

NEW BALTIMORE NEWS

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PROPOSED ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REVISIONS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Proposed zoning and subdivision ordinance changes were presented at public meetings held on June 10th and 11th, after having been advertised in a town-wide mailing. Copies of the proposed ordinances are available from the Town Clerk's Office on paper or CD, and can be downloaded from the Town website at www.townofnewbaltimore.org/zoning_revisions.html

Another set of meetings is scheduled to answer any questions and hear public comments on these proposed changes. These meetings are scheduled for July 16th at 7 pm at the Medway-Grapeville Firehouse and July 17th at 7 pm at the Cornell Hook and Ladder Firehouse. After these public meetings are concluded, the proposed zoning and subdivision changes (with any revisions that are needed based on public input) will be submitted to the Town Board. The Town Board will give the public further opportunity for public comment at a Public Hearing that will be held before any action is taken to adopt proposed ordinances.

The proposed ordinance changes have been prepared to implement some of the key goals and strategies outlined in the updated Town of New Baltimore Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2007. These goals center around maintaining the rural character of the town, and economic development that balances commercial growth and the desire to keep a rural setting in place. Some key aspects of these proposed ordinance changes are outlined below.

Major Subdivision and Density Issues

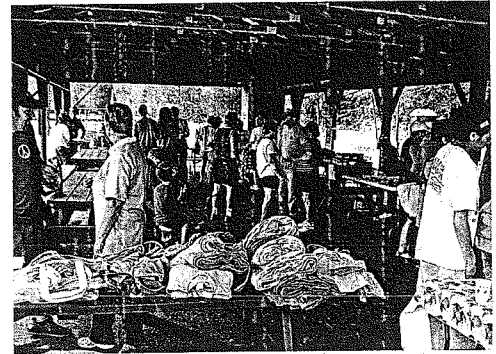
To control the impact of any proposed larger scale residential development in the town, all proposals for major subdivisions (5 or more lots) must follow new procedures for con-

NEW YORK STATE PROPOSES CHANGES TO REGULATIONS ON BURNING

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has proposed to change current state regulations relating to the burning of materials in an open fire in New York State. An "open fire" would be defined as "any outdoor fire or outdoor smoke producing process from which air contaminants are emitted directly into the atmosphere. Open fires do not include burning in outdoor furnaces that are used to heat buildings when the devices are actually used for that purpose."

The NYSDEC proposed regulations would ban the burning of any materials in an "open fire", with the following exceptions:

- Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices actually used for cooking
- Small fires used for cooking that are not left unattended until extinguished, provided that charcoal and/or natural untreated wood is used as fuel
- Campfires that are less than 3 ft. in height, length, width or diameter and are not left unattended until extinguished
- On site burning of waste from naturally grown products such as vines, trees, branches, leaves and stubble that is part of a valid agricultural operation on land over five acres in size that contributes to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock or livestock products as a commercial enterprise (including horse boarding and timber processing), provided such waste is actually grown on those lands and such waste is capable of being fully burned within a 24 hour period
- Liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots used to prevent frost damage to crops
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires



The New Baltimore Farmers' Market drew an impressive crowd on opening day. For more, see page 7

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Community News and Issues

Proposed zoning, cont. from page 1

servation subdivisions, unless a waiver is obtained. A conservation subdivision requires that at least 50% of the property being subdivided be set aside as open space, with the remaining land being eligible for development at a minimum lot size per house of 2 acres. For example, if an applicant wishes to subdivide a 100 acre parcel into 5 or more lots, 50 acres of that parcel would be set aside as open space, and the remaining 50 acres could be built on, provided that each lot would be at least 2 acres. This would result in a new overall minimum density requirement of 4 acres per home for the entire 100 acres.

This change in the density requirement to 4 acres for conservation subdivisions must also be applied to other subdivisions. However, the 4 acre minimum lot size will **NOT** apply to many common situations listed below:

- Any lot in existence at the time of adoption of the ordinance revisions (Grandfather Clause)
- Any lot not located in the Rural Residential/Agricultural Zoning District
- Any lot in existence at the time of adoption of the ordinance revisions can be subdivided into up to as many as 3 lots as small as 2 acres; these rights to subdivide into 2 acre minimum lots will run with the land and the lots can be subdivided at once or over any amount of time.

Neighboring property owners to proposed major subdivisions will also receive additional protection through new procedures that will require applicants for these subdivisions to provide sufficient engineering data regarding groundwater and soils to ensure that neighboring properties will not lose their source of groundwater or be polluted by this land development.

Zoning Map and Districts

The Zoning Map designates the various zoning districts of the town. Most of the town has historically been zoned Rural Residential/Agricultural (RA).

The area closest to the Hudson River in the northeastern section of the town and the area near Scheller Park Road have been historically designated as Hamlet Residential (HR) zones. These zoning districts and boundaries are not being changed in the proposed zoning ordinance revisions.

Currently, there is one commercial zoning district that runs along the entire length of Route 9W, with the exception of the area of the Hannacroix Creek (zoned RA). There are also three areas that are part of the Developmental Zoning District (D), which allows for the most intensive commercial and industrial use. This zone includes land located near the CSX rail tracks at the Albany County Line, State Route 144 and from where the rail tracks cross the Thruway to the Cocksackie Town Line.

Under the proposed zoning ordinance changes, the southern portion of Route 9W from near Hawley Lane to the Cocksackie Town Line will remain in the Commercial Zoning District. The area of Route 9W near the Albany County Line will be zoned Commercial (west side) or Developmental (east side). The Developmental Zoning Districts south of Route 144 and in the southern part of the town will keep their same boundaries. The rest of the current Commercial Zoning District along Route 9W will be designated as either Mixed Use (MU) or Professional/Residential (PR). The MU Zoning District will be located in the area of Route 9W where it intersects County Route 51 and State Route 144. The PR Zoning District will be located along the west side of Route 9W from its intersection with the Thruway north to Flatbush Road, and continuing on both sides of Route 9W to south of its intersection with County Route 51, then north of the MU Zoning District to where the Commercial and Developmental Zoning Districts are located near the Albany County Line (the area along Route 9W where the Hannacroix Creek crosses will remain in the RA Zoning

District).

These proposed new PR and MU zoning districts were originally presented in the Town Comprehensive Plan as a way to provide for more intense commercial development in three separate nodes (north, central and south) along Route 9W, and have smaller scale commercial and residential development in between these three nodes. It reflects an effort to avoid strip development and balance commercial growth with the preservation the rural beauty of the Route 9W corridor.

While the newly designated Mixed Use and Professional/Residential Zones would continue to allow many commercial uses, certain uses that are allowed in the Commercial Zoning District would not be allowed for new businesses in either the Mixed Use or Professional Residential Zoning Districts: Auto Repair; Auto Sales; Commercial Vehicle Repair; Car Washes; Fast Food Restaurants; Retail Stores over 5,000 sq. feet; Shopping Centers; Theaters. The following uses that are allowed in the Commercial Zoning District would not be allowed in the Mixed Use Zoning District for new businesses (but are allowed in the Professional/Residential Zoning District): Contracting Businesses; Contractor Storage Yards; Kennels. The following uses that are allowed in the Commercial Zoning District would not be allowed in the Professional/Residential Zoning District for new businesses (but are allowed in the Mixed Use Zoning District): Automobile Service Stations; Laundromats; Hotels and Motels over 12 rooms; Indoor Recreational Facilities; Taverns.

Any currently existing commercial or other uses that are not permitted under the proposed zoning ordinance changes will be "grandfathered", meaning that they can be legally continued.

Commercial Development Guidelines and Standards

The proposed zoning ordinance pro-

vides guidance to new businesses that locate in the various commercial zoning districts (C,D, MU, PR) regarding site layout and architectural design. These standards and guidelines will help to create positive economic development that blends well in a rural setting. It provides developers with important guidance that should expedite site plan approvals. These new guidelines and standards will not apply to existing businesses at their current location and configuration ("Grandfather Clause"). The current Sign Ordinance adopted by the Town in 2001 will be incorporated into the proposed zoning ordinance, and enhancements to the Sign Ordinance will limit the overall height and size of signs along the Route 9W corridor. These revisions will allow any current signs that do not meet the height or size limits to remain in place for five years.

Planned Development Districts

The proposed zoning ordinance changes will allow for the establishment of Planned Development Districts (PDD) which will address proposals for single development plans incorporating different land uses on a large parcel or combination of parcels within the Town, subject to the approval of the Town Board. This concept was recommended in the Town Comprehensive Plan. The objective of a PDD is to allow innovative land use through site layout and structure, enhance efficiency in the use of land and natural resources and enhance the town's ability to promote economic development opportunities. The current retail development project being proposed by the Greene County IDA is an example of a project that would qualify for consideration as a PDD.

Burning, cont. from p.1

not otherwise prohibited by law, provided that only natural untreated wood or other agricultural products are used as fuel and the fire is not left unattended until extinguished

- Small fires used to dispose of flags or religious items, and small fires or other smoke producing processes used in connection with a religious ceremony
- Burning of explosive or other dangerous or contraband materials by police or other public safety organizations
- Fire training exercises, provided that toxic materials or materials likely to produce toxic smoke are removed from structures burned in the fire training exercise
- Individual open fires that may be required in response to animal disease upon request by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets
- Individual open fires otherwise authorized under Environmental Conservation Law or by rule or regulation of NYSDEC
- Prescribed burns performed under NYSDEC regulations for forest practices

These proposed regulations would represent a significant change, since the current NYSDEC burning regulations for many materials do not apply to towns with a population under 20,000.

The Town Board discussed the proposed NYSDEC regulations at its June 9th meeting. It was noted that the proposed regulations which are primarily intended to ban the burning of materials in burn barrels that create toxic air emissions would also include a ban against the burning

of brush, such as tree limbs, vines and other vegetative matter. It was also noted that the New York State Uniform Fire Code, which can be enforced by the State Police, County Sheriff and Town Code Enforcement Officers, already prohibits burning that will be offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous. Based on this information, the Town Board has written a letter to the NYSDEC objecting to that portion of the proposed regulations that would put a complete ban on brush burning. Property owners who irresponsibly burn brush to create offensive or objectionable smoke conditions can be cited for violations of the Uniform Fire Code, making a complete ban on brush burning by the NYSDEC unnecessary and burdensome.

Residents who wish to comment on their support or opposition to the proposed regulations may do so by writing to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Air Resources, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-3254 or by email to

215fires@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Comments must be received by 5:00 pm on July 10th. The entire text of the proposed open burning regulations can be found at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/43445.html>

Town Board

News and Issues

Town Board Report

The Town Board has met in regular monthly meetings held on April 14th, May 12th and June 9th, and a work meeting held on April 28th (no formal actions were taken at this meeting). Here is a summary of the actions taken at these meetings:

April 14th

- Following a Public Hearing, the Town Board adopted Local Law 3 of 2008, providing for Flood Damage Prevention. This local law pertains to development in flood plains in the town; this local law is required for town property owners living in the flood plain to be eligible for flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program; most provisions are the same as previously established in 1992, except that buildings constructed in the flood plain must now be situated at least three feet above the highest adjacent grade (this was increased from two feet).

- The Town Board adopted a Resolution establishing training requirements for members of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Mohawk Hudson Humane Society for the boarding of stray animals.

- The Town Board authorized Supervisor Louis to enter into agreements with the State of New York to receive the following legislative grants:

- \$10,000 from Senator Jim Seward to assist the Town in completing the implementation of the Town Comprehensive Plan.

- \$5,000 from Assemblyman Tim Gordon to assist the Town in renovating the Town Hall basement for the location of a Greene County Sheriff Substation.

- \$4,500 from Assemblyman Tim Gordon to provide funding for the New Baltimore Farmers' Market.

- The Town Board authorized the Superintendent of Highways to incur reasonable expenses to expand the parking facilities at the Town Hall to accommodate the parking needs of the Town

Court.

- The Town Board authorized the Superintendent of Highways to purchase up to two used sanders at an upcoming NYS Thruway Authority Auction (the two sanders were purchased at a total cost of \$7,200, which is less than 25% of the cost to purchase these items new).

- The Town Board appointed Alan Van Wormer as the Town's Emergency Management Officer; he will serve in this capacity at no salary. The purchase of a digital camera for his use in documenting damages sustained during disaster events was also authorized.

- The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with the Town of Coxsackie Ambulance Service for the provision of basic ambulance service during 2007, at a cost of \$3,000.

- The Town Board authorized the issuance of a Notice of Zoning Violation for agricultural activities consisting of the harboring and sale of livestock being conducted illegally in the Commercial Zoning District.

- The Town Board authorized the Town Tax Collector to attend the New York State Association of Tax Receivers and Collectors 2008 Annual Training Seminar.

- The Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to attend the New York State Association of Town Clerks Meeting.

- The Town Board authorized Supervisor Louis to contact the NYS Department of Transportation to arrange for better pedestrian access at Route 144 to the boardwalk being constructed by the New Baltimore Conservancy as part of the Hudson River Interpretive Trail.

May 12th

- The Town Board held a hearing on the Notice of Zoning Violation at which time the property owners were given an opportunity to provide information as to why they should not have to comply with the Zoning Ordinance for the illegal harboring and sale of livestock being conducted in the Commercial Zoning District. The Town Board tabled the matter to the June Town Board meeting.

- The Town Board appointed Jack

Covey to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to execute any necessary agreements to use the State Contract vendor, Amerigas, LLP, for the provision of propane fuel for the Town Hall.

- The Town Board adopted a Resolution to congratulate town resident, Christopher Parker on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

- The Town Board adopted a Resolution to congratulate the New Baltimore Reformed Church on its 175th anniversary to be celebrated on July 4th.

June 9th

- The Town Board sustained the Notice of Zoning Violation for the illegal harboring and sale of livestock being conducted in the Commercial Zoning District, and delayed enforcement pending the property owner seeking a Use Variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- The Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to solicit bids for the sale of a used boom mower attachment by the Town Highway Department

- The Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to solicit bids for the purchase of a used asphalt roller to be used by the Town Highway Department.

- The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to engage the services of a professional land surveyor to establish the historic centerline of Jennings Road.

- The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to send a comment letter to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation objecting to the provision of their proposed regulations that would impose a complete ban on the burning of brush and other vegetative matter in the town.

Planning Board Report

March 13th

- Public Hearing was held on the two-lot Minor Subdivision Application of Laura Kaye Stewart. Due to conflicting documentation presented with regard to two boundaries of the property and issues with regard to Agricultural District dis-

closure notification, Public Hearing was recessed until 7:30 p.m., April 10.

- Public Hearing was held on the two-lot Minor Subdivision Application of David Van Alstyne.

In the regular monthly meeting that followed:

- Van Alstyne minor subdivision was approved.
- Request for extension of the Jyoti SAI Hospitality, LLC Site Plan for construction of the Holiday Inn Express was received and extension granted through December, 2008.

March 27th

- The Planning Board met in work session to receive an update on the requirements and procedures for subdivision of property located in Agricultural Districts.

April 10th

- The Laura Kaye Stewart Public Hearing was continued and concluded. In the regular monthly meeting that followed:

- Stewart minor subdivision was approved.
- Heard an update on the I-87 Corridor Project from Sandy Mathes, Executive Director of the Greene County IDA.
- Discussed with a Town resident her initial plans for subdividing a parcel of land.

May 8th

- Held an initial discussion with a Town resident's surveyor regarding the subdivision of her property.

Note: Anyone wishing to come before the Planning Board should call to be placed on agenda at least a month before wishing to appear. The agenda for the April meeting is already filled and closed.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet during the months of April, May and June of 2008 as there were no applications to come before the Board.

Assessor Report

April

Assessor Gordon Bennett had no report.

May

- Valuation 2008 – The tentative roll has been completed. 144 assessment change notices were sent. The Assessor sat with the roll on Tuesday, May 13th – the final publicized opportunity for property owners to meet with the Assessor regarding their assessments before Grievance Day, Tuesday, May 27th.

- Grievance Day -- Hearing will be held at the Town Hall building on Tuesday, May 27 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All complainants will need to sign in and have all paperwork completed in order to have their hearing before the Board of Assessment Review. Contact the Assessor's office or visit the Town's website for information.

June

- Gordon Bennett reported no activity.
- Board of Assessment Review Chair Ellie Alfeld reported 28 property owners grieved taxes, between informal, 9 petitions, 6 stipulations by the Assessor.
- Chair Alfeld requested different location for BOAR hearing for 2009.

Building and Code Enforcement Reports

Summarization of Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Reports are as follows. Complete reports are on file in Town Clerk's Office.

March

- New Building Permit Applications Received: 8; Building Permits Issued: 8; Building Inspections: 21; Commercial Site Fire Inspections Completed: 0; Certificates of Occupancy granted: 2; Certificates of Compliance granted: 3; Stop Work Orders issued: 0; Junk vehicle complaints: 0; Court Appearances: 0; Zoning Violation Investigations: 1; Code Violation Investigation: 0.
- Letters have been sent to 34 Town residents with open Building Permits

from the 2005/2006 years requesting that they contact the Department for final inspections and/or to renew their expired Building Permits; a very favorable response is being received to this mailing.

- The Department wishes to remind people that State Building Codes require a Building Permit for all new swimming pools designed to hold more than two feet of water.

April

- New Building Permit Applications Received – 6; Car Restoration Permit Application – 1; Building Permits Issued – 4; Building Permits Re-Opened – 2; Building Inspections – 22; Mobile Home Permits Issued – 0; Pool Permits Issued – 2; Demolition Permits Issued – 0; Commercial Permit Issued – 0; Certificates of Occupancy granted – 2; Certificates of Compliance Granted – 5; Stop Work Orders issued – 0; Junk Vehicle Complaints – 2; Court Appearances – 1; Zoning Violation Investigations – 1; Code Violation Investigations – 6.

May

- New Building permit applications received-6; Demolition permit -2; Change of occupancy application -1; pool permit-1; building permits issued-4; mobile home permits re-opened-1; building inspections-19; pool permits issued-1; demolition permits issued-1; certificates of occupancy granted-1; temporary certificates of occupancy granted-1; junk vehicle complaints-4; court appearances -2; zoning violation investigations-4; code violation investigations-7. Application fees for month: \$1,430.50, YTD: \$3,331.50 Councilman Byas and Norris meet with them monthly.

AGRICULTURE



The Van Slyke Farm



Edgar Van Slyke at the farm

When a farm has been in your family for six generations you get to know the land very well. Edgar Van Slyke has boundless knowledge about the nearly five hundred acres that his family owns. He knows the soils, the views from the hills, the fertility of the flats and the history of the trees.

When your family has been in the dairy business for well over eighty years, you know cows. Edgar Van Slyke understands the behavior of his animals, how to treat them to ensure peak milk production, how to recognize and cure illness. His animals are always treated with kindness and their well-being is his number one priority. Edgar also knows the milk market. He understands the fluctuation in prices, the cost of production, and the rigorous demands of the dairy inspectors.

Edgar and his brother Bronk have been running the family farm for around sixty years. Over the years they have seen tremendous change and have changed with the times. Edgar can re-

call when the family harvested hay using mules to pull the mower and to gather loose hay, which was stored in the loft of the barn. Today, hay is harvested using a tractor that has an air conditioned cab and a radio. The tractor easily pulls equipment that no mule could ever dream of moving.

The six generations of Van Slykes have had many active roles in community government and the family has produced a doctor, a minister, and a county legislator. Edgar and Bronk's father, Paul, became a dairyman in the 1920's. The dairy barn was built in 1916 and the family milked Gurnsey cows, which are well known for their rich milk that is high in butterfat. In the late 1940's, as young men, Edgar and Bronk worked with their father and eventually took over the operation, continuing to milk Gurnsey cows. The brothers worked together to grow hay, oats and corn to feed their 42 milking cows and 50 head of young stock.

For many years, they delivered their full milk cans to the processing plant in Coxsackie. This method of milk delivery ended in the early 1960's when the milk processing plant closed down. Since that time the milk has been picked up by a tanker truck that visits the farm every other day. The cows are milked twice a day and the milk is stored in a 400 gallon bulk tank in the dairy barn. At one time, the bulk tank would be overflowing with milk when the truck arrived. Today, it is not quite as full, since the family is milking 25 out of 30 cows, and only two of those cows are Gurnseys. The family switched from Gurnseys to Holsteins when the market demanded the higher yields and lower butter fat content of Holstein's milk.

Edgar can recall a time when there was no such thing as 2% or skim milk. Milk with a low fat content was poured down the drain, because there was no

market for it. As times changed the demand for low-fat milk rose, and like many dairies, the Van Slykes adapted by raising Holstein cows. Ironically, today the market demands milk with a higher butter fat content. The milk is processed and the cream removed for butter, ice cream and heavy cream. The Van Slykes are able to keep their butter fat levels high, which gives them a better price for their milk.

Dairy farms are subject to very stringent regulations. The dairy is inspected every two years by Federal inspectors and every six months by local inspectors. The water on the farm is tested regularly, as is the milk. The milk is tested for the presence of antibiotics and bacteria each time it is picked up by the tanker truck. The milk from the Van Slyke farm is brought to the Boice Dairy in Poughkeepsie, where it is processed and sold in the mid-Hudson Valley and New York City.

Edgar is proud of the family farm and the fine milk they produce. His energy and vitality make him seem much younger than his seventy-five years. He and his brother are helped with the farm's daily operations by Edgar's youngest nephew Ray Starr and by Bronk's sons Dan, Jim, Eugene and Jeffery. The Van Slyke dairy is a true small, family farm that has survived the challenges of fluctuating milk prices, industrial-sized dairies, rising costs and changing times.

For all that times have changed, some things remain undeniably the same. The farm that the Van Slykes have called home since the early 1700's remains secluded and beautiful. The family continues to be a pillar of the New Baltimore community. And Edgar and Bronk still meet in the barn early each morning and late each afternoon to milk the cows.

Farmers' Market Draws Crowds

With its focus on local food, music and community spirit, the New Baltimore Farmers' Market has drawn great crowds in its opening weeks. Nearly 200 people stopped by Wyche Park in the New Baltimore hamlet the first week to buy food produced by local farms Otter Hook, Ravens' Roost and Green Heron, to enjoy complimentary Free Trade coffee with fresh fruit turnovers baked by members of the New Baltimore Reformed Church and to pick up fresh local jams, chutney and baked goods from area vendors. Local dance instructor Bonnie Mion kept the crowds entertained with her veil and belly dancing. Thanks to the high turnout and enthusiasm of the visitors over the season's early local bounty, many vendors, including the Church, Ravens' Roost and Green Heron were sold out by the end of the market day.



Local duo, Lawson, entertained visitors

The market's second week was equally successful. Nearly 150 residents from New Baltimore and neighboring towns sipped coffee and lemonade and listened to traditional Irish music from local duo, Lawson. Artisanal baker, the Artful Vegan, sold out of his loaves, rolls and pitas quickly and vowed to return the following week with expanded production.

With the amount of seasonal produce expanding by the day, each week will bring in more fresh local food and flowers. In the coming weeks, local chefs will prepare fresh meals from locally-grown ingredients and market days will be filled with performances and demonstrations, including dance, yoga and special activities for kids.

The New Baltimore Farmers' Mar-

ket will be open every Saturday through October from 9am – 1pm at Wyche Park. Visit the website at www.newbaltimorefarmersmarket.com for more information.

The Benefits of Being a Localvore

Eating local foods is a growing trend in our country. It's becoming so trendy in fact, that there is even a catchy term for those who pursue this practice: "localvore". In the same sense that a carnivore eats only meat and an herbivore eats only plants, a localvore eats only locally-produced food. Some people strive to eat food that is grown within fifty or a hundred miles of their home. Others try to eat as locally as possible as often as possible, without counting every mile that food travels.

Being a localvore is a new twist on a very old practice. For most of human history, we have been procuring our food from local sources. The cornucopia of food choices from all over the world in our supermarkets is quite a recent phenomena. Fifty or sixty years ago, most of the food available in grocery stores was locally produced. Today, we expect to eat any type of produce any time of year, forgetting that just a lifetime ago we had to eat vegetables seasonally, anticipating the delicious taste of spring's first pea, or summer's first tomato. In striving to eat locally, people are re-discovering the virtues of eating seasonal produce and enjoying the taste of meat grown on their natural diet of grass and forage.

There are many benefits of eating locally-produced food. Economically, the farmers in the community benefit greatly from local support of their product. Active farms benefit the local economy in many ways, so purchasing locally is a great way to boost your community's bottom line. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), in which customer pay up-front for a weekly portion of the farm's seasonal harvest is one way to buy directly from the farmer. Shopping at road-side stands and farmers' markets is another option.

Buying locally also benefits the environment. The average food item in the supermarket travels 1,500 miles to get from producer to consumer! A huge

amount of fuel is needed to transport food over such vast distances to market, as is reflected in rising food costs during the current spike in gas prices. Even food that is labeled 'organic' often travels huge distances to be sold in supermarkets. By choosing to buy local food, customers are reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, while preserving working farm land in their own community.

Furthermore, many local farms practice organic or low-spray techniques for fruits and vegetables, pasture animals on grass rather than confining them and feeding them grain, and work to conserve water and preserve water quality on their farms. The customer has the opportunity to talk to the farmer about the products he or she grows, and sometimes even has the chance to visit the farm and see first-hand where the food comes from. Knowing where your food comes from is a big advantage in this era of widespread food safety concerns.

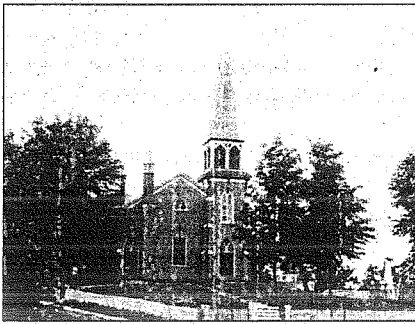
Being a localvore doesn't have to mean a total change in how a customer shops. It may be as simple as choosing food and other goods that are grown or made in New York and New England. By shopping carefully at the supermarket, a customer can buy food that is in-season and grown nearby. For some folks, being a localvore can mean shopping at the supermarket and the local farmers' market on Saturday morning.

So, consider becoming a localvore. You will find that your locally-grown meal tastes delicious and is packed with nutrients, meaning and satisfaction.

Historical Notes

History of The New Baltimore Reformed Church (part one)

On July 4, 2008, the New Baltimore Reformed Church in the hamlet celebrated the 175th anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone. Both the church and the parsonage are listed on the Greene County Register of Historic Places. This is an adaptation of the history previously written for the commemorative cookbook, "The Best of 175 Years" (available from the Church or at the New Baltimore Farmers' Market).



The New Baltimore Reformed Church around 1898

Imagine New Baltimore in 1833. Settlers had lived here for more than 100 years. The region had been explored for over 200 years. The Native Americans had known and loved this area for several centuries before that. It was the 57th year since the Declaration of Independence. Andrew Jackson was President. New Baltimore had been separated from Coxsackie and had its own town government for 22 years! The river was an active trading highway; steamboats had plied the river since 1807, and now it is filled with sloops (like the Clearwater). Agriculture was the way of life in what is now the hamlet as well as in the surrounding town.

The 1830s were also a time of religious revival in the area, with many people seeking God in many ways. The time was right for the establishment of New Baltimore's own church. At a community meeting on January 12, 1833, Staats Van Santvoord (1790 – 1882), a Schenectady native, graduate of Union College (A. B. 1811) and New Brunswick Theological Seminary (B. D. 1814), pastor of the Reformed Churches in Schodack and Coeymans, proposed that a church be built south of the stone house owned by Stephen Parsons. The proposal was approved and work rapidly began. The land was purchased, a building committee headed by Teunis P. Van Slyke appointed, plans approved and contract awarded, so that by July 4th of that year the cornerstone was laid.

It is said that on that hot Fourth of July, people marched from the old schoolhouse (at the southwest corner of Madison Avenue and Route 144) to the site of the church, singing hymns as they went. After prayers by Rev. Samuel Kissam of the Bethlehem and Jerusalem (Feura Bush) Reformed Churches, Rev. Van Santvoord gave a sermon based on Matthew 7:24 ("I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock."). The building was completed the next year.

A church is more a community of believers than just a building. Members were accepted by certificate from many of the surrounding Reformed churches (in most cases, this meeting house was closer to their homes than their previous place of worship), and by profession of faith. The first Consistory included members received from Coxsackie (First), Coeymans, and Westerlo. It is interesting to note that one of the early members was Mary VanderZee (a "free person of color"), who worked for Pastors Van Santvoord and Cornell, and was for many years a devoted member of the church, attending the communion service on January 1, 1902, when she was over 100 years old.

named in his honor.

In 1843, the Rev. James A. H. Cornell came to New Baltimore. He established the "Sabbath School" with his brother, Theodore (a medical doctor), as Superintendent. There was a registration of 160 pupils. During the pastorate of Rev. Cornell and for the three subsequent pastorates our minister was shared with Coeymans. While Rev. Cornell was called to Syracuse in 1848 and progressed in the Reformed Church, New Baltimore remained his home. He died here in 1899, at an age of almost 89. As the major donor when the fire company was formed in 1896, the fire company and the 1896 and 1906 fire halls were named in his honor.

In the early 1860s, while the nation was in the middle of the War Between the States, the Rev. Robert G. Strong arrived and the present parsonage was built at a cost of \$1900. The double parlor rooms separated by pocket doors served as a large, flexible place for holding meetings without heating the church. During this time also, a new church bell was purchased (with the first bell being used until 1923 in the Baldwin shipyard).

Rev. Strong was followed in 1870 by his brother-in-law, the Rev. Jeremiah Lott Zabriskie. Rev. Zabriskie was architecturally talented and led extensive alterations including removal of the gallery, installation of a furnace, extension of the building to the south to provide for two entrances and vestibules with a choir alcove between, as well as a bell tower and flagstone walks (basically the South end of the building as we now know it). He resigned in 1882 due to poor health, but continued scientific investigations in his retirement.

(End of Part One; To Be Continued)

—John H. Nickles.

Events & Announcements

New Baltimore Farmers' Market Looking for Volunteers

The weekly farmers' market has been a huge success. We've had hundreds of visitors at Wyche Park each Saturday morning taking in the live entertainment, meeting neighbors and discovering the many benefits of local food.

The volunteers have done an incredible job, but the market needs more people to come help out. Volunteers are needed to help set up in the morning, man the tables and more. It's a great opportunity to be a part of the town's exciting new market.

Artists, craftspeople and musicians are also invited to participate and help foster the festive atmosphere.

For more information, call 947-6701 or send an email to dlcasbeer@aol.com.

Yard Sale

Your trash may be someone's treasure! The Town of New Baltimore's 5th Annual Townwide Yard Sale is set for Saturday, September 20th. Rain date is Sunday, September 21.

As in the past, the town will do the newspaper advertising. If you are going to have a yard sale at your house, please call the Town Clerk with your location before August 25. We will then make up maps showing the roads and locations of all yard sales in the town. Maps can be picked up at the town Hall on the day of the sale.

You are welcome to make and post your own signs advertising your sale. Our town parks are available for anyone wish to use them. We ask that you let the Town Clerk know you are going to be there and that you take out everything you bring in.

Food vendors are welcome. If you are not having a yard sale, venture out for a ride in town, meet your neighbors and perhaps you will find a good bargain while doing so.

We hope everyone has a great sale!

YMCA Offering Classes

The YMCA has opened in temporary quarters at 370 Mansion Street in West Cossackie and is offering a number of classes for adults and programs for children of all ages.

The kids programs include weekly art, music and nature classes. For adults, there are spinning, yoga, pilates and more. For more information, call 731-7529 or visit the website at www.cdymca.org.

RCS Mailing

A number of residents of the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk school district have complained about not receiving the school's regular bulletin, Chalkboard. Those who have not received Chalkboard should contact Mike McCagg at 756-5200, ext.6017 or email him at mmccagg@rcscsd.org.

Farm Tour

A glimpse behind the bucolic scenes of working farms is the theme of this year's New Baltimore Conservancy Tour. The dairy operation at Van Slyke Farm, cattle at Flegel Farm and Court Farm and the vegetables at Heirloom Farm are included in the tour, which takes place July 13th from 3-7pm.

Tickets are \$5/person or \$10/family and go on sale at 2pm at Cecil Hallock Park on Route 54. For more information, call Susan O'Rourke at 756-6022.

Notice to Residents About Open Burning

Any town resident who experiences health concerns or discomfort connected to a neighbor's open burning may contact the Code Enforcer under New York State Uniform Fire Code, which "prohibits burning that will be offensive or objectionable due to smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous."

New Baltimore residents wishing to lodge a complaint may contact John Cashin at 229-5626 or Christian Larsen at 756-6671.

Environmental Review of Exit 21B Retail Project Completed

The Greene County Industrial Development Agency has completed its environmental review of the proposed "destination retail project" proposed for the area of the New York State Thruway Exit 21B in the Town of New Baltimore.

Following the IDA's revisions to downsize the proposed project, public information meetings and public workshops were held, and a formal Public Hearing on the Supplemental Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement was held on April 29th. At that Public Hearing, all speakers were in favor of the downsized project.

The IDA has prepared a Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and has approved a Findings Statement; these steps complete the environmental review of the project. The next step in the development process will be for the IDA to enter into agreements for companies to locate in the development site and to seek local and state approvals for all applicable permits. The most significant approval that will be required at the Town level will be zoning approval to move forward with the project; that process is not expected to begin any sooner than Fall, 2008, and will involve further public participation, including public hearings.

Coupon for TV Converter

In February, 2009, all television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and begin using digital transition. Anyone with an old analog television will not be able to receive broadcasts. For those wishing to continue using their analog tv, the Federal Government is offering US households up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a converter box.

For information or to apply, call 1-888-DTV-2009 or check the website at www.DTV2009.gov.

Town Officials

Supervisor
David Louis

Board Members
Art Byas
Kevin Kuenster
Chris Norris
Arlene McKeon

Planning Board
Lee Davis
Joseph Caputo
Howard Goldson
Kenneth Kuder
Eric Hogland
John Murray
Alta Turner

Zoning Board
Meave Tooher
Stephen Volkheimer
Christy Jo Cone
Anthony Rago
Roger Wilson

Town Clerk
Janet Brooks

Tax Collector
Diane Stuart

Assessor
Gordon Bennett

Town Justices
Joseph Farrell
Joseph Cosenza

Superintendent of Highways
Denis Jordan

Town Board Meetings:
2nd and 4th Mondays

Planning Board Meetings
2nd Thursday*

Zoning Board Meetings
1st Wednesday*

*if no agenda, no meeting

Town Office Hours
Monday—Friday 9-4

Highway Hours
Monday—Friday 7-3

Telephone
(518) 756-6671

Website
www.townofnewbaltimore.org

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