



# *The Guide*

*Town of Duane Newsletter*  
*January 2014*  
*Vol. 6 No.1*

## Town Directory for 2014

**Town Supervisor:** Edward LeMieux Sr. 483-4768

**Town Council:** Rita Gordon 481-7663

Mark Young 483-1648

Laura Paquin 483-6048

Carmella Teeple 481-6726

**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](http://www.duaneny.com)

## Halloween and Christmas Parties a Huge Success



Many thanks go out to the Duane Angels for making the Halloween and Christmas Parties such a success. I get so much enjoyment and pleasure from attending these parties. The youngsters have so much fun and the adults appreciate the memories these events will provide. For a small community, we have many reasons to feel proud. Thank you Angels!

## Revisiting the Town of Duane Web Site

The Town of Duane web site has been up and running for a couple of years now. Many changes have occurred during this time and it might be a good time to re-visit it. The web site can be found at [www.duaneny.com](http://www.duaneny.com). James Lalonde designed the site and maintains it on a regular basis. Jim has included the following links on the home page in order to help people navigate the site: Duane Justice Court; History of Duane; Businesses; Community Calendar; Newsletters; Town Clerk; Fire Department and Property Tax/Assessment Information. Let me mention just a few things that caught my eye. If you know little about our town's history you will find the history link to be informative. The Town Clerk link contains contact information as well as services provided by our Town Clerk, Sue Nitto. A business directory lists several local businesses with their contact information. I found the Town Justice Court link to be very informative. The link has law information/explanations, procedures and contact information. The Property Tax/Assessment link will connect you to the Franklin County data bank. If you haven't seen the site recently you might want to check it out on one of these cold dark evenings. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the professional work done by Jim Lalonde. If you have any questions or suggestions contact Jim at 481-5647.

## Town Shows Appreciation To Pete Biesemyer



At the conclusion of the December 18<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting, Pete Biesemyer was honored for his 25 years of service. Supervisor, Ned LeMieux Sr. presented Pete with a plaque and a pen. Members of the community thanked Pete and shared refreshments with him and his wife Linda.

## Highlights from Town Board Meetings

### October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*Absent:* None

Mark Besio introduced himself as a candidate for Franklin County Legislature. He discussed his background and the current fiscal affairs of the county.

Supervisor LeMieux addressed the board regarding the proposed budget. The board discussed the feasibility of overriding the state tax cap law. The board voted on and passed a resolution to propose a local law allowing for a tax cap override. A public hearing is scheduled for October 23, 2013 to discuss the tax cap override.

### November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*Absent:* None

The board reviewed a proposed dental plan for town employees. After a discussion a vote was taken on adopting the plan and all members present voted yes.

The budget was discussed briefly and a vote was taken to approve and adopt the preliminary budget. All members present voted in the affirmative.

The board passed a resolution to authorize the highway superintendent to enter into an agreement with Franklin County for snow removal and sanding of county highways.

The town clerk addressed the board regarding two vacancies on the town assessment review board. The board agreed to appoint Richard Sorell and Jill Barnes as new members to the assessment review board. Both individuals will serve a five year term.

### December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*Absent:* Mark Young

The board engaged in a very lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of investing some funds from the towns reserve fund. The state tax cap has forced the town to use monies from reserve funds as a way to reduce property taxes. The main purpose of making investments would be to generate interest that could be used to offset tax increases. State law only allows secure investments so the interest return rate is fairly low. The board decided to invite Jim Stinson, a financial advisor, to the January 2014 meeting.

### January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*Absent:* None

Attending the meeting was Micaela Bedell a reporter from the Malone Telegram.

Jim Stinson, financial advisor, provided the board with an extensive overview of the town's investment options. Due to the amount of information he provided the board decided to wait and discuss the options he presented until the February meeting.

Supervisor, LeMieux, has been trying to work with Verizon in an attempt to insure the town does not lose phone service during power outages.



Newly elected board member Rita Gordon taking oath of office from Town Justice James Lalonde.

## Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

February 19th- Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

March 19th- Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

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

May 21st- Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

Next issue of *The Guide* to be mailed out at the end of May 2014

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

## Winter Weather in Duane

Has the early return of winter with the cold and snow left you wondering just what a “normal” winter is in Duane? Well this is my 14<sup>th</sup> winter here in Duane and I am very confused about what a “normal” winter is. In 2006 the first time I had to plow snow was December 30<sup>th</sup>. This year I have plowed 8 times just in the months of November and December. During the winter of 2011-12, I only plowed 13 times the entire winter. The very next winter, 2012-13, I plowed a total of 27 times! This winter we had 22 inches of snow in November and 38 inches in December for a total of 60 inches for just those two months. This winter my supply of wood is dwindling rapidly with every cold spell. I currently am three weeks ahead of where I “normally” would be. But, are things about to change? As of today, January 15<sup>th</sup>, we have had mild temps and rain this month. Snow fall totals for January stand at 8 inches! So, I’m left with the question, “Is there such a thing as a NORMAL winter in Duane, if so what is it?”

## Ice Storm Spares Duane

The December 21st and 22nd ice storm pretty much spared the Town of Duane. On the morning of December 22nd National Grid reported 67,000 customers without power in New York State. Franklin County declared a state of emergency. Duane suffered two relatively short power outages. During the ice storm our Duane Fire Station was manned by volunteer firemen ready to provide assistance to any town resident. Town Supervisor Ned LeMieux Sr. would like to remind residents that during a state of emergency the Fire Station is manned 24 hours a day. For help or assistance simply call the Fire Station at 483-0386 and explain your situation.