



The Guide

Town of Duane Newsletter
January 2013
Vol. 5 No.1

Town Directory for 2013

Town Supervisor: Edward LeMieux Sr. 483-4768

Town Council: Peter Biesemyer 483-0641

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

Town Budget Approved

On October 31, 2012 the Town Board held a Special Budget Hearing Meeting at the Duane Fire Station. Prior to the Budget Hearing copies of the budget were made available. The few town residents that showed up for the hearing decided not to address the board during speaking time. The 2013 Budget proposes \$239,038 to be raised in taxes. This is an increase of \$13,000 from the 2012 tax levy. The town came under the 2 percent tax levy limit mandated by the State of New York. The money raised will be split into three funds. The general fund will receive \$111,337, the highway fund will get \$81,401 and \$46,300 will go to the fire department. The 2013 tax rate is expected to be \$4.60 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The Town Board and highway department deserve a great deal of credit for the many long hours devoted to the establishment of this budget.



Highway Department Gets New Truck

For many years the Duane Highway Department has been plowing our highways with a truck and a grader. The grader is old and the constant repairs have made it somewhat unreliable. This past December the town purchased a new truck to replace the grader. Highway Superintendent, Ned LeMieux Jr., informed me that the new truck has reduced the total time to make a plow run from six hours to three and a half hours. It also saves 30 gallons of diesel fuel per plow run.

Duane Clean-Up Day a Huge Success



This past September 22nd the Town Board organized a Beautification Day. Mother Nature cooperated by holding off the rain until all clean-up crews were finished. Organizer Carmella Teeple reported a total of 40 volunteers showed up. Five volunteers were young men from the Border patrol Explorer Post. Volunteers were divided into various work groups and assigned sections of our local highways. They picked up trash and bagged it for a later pick up. Gil Paddock worked with NYS DOT to secure hi-vis vests, helmets and trash bags. By noon each group had finished their assigned road and reported back to the Fire Station. They had worked up an appetite and were served a picnic style lunch in the Fire Station.

Special thanks go to the following:

All the volunteers who made the day a success!

The Duane Highway Department and the Duane Fire Department

Businesses: Park Line Deli, Stewarts, Price Chopper, WalMart and Deer River Campground

Everyone attending felt the event was a good idea and a complete success!

Halloween and Christmas Parties Bring Community Together

Thanks to the Duane Angels the community was once again treated to two fun filled parties. The number of people attending both the Halloween and Christmas Party was very large. The children had a great time being entertained while the adults got a chance to converse with other community members. A great time was had by all who attended and many thanks are expressed to the Duane Angels for their hard work in preparing these events. Members of the Duane Angels are: Pam LeMieux, Laurie Betts, Joanne Cring, Carmella Teeple, Sandi Marlow and Carolyn Bezruczyk.



Addition Added to Duane Fire Station



This past fall the members of the Duane Fire Department have been very busy constructing a new addition to the Fire Station. This addition will provide some much needed space. Emergency vehicles will be able to exit and enter the building much faster. It also provides needed storage for supplies and equipment. Building materials were purchased from grant money while the labor was provided by our volunteer firemen. Once again the men and women who make up our fire department deserve a great deal of thanks for their time and effort.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

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

March 20st - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

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

May 15th - Town Board Meeting at the Fire Station 7 PM

June 8th and 9th - Town wide Garage Sale

Next issue of *The Guide* to be mailed out at the end of May 2013.

Reminder: If you turn 65 anytime during this year you may be eligible for a school tax reduction through the Enhanced STAR Program. All applications must be filed with the town assessor by March 1st. For additional information call our town assessor at: 481-5320.

All comments and suggestions concerning *The Guide* should be made to Gary Cring, 483-2611.

Town of Duane Historical Notes

Prepared by: Gloria Gori, Town Historian

Granddad's Memories of His Hop-field

This past spring I was contacted by William Langlois from British Columbia. Robert McGowen and he had started a Reynoldston Research and Studies project where they prepared an oral history of Franklin County by taking extensive interviews of individuals. These interviews provided information passed one from one generation to another, which gives us an understanding of our past. Both of my grandfathers were interviewed for this project, and through the interview I learned about the hop farms. Being an oral history, I will be using Granddad's exact words in reply for the questions asked.

Granddad, Floyd Earle, was born in Chasm Falls in 1887. His early years were in Chasm Falls, but he moved to Duane in his late 20's and lived there the rest of his life. He had three sisters and two brothers. They lived on a farm that contained 75 acres that was used for raising hops. There were four men that maintained the hops besides all the rest of the work to keep the farm operating.

At one time Mr. Schroeder operated the largest hop plantation in the world at DeBar Park.

Hops were planted by a root. Gramps didn't know where they first came from. "You've got me there, but you used your own roots in time, you see. There'd be runners – runners came from your main hill, just the same as a berry hill, from your main hill runners would come out into your main row, see, and that's why I said they has to have so much work done there. They'd go through there with hop hooks and dig that dirt up and if you wanted to set up another yard or if you were getting too many runners you had a sickle and cut them off, see, cut them off. And then pa would set them out by putting a loop in them, with a little circle in the middle to make it look nicer. About one root was planted to a hill. Poles had to be placed in every hill. Cedar and Tamarack wood made the best poles."

The question was asked, "How many poles were needed for 75 acres?"

"Oh, my God, it took a lot of them two to each hill, see, two poles to each hill and they weren't over four foot apart – the rows, see, and they went straight four feet apart. The hills were also four foot apart – four foot both ways – You could cultivate both ways in them, see. Yes, then we wouldn't have so much to do. They would leave four vines to go up the poles – four runners, two on each pole and then had to cut all the rest out of them."

"They'd put their dope on the hill to make your hops grow. Cow manure, ashes, and some fertilizer. The hops would grow all summer. They always had to watch for mold. That G.D. mold would come over night in them hops and you got to get right in them hops and you got to get right after it. Before daylight the hops would to be sprayed with sulfur to keep the mold and lice off. A stone boat was made to carry the spray. Well, it was made out of a bunch of trees, kind of turned up in the front with planks put across and made pretty solid. Then we had a big wooden barrel, a big barrel and a pump in it. And they had a big rubber hose and that hose would draw that barrel and that stone boat through those rows and one brother pumping and another brother held the hose going through those hops all the way up to kill them lice and that mold, see. You'd go every other row with that rig, see, you could take these two rows as you went along."

(continued on next page)

“Several barrels were left out over-night soaking chips bought, sulfur and tar soap, that would be sprayed on the hops. It was a lot of work to it, too much work. Only one horse could be used. You couldn’t use two horses – every time that you knocked off one of them poles, and I’ve done it myself and boy I’d catch hell from dad. You take a vine there as big as your thumb going up that pole, well that damned vine was maybe\$10.00, maybe more, that one vine going up there and there were two. If you hooked her and catch that vine and broke that vine off it would be dead all the way through and another one wouldn’t come quick enough to give you hops. So, there was a lot of trouble. Jeez, I didn’t broke too many, but I used to break some of them. If your whippetree stuck out – and I was sure that I didn’t have too long a whippetree when I was cultivating. I’d have it just so that it wouldn’t rub my horse’s legs and as I could get so that I wouldn’t be hitting the poles.” “The hop were ready to harvest just before the fair.”

The question was asked, how did the hops look before they were picked? “Oh they come out, let me tell you. Some of them would be maybe two inches long, some really good hops would be pretty near around as a hen’s egg. Your vines are all hops that come out like a tree that comes out with all the leaves. They’re all them big yellow hops hanging down.”

Question-The hops are the shape of an egg? “Well no, they’re longer. They’d be, oh, they weren’t as long as banana, that’s for sure, but they’re long, they come out long-they’re bigger at the butt end and they hang down. They’re supposed to be nice and yellow; they have a yellowish cast, see.”

Due to the length of this article the second installment will come in May with the harvesting and preparing the hops for market. I was totally in awe of the hard working resourcefulness and stamina for my family t raise a successful hop harvest. This interview can be found at: <http://www.reynoldstonnewyork.org>

Gloria Gori, Duane Town Historian

Town Wide Garage Sale: June 8th

Recently my wife and I were talking and she said, “I just saw a sign of spring.” Well immediately I envisioned a twenty inch brown trout leaping up out of the water trying to grab a mayfly hovering over the surface. I asked her what the sign was that she had seen. She responded, “The pile of items you have created for the town wide garage sale.” Every other year the Duane Angels sponsor a town wide garage sale. Residents can operate their own garage sale or donate items to the Fire Station. All proceeds from donated items are given to the Duane Fire Department. This year the garage sale will take place on June 8th and June 9th.

JCEO To Administer Weatherization Program in Franklin County

The Plattsburgh-based Joint Council for Economic Opportunity (JCEO) plans to continue all of the programs formerly run by ComLinks. Currently, JCEO is the interim administrator for the weatherization program in Franklin County. The program endeavors to make homes more hospitable for low-income individuals and families by providing proper insulation and other improvements. The EmPower Program is designed to help low-income families with energy costs. To contact JCEO, the agency’s Plattsburgh office can be reached at 518-561-6310.

Highlights from Town Board Meetings

October 20th meeting:

Absent: Mark Young

Linda McElain, bookkeeper, discussed budgeting issues with the board and provided figures for the 2013 town budget.

Board discussed issues regarding required testing of former landfill behind town garage.

A resolution was passed abolishing office of Town Tax Collector and assigning tax collection duties to the town clerk.

The board agreed to a public hearing date regarding the 2013 budget(October 30, 7PM)

The board expressed their thanks to Carmella Teeple for organizing the Beautification Day.

October 30th: Special Meeting, Budget Hearing

The board made some last minute changes to the 2013 budget then allowed residents the opportunity to ask questions. No questions were asked and the board unanimously approved the 2013 Budget.

November 21st meeting:

Absent: None

Supervisor LeMieux discussed Land Vest 480A and how it will financially affect the tax base.

The town will also receive compensation when lumber harvest occurs.

Supervisor LeMieux discussed a letter to the Governor's office regarding the trail system within the town of Duane.

Supervisor LeMieux also discussed the new estimate system for the NYS Retirement System, its impact on the town, and potential credits for over-estimates on salaries. New employee hires must be in their position the day they sign up for NYS Retirement System.

The board discussed the cost of medical plans and employee deductibles. Research to be done regarding options through different providers, health savings accounts, etc.

December 19th meeting:

Absent: None

Supervisor LeMieux discussed the cost of Justice Lalonde becoming an authorized Notary Public for the Town of Duane.

Mark Young is looking into possibly acquiring shelves for the files located at the annex.

January 16th meeting:

Absent: Mark Young

Guest, Tish Biesemeyer, provided the board with a very lengthy and informative presentation on health care options. The board decided to stay with current health care plan and reconsider options in the fall when the 2014 budget is prepared.

Please Note: The Town Board recently has combined the positions of Town Clerk and Tax Collector. In November's election Sue Nitto was elected as our Town Clerk so she will also be serving as the town's tax collector.