

New Baltimore 2022 Newsletter

Volume 1

From the Desk of Supervisor Jeff Ruso

On December 11, 2021 I testified before members of the State Senate in Albany about municipal water systems. I described the emergency water main breakage that occurred in the Scheller Park area on June 1, 2020. Along with other municipal leaders from throughout the State, I stressed the need for additional investment from the State to support small or rural water systems. It is critical that the state recognizes that small water districts need not only financial support but the support of state water systems experts that can guide our towns when such emergencies occur. The Town Board and I will continue our efforts to seek assistance for our water district residents.

Are You Saving on Your Central Hudson Bills?

Four communities in Greene County have seen energy savings of up to **60 percent** thanks to their participation in a Good Energy Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. The Town of New Baltimore was part of that CCA aggregation and has saved residents between 30 and 40% over the past 12 months.

By participating in a Good Energy CCA program, Town residents can enjoy a low, locked-in rate of 5.741 cents until December of this year, while energy rates in other areas with Central Hudson continue to spike. For example, rates from Central Hudson, the utility serving Greene County, were as high as 22 cents per kWh in February. For more information or check enrollment status:

<https://greenecountycommunityenergy.com/new-baltimore/> or call (833) 696-3759

Welcome to Town Justice Konsul



Town Justice Jim Huff administers the Oath of Office to Town Justice Anthony C. Konsul Jr. with his wife, Judy, holding the family Bible. Tony retired as a 30-year Corrections Officer.

Ted Hilscher's Town Historian Report

Old Roads (Part One)

For the next several town newsletters, we will be exploring the historic network of roads in New Baltimore, to see what remains from the pre-automobile era, and what our roads can tell us about local history.

The early Hudson Valley settlers of European descent found a network of paths that the Natives had developed over centuries, paths that no doubt often had their origin as animal trails. These were the first ways through the woods and across streams for the newcomers, were widened for use by livestock and wagons, and became the basis for our oldest roads.

Every road on which we travel today has been leveled and straightened. High spots have been lowered, dips filled in, curves and bends softened or eliminated altogether.

Roads have been "moved" in order to accommodate the coming of the automobile, so that there may be two roads, more or less parallel, one with nineteenth century buildings, more narrow and crooked, the other straight and wide, with twentieth century buildings. Think Flatbush Road and Route 9W.

Many roads have been abandoned.

I will direct your attention to locations of abandoned roads which I hope will encourage you to explore our town and see things you may not have noticed before, leading you to think about your town differently. Abandoned roads are no longer accessible to the public, and are private property. **DO NOT TRESPASS.**

We will begin our study at the southeast corner of town.

Today Swezey Road is cut off from the rest of the town, originating at the north end of Riverside Avenue at the Cocksackie line, and ending in a dead end at the river. But for a long time that corner where Swezey Road turns to the east just north of the Riverside Cemetery was a very busy "four corners," an intersection of a north/south road with an east/west road. The north/south road through that intersection was the Albany-Greene Turnpike, incorporated in 1806. The east/west road terminated with Weaver's Ferry at the river, and ran a short distance down the hill to the west to Van Bergen's Mill on the Cocksackie Creek.

At our busy four corners the turnpike continued straight for several hundred yards, underneath the twentieth century barn you see directly to the north. It then wound down a fairly steep hill, crossed the Cocksackie Creek and ran along and west of the creek on what is today a private driveway until reaching what is today known as Route 61.

According to Beers's History, "in 1852 that part of the road north of Cocksackie was abandoned," meaning abandoned by the turnpike corporation. Abandoned portions of old turnpikes were almost always integrated in the local network of public roads, known as "common" roads in the nineteenth century, at least for a time.

After the roadbed from Riverside Avenue north was abandoned as a public road, to reach New Baltimore Hamlet from Cocksackie Village the public made a left at the old four corners, went to the Van Bergen Mills, and then continued on today's Route 61 a stone's throw away.

Abandoned roads never fade quietly into the night, because someone using the road wishes to continue to use the road. Litigation often ensues.

In 1930, Van R. Swezey commenced an action against his neighbor, Rosalie P. Beery, who owned the land currently owned by Deily, on the north side of our four corners. Ms. Beery found Swezey "driving across my farm" on the old turnpike roadbed and warned him in writing to stop. In response, Swezey claimed "for over three hundred years" the owners of his farm had used said roadbed, which had in recent years been improved with a surface and used by the teams of Whitehead Brothers Company, a New Jersey business extracting molding sand from the Beery Farm.

In a non-jury trial at the Courthouse in Catskill in September, 1931 Supreme Court Judge Sydney F. Foster found for Ms. Beery. The Judge wrote "that if any public easement of passage over the locus in quo ever existed, it has been abandoned and ceased to be such, because not having been worked or used as a public highway from the year 1857." Further, "no private right of way over the locus in quo exists in favor of the plaintiff herein," meaning Mr. Swezey had failed to demonstrate to the court continuous use over the old road by him or his predecessors in title.

There is one final footnote to the story before we leave this corner of town history. In the 1927-1928 school year, contemporaneous with the events leading to Judge Foster's courtroom, Miss Emma Craw was 18 years old and teaching school at the Otter Hook School House, still extant at the northwest corner of County Route 61 and Hawley Lane. Ms. Craw (later Emma Schmitt) lived with her family in Cocksackie and walked to her place of work, up Riverside Avenue, up the abandoned turnpike, crossed the Cocksackie Creek and then emerged on Route 61, as related to her daughter Mrs. Roberta (Bobsey) Roberg of Cocksackie. We don't know if some remnants of an old bridge remained, or whether Ms. Craw was fording the creek. It was a slower and quieter time, when people on foot could often be found crossing woods and fields, arousing no concern in the landowner. This *laissez-faire* approach did not extend to Mr. Swezey's crossing the Beery farm by wagon or automobile.

Joseph Wyche District #1 Park and Silver Lake District #3 Park Improvement Update By Deputy Supervisor Nick Dellisanti

District 1 Park

To date the following improvements have been made:

1. A completely new electrical system that includes:
 - I A new panel with breakers
 - ii All new wiring
 - iii New electrical outlets under the pavilion
 - iv New light fixtures under the pavilion
2. All new posts to support the pavilion
3. New drainage pipes throughout the Park to alleviate the previous flooding

Still To Be Completed

1. One more set of drainage pipes approximately 1,100 feet in length to also help remove excess water from the park field area. After speaking with Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer, the due date for completion of this project is June 30th of this year.
2. Finally, the Town Board has approved the purchase and installation of \$46,000 of new playground equipment from the Miracle Recreation Equipment Company. This playground is scheduled for installation in the Fall this year.

District 3 Park

The design of the 90' baseball field has been completed by Delaware Engineering. Because of the COVID pandemic, we lost previous months on the construction of this project. On a more positive note, we have received the new Concession Stand and it is now located at the park awaiting installation.

Still To Be Completed

After speaking with our Highway Superintendent, the following schedule is to take place:

1. Concrete pads for the Concession Stand and the dugouts to start on July 1, 2022
2. Cutting out the grass for the Infield to start on July 15, 2022
3. The Trench for the electric to the concession stand, dugouts and scoreboard area to start on July 1, 2022.
4. Completion of this project is scheduled for the Fall of 2022.

I would be remiss if I didn't include a big Thank You to Superintendent VanWormer and the Highway crew for all of their help in completing these two major Park renovation projects!

Update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Town completed and closed on the financing of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project this year. The project was completed approximately \$100,000 under budget, with a \$650,000 grant, and 0% financing of the \$1.8 million loan.

These much needed upgrades to the 40-year-old Plant are providing improved water quality in the Hudson River. Additionally, the upgrades provided flood and storm resiliency for the Town's critical infrastructure.

Do You Need A COVID Test Kit

We have a supply of COVID test kits available for Town residents. Stop by Town Hall or call Town Clerk Barb Finke or Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Eldred at (518)756-6671, Ext. 5 and we will have them ready for pickup.

Greene County News from County Legislator Pat Linger

Greene County Public Health 2022 Rabies Clinic Schedule

DRIVE-UP ONLY CLINIC

**Angelo Canna Town Park
Joseph D. Spencer Lane,
Cairo, NY**

**June 15 5 PM-7 PM
August 17 5 PM-7 PM
September 14 5 PM-7 PM**

**Please call to Pre-Register
(518)719-3600,
Wear Face Mask, and Stay
Inside Vehicle.**

**Bring records of pet's
previous vaccination for
3-year certificate.
If no record, pet will be
given 1-year certificate.**

American Rescue Plan Act

In 2021, President Biden signed ARPA into law. As part of this bill, \$350 billion was made available to State and Local governments to help in recovery efforts related to Coronavirus losses. Greene County is earmarked to receive \$9.1 million to spend within the ARPA guidelines. What are we doing with it? Our philosophy in deciding where this money is allocated starts with making sure the funding improves our lives by creating investment opportunities that lead to growth in our county. Here's a breakdown of where we will be investing these funds.

We made some initial investments of roughly \$400k in 2021 to provide PPE, overtime costs, and vaccine POD supplies. Improvements have been made to software in Human Resources and the Emergency Operations Center, and hardware was purchased for WRIP to help get information out to our residents.

Committed funds:

Exit 21 West Natural Gas line expansion - \$1.7 million
Cairo Industrial Park - \$950k
Workforce Housing - \$350k

Estimated funding:

"Final Mile" Broadband expansion - \$2 million initial investment

New Justice Center - \$1 million

New Community Services building - \$1 million

Local Town/Village partnership requests:
Estimated at \$1.9 million for a total investment of \$9.3 million

Where To Safely Dispose of Unused & Expired Medications

**Greene County Sheriff 9AM-5 PM
45 Haverly Drive, Coxsackie
518-943-3300**

**Coxsackie Police Department 8AM-12AM
119 Mansion Street, Coxsackie
518-731-8121**

**Kelly's Pharmacy M-F 9AM-5PM
West Coxsackie/Greenville Sat 9AM-3PM
518-731-4800/518-966-4800**

Do You Need A 911 Sign or EZ-Pass Tag?

Call the Assessor's Office at
(518)756-6671, Ext. 8 to place a request
for a **911 Sign**.

E-ZPass Tags are available in the Town
Clerk's Office for \$25 which is credited to
an account when activated.

**Sherry Vieta
Dog Control Officer
(518)322-9783**

Grievance Day 2022

Grievance Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th from 4pm-8pm at the New Baltimore Town Hall. This is a chance to contest your Assessment in front of the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) for the Town. By law, this is your right as a property owner to attend this hearing. If anyone wishes to contest their assessment, they must call the Assessor's Office ahead of time and make an appointment on Tuesdays from 9:00am-2:00pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please call 518-756-7888 ext. 8, to schedule your appointment. The Assessor will also require that you bring your paperwork in prior to the hearing. Walk-in are welcome, but will need to wait for an opening on the schedule. Once an appointment is made, each taxpayer will be able to speak and state their case to the BAR for a period of 5-10 minutes. The BAR will then discuss and make a decision on their Grievance at a later date. As always, if you have any questions regarding your assessment, please do not hesitate to contact our Assessor's Office.

TOWN MAKES MAJOR HIGHWAY PURCHASE WITHOUT BORROWING

In August, the Town of New Baltimore is expecting to have delivered a new International Plow Truck that will provide a major upgrade to our fleet of snow removal equipment. The price of this new Plow Truck is \$208,000.

Over the past number of years, the Town Board has been transferring end-of-the-year unspent budget surpluses into the "Highway Equipment Reserve" fund.

Initially it was considered that we would accumulate enough funds to reduce the amount that the town would need to borrow. However, since the Town was able to deposit more than anticipated into the reserve account, we now have more than enough to pay for the plow entirely.

TOWN BOARD IMPOSES MORATORIUM ON NEW COMMERCIAL SOLAR PROJECTS

At the New Baltimore Town Board meeting of January 24, 2022 there was a lengthy discussion which centered on the various solar projects in the Town. There are two commercial solar projects currently under construction and an application for a third. The Town Board, with input from the Planning Board, decided to halt consideration on any additional applications for at least six months. During this time a panel of board members consisting of two Town Board members, two Planning Board members, one Zoning Board member, and the Code Enforcement Officer will meet and review the outcomes of the current projects and consider conditions and/or changes to our Town Code for future projects. It was felt that we need to ensure that there are sufficient protections and benefits to the residents of the Town of New Baltimore before going any further on any other projects.

It should be noted that this moratorium will not include small residential projects but is limited to larger commercial projects.

***Do You Like to Work With Children?
Would you like to plan and manage a four-week summer recreation program
this year?***

We Need you!

The Town of New Baltimore is looking for a Director, Assistant Director/Counselors for our 2022 Summer Recreation Program which is scheduled to begin on July 11 and end on August 5. The hours of the program are from 8:30 AM-Noon.

Please send cover letter/resume for Director/Assistant Director to:

**Councilmember Shelly VanEtten
3809 County Route 51
Hannacroix, NY 12087**

Applications for Counselors are available at www.townofnewbaltimore.org under Parks or at Town Hall. We will need a Director and Assistant Director before Counselor Positions can be filled.



Mason Jr. and Mark Springstead donated this painting to the Town that their mother, Joan, completed in 1994. Mason Sr. and Joan raised their sons in the home that Mason built on Route 9W.

We sincerely appreciate their gift which proudly hangs in the Meeting Room at Town Hall.



Town resident Ryan Leonard shown with some of the flags to be retired for his Eagle Scout project.

A collection box is in the entry of Town Hall offices for anyone wishing to make a donation.

TOWNWIDE YARD SALE

The Town of New Baltimore 19th Annual Townwide Yard Sale will be on *Saturday, September 17, 2022* beginning at 9 AM.

If you would like to be included on the yard sale map, please list your street address and what categories of items you have to sell (F-Furniture; KCT-Kids' Clothes/Toys; H-Housewares; T-Tools; B-Books; A-Antiques; SG-Sporting Goods; O-Other).

Please call Barb Finke at (518)756-6671 Ext. 5,
Lynn Taylor at (518)731-8447, or Donna Degnen (518)756-2776 with questions
or clerk@townofnewbaltimore.org

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Street Address of Sale _____

Circle All Appropriate

F - Furniture	B - Books
KCT - Kids' Clothes/Toys	A - Antiques
H - Housewares	SG - Sporting Goods
T - Tools	O - Other

Maps will be available at 8AM on Saturday, September 17 on the steps of Town Hall,
District 2 Park, and other locations throughout Town.

We are pleased to announce that 2017 –2022 Town and County Tax Bills
are now Online at:

<https://egov.basgov.com/townofnewbaltimore>

New Baltimore Town Hall
3809 County Route 51
Hannacroix, NY 12087

Calendar

Town Board Meetings
2nd and 4th Mondays
7 PM

Planning Board Meetings
2nd Thursday* 7 PM

Zoning Board Meetings
1st Wednesday* 7:30 PM

* If no agenda, no meeting

For agendas and other

Town information, please
call Town Offices or visit
our website.

www.townofnewbaltimore.org

Town Hall Contact Information

Town Hall FAX (518)756-8880

Animal Control Officer Sherry Viera (518)322-9783

Town Clerk Barb Finke (518)756-6671, Ext. 5

Zoning/Planning/
Building Amanda Eldred
Allan Jourdin, Building Inspector #1
Marjorie Loux, Clerk #2

Town Supervisor Jeff Russo (518)756-6671, Ext. 7

Assessor Dawn DeRose (518)756-6671, Ext. 8

Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer (518)756-2078
FAX (518)756-3078

Town Court Justices Huff and Konsul
Lynne Layman-Wallace/
Asia Irizarry

Greene County Sheriff (518)756-3300