



The Guide

Town of Duane Newsletter
September 2017
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Church Flowerbeds Look Beautiful!

If you haven't traveled past the Church/Community Center the past few months you need to do so. The flowerbeds are in full bloom and they look beautiful. Duane residents Linda and Brian McClarigan are to be credited for the plantings. They selected a variety of heirloom plants from their own perennial gardens. Heirloom plants have been passed down from generation to generation. Of the many types of heirloom plants to choose from, the McClarigan's used all perennial plants and those that would flower throughout our short gardening season here in Duane. Planning for the garden to bring color and aroma every month of the summer.

Plants used are listed below and should be in bloom on the months noted:

Bleeding Heart - May & June
Iris - June
Yellow Day Lilies - July & August
Spiderwort - July
Daisy - July & August
Goat's Beard - July

Annabelle Hydrangea - August
Black Eyed Susan - August
Solomon Seal - June
Sedum - September
Hosta's - all summer

Many thanks are expressed to Linda and Brian for completing this beautiful addition to our Church/Community Center.



Hollywood Invades Duane

In June of 2015 Richard Matt and David Sweat managed to escape from Dannemora Correctional Facility. The two men were on the run for 23 days before Matt was shot and killed and Sweat was shot and captured. Actor Ben Stiller has decided to produce a miniseries to air on Showtime Network in 2018. The eight part series, "Escape From Dannemora", will chronicle the events surrounding the escape. Much of the filming will occur just north of Duane on Rt. 30. The support crews asked for permission to use the Duane Fire Station for three days as a staging location.



Senior Lunch Program A Success

The Senior Lunch Program initiated by board member, Mark Young, has proved to be a success.

Meals are available every Friday from 11am until 1pm with a meal being served at 12 noon. Individuals are asked to make a reservation in advance. Call Mark Young at 518-483-1648 (home) or 651-7032 (cell) to make a reservation by Tuesday to reserve a

meal on Friday. There is no cost for the meal, however, contributions are accepted but not required. The town expresses a thank you to both Mark Young and Rita Gordon for their time and efforts.



Game Nights End Season With a Picnic

Many thanks go out to all the people who



made the Family Game Nights a success this past summer. Plans are already in the process to continue Game Nights next year. If you have any suggestions for improvements please forward them to Gary (518-483-2611).

Town of Duane Historical Notes

Prepared by: Gloria Gori, Town Historian

Duane's Heydays of Iron-ore Mining

In the earliest days, land in Duane abounded in iron-ore. James Duane and his brothers employed engineers for three years to discover ore beds. Mining engineering methods were very crude in that day. James relied more on an old German friend, Mr. Shafer. He was not able to read, but James trusted his instincts from his experience of working in mines in Europe. Mr. Shafer earned the nickname "James's Dousterswivel".

The first forge was built on the Duane Stream just below where it crossed the Hopkinton Port Kent Turnpike in the late 1800's. The forge made bar iron, which sold excellently at the Clinton Rolling Mills. Success at last! Then came the freshet, a major flood, which carried off the forge. The little stream, which one could step over on stones, except where it was dammed, was so swollen that the whole ravine was filled like a deep river which destroyed lives and property. One bar of iron was found twisted like a cork screw and still not broken proved the quality of the iron. This gave James Duane to build another forge, which burned and was again carried away by another flood. Mr. Duane's main carpenter told him, "Look here, Captain that ere hollow is an unlucky hole." The decision was made to abandon the site and support his brothers Robert and Mumford at Deer River, near Dave Teeple's property. There, a little village grew around the furnace. There was

a stone bellows house, a black smith's shop, and three coal houses filled with charcoal burnt in Duane. A saw mill, their homes and two barns, a framed tavern, which they rented to a man who could board people they employed. The forge operated for six to seven years. Its product averaged about 100 tons a year of the very finest quality of iron. Still this operation was doomed and abandoned for it was far too costly to convert the iron-ore to the bars and transport it to the buyers.

In the late 1870's, John Duane, son of James, tore down the old furnace building in order to extract the iron and to sell. The three story building walls were reinforced by great bars of iron two to three inches wide and thirty to forty feet long. Today, you can still find visible remanence of the forge.

Sources: "Recollections of an Old Fashion Lady" by Mary Ann Duane; 1884 Historical Sketches of Franklin County by: Frederick J. Seaver, 1918

Highlights from Town Board Meetings

June 21st meeting:

Absent: None

Supervisor LeMieux distributed information on NYS Paid Family Leave: How it Works.

Payroll will no longer allow for the sharing of cost between towns. Bookkeeper Linda McElwain is researching alternate program prices.

Board member Gary Cring discussed some adjustments to the contract used for events at the church (security deposit).

July 19th meeting:

Absent: None

Supervisor LeMieux reviewed with the town board the nature of meetings with the county regarding shared services.

The board voted in favor of an override of the tax cap for the upcoming budget for 2018.

August 16th meeting:

Absent: None

Supervisor LeMieux reviewed with the town board the County-Wide Shared Services Property Tax Savings Plan Proposal. He will have to cast a vote and wanted feedback from the board. The board agreed to support a yes vote on the proposal.

Highway Superintendent LeMieux discussed the negotiations with Franklin County in regards to snow and ice removal.

The Budget Work Session was started for the 2018 budget year.

September 20th meeting:

Absent: None

Town assessor, Pam Sloate, updated the board concerning recent sales and answered some questions.

The town's ambulance service provided by St. Regis Falls is expected to increase so the board discussed various options.

Board member Gary Cring provided the board with an update on events at the Little White Church.

During the Budget Work Session a preliminary 2018 budget was finalized.

Election Day: November 7th

Election Day is November 7th and local residents will be voting at the Duane Fire Station from 6AM to 9PM. Here is a list of candidates running for local positions. All candidates are running unopposed.

Town Supervisor: Edward LeMieux Sr.

Town Council: Rita Gordon
Mark Young

Superintendent of Highways: Ned LeMieux Jr.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Sue Nitto

Town Justice: James Lalonde

Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 18th – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

October 28th – Town Halloween Party at Fire Station 12-3PM

November 7th – Election Day voting at Fire Station from 6AM to 9PM

November 15th – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

December 2nd – Town Christmas Party at Fire Station

December 20th – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

January 17th – Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

Next issue of *The Guide* will be mailed out at the end of January 2018.

Any suggestions or questions concerning *The Guide* should be directed to Gary Cring (518-483-2611).

Ayers Road Gets Repaved



This past August Ayers Road was repaved. Each year the Town of Duane uses the CHIPS (County Highway Improvement Projects) monies it receives from the State to resurface a town road