander Cemetery donated by the Welden family acknowledging the people involved in that expansion project completed in 2002.

Cleanup day was held this past year on April 18 and drew over 40 volunteers. Again, as in the past, refreshments were donated by Stewarts of Little Falls, the Indian Castle Owls Club and the Shu-Maker Mountain Climbers Snowmobile Club of Newville with a cookout for the workers held at the Mosher Camp in the Town of Stark. Look for notices in this springs Little Falls Evening Times for the dates for this coming year's cleanup day, additional volunteers and donations are always welcome to make this a productive and enjoyable day.

Action has been taken on amending the towns cemetery board "Local Law #2 of 2001" to increase the cemetery board to include additional trustees. Several towns people have shown interest and further action is planned to be taken at this years annual cemetery board meeting in February of 2010. The meeting will be held

at the Danube Town Hall, please watch for the exact date and time in the LF Evening Times. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

As in the past, it is the board's goal to make the towns cemeteries self supportive through the selling of plots and donations. Plots are currently available at the Garlock and Ostrander Cemeteries. Information about donations, the purchase of lots or any other questions concerning the town's cemeteries can be obtained by contacting any one of the following Cemetery board members:

Recording Secretary Sharon Polnak 315-823-0540
Vice President Leonard Pross 315-823-4527
President Rick Mosher 315-823-4363



Top-Picture of the new sign at the Ostrander Cemetery

Bottom-Picture of the new Courtroom/Meeting Room Bench


Visit the town website for information about many town related procedures, laws, minutes, pictures and schedules.

www.townofdanube.com



Above —Two pictures taken on Sunday Morning, March 8th 2009 from along Canal Lock Road looking South. The picture on the left, taken from the bike path bridge looking toward the Thruway bridge shows the ice after the water level had gone down considerably. At about 10 PM the night before the water was over a foot deep on the roadway to the left. It washed out portions of the roadway and made travel impossible for a time.

The picture on the right was taken a bit earlier on Sunday Morning and shows the water rushing past the columns under Thruway bridge.


 Town of Danube
 438 Creek Road
 Little Falls, NY 13365

 Garage/Meeting Room
 Phone 315-823-3400
 FAX 315-823-3518
 Court 315-823-4210

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 ♦ **ELECTION DAY IS** ♦
 ♦ **NOVEMBER 3rd** ♦
 ♦ **6 AM—9 PM** ♦
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