



The Guide

Town of Duane Newsletter

Happy New Year's

January 2016

Vol. 8 No. 1

Town Directory for 2015

Town Supervisor: Edward LeMieux Sr. 483-4768

Town Council: Rita Gordon 481-7663 Mark Young 483-1648
 Laura Paquin 483-6048 Gary Cring 483-2611

Assessor: Thomas Gallagher 481-5320

Superintendent of Highways: Ned LeMieux Jr. Town Garage: 483-3809 home: 483-4885

Code Enforcement Official: Robert Crossman home: 483-5425 cell: 651-4280

Town Justice: James Lalonde 483-0517 duanejp@westelcom.com

Town Clerk / Tax Collector: Sue Nitto 483-1617 duanetownclerk@yahoo.com

Dog Control Official: Lisa Coryea 483-7528

Fire Station: 483-0386 (Fire and Rescue Emergency 911)

NYS Ranger: Jeff Balerno 518-891-0477

Town Historian: Gloria Gori 483-4369

Power Outage: National Grid 1-800-867-5222

Town of Duane Web Page: www.duaneny.com

Church Renovations Completed



On April 15, 2015 it was announced that the Town of Duane had been selected by the State of NY to receive a grant totaling \$74,029 to make repairs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. In late September the repairs were completed and within the grant. The repairs included: new asphalt roof, reinforcement of the bell tower foundation, reinforcement of the front foundation wall, new rear entrance with handicap ramp on side of building, repairs to front entrance doors and structural reinforcement to side walls. On October 3rd Andrew Fish and Jessica Marshall were

married in the newly restored church. The town anticipates other events will be planned in the future. For additional information regarding the use of the church please contact Town Supervisor, Ned LeMieux, at 483-4768.

Duane Budget for 2016 under State-Imposed Tax Cap

The Duane Town Board along with help from the Duane Highway Department worked very hard to keep the tax increase under the state-imposed tax cap. The spending plan approved for 2016 will increase taxes 13 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The increase will bring the town tax rate to \$6.14 per \$1,000 assessed value. The largest increase in spending came from a rise in the town's health insurance costs. Other than health insurance, the budget was pretty close to the 2015 budget.



Linda McClarigan Recognized by NCCC

Local resident Linda McClarigan was recently honored and featured in the North Country Community College Newsletter. The article, "*A Success Story*", focused on Linda's accomplishments after her graduation in 1974. Linda obtained her Masters Degree in Health Care Administration while working as chief Nursing Officer at Alice Hyde. In 2012 she was hired by Adirondack Health to serve as a Director and now performs the duties of Chief Nursing Officer. Linda's career

accomplishments are a testament to her dedication to the health care profession.

New Town Truck Arrives in Time for Plowing Season



This past fall the Duane Highway Department received delivery of a new dump/plow truck. Highway Superintendent Ned LeMieux felt the time was right to trade the old truck in for a new more efficient model. Our town's two plow trucks see plenty of use in snow and ice removal during the course of a "Duane" winter.



Town of Duane Historical Notes

Prepared by: Gloria Gori, Town Historian

1853 Historic Event in Duane Township

This article is about an 1853 Historic event that happened in Franklin County in our town of Duane. A terrible tragedy was marked by an inscription on a large birch tree marking the spot. Fifty years after the event, Mr. H.L. Ives traveling along the Hopkinton Turnpike related the story to a companion. The event was particularly vivid in his mind for it involved a former classmate, Mr. Bickford. It made headlines in the Malone Farmers newspaper.

It all started when two horse traders, Mr. Secore and Mr. Vantassel traveling on the Port Kent Turnpike stopped for lunch at the Ives Tavern in Thomasville. They created quite the attention with their string of horses. One on looker, James M. Bickford, attention went only to the plump saddle bags strapped behind the two saddle steers. His mind's eye pictured the bags filled with money. Eavesdropping, he heard the two men saying they hoped to cover twenty three miles to the Ladd's place in Duane by night fall.

About six that evening he had a plan in place. With his friend Thomas Cook, they started out on foot and claimed they were going to the prayer meeting at Lyon School House. Bickford, was a fine looking young man about twenty and well-liked by everyone. Cook was a sort of half-witted fellow, somewhat older, had no education and was working on Bickford's father's farm.

First the lad stopped at Cook's home and borrowed an old rifle and hatchet from Cook's dad. They stopped at another neighbor's to borrow a second rifle, but no success. They traveled all night to the Ladd's place and looked into the barn to make sure the men had stopped. Then they went to a lonely spot in the thick woods and waited for an ambush. Bickford selected his ground well and stationed himself where he would command a bend in the road where he thought he could kill both men with one shot. He placed Cook back on the road some distance to stop the horses in the event one turned back, Cook could waylay the second man with his hatchet, should Bickford not succeeded in killing both of them.

His plan was to kill the men, hide the bodies, take their valuables and then take the horses to the market. A very well laid plan if they had had two guns. With his old gun, Bickford made short work of one man, but he failed to get the second one. Mr. Secore was riding in lead and at the shot of Bickford's rifle, he dropped to the ground. Bickford stepped out and commenced to reload his gun. Mr. Vantassel said to him, "What does this mean? Is this an accident?" Bickford made no reply, but kept on loading his gun. Vantassel sharply turned the frightened horses back towards Ladd's. Cook with his hatchet, stepped out to stop them, but stumbled, allowing Vantassel to make a fast backtrack. Bickford and Cook then robbed Mr. Secore's body, found only a small amount of money, took his watch and valuables, hid the old gun and plunged into the woods.

The news spread like wildfire and a big man hunt began. They were spotted within twelve hours. Bickford and Cook wandered through the woods and came out near Malone where they were captured and lodged in jail. They were tried and convicted of murder, but Cook was sentenced to State Prison for life and Bickford was publically hung in Malone. His funeral was held in a grove near Thomasville.

Cook was, after a good many years, pardoned out of prison, married and finally committed both suicide and murder by placing a keg of powder under his bed and blowing himself and his wife to kingdom come with a slow match.

With the massive man hunt we experienced in Duane this past spring, History once again has a way of repeating itself!

Source: Malone Farmer Newspaper, October 10, 1906

Photos From The Duane Halloween and Christmas Parties



Duane Angels: Sue Glenny, Maureen Lewis, Joanne Cring, Lori Betts, Pam LeMieux and Laura Paquin



Highlights from Town Board Meetings

October 21st meeting:

Absent: Mark Young and Carmella Teeple

Prior to the regular scheduled monthly meeting a public hearing was held for discussions and comments concerning the proposed 2016 budget. Town Supervisor, Ned LeMieux, noted the budget meets the tax cap criteria established by the state.

Prior to the regular meeting, Highway Superintendent Ned LeMieux Jr. had the new town dump/plow truck outside for viewing.

John Carr of Blue Mountain Engineering reviewed the renovations performed to the Church. He reported that the total cost incurred by the town matched the funds awarded through the awarded grant.

Supervisor LeMieux reported that Attorney Dick Edwards is working on the contract between the Town of Duane and parties interested in renting the church for functions.

The Town Supervisor discussed how Albany is now setting aside funds as an incentive for small towns to dissolve into larger towns.

Resolution #10, the Adoption of a Budget for 2016, was passed.

November 18th meeting:

Absent: Carmella Teeple and Rita Gordon

Supervisor LeMieux reported that all the projects had been completed on the church.

The Town Supervisor discussed the recent emergency response to a lost person at Meacham Lake. The situation was made much worse due to the lack of cell phone service. He cited this as another example of why the cell phone tower needs to be raised.

December 16th meeting:

Absent: Mark Young

Town Supervisor shared with the board a letter from the Association of Senior Citizens seeking a representative for the Town of Duane at their monthly meetings.

The supervisor shared with all board members information from the state concerning training for members of town boards.

In September the town was informed by the DEC that the landfill would no longer be required to have an annual test performed at a cost of \$1600. Recently the town was informed that an annual post-closure inspection will be required. The cost of this is yet to be determined.

The organizational meeting for 2016 will be held on January 5th at 6:30pm.

January 20th meeting:

Absent: None

Town Supervisor, Ned LeMieux, informed the board that on February 13th new emergency batteries will be installed on the SLIC.

John Carr from Blue Mountain Engineering addressed the board concerning the NYSDEC "Smart-Growth" Grant Program. He outlined several options that the town could consider when applying for the grant monies. The board decided to apply for approximately \$30,000 which would be used to install a new furnace and make repairs to the stained glass windows.

Aimee Brockway was appointed as Event Coordinator for the Little White Church.

The board briefly discussed a potential policy concerning the rental/use of the White Church.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

February 17th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

March 16th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

April 20th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

May 18th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

Next issue of *The Guide* to be mailed out at the end of May 2016.

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

Odds and Ends:

- ❖ The Association of Senior Citizens in Franklin County works in conjunction with the Franklin Co. Office for the Aging to assist senior citizens within our county. Our Board of Directors consists of a representative from each township. We meet twice a month. Currently we have no representative from the Town of Duane. If you are interested in representing your town at our meetings please contact your Town Supervisor, Ned LeMieux, at 483-4768.
- ❖ As the front page reads, "Vol. 8", yes this is the beginning of the eighth year for "*The Guide*". I hope you have enjoyed the last seven years and it has been a pleasure putting together each newsletter. A special thanks to Gloria Gori, Town Historian, for her historical articles. Keep your ideas and suggestions coming. Happy New Years!
- ❖ Fall election results: Laura Paquin was elected to her second term on the Town Board and Gary Cring was elected to his first term on the Town Board.
- ❖ If you did not receive a 2016 Calendar from the Duane Fire Department and would like one please contact Ned LeMieux Jr. at 483-4885.