



Galway Reader

Published by the Town of Galway



Spring 2017

Supervisor

Greetings!

As I write my article for each newsletter, I look back on articles I have written in the past. I do this to make sure I do not repeat myself too often and to get a perspective on the past. I just reread my article from the spring 2016 Galway Reader and I talked about how we dodged a winter bullet during the winter of 2015-16. As I type this article and look out my back window toward our barn I can see the freshly fallen 20 plus inches of snow we just received. I guess there will be no dodging a winter bullet this year!

I would like to thank all the staff of the town's highway department for their hard work in dealing with our largest snow fall in years. They worked long hours to keep our roads safe for those you had to be out and about in the storm and for emergency response personnel to be able to render aid if needed.

Speaking of first responders, the Galway Fire Company has occupied their new fire station on West Street. A tip of the hat to the fire company for a project well done. I am sure there will be an open house soon for all the community to stop by and tour the new facility. It is nice to see all the years of planning and hard work has come to a great end. We wish them well in their "digs".

Every spring the Galway town board and highway department sponsor a trash and litter pickup day. This day is dedicated to asking volunteers to assist in patrolling the sides of town roads to pick up litter and debris. The date for this year's pick up day is Saturday April 22nd. Bright orange trash bags will be available soon at the town hall and highway garage for use that day. Over the past few years' participation has dwindled and so I would ask all who can please consider volunteering that day. The volunteers need only to fill the bags with litter and debris and the highway department will pick up the bags left alongside the road.

Keeping with the spring cleaning theme, the town will once again sponsor a bulk waste disposal drop off event this spring. The exact dates are being planned so keep watch on the town web site and local newspapers for exact dates. The initial plans call for a week in May and one in June where you will be able to bring bulk waste to the town highway garage for disposal. Again, details will be announced soon.

As I often do, I would once encourage you to consider volunteering some of your time to one of the many great community and civic organizations. There is nothing more valuable than your time and energies to continue to make Galway a great place to live. Just a few hours per month can make a world of difference.

Have a great spring and thanks for reading!!!

Paul Lent, Supervisor

DISCLAIMER: The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any article and is not obligated to accept and print all articles.

GREETINGS FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

As I write this article winter is coming to a close with spring beckoning around the corner. Our winter season was wrapping up when we experienced one of the largest storms in years on March 14th. Just when we thought spring would be warming things up for us we received another 20-24" snow. That is what living in the Northeast entails. With the advent of this snow we will not be switching over to spring maintenance quite yet. Having said that we did have the opportunity to begin clearing the sand from the roadways but this snow will now delay those efforts for a little while longer and will continue once the temperatures are warmer.

In reviewing our winter season, up until this last storm, our snowfall levels were normal with a considerable amount of freezing rain. Additionally, we experienced several storms that included extremely high winds causing power outages due to downed poles, trees and branches. The crews have been out there through it all cleaning up the trees and limbs. Given the high winds the crew did a considerable amount of clearing snow drifts throughout town as well.

In preparation for paving season we have begun cutting brush along Crane Road which is on the schedule for being rebuilt this year, as well as Dean Lung Road. Construction on these roads will begin as the weather permits. The crews have also been cutting brush along Spring Road.

We will soon be switching our attention from snow/storm maintenance to maintaining the ROW's. Our focus will be on clearing brush, downed trees and branches town-wide as well as sweeping up the winter sand. Please note that the weather has taken a toll on the roads with frost heaves even though the temperatures haven't been very cold. With spring fast approaching we will be posting the roads with the 4-ton weight limit signs. We ask that the public abide by these signs to help protect the investment in our road system.

As always, there are wood chips and during the winter months, salted sand, available to Town residents. These items are located on the right-hand side of the driveway, before the main gate of the Highway Dept., as you pull into the Town Complex.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Highway Department at 882-6651 or on my cell phone at 265-0426. You can also email me at highway@townofgalwayny.org

Dave	Gonzo	Buck	Harry
Joe	Phil	Michele	Sherry

Galway Senior Citizens

You are welcome to come and join or visit our meeting; 55 years and up. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at our Galway Town Hall, starting at 1pm.

Galway Senior Citizens Movie Day: Held at Emerald Cinemas, Amsterdam, NY on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Cost is \$2 per person. Contact Liz Feulner at 882-9153 for more details.

Guest Speakers for Galway Seniors:

March 16th: Guest Speaker Ann Clouthier, Brookside Education Director, will be speaking on the 175th Anniversary of the Ballston Spa Fair.

April 20th: Saratoga Battlefield with guest speaker Ranger Megan Stevens. Bare feet clothed in dirty rags – Women of the American Revolution.

May 4th: Sanford Farms, with guest speaker Sam Hildabran

June 15th: Picnic at the American Legion Pavilion, Rte. 29, Broadalbin, NY

July 20th: Malta Historians with guest speaker Paul Perreault, Ice Harvesting in Saratoga County

AARP Smart Driving Class: being held April 21st from 9am – 4pm the cost is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members. For more information contact Liz Feulner at 882-9153. Only cash or check payment will be accepted.
ABSOLUTELY NO CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

The Assessor's Office is busy putting the final values on the 2017 Assessment roll. If you have questions or concerns regarding your assessment, the inventory on your property or your exemptions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at my office number 882-6070, ext. 17 or by email at vhayner@townofgalwayny.org. My office is open Tuesdays from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM and on Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

The 2017 Tentative Assessment Roll will be available for public review after May 1, 2017. Grievance Day for the Town of Galway will be held Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at the Town Hall, 5910 Sacandaga Road, Galway from 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

Vicki Hayner, Assessor

Dockstader Trust, Application Deadline, May 1

Twice a year the Dockstader Charitable Trust accepts applications from not-for-profit organizations for the funding of projects that benefit the residents of the Galway Central School District. The next application deadline is May 1.

To receive more information or to request a grant application form, contact Julie Roy at 882-9101. Applications can be obtained at the Galway Public Library or printed from the web sites of the school or the library. Funds for the Trust were provided in the wills of Galway Village residents, Clayton R. Dockstader and his wife Katherine Flickinger Dockstader.

Arlene Rhodes, Corresponding Secretary, Dockstader Charitable Trust
PO Box 25, Galway, NY 12074, 518-882-1297

Galway Preservation Society

The Galway Preservation Society's Archive Committee was awarded a complimentary assessment from Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSONY), an organization that helps history groups improve their archival facilities and procedures. The assessment includes completing a detailed questionnaire and conducting several meetings between DHPSONY representatives, GPS archival volunteers, and board members.

You may join the GPS at any time, although you do not need to be a member to attend the meetings. Membership dues are \$10 per household and may be mailed to: Galway Preservation Society, PO Box 276, Galway, NY 12074. Please include name, address, phone and email, and mention any areas of interest. All members receive the GPS newsletter during the months we meet.

7th Annual Craft Fair



Hosted by the Galway Lioness Club

Saturday, April 1, 2017 - 10 am until 3 pm

**Free Admission - Galway High School
5317 Sacandaga Road (Rte. 147)
Galway, NY 12074**

The Galway Junior Rifle Club

The Junior Rifle Club is based out of the Galway Fish and Game Club on Rt. 29 and provides marksmanship and safety training to the young people of our community. Costs are kept as low as possible (\$25/year plus cost of ammo) so that as many kids as possible can participate. All juniors receive specific safety training before shooting, and new shooters are carefully supervised by the several certified instructors associated with the program.

Juniors start shooting prone, and advance through increasingly more difficult scoring requirements – winning prizes and awards as they go. They eventually work their way through the sitting, kneeling, and standings positions. The final qualification is “Distinguished Expert”, and is extremely difficult. The whole sequence normally takes several years to complete.

Joey Hahn just completed his Distinguished Expert qualification, and two other boys are working through it at the present time. Several others are poised to start it soon.

Within the Junior Club, there is a smaller group that shoots competitively – they are very good and routinely rack up Division I college athletic scholarships. There won’t be any this year because we don’t have any seniors this year – however, four ex-Galway juniors are currently on college teams and are doing very well.

Bridget Edgerly (the team captain) has won almost every match we’ve shot in this year, and has been invited to Colorado Springs to shoot in the National Championships at the Olympic Training Center. Three of our ex-members will be there also. Note – this is one of the few sports where girls compete directly against boys, and generally do very well.

If you have a junior (at least 12 years old) who is interested in shooting, call Coach Boykin (882-9352) and get signed up. There are a limited amount of openings, and they go on a first come, first served basis. If you have questions, or would like to take a look at the club in action, call the Coach.

The next safety class where we can bring in new kids is in September, but if you’re interested, don’t wait to call.

BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT



2016 was another busy year construction-wise in the town of Galway. The Building Department issued a total of 106 permits ranging from small projects like sheds, decks/porches, swimming pools and general maintenance type items, to new garages, barns, additions/remodels, and new home construction. We issued 11 permits for new homes. Solar installations seem to be gaining in popularity, having issued a total of 20 permits in 2016.

Now is the time to think about projects you may be planning. If you are unsure if your proposed project requires a permit, please CALL BEFORE YOUR START. At a minimum, permits are required for: Demolition, new construction, additions, residential improvements (decks, garages, kitchen expansion, etc), electrical system modifications (including stand-by generator installations), major plumbing work, solid wood fuel burning appliance installations (including pellet stoves).

Also, please keep in mind that your project may require a variance. This is particularly true in the Lake District where building lots tend to be small making it difficult to maintain the minimum setback requirement. Even if your structure exists and you are adding on, you may be required to obtain a variance if you are further encroaching on, or increasing the amount of encroachment, on a property line (i.e., adding to the length of a building would result in an increased encroachment). Once again, call and set up an appointment to discuss this while you are still in the planning phase. Variances can often take a couple months to process, adding time to the construction time table.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS continue to be EVERY TUESDAY EVENING FROM 4:30 to 7:30 but we encourage you to call ahead for an appointment. Additionally, Chet is available at other times by appointment (including Saturday and/or Sunday mornings) and can be reached by calling (518) 514-8012 or by email at: chet@townofgalwayny.org.

Thank you, and



Galway Reader Article Submission Deadline

The publication deadlines for 2017 will be at 4 pm on (NO EXCEPTIONS):

Summer edition: Wednesday, June 14th, 2017 Fall edition: Wednesday, September 20th, 2017
Winter edition: Wednesday, December 13th, 2017

Articles can be dropped off at Town Hall or emailed to: galwayreader@townofgalwayny.org

Pamela Wright, Editor

Historian – The Centralization of Schools in Galway, NY

One of the many changes that took place over the years in the Town of Galway was in the town's school system. Our sources of information on this subject are "Sylvester's History of Saratoga County" 1878, John Chester Booth's "History of Saratoga County" 1858, W. Bronson Taylor's "Stories and Pictures of Galway" 1966, a summary written by Clayton H. Brown, District Superintendent of Schools, Galway area 1939-1966, and school records.

According to John Chester Booth, "Shortly after the return of the settlers, at the close of the war, (Revolutionary) the first school was opened, in a log cabin erected for that purpose at the Major settlement." Galway had private schools in the 1800's. On May 26, 1836 the Legislature incorporated the Galway Academy, which was located on West Street in Galway Village. This ended in 1863 and has a history of its own. There were private schools in several houses in Galway but no public high school until 1900. In 1900 Galway Village and contiguous territory were formed into District #3 Galway as a union free school with the power to establish a high school. On March 26, 1901 the voters approved the erection of a high school for the sum of \$4000. The size of this two-story building was doubled by an addition in the 1920's. The first floor of this addition was a gymnasium with a stage at one end while the second floor was a large classroom. The gymnasium was used for gym classes in the winter months, assemblies, chorus practice, band practice, dances, concerts, gymnastics exhibitions, medical and hearing exams, and movie viewing. Gym class in winter was scaled down basketball practice, too small for home games so Perth High School gymnasium was rented for home games and full scale practice sessions. In the mid to latter 1940's a partition was installed in each of two classrooms in the original section, making four classrooms out of two. There was also a two story addition built in the latter 1940's on the east side of where the new section joined the old section. The principal's office was moved over into the second floor of this addition and his office was turned into a small classroom.

Stepping back in time, in 1815 the commissioner of schools divided the town into 12 districts. Over the years the number of districts changed as needed. In 1860 there were fifteen schools scattered throughout the towns of Galway and Providence. In the 1939-1940 school year the districts were; #1 Jersey Hill, #2 Jockey Street, #3 Union Free, #4 Moon District, #5 Birchton, #6 East Galway, #7 Parkis Mills, #8 Mosherville, #9 Greens Corners, #10 Radley Hill, #11 Bell, #12 Kimball plus Providence #1 Antioch, #2 Bark&ctr, and #5 Hagadorn. These districts elected clerks, trustees and collector-treasurers. Students completed grades one through eight at their rural school, then went grades nine through twelve and graduation at the high school in Galway Village. Traveling to the high school was either by foot or catching a ride with one of the few automobiles in town. During the early 1940's it was difficult to find teachers for these rural schools. The idea of centralizing these rural schools started back with Miss Lou Mesinger, who served as district superintendent for Galway from 1912 to 1931. Charles H. Field, who served as Principal during the period of 1931-1934, wrote his master's thesis on a proposal for the centralization of the Galway area. After the necessary formalities with the State Education Department, voting on a proposal to centralize took place on June 1, 1949. The results were yes-482, no-172 and the proposal was adopted along with a seven member board of education. With the closing of the outlying school districts during the 1930's and 1940's, space for the students became a problem. One June 12, 1950 and on March 8, 1951, two proposals and bond issues for a total of \$584,000 were approved for a new building plus an 18 acre site on Rte. 147. Until the completion of the new building in September, 1952, classes were held in 14 places. The old high school building was used until 1958 for grades K though 4. By the mid 1950's space again became a problem. An additional 93 acres of land was purchased by approval of the voters. A bond issue of \$650,000 for a new 16 room elementary school addition was approved by the voters on September 26, 1956. This addition, upon completion, was named the "Joseph Henry Elementary School." By 1966, after a bond issue of \$1,120,000, the facility was made nearly twice its size to accommodate the growing number of students.

In retrospect, it seems the necessary progress of education in Galway took place quite timely. Dividing the town into districts served well at the time because it made a schoolhouse available within a reasonable distance of each family, a distance that a child, toddler through teens could handle. By the mid-forties, motorized transportation became more available, attendance in the rural schools declined, and by the end of the forties the time was right for centralization to take place.

Phyllis Keeler, Town Historian
Tom Cwiakala, Deputy Historian

Galway Youth Commission

Family Fun Day 2016

The Galway Youth Commission and the Town of Galway will be sponsoring Family Fun Day 2017. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Youth". Family Fun Day 2017 will be held on Saturday, June 17th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine) at the Town of Galway Complex. A variety of activities will be held including Dream Ponies and Petting Zoo, the Big Slide, the famous dunk tank, DJ music, many games with small prizes, cool sno-cones, food and many fun crafts. There will also be free raffle drawings for all youth to participate in for chances to win larger prizes. We are hoping to have our various community groups participate again. This day is free of charge to all. Come and join the fun and help celebrate our youth!

We are looking for many volunteers to help us with the activities planned for that day. We need the youth volunteers as well as adults. Please contact Donna Sowle at 882-1347 to sign up. We hope you will come and join the Fun!

Galway Youth Commission Spring Recreational Soccer

Youth Commission Spring Recreation Soccer will be held starting Saturday, May 6th through June 17th for youth Pre-K through 6th grade at the Town of Galway fields. The fields are located on Sacandaga Road across from the Ballston Spa National Bank in Galway. Registration forms will be available at the elementary school office, the Galway Town Hall and the Galway Public Library. For further information please contact Samantha Price, soccer coordinator-coach instructor at 866-4360 or Donna Sowle at 882-1347.

Galway Youth Commission Summer Recreation Program

The Summer Recreation Program will be held at the Galway School starting on Monday, July 10th and ending on Friday, August 4th for children 4 years old through those that completed the 6th grade. The program will be held Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until noon. A variety of activities will be held according to age. Those activities include sports, arts & crafts, cheerleading and dancercise. There will also be a story time group which includes stories, craft projects, games and outdoor play. Registration forms will be available at the Galway Elementary School Office, the Galway Town Hall and the Galway Public Library. Registration is ongoing throughout the program. The Summer Recreation Program is free of charge to the town and village Galway youth as well as for the towns in our school district that participate in our Youth Commission Programs. For further information on this program, please contact Director Karen Moffat at 883-4473.

The Galway Karate Club

The Galway Karate Club will hold classes Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Galway School Dining Room. Beginner classes are from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Advance classes are from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. year round. Call Karate Instructor Chris Malley at 518-727-0385 for further information.

Stewarts Holiday Match Program

The Town of Galway Youth Commission recently applied for a grant from the Stewart's Holiday Match Program. We were very pleased to receive a grant for \$1,000. The funds will be used to purchase arts and craft supplies, board games, sports equipment and supplies that are needed. This is a wonderful gift for our youth especially during a tight budget year. Stewarts Shops has always been a great supporter of our Galway Youth and the Town of Galway Youth Commission Program. Thank you to all of the Stewart Shop customers for your support to the Stewart's Holiday Match Program and to everyone at Stewart's Shops. We all greatly appreciate your community support.

A special thank you goes out to all of our local businesses, community service organizations and to Galway Central School District for their continued support and donations to the Galway Youth Commission. And, also a special thank you to the members of the Galway Youth Commission Board as well as our many program volunteers who contribute their time to serve our youth. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. With everyone's help, we are able to provide our youth with a variety of programs.

Galway Public Library

The *Galway Get Together* is expanding!

Have you ever wondered who to call for plumbing or snow removal or child care, or when a local organization meets? The *Galway Get Together* will soon become a one-stop online resource, including a Facebook page and a website with a local business directory, space for community news and announcements, and more. A 2017 Seed Challenge Grant from SALS (Southern Adirondack Library System) makes this project possible. We'll be contacting local businesses and organizations to include your information. We want to hear from home-based businesses of all kinds and sizes, so if you provide a service to the community, please let us know. Email galwaygettogether@gmail.com or drop off your information at the library. We'll help you reach more of the community! The current version of the *Galway Get Together* will continue to be emailed to subscribers and printed.

What can you get for 65 cents a week?

A community asset, a place for life-long learning, children's activities, computer access, classes and programs and books and so much more, in a library that's adequate to meet the needs of our community. The Board of Trustees has been listening to the community and has approved a conceptual design for a new library building that's smaller and less costly than the previous version.

Here's what you want to know: the building size is 5930 square feet; architects' total project cost is estimated at \$2,567,000; amount of the bonded indebtedness of \$1,150,000 would have an impact of an additional \$34 a year (65 cents/week) for a taxpayer owning a \$200,000 full-market-value property. *This amount includes the extra operating costs in a new building.* A referendum is in the process of being scheduled for mid-June.

You can see the plan at the library and on the library's website: galwaypubliclibrary.org. The library's Board of Trustees wants to ensure that everyone receives accurate information about this plan and referendum, so they are holding information sessions with local organizations and planning a community-wide mailing before the vote. Be sure to watch for it in your mailbox! Please contact Deb Flint at 882-6385 or gal-director@sals.edu with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Our monthly programs are open to everyone.

Drop in for Preschool Story Time, Open Art Sessions with Herb Kopper, Writers' Group or *When Readers Meet* book discussion. Upcoming books we'll be reading include: *Babbitt*, by Sinclair Lewis in April; *Sweet Lamb of Heaven* by Lydia Millet in May, and *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf in June. We're getting ready for the Summer Reading Program for kids too – we'll have details soon! To keep up to date on all our programs and classes, you can subscribe to our emailed newsletter on our website, or sign up for it at the library.

Check out our new books!

Here are just a few: *Lincoln in the Bardo* - George Saunders; *A Piece of the World* - Christina Kline; *Never, Never* - James Patterson; *The Case Against Sugar* - Gary Taubes; *The Princess Diarist* - Carrie Fisher. Some of the new **childrens' books** are *The Unbreakable Code* - Jennifer Bertman; *World at War 1944* - Mary Osborne; *Sci-Fi Junior Hi* - Scott Seegert; *Crazy Messy Beautiful* - Carrie Arcos. **New DVDs** include *Collateral Beauty*, *Doctor Strange*, *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Fences*, *Fantastic Beasts*, *Moana*.

Galway Youth Commission Youth Referral Service

For youth 14 years of age and older, seeking babysitting, housework, shoveling, yard work, and other odd jobs

Persons interested in hiring youth for odd jobs should contact:

Donna Sowle, Youth Referral Director, at 882-1347

(Clip and Save)