

New Baltimore

From the Desk of Supervisor Jeff Ruso

Operations of Town Government during the Pandemic

The Town of New Baltimore continues to maintain operations of all necessary functions during these trying times. Town Hall is open and we have developed protocol for entry. This includes wearing of masks, following social distancing, suggesting that only one family member enter, and permitting only two people in Town Hall at once.

Beginning on March 23, Town Board meetings were held that limited the attendance of the public. Only essential items were addressed which included the approval and payment of vouchers. Meetings were broadcast the following Monday evening at 7PM on Mid-Hudson Cablevision station 901.

The Town Board did hold an emergency meeting at the pavilion in the Cecil C. Hallock Park to discuss the water emergency at Water District #2 attended by Delaware Engineering and Mayor Mark Evans from the Village of Cossackie. The Regular Town Board meeting that followed was the official declaration of a state of emergency to address repairs and restoration of water to the Scheller Park area.

Town Board meetings are now open to the public and the number of attendees allowed in the meeting room is 25 which includes Town Board members, Deputy Supervisor, and the Town Clerk. While some restrictions remain in place, all functions of Town government are back in full operation.

Welcome to Town Justice Jim Huff

***Town Justice Jim Huff
was sworn in at the
Town Board Regular Meeting
on July 13***

***by Ed Barber, former
Town Supervisor and
Notary Public of the
State of New York,
assisted by
Nick Dellisanti,
Deputy Town Supervisor***



Although Justice Huff was originally appointed by the Town Board on February 10 to fill a Court vacancy, training was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Justice Huff recently retired from the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision following an extensive 30+ year career beginning as a Corrections Officer and retiring as an Assistant Director of Training.

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Ted Hilscher's Town Historian Report

THE TWINS ON THE RIVER

The future sites for the hamlets of New Baltimore and Coeymans Landing were both part of the lands that were the subject of the same mother document, the patent issued to Barent Coeymans by Governor Lovelace in 1673. That patent was based on Coeymans's claim that he had purchased said lands from the local natives the year before. Soon after, Coeymans built or improved mills on the creek that would eventually bear his name, and the hamlet bearing his name grew where the creek entered the Hudson River.

After Barent's death, the Coeymans lands were divided. In 1773 the widower of one of Barent's daughters sold the site of the hamlet of New Baltimore to brothers Albert Storm and Cornelius Vanderzee. Albert built a log cabin on the hill overlooking the river, the first house in the hamlet.

The two settlements, four miles apart, grew up together. They share the river, and other topography, each hamlet built on a narrow strip of level land that rises quickly to the west. Westerlo Street and Madison Avenue traverse the same long continuous ridge that State Street in Albany and Mansion Street in Coxsackie also traverse, a ridge broken intermittently only by creeks. Each hamlet faces a long, low island.

At the top of the hill, where the terrain flattens out again, is where each hamlet ended and the countryside began. In both instances, there was a large farm occupying the west end of the hamlet, the Blaisdell farm in Coeymans and the Parsons farm in New Baltimore. Both farmhouses still stand. The Parsons barns stood where the New Baltimore Post Office is, across what is now Route 144 from the stone Parsons/Wolfe home.

In each instance, the communities built in the late 19th century a fortress-like schoolhouse at the west end of the hamlet, the hill-top location symbolic of the importance of education.

The two hamlets grew up along the same north-south artery. The Albany and Greene Turnpike opened in 1806, when both these places were tiny. The Turnpike approached from the south on what is now Route 61, became Main Street and then continued along current day Route 144 to Coeymans and then to South Pearl Street in Albany. (There was a notable bend in the road between the hamlets. Until the 1930s the road crossed the Hannacroix Creek on old stone piers, still standing, several hundred yards west of today's bridge.)

Just as important to the future of the twin hamlets, east-west roads were built which reached into the hinterlands, on which farmers brought hay and apples and eggs from the hills down to the river. The twin communities were sustained by their relationship to the river. In the summer, barges from New York were loaded with farm produce, bricks from Coeymans and slate quarried just south of New Baltimore hamlet. Warehouses and docks were built in both settlements. The centerpiece of the New Baltimore Bicentennial Logo created by Leanne Davis is a depiction of a warehouse that once stood in the hamlet on the banks of the Hudson. For a few weeks each winter, farmers came down from the hills, some with their horses, to cut and load ice into the ice houses built in both communities. The ice workers stayed locally for five days and went home on Saturday night.

Each hamlet developed a small downtown on the Albany and Greene Turnpike. On Main Street in Coeymans, in 1889, J.E. Gould sold meat, fruit and groceries out of a three story brick building with a decorative façade, still handsome with many of its original external features intact. In time, stores in small commercial districts became obsolete, and then often not well cared for. Several buildings close to the Gould building have been lost or are in danger of being lost.

In New Baltimore, stores and hotels standing at the wide spot in the road once known as "the square," where the north end of Mill Street meets Main, are already gone.

The communities even shared picnic grounds and a small amusement park on Barent Island, half way between, at the mouth of the Hannacroix. A vestige of the twin relationship is the location of the hamlet of New Baltimore within the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District, a continuation of the time when children who went to grade school in New Baltimore went to the higher grades in Coeymans and Ravena.

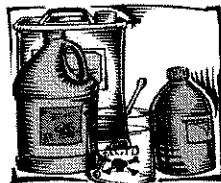
It is easy to believe that Coeymans Landing and New Baltimore hamlet would have continued to develop in identical fashion, each ending more or less at the ridge overlooking the river, with open space and farmland beyond, as in the case of New Baltimore still today. The 1865 map of the town of Coeymans is evidence of such a landscape.

What was it about their respective trajectories, so similar until the late 19th century, that changed?

The West Shore Railroad opened in 1883, running on the flats west of both hamlets. What is different about the two places is that the railroad forked at Coeymans Junction, with one line running to Schenectady and one line to Albany. At that fork was built a large railyard with a roundhouse. In 1905, there were 35 miles of tracks in the railyard. Eighty men were employed, and another 120 in the roundhouse. These workers, and their families, needed housing. Workers at the riverfront brickyards north of Coeymans Landing also needed housing.

The new industrial and residential center at Coeymans Junction was eventually renamed Ravena.

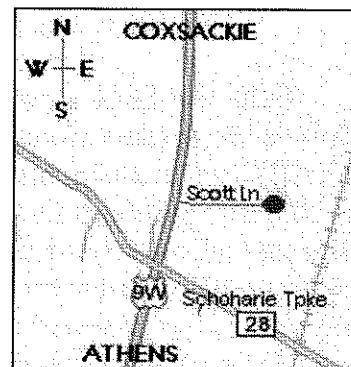
GREENE COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT 2020



AVAILABLE TO GREENE COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY
PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2020
7:00AM to 11:30AM
GREENE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
67 SCOTT LANE
ATHENS, NEW YORK

IN ORDER TO PROPERLY MANAGE THIS EVENT, REDUCE TRAFFIC
AND MINIMIZE WAITING TIME WE REQUEST PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE DURING THESE
SUGGESTED TIMES ACCORDING TO
THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME:



A-F	G-K	L-P	Q-U	V-Z
7:00-8:00 am	8:00-9:00 am	9:00-10:00 am	10:00-11:00 am	11:00-11:30 am

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL (518) 943-4600 OR EMAIL solidwaste@discovergreene.com

WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IS A HOUSEHOLD QUANTITY OF A PRODUCT THAT IS TOXIC IN NATURE AND SHOULD NOT BE DISPOSED OF AS EVERYDAY TRASH. IT REQUIRES SPECIAL HANDLING, PROCESSING, AND DISPOSAL. SOME OF THESE MATERIALS MAY BE RECYCLED BUT ARE NOT PART OF OUR REGULAR RECYCLING PROGRAM. PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF THESE MATERIALS. SEE BELOW FOR LIST OF ACCEPTED MATERIALS.

*ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
ACIDS & BASES	REACTIVES, EXPLOSIVES & AMMUNITION
AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS	FIREWORKS, FLARES & GUNPOWDER
CHLORINE	AGRICULTURAL WASTE
CLEANING PRODUCTS	COMMERCIAL WASTE
DRIVEWAY SEALER	COMPRESSED GASES (aerosols are okay)
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS	EMPTY AEROSOL CANS (recyclable)
GASOLINE & KEROSENE	EMPTY PAINT CANS (regular waste)
HOBBY CHEMICALS & PAINTS	INDUSTRIAL WASTE
PAINT REMOVERS & THINNERS	INFECTIOUS & BIOLOGICAL WASTES
OIL BASED PAINTS ONLY	KNOWN DIOXINS
PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES/INSECTICIDES	MEDICAL WASTE
PHOTO CHEMICALS	MOTOR OIL (recyclable @ Service Stations)
SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS	PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION & SYRINGES
TURPENTINE	PROPANE TANKS (recyclable)
VARNISH	RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS
WEED KILLERS	SMOKE DETECTORS
WOOD PRESERVATIVES & STAINS	ANY NON-HOUSEHOLD QUANTITIES

*We reserve the right to refuse any material deemed unacceptable by the on-site chemist.

Sponsored by the Greene County Legislature and the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Greene County News from County Legislator Pat Linger

GC COVID Metrics are Good – Let's Keep It That Way

As part of New York State's Capital Region, Greene County entered Phase IV of the reopening process on July 1st. Our active cases and rate of transmission remain some of the lowest in the region, and more and more businesses are opening safely. Now is the time to remain vigilant, practice safe social distancing, wear face coverings in public, and act responsibly so we don't take a step backward. For up-to-date information, visit

<https://greenecountypedc.com/>

Take the 2020 Census Online

Now is the perfect time to complete the 2020 Census and ensure that Greene

County receives its fair share of representation, resources, and funding.

Self-reporting rates are down, so make sure you do your part at Greene Counts!!

<https://my2020census.gov/>

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

As July is coming to a close, so is the \$2.6M major upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant. The project is being funded with a combination of grants and 0% loans and is expected to be completed under budget this summer. The level of treatment from the upgraded plant is already much improved and the working conditions at the plant have also been upgraded significantly.

Projects on track to move Greene forward

The new jail project is progressing on schedule and under budget, with a substantial completion date in January 2021. The RFP has been released to demo the old jail complex, with bids to be received in early August. Our Solid Waste Transfer Station improvement plan is well under way. The Windham scale has been replaced, allowing us to temporarily close the Hunter facility for a complete overhaul and re-design which will take place this year. The Catskill facility has seen many improvements and is scheduled for re-design as well. Plans are in process to overhaul the Cossackie facility. These improvements will lead to greater efficiency, and reduced costs, in transporting our solid waste stream. Preliminary discussions have begun on a potential homeless and code blue shelter in Greene as well. Our current model of using hotel/motel rooms is expensive and unsustainable. Both are services we are mandated by NYS to provide.

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

Call Kathy in the Assessor's Office at (518)756-6617, Ext. 8 to place your order 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.

Water District 2

On June 2 the water main feeding Scheller Park broke beneath the southbound travel lane of the NYS Thruway. The Village of Cossackie water department provided temporary water and contracted for temporary repairs which were completed late on Friday June 5. The Town is working closely with the Village of Cossackie who supplies water to the Town lines on a permanent repair of the line under the Thruway later this summer. An informational meeting will be held in the coming weeks.

Feeling Crafty?

Due to the recent pandemic, our Summer Recreation Program was cancelled for 2020. Instead there will be a distribution of children's craft projects outside Town Hall on Thursdays from 11 AM-12 Noon until August 13. Crafts include bubbles, kites, magnets, bug jars and garden pots.

This project is possible through a grant from the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation and a donation from the Misuraca Family.

Planning Board Reminder

All applications and supporting documents being submitted to the Planning Board for consideration must be received at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Failure to do so can result in delay of application consideration until the Board has had sufficient time to review the late-received documents.

Update on the Restoration of Town Parks

Joseph Wyche District #1 Park

The Park Drainage Improvements Design and Bid will be ready to go in August. The Bid includes solicitation of materials for the necessary stormwater improvements to better drain the whole park. This includes the enlargement of existing culverts, the installation of new drainage pipes, catch basins, yard drains, and outlets structures. The Town of New Baltimore Highway Department plans to excavate and install the new stormwater infrastructure.

Silver Lake District #3 Park

The Ballfield Design and Bid will be ready to go in August. This Bid includes solicitation of materials for the construction of a concessions stand, cutting and grading of the infield, pouring of foundations for the dugouts, pouring of footings for backstop and foul ball poles, and installation of water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. The Town plans to remove the trees and brush along the hillside to provide for a viewing area from the concession stand and pavilion, it will also regrade the entire ballfield, excavate the electrical trench, and excavate and install the water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure.

The Electrical Improvements Bid will be completed in August but take place in September, once the grading by the Town has been completed. This Bid will cover the electrical upgrade work for both parks. It will include new electrical lines for the installation of receptacles, lighting, breaker box, a scoreboard, a well pump, a water tank, and a water heater at Silver Lake Park. This Bid will also include the replacement of the electrical lines, receptacles, and lighting at Joseph Wyche Park.

Do You Qualify for Enhanced STAR?

If you are a Basic STAR exemption recipient who turns 65 and meets the eligibility requirements, you should apply to the Assessor's Office for the Enhanced STAR Exemption. You only need to apply once, prior to March 1.

1. Must be your primary residence, 65 or older as of December 31.
 2. *2019 income tax \$90,550 or less (Federal 1040 return #7 minus #4; IT-201 #19 minus #9).
 3. File *Proof of Age (via Driver's License, etc.).
 4. File *RP-425E and *RP-425-IVF forms prior to March 1, with necessary documents(*).
- (Forms are also available on www.tax.ny.gov/star)

Do You Need Masks?

Town Hall received a donation of 100 packages of five cloth masks which can be placed in the washer and dryer. Any Town resident who needs a package is invited to stop by the Town Clerk's office.

They will be available until our supply runs out. One pack to a family please so we can assist as many residents as possible.

It's Yard Sale Time

The 2020 Townwide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, September 19 at 9 AM. Town Clerk Barb Finke, Lynn Taylor, and Donna Degnen will again Co-Chair this annual event. Sign-up forms are available at Town Hall, by calling the Town Clerk at (518)756-6671 Ext. 5, or at www.townofnewbaltimore.org. Categories of goods for sale include A-Antiques; B-Books; C-Clothing, F-Furniture, H-Housewares, KCT-Kids' Clothing/Toys; SG-Sporting Goods; T-Tools; and O-Other. Maps will be available at 8 AM on the day of the sale **only** on the steps at Town Hall, 3809 County Route 51, Cecil C. Hallock Park, and other locations throughout Town.

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 Joe Tanner (518)703-4746

Tax Collector

Diane Jordan

(518)756-6671, Ext. 2

Town Clerk

Barb Finke

(518)756-6671, Ext. 5

Zoning/Planning/
Building

Allan Jourdin, Building Inspector

#1

(518)756-6671, Ext. 6

Marjorie Loux, Clerk

#2

(518)756-6671, Ext. 7

Town Supervisor

Jeff Ruso

Justin Maxwell/Kathy Sprague (518)756-6671, Ext. 8

Assessor/Clerk

Alan VanWormer

(518)756-2078

Highway

FAX

(518)756-3078

Superintendent

Justices Huff and Melewski

(518)756-2079

Kimberly Ruby/

Lynne Layman-Wallace

(518)756-3300

Greene County Sheriff