

New Baltimore

From the Desk of Supervisor Jeff Ruso

The 2020 Budget for the Town of New Baltimore is nearly complete. The Tentative and Preliminary Budgets have been finalized and we are moving toward the development of the Final Budget.

As with each of the last five budgets, the coming year will see a **decrease in taxes**. We have been able to accomplish these reductions due to an number of actions by the Town Board. Most significantly, with the adoption of a more stringent Procurement Policy, we have been able to extract savings with purchases and thus reduce the burden to the taxpayers. Secondly, the Board has been successful in gaining new sources of income that has been used to prevent tax increases.

For 2020, we have proposed a budget that decreases the tax burden by 2.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

While these decreases for 2020 and in prior years have helped, we have also looked to the future by increasing our reserves for major purchases. For example in our Town Highway Reserve Account, we have made deposits that have raised the balance from \$20,000 to \$95,000. Our goal is to continue to increase this account so that when we need a major highway equipment purchase, the Town can minimize or avoid borrowing and interest costs.

I was recently asked by *The Ravena News-Herald* to submit a monthly column on what is happening in the Town of New Baltimore. My most recent September article is an update on our Town Parks, specifically our vision for District 1 and 3 Parks and grants received from Senator George Amedore. It appears on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Thanks to the guidance and expertise of former Supervisor and current Deputy Supervisor Nick Dellisanti, we are scheduled to begin construction and renovations in 2020.

The first article included information on the Community Choice Aggregation Program and will be followed shortly by the Town of New Baltimore's excellent fiscal rating from the New York State Comptroller.

Greene County News From County Legislator Pat Linger

Streamlining Emergency Services Throughout Greene County

On October 9th, the Greene County 911 center flipped the final switch to move all radio communications to a new communications system. This move was made to update all emergency services communications to new frequencies, with new towers and consoles. The new radios will allow for better communications between first response agencies and dispatchers. The 911 center answers roughly 85,000 calls for service per year and juggles communications for 9 police agencies, 27 fire departments, and 14 EMS squads. In addition, they have direct communication with the surrounding counties and hospitals. Much of the funding for this multi-year project was secured through grants, reducing the impact to property taxpayers.

Ted Hilscher's Town Historian Report

THE HAMLET OF HANNACROIX

Several years ago, my article entitled *Sylvandale (Part 1)* was published in the town newsletter. The newsletter was then discontinued for a while, and *Sylvandale (Part 2)* appears on the town website under Town History.

The two articles tell the story of Anita West of Windham and her experiences teaching at the New Baltimore District #6 School in 1913-1914. The former one room schoolhouse still stands, as a private home on the west side of Shady Lane at its intersection with Sodom Road.

Miss West boarded that year with the Carman family, just south of the school. Twice she traveled to the small store at New Baltimore Station, where the train tracks cross what is today called Route 144. One trip was to buy presents for her students at Christmas – “that trip meant as much to me as a trip to Europe” she wrote years later in her “memoirs.” The other trip was to buy deviled ham and “store” bread for the end-of-the-year school picnic.

The area around that schoolhouse became known at one time as Sylvandale. That designation is not found on either the 1856 or 1867 maps, but Beer’s History of 1884 references a Methodist Church at “Sylvendale” built in 1854. There were a few houses north of the school along the road to Alcove, and a few on the road that runs down the hill behind the school to the west and meets Alcove Road just east of its intersection with Sunset Hill Road. That road running west from the schoolhouse was once a “common” or public road and was called “Sylvandale Road (at one time known as Old Rock Road)” according to a deed from 1972. It is now a private road.

In Anita West’s time there was a place called Sylvandale Cottage, which took “guests.” For a long time in the twentieth century, a black Presbyterian Church from New York City maintained a summer retreat called Camp Bohonton on Shady Lane just north of the school. Irv Smith remembers the camp marching band coming down Sunset Hill Road towards his house.

One topographical oddity of Sylvandale is the existence of two creeks just a couple of hundred yards apart, one of which flows north, and one of which flows south and becomes the West Medway Creek.

At the western end of Sylvandale Road is the Hillside Cemetery, on a wooded, rocky knob connected to the road by two stone bridges. The early pioneers of the area are buried there.

By deed dated October 28, 1932 Ella A. Fountain “of the town of Greenville” becomes a land owner in the Sylvandale area by buying from the County of Greene a 165 acre tax foreclosure parcel, for \$298.87.

By deed dated August 8, 1934 Fountain and Harry Lucas, “of the hamlet of Hannacroix,” convey to John Lucas, Jr. lands described in part as follows: “Beginning at a point on the highway leading through the hamlet of Hannacroix at a point where the lands of the parties of the first part herein join lands of one Stahl on said highway; thence running in a northeasterly direction to a point where lands of said Stahl and one Powell intersect; thence in a southwesterly direction to said highway, along lands of said Powell, and thence in a northwesterly direction along said highway to the point and place of beginning.”

These two references in this deed are the first use of the term “the hamlet of Hannacroix” that I have found. The Hannacroix Creek flows through Coeymans Hollow two miles north of Sylvandale. West of the Sylvandale school is the unnamed stream flowing to the north which is a tributary of the Hannacroix.

There is no question that “the highway leading through the hamlet of Hannacroix” is Sylvandale Road. First of all, this deed is in the chain of title of a land owner who currently resides on Sylvandale Road. The names found in the 1934 deed description can also be compared with the names of former owners in the chains of title of neighboring parcels.

The location of lands of Isabella Stahl on Sylvandale Road can be determined by deed, and confirmed by oral history. Northwest of Stahl (not northeast – there is a typo in the deed) one encounters lands owned in 1934 by Ralph Powell, the easterly line of Powell running perpendicular to and bounding on Sylvandale Road.

(By the way, in 1935 Ella A. Fountain and Harry Lucas are “unmarried” and “both residing at Hannacroix” when they sell lands south of Sylvandale Road.)

At this time the area known as Sylvandale (or sometimes miss-spelled in deeds as “Silverdale”) carried the post office address of New Baltimore Station, after the train station. After the train station closed, that post office was moved out to 9W and renamed Hannacroix.

It is true that around the 9W post office location were a number of commercial enterprises operated by the Albrights and extended family, including a hardware store, farm tractor and implement dealership, tourist cabins and garage. But as those of us who have a Hannacroix post office address know, Hannacroix is more of a state of mind than an actual location.

The modern use of “Hannacroix” by the United Postal Service is assumed to be based on the name of the creek. It is also possibly based on the use of that term for the area around Sylvandale Road we now know was once called the hamlet of Hannacroix. Was that use coined by Ella Fountain, or the author of her deeds of conveyance, her attorney?

Supervisor Jeff Ruso's Monthly Column
For The Ravena News-Herald September 26 Edition

Restoration of Town Parks
A Priority

The Town of New Baltimore currently maintains four parks. Within the past five years the Town has restored Cecil Hallock Park located on County Route 54 with a complete overhaul. We have provided:

1. New sod planted throughout, working with the Outlaws Little League Association at **no** cost to the town.
2. Ball field back stop installed with donated material and with volunteer labor, again at **no** cost to the town.
3. Received a \$50,000 grant from State Senator George Amedore for the installation of a playground with new equipment that is usable for all children, including those with handicapped conditions, installed by professionals with volunteer labor.
4. Received a donation of an electronic scoreboard courtesy of Columbia-Greene Community College.

For many years this park was seldom used, gated and padlocked. Currently, most weekends there are baseball games, parents and grandparents bringing their kids to the playground, and the rental of the pavilion for family events has increased dramatically.

It was the dream of former Town Supervisor Nick Dellisanti that the parks are a community asset that needs to be used.

Regarding the other parks in Town, we are proceeding similarly with their restoration beginning in 2020. With Joseph Wyche Park on New Baltimore Road, it has for many years been plagued with drainage issues. Once again, Senator Amedore recognized the residents of the Town with a \$50,000 grant for installation of a new drainage system, upgrading the electrical service to the pavilion, and repairs to the structure of the pavilion.

Silver Lake Park on Old Kings Road has already seen increased improvements and usage. Courtesy of the Capital District Cricket Association, a "Cricket Pitch" for league and tournament play has been installed, again at **no** cost to the residents of the Town of New Baltimore. There is another grant that we have received from Senator Amedore for \$100,000 that will be used for installation of a 90 ft. baseball field suitable for High School and Babe Ruth level play.

Most of the above items were accomplished with the help of the "Friends of New Baltimore Recreation." This is a non-profit organization formed in 2015 and has been involved in writing grants, securing donation of items and equipment, organizing volunteers to accomplish many of the improvement.

The Friends of New Baltimore Recreation recently held their 2nd Annual Dinner to raise funds for additional equipment for our Parks

Stay connected with what's going on in New Baltimore
www.townofnewbaltimore.org and Like us on Facebook.

Introducing Our New Assessor...Justin Maxwell

Justin Maxwell was appointed by the Town Board as Sole Assessor on October 1, 2019. A resident of Guilderland, he is also the Assessor for the towns of Knox in Albany County and Livingston in Columbia County.

Justin's office hours are Wednesdays from 9AM-4PM and the hours for Assessor Clerk Kathy Sprague, are Tuesday-Thursday from 9AM-4PM for anyone who needs assistance.

Justin has a strong family background on the job, as three of his uncles are also Assessors in New York State.

He can be reached at jmaxwell@townofnewbaltimore.org, (518)-756-6671 Ext. 8, and Kathy's email is ksprague@townofnewbaltimore.org.

STAR Information – Assessor's Office

New applicants for the 2020 NYS STAR Exemption must enroll in the STAR Credit by visiting:

<https://tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm>

Current owners either have the STAR Credit or the Enhanced STAR Exemption. We encourage homeowners to switch to the STAR Credit, as you may be entitled to a 2% increase each year. To do so, please call the STAR Hotline at 518-457-2036

If you missed the deadline to apply for the 2019 STAR Program, New York State is offering a "Good Cause" STAR exemption. To see if you qualify, please call the STAR Hotline: 518-457-2036

Notice is hereby given that there is no discarding of snow onto any highway or public road pursuant to Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1660-Section 8. Also, there is no parking on any Town streets or shoulders from November 15, 2019 to May 15, 2020 to allow for snow removal. Pursuant to Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1660-Section 8 the Highway Superintendent is authorized to have any vehicle in violation of this notice towed at the Owner's expense. Please make arrangements to park vehicles elsewhere. Thank you.

New Look for 2020 Town/County Tax Bills

With the New Year around the corner, Town/County tax bills will soon be in the mail. This year Greene County will be mailing out all bills and they will have a different look.

All payment information will be printed on the bill itself and the bright paper insert will not be included. Please send the entire bill with payment to the Tax Collector and a receipt will be mailed.

Taxes can also be paid at the National Bank of Coxsackie, the Ravena or West Coxsackie branches, during regular business hours.

If a tax bill is not received by the first week in January, please contact Tax Collector Diane Jordan at (518)756-6671, Ext. 2.

The Tax Collector hours, days, address, email, and phone number will be on the bill.

How To Stay Connected With The Town Of New Baltimore

- All Meetings are Open to the Public — Town Board the Second and Fourth Mondays at 7PM (if a holiday falls on a Monday-the meeting is moved to Wednesday), Planning Board the Second Thursday at 7 PM, and Zoning Board of Appeals first Wednesday at 7:30 PM (if needed).
- Every Town Board Meeting is recorded for MidHudson Cable Channel 11 and airs on Monday evenings at 7PM.
- Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Agendas are on the home page of the Town's website www.townofnewbaltimore.org.
- Town Meetings and Events are listed on our website www.townofnewbaltimore.org under the Community tab, Calendar of Events.
- Like our 4 Facebook Pages — Town of New Baltimore, Town of New Baltimore Highway Department, Town of New Baltimore Office of Emergency Management, and Town of New Baltimore Youth Program.
- See Supervisor Jeff Ruso's monthly columns for the *The Ravena News-Herald*.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

Work on the \$2.6 million Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project is continuing. The upgrades replace equipment installed in 1984 that is obsolete and in some cases non-functioning.

Rehabilitating the Equalization Tank is completed, the concrete for the new Clarifier Tanks has been poured, and the equipment for the new UV Disinfection equipment and Oxidation Ditch aerators are on-site. Work on the capital project will continue into December of this year.

The construction project is being financed by a combination of grants and 0% loans. The Town was able to secure a grant of \$652,000 to help offset costs of construction.

E-ZPass Tags are available in the Town Clerk's Office for \$25 which is credited to an account when activated. They make great stocking stuffers.

Attention Hamlet Residents

As in past years, the Highway Department will pick up leaves this fall for hamlet residents.

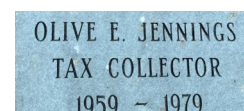
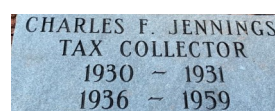
They must be bagged in biodegradable bags and left at curbside. Pickup will be on MONDAYS until November 25. Please do not rake or deposit leaves into drainage ditches or culverts.

The Highway Department appreciates your cooperation

Honoring Nearly 50 Years of Service to the Town of New Baltimore

An Honor of Service Ceremony was held on Sunday, September 22 at Town Hall to recognize the service of Tax Collectors Olive and Charles Jennings.

Former Board Members and Town Supervisors Bob Hallock and Bill Finke shared their special memories along with their daughter, Barbara Carras. Bluestones were unveiled in the Barbara Weeks Memorial Garden and a reception with family and friends followed. Stop by and see the new additions.



New Baltimore Town Hall
3809 County Route 51
Hannacroix, NY 12087

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	
Zoning Board Meetings 2nd Thursday* 7 PM	
Zoning Board Meetings 1st Wednesday* 7:30 PM	
	* If no agenda, no meeting
Highway Superintendent Alan VanWormer (518)756-2078 FAX (518)756-3078	For agendas and other Town information, please call Town Offices or visit our website.
Town Court Justices Farrell and Meacham (518)756-2079	www.townofnewbaltimore.org
Greene County Sheriff Lynne Layman-Wallace (518)756-3300	

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

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