



# Town of Rensselaerville

The Hamlets of Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow, and Rensselaerville

**Volume 19, Number 12** **December 2008**

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## October Town Board Minutes Summary

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Nickelsberg and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg, Councilman Gary Chase, Councilwoman Marie Dermody, Councilman J. Robert Lansing, Councilwoman Sherri Pine, Superintendent G. Jon Chase, Attorney Joseph Catalano, Town Clerk Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

There were 16 interested citizens present.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 11, 2008; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**TRANSFERS**

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to make the following transfers;

| From                      | To                      | Amount   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| A1990.4 Contingency       | A1430.4 Personnel       | \$132.27 |
| A1990.4 Contingency       | A5010.4 Highway Super.  | 44.76    |
| A1990.4 Contingency       | A3510.4 Dog Control     | 553.35   |
| A1990.4 Contingency       | A8010.4 Zoning          | 34.37    |
| SW8320.4 Source of Supply | SW8310.4 Administration | 394.01   |
| DA9040.8 Workers Comp.    | DA9010.8 Retirement     | 667.42   |

2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**WARRANT #2008-10 - VOUCHERS - BILLS**

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to pay all bills; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from a resident in Preston Hollow concerning the spraying of her car with small stones from a red town dump truck.

**REPORTS**

Reports were heard from the following: Supervisor Nickelsberg, Superintendent Chase, Town Clerk Hallenbeck, Attorney Catalano, Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh, and Assessor Pine.

Supervisor Nickelsberg reported on the US economy and that the revenue in the State of New York will be dramatically altered. The County increase in taxes is going to be 5% to 7%. The Town Board will be holding budget meetings on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk Hallenbeck reported the following collected for the month of September 2008: Town Clerk's Department - \$5,525.60; Water Rents collected - \$1,141.80; Sewer Rents collected - \$1,272.45.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Library Bookmark

**First Friday movies continue:** Please join us at **Conkling Hall on Friday, December 5 at 6:30P.M.** for *WALL-E*. In the distant future, a small waste-collecting robot inadvertently embarks on a space journey that will ultimately decide the fate of mankind. Run time: 98 minutes. Rated G.

Oops, we made a mistake! Our First Friday Movie patrons voted for the new James Bond movie, *Quantum of Solace*, to be our next feature. Unfortunately, as of this month it is still in the theaters. We apologize for the error, and when *Quantum* comes out on DVD, it will be our feature that month.

The holiday season is upon us, and with it our annual **Greenery Sale!** Please join us on **Saturday, December 13 from 10:00A.M. to 2:00P.M.** for this popular event. There will be festive trees, wreaths, and garlands for sale, one-of-a-kind items available from our local vendors, and lots of goodies and good cheer. Please contact Candy at 797-3949 or email [rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us) if you are interested in being a vendor for this event.

Attention volunteers! We will once again be holding our successful **holiday gift-wrapping fundraiser at Borders.** Please join us on **Saturday, December 20 from 10:00A.M. to 2:00P.M.** Get into the holiday spirit by helping out the Library! Please contact Candy at 797-3949 or email [rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us) if you are interested in helping with this event.

Stop by the Library to check out some of our new additions! We have a number of new books for both adults and children. We have also recently replaced our copier, and are renovating our premises. Our new community room in the annex basement is complete. We are now working on a new kitchenette and winterizing the south side of the building, including custom-made interior storm windows designed to save energy.

Are you interested in being a Friend of the Rensselaerville Library? This volunteer organization has been an asset to our Library in the past, and we would love any new members who wish to join. The Friends help to run events, parties, clean-up days, and anything else where we could use an extra hand! Please contact the Library at 797-3949, or by email at [rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:rvll1@uhls.lib.ny.us). if you are interested.

Visit the Library on the web at [www.uhls.org/rvll\\_library](http://www.uhls.org/rvll_library). We are currently reworking our website. In the meantime, you can continue to visit the site to check out our catalog, order items you would like, and renew any you may have out from the comfort of your own home. You can also keep apprised of upcoming events at the Library.



Staff:  
Candy Wilson, Director;  
Katie Caprio, Assistant;  
Barbara Husek, Assistant-  
Zachary Wellstood, Page

### Library Hours:

**Tuesday & Wednesday:**

**10:00 AM to Noon, 4:00  
-9:00 PM**

**Thursday & Friday:**

**4:00—9:00 PM**

**Saturday: 9:00-1:00 PM**

[www.uhls.org/rvll\\_library](http://www.uhls.org/rvll_library)

The next **Library Board meeting** is on **Monday, December 8th at 7:00P.M.**



Expert painting, wallcovering & renovations

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**(518) 797-3610**

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### POST OFFICE INFORMATION

Rensselaerville: 797-3231  
Medusa: 239-4826  
Preston Hollow: 239-6111

**Conkling Hall—What's On In December**

**Sunday, December 14:** Village Voices Concert. 2:00 PM. We are the lucky recipients of beautiful music provided by our own friends and neighbors. Come and hear a wonderful holiday concert.

**Friday, December 19: Noteworthy Coffeehouse.** Doors open at 7:00 PM. Music begins at 7:30 PM.

**Thursday, January 01:** RHDA New Year's Open House. Come join us for a Pot Luck Open House to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. Food and Wine provided. Desserts welcome. Open to all. No charge. 1:00 - 4:00.

**Pilates:** Saturdays 9 - 10 AM Mat

class. Strengthen your abdominals, gain long, lean muscles and work with good alignment. Appropriate for all levels.

**Yoga:** Tuesdays 9 - 10:15 AM. Move, breathe and relax. Good for what ails you. Open to all. Please call Sara Nelson Weiss 239 6825 for more information.

**You can contact Conkling Hall at 518 797 3459 or read our website at [www.ConklingHall.org](http://www.ConklingHall.org).** We send frequent email announcements/reminders about our events. If you wish to be added to the list, please give us your email address at [ConklingHall@earthlink.net](mailto:ConklingHall@earthlink.net).



Methodist Hill Road  
Rensselaerville, NY  
(518) 797- 3459

**Rensselaerville Realty**  
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS

**FRED STETTNER**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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[fred@rvillerealty.com](mailto:fred@rvillerealty.com)      [www.rvillerealty.com](http://www.rvillerealty.com)

T 518-239-4635  
M 917-509-1758  
F 845-266-8395

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Old-Fashioned Annual  
Bates Church  
Christmas Program

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
7:00 PM

All are welcome!

**Town Hall will be closed on:**

**December 19th, we will close at 10:30am to attend a Town Clerk's Meeting**  
**December 25th & 26th for Christmas Holiday**  
**January 1, 2009 in observance of New Year's Day**

## Senior Corner

**Need Information?** Elder Source Line (447-7177) has information about Senior Services to help in a variety of ways. Call between 8:30AM-12:30PM Monday through Friday. Call for free assistance with housing options, insurance counseling, benefits and entitlements, community resources, adult daycare, and caregiver options. This program is funded by United Way of Northeastern New York and Senior Services of Albany Foundation.

**Senior Citizens Club:** We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Medusa Firehouse at noon. \$1.00 is collected. ALL senior citizens are invited to join the club. Please bring a covered dish to share and/or dessert. Members need to bring their own plates and utensils. Coffee is provided.

**Senior Van:** Tuesday: Bryant's Center, Greenville  
Thursday: Cobleskill (Wal-Mart) Monday, Wednesday and Friday: Van is available to travel to doctor appointments. Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 regarding scheduling and/or arranging for van pick up.

**Helderberg Senior Services:** Lunches are served Monday through Friday at noon for \$3.75. The Grange would appreciate one day advance notice. Call Marie at 797-3652 between 9:00AM-1:00PM for information and reservations.

**We need volunteer drivers!!!!** If you have a valid driver's license and could volunteer a couple hours of your time now and then, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathy Hallenbeck, Town Clerk, for more details.



## It's A Quagmire! Bring Them Home Now

John & Nancy La Rocca; Mark La Rocca & Nina Nsilo Swai; Tim Lippert;  
Tom & Kathy Mikulka; Sonny & Sue Shufelt; Michael & Gail Benedict;  
Jeff & Sherri Pine; Justin Mikulka & Elise VanAllen; Kerry McFarland;  
Robert and Beth Whiteman; Gordon & Elise Enk; Richard & Nadia Creamer;  
Sue & Jay McChesney; George & Carolin Dempsey; Richard & Mary Ann Ronconi;  
Greg Hostash; Roswell Eldridge; Roger and Bonny Gifford; James Walker;  
Robert Scardamalia; Bill & Barbara DeMille; Tom & Marion Frowein;  
Cynthia Willis; Dick Sabol; Dave & Mary Bryan; Ben Bryan; Emily Bryan;  
Bill & Kathie Quackenbush; Virginia Carter; Joann Eckstut; Tim & Linda Miller;  
Wayne & Charlene Teter; Kevin & Katherine Ceroala; Rich & Linda Snyder; Robert Mitchell and  
Cecile Gleason; Jenny Shufelt; Greg & Diane Bischoff; Helen Tworkov; Gordon & Tracy Benson;  
Dian Ryan; M. Steven Dickerson; Kathy Daniels; Phil Sheehan and Nancy Ortner.

**Groups and Organizations:** The Chatham Peace Initiative; Veterans for Peace (Hudson Valley); NY Veterans Speak Out; Olean Area Coalition for Peace and Justice; Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace; Troy Peace Action; Upper Hudson Peace Action; Women Against War; Veterans for Peace (Chapter 10, The Tom Paine Chapter); Schenectady Neighbors for Peace; Vietnam Veterans Against the War; PaxChristiMi.org; Michigan Peace Works; Vietnam Veterans for America

Say it out loud if you think it. +++++ Thank You To New York Civil Liberties Union

**Extra Helpings Food Buying Club — Available to Everyone**

Extra Helpings is a program of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and is offered to the community through The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC) in Westerlo. The program is open to all individuals regardless age or income. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and the menus being offered. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings will still be published one month in advance. December's Extra Helpings menus are as follows:

(Please note the slight increase in regular menu and meat box prices.)

December's Regular menu: \$21.00

- 3.75 Avg. Wt. Bavarian Holiday Ham Half
- 1 lb. Chicken Patties
- 1 lb. Hamburger (90/10)
- 1 lb. All Beef Hotdogs
- 1 lb. bag Baby Carrots
- 20 oz. Peeled Butternut Squash

Special #1: \$ 15.75

- 5 lb. Cranberry & Apple Stuffed Boneless Pork Roast

Special # 2: \$ 22.50 PARTY PACKAGE

- 2 - 1/2lb. bags Fully Cooked all Beef Meatballs
- 2 lb. pkg. Fully Cooked Buffalo Chicken Wings

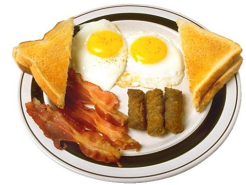
- 3 lb. box Sweet Italian Sausage
- 1 - 3/4 lb. pkg. Cocktail Franks

Special #3: \$32.00 MEAT BOX

- 2 lbs. Cranberry & Apple Stuffed Boneless Pork Chops
- 3 lbs. Honey Mustard Flavored Chicken Breast
- 3 lbs. 80/20 Beef Patties
- 2 lbs. Breakfast Sausage Links
- 3 lb. Bag Chicken Patties
- 2.5 lbs. Fully Cooked Gourmet Meatballs

(Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.)

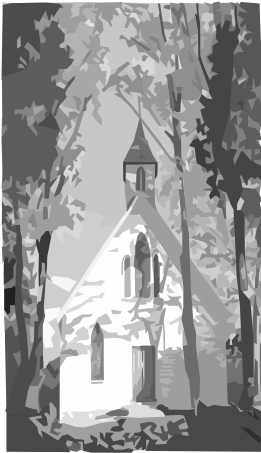
**PLEASE NOTE:** Orders with payment are due at the HCRC office by December 3rd for pick-up on December 16, 2008. **ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER DECEMBER 3rd.** HCRC distributes Extra-Helpings at the Rensselaerville Firehouse from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. and at St. Bernadette's Church in Berne from 11:30 to 12:00 p.m. on delivery days. The pick-up site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra-Helpings or other Hilltowns Community Resource Center services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is P.O. Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.



**All You Can Eat  
BREAKFAST  
7 TO 11 A. M.**

**Dec. 20th  
JAN. 17th  
FEB. 21st  
MAR. 21st  
APR. 18th**

**MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY  
Free Will Offering**



*Church Services*

***Preston Hollow Baptist Church***

Route 145, Preston Hollow,  
239-6544  
Worship: Sunday - 11:00AM

***Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church***

Summer Session Worship - 11:00AM  
Coffee Hour following Mass

***United Church of Christ***

Medusa, 239-6119  
Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM

***Trinity Episcopal Church***

Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville,  
797-5395  
Holy Eucharist & Church School Sunday  
11:00AM

***Potter Hollow Union Church***

4824 Potter Hollow Mountain Road  
Potter Hollow, 263-4478  
Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM  
Coffee Hour & Sunday School—11:30AM  
Call for Bible Study and Prayer Group

# **HOLIDAY RUMMAGE SALE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>  
MEDUSA CHURCH HALL**

**10AM TO 3PM**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
DECORATIONS  
BOOKS – TOYS – MISC.  
RECORDS – PICTURES  
LOTS OF GOOD ITEMS**

**LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE**

***SOUP – SANDWICHES  
HOT DOGS - CHILI***

## Summary of Town of Rensselaerville Planning Board Minutes October 2, 2008—7:30pm

Present: R. Bates; D. Cotter; A. Wright; M. Fraser; R. Welsh; R. Amedure; F. Stettner; R. Platel; J. Kosich

Approval of the Minutes:

10-2-08—amended as noted—motion to approve made by F. Stettner; 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Amedure. Carried. A. Wright abstained.

9-4-08 A. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Amedure, motion carried.

**Pre-application Conference for Annexation** -- There was a short discussion about the requirements for an annexation.

**Major Subdivision 006-2008 SBL# 181.00-2-41.1.** R. Welsh made a motion to open the Public Hearing; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Wright. Certified mail receipts were submitted. No members of the public present to comment. R. Welsh made a motion to keep hearing open until next meeting when ACPB comments can be reviewed; 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Cotter. Carried.

**Minor Subdivision Sub 002-2008 SBL# 186-1-12** A new map with Ag. District Notice was submitted as requested. R. Welsh made a motion to accept the preliminary plat; 2<sup>nd</sup> by F. Stettner. Carried.

**Minor Subdivision Sub 002-2008 SBL# 186-1-12 Public Hearing** R. Amedure made a motion to open the Public Hearing; 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Cotter. Certified mail receipts were submitted. No members of the public present to comment. There were no further questions or comments from the Board. F. Stettner made a motion to close the hearing; 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Wright. R. Amedure made a motion to approve the minor subdivision; R. Bates 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; carried.

**Sketch Plan Pre-application Conference SBL# 136-1-4—2-lot subdivision of 162 acres located at CR 353 and Bryan Road.** Lot 1 of 15 acres and lot 2 of 147. Parcel is in RC-1 as well as the Albany County Agricultural District. The Board discussed the application requirements with the applicant.

## Summary of Town of Rensselaerville Planning Board Minutes October 16, 2008—7:30pm

Present: D. Cotter; M. Frasher, Chair; A. Wright; R. Amedure; R. Bates; R. Platel; J. Kosich

Absent: R. Welsh; F. Stettner

Approval of minutes from the October 2, 2008 meeting: a motion was made by R. Amedure and 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Wright. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

**Major Subdivision 006-2008 SBL# 181.00-2-42.1 PUBLIC HEARING:** Public Hearing is still open; Albany County Planning Board recommendations were reviewed. No members of the public present to comment and there were no further comments from the Board. R. Amedure made a motion to close the Public Hearing; 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Bates. All were in favor and the motion was carried. The map and proposed open space note were reviewed. A. Galgay also made a request that the Planning Board waive the public hearing on the final plat, assuming that it will not differ substantially from the preliminary plat. A motion to approve preliminary plat was made by A. Wright and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Amedure. All were in favor and the motion was carried. On the final plat, there will be no additions except for open space note as reviewed by the Board. A. Wright made a motion to waive the public hearing on final plat; 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Cotter. So moved.

**Subdivision Sketch Plat 010-2008 SBL# 136-1-4 Sketch Plan** -The Board and the applicant discussed several items regarding the proposal including road frontage of the lot, the existing septic system, and a perc test. A motion to accept the sketch plan application and plat was by R. Amedure and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Bates. All were in favor and the motion was carried. Motion to classify as a minor was made by R. Amedure and 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Bates. All were in favor and the motion was carried. R. Platel will send classification letter. Perc test will be required.

(Continued on page 8)

## SUPPORT FOR SENIORS AND FAMILY SPONSORS SOUGHT FOR HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC), a program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, is in the midst of coordinating its annual winter holiday program. We are all feeling the economic pinch, so this is a hard time for us to ask but, as we proceed with our efforts we need to know that you are with us. As always, we are seeking individuals, families, organizations and businesses interested in assisting struggling Hilltown families which leaves them limited resources for providing clothing and gifts for their children during the December holidays. There is still time to consider being a sponsor this year!! We've emphasized to our families that, because of the economic climate, our focus would be on children in the households. Sponsors may want and be able to provide for a whole family, but the primary focus will be the children.

Referrals of families seeking holiday assistance are made to HCRC for holiday by schools, religious organizations, community groups and other service agencies. You may call the office to discuss options available in sponsorship (i.e. number of children). Sponsors will be given a list from a family stating their immediate needs and desires to use a guide when shopping. **Cash donations** for sponsorship are also welcomed. Family names are kept confidential and a code number is assigned to each.

If you are interested in being a 2008 Christmas Program sponsor, please call HCRC at 797-5256 as soon as possible.

In 2007, the Hilltowns Community Resource Center began the HCRC Holiday Fund for Seniors which replaced the Albany Times Union Fund for the Elderly. We are continuing that effort this year which provides seniors with a little extra cash during the December holidays. Annually, HCRC, with the help of the Helderberg Kiwanis and St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar, has served approximately 70 Hilltown and Altamont senior citizens in December by providing a food basket meeting his or her dietary requirements, small gift items and a small check. Anyone interested may contribute to the Hilltown Fund for Seniors by writing a check payable to HCRC with a notation in the memo line...Senior Fund. Dollars will be redistributed to eligible seniors through Catholic Charities. Contributions may also be made at collection buckets placed throughout the community.

Volunteers are also needed to assist in sorting through donated items, setting up the Christmas Store at Woodman Hall, assisting at the holiday party for kids, packing and delivering food baskets, and other tasks during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Volunteers may also conduct workplace food drives which HCRC collects for distribution to families not only during the holidays, but year round. Please call HCRC anytime at 797-5256 to volunteer, or to ask questions about The Christmas Program or other Hilltown Community Resource Center services.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Summary of Town of Rensselaerville Planning Board Minutes October 16, 2008—7:30pm

*(Continued from page 7)*

D. Cotter and R. Bates gave report on New York Planning Federation Training Conference—a very useful conference, good information on a variety of topics.

J. Kosich gave an update on the Verizon Tower project at the Rensselaerville Institute—fabrication of the tower was still underway according to a Verizon legal representative.

Motion to adjourn made by R. Amedure and 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Cotter; the motion was carried.

8:34pm

Submitted by Rebecca Platel



LOCAL LAW FILING NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Town of Rensselaerville  
LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF THE YEAR 2008

A Local Law entitled “Moratorium Law of 2008 of the Town of Rensselaerville”

A local law establishing a six-month moratorium on applications and approvals for wind power facilities in the Town of Rensselaerville.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

**Section 1. Title:**

This law shall be known as the Moratorium Law of 2008 of the Town of Rensselaerville.

**Section 2. Purpose and Intent:**

The purpose of this moratorium is to temporarily suspend the administrative review and approval process for new or pending development proposals regarding the construction or installation of wind power facilities in the Town of Rensselaerville. Currently, the Town’s zoning law does not address the wind power facilities as a permitted or allowed use in the Town nor does it provide for standards or guidelines for review of such land use and facilities. Thus, this moratorium is appropriate so that the Town may have the time necessary to study and evaluate this land use both for commercial and private use and to draft and propose reasonable regulations for such use. Such effort is advisable given potential development pressures for this type of use in the Town.

**Section 3. Authority:**

This moratorium is enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville pursuant to its authority to adopt local laws under the New York State Constitution Article IX, the Town Law and section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

**Section 4. Moratorium Imposed:**

For the period of six (6) months immediately following the effective date of this local law, there is hereby imposed a moratorium on all commercial or non-commercial applications for the installation or construction of wind power, wind farm or wind generated energy facilities on land located within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Rensselaerville and that no approvals, permits, actions or decisions shall be made or issued by any Board or official of the Town of Rensselaerville with respect to any such applications. This moratorium shall apply to all such applications, whether pending or received prior to the effective date of this law. No such applications seeking approvals or permits for any wind power facilities shall be accepted by any Board or official of the Town of Rensselaerville while this law remains in effect.

**Section 5. Effect of Moratorium:**

Upon the effective date of this Local Law, no Board, body, or official of the Town shall accept for review, continue to review, hold a hearing upon, make any decision upon, or issue any permit or approval upon any application or proposal for the uses, projects, or developments set forth in Section 4 above. Any statutory or locally-enacted time periods for processing and making decisions on all aspects of the aforesaid applications are hereby suspended and stayed while this Local Law is in effect. No person, corporation, or other entity shall undertake any site preparation, including but not limited to clearing, grading, and filling, or construction activities, with respect to any application, proposed land use, subdivision, or development that is subject to this moratorium.

**Section 6. Enforcement:**

This local law shall be enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Rensselaerville or such other individual(s) as designated by the Town Board. It shall be the duty of the enforcement individual to advise the Town Board of all matters pertaining to the enforcement of this local law and to keep all records necessary and appropriate to such enforcement.

**Section 7. Violations:**

Any person, firm, entity or corporation violating any of the provisions of this local law shall be guilty of an offense and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each day such violation exists and/or an action for injunctive or equitable relief.

LOCAL LAW FILING NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Town of Rensselaerville  
LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF THE YEAR 2008

(Continued from page 9)

**Section 8. Supersession:**

To the extent that this local law is inconsistent with any state statute or regulation, it is the intent of this law to supersede such statutes or regulations. This supersession applies with respect to:

Town Law § 268 regarding the imposition of civil penalties;

Town Law § 274-a with respect to the time frames for processing applications for site plan review,

Town Law § 274b with respect to the procedures and time frames for processing applications for special use permits, and

Town Law § 267 et. seq. with respect to the time frames for processing area and use variances, appeals, or interpretations.

**Section 9. Severability of Provisions:**

Should any section or provision of this local law be declared null, void, voidable, or invalid, such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this local law.

**Section 10. Effective Date:**

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

End of Law

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## Ring in the New Year with Captain Squeeze and The Zydeco Moshers at the Rensselaerville Meeting Center

**Rensselaerville, NY (November 13, 2008)** - The Rensselaerville Meeting Center, continuing its series of non-meeting events, announces that the public is invited to ring in New Year's Eve with a gourmet dinner and music provided by Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers at the historic Carriage House Restaurant, 63 Huyck Road, Rensselaerville, NY on the Rensselaerville Institute campus. Several different options are offered for you to choose from.

The evening will begin with a buffet dinner (optional) at 8:00 PM; and dancing will start along with the Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers band at 9:00 PM.

As the New Year approaches late-night hors d'oeuvres will be served, door prizes given, and at midnight there will be a Champagne Toast to ring in the New Year in style!

The Meeting Center offers the following packages for the evening and the next day if you would like to stretch out the festivities:

- Package #1 - \$39 per person - dancing, entertainment, late-night hors d'oeuvres, midnight champagne toast and cash bar (starting at 9:00 PM)
- Package #2 - \$71 per person - all of the above PLUS a gourmet dinner buffet (starting at 8:00 PM)
- Package #3 - All of package #2 PLUS lodging that evening and breakfast (starting at 8:00 PM through to 11:00 AM the next morning):
  - \$144 per person for Single Occupancy room
  - \$218 per person for Double Occupancy room

The Rensselaerville Meeting Center is 27 miles south of Albany on NYS Route 85.

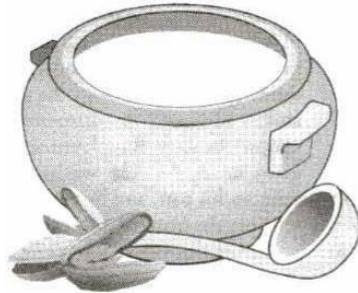
Please reserve now by e-mailing [frontdesk@rmeetingcenter.com](mailto:frontdesk@rmeetingcenter.com) or calling 518.797.5100 ext 612.

For more information on the Rensselaerville Meeting Center see [www.rmeetingcenter.com](http://www.rmeetingcenter.com).

For more information on Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers see [www.captainsqueeze.com](http://www.captainsqueeze.com).

*Paid Advertisement*

# **CLAM CHOWDER**



**AT THE MEDUSA FIRE HOUSE**

**JANUARY 2nd  
FEBRUARY 6th  
MARCH 6th**

**PICK UP AND/OR LUNCH  
11:00 AM TO 1:00PM**

**MANHATTAN OR NEW ENGLAND CHOWDER**

**\$5.00 PER QUART**



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\*According to the 2007 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) ranks for the U.S. largest Cable & Satellite TV providers; Charter Communications, Comcast Communications, Cox Communications, DIRECTV and Time Warner Cable. Tied with DIRECTV for the highest ACSI score in 2007. \*\*900 hours recording time based on 720 model receiver. †3 Months Free offer requires participation in Digital Home Advantage with 24-month commitment and qualifying programming, including America's Top 100 or higher, DishLATINO or higher, DishHD package or a select qualifying International package. Customer receives three credits of \$9.99 each, applied to the first, fourth and seventh months of service. Customer must maintain qualifying programming service to receive all three credits. Digital Home Advantage: Requires 24-month qualifying programming purchase (minimum of DishFAMILY, Social Security Number, valid major credit card and credit approval). Qualifying service is required prior to end of 24-month period; a cancellation fee equal to the lesser of \$240 or \$110 per cancelled month of service will apply. Equipment must be returned to DISH Network upon termination of qualifying service. Limit 4 times per account. Monthly package price includes an equipment rental fee of \$6.00 or \$2.00 for first receiver, based on selected model. A monthly equipment rental fee of \$6.00 or \$2.00 will be charged for each receiver beyond the first, based on selected model. A \$5.00/mo. additional outlet programming access fee applies for each additional receiver. Fee will be waived monthly for each receiver consistently connected to Customer's phone line. HD programming requires HD receiver and HD television (sold separately). Customer must subscribe to qualifying HD programming or a \$200/mo. HD Enabling fee will apply. Lease upgrade fee may apply for select receivers. Offer ends 2/28/08 and is available in the continental United States for new, first-time DISH Network residential customers. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local and state sales taxes may apply. Where applicable, equipment rental fees and programming are billed separately. All DISH Network programming, and any other services that are provided, are subject to the terms and conditions of the promotional agreement and Residential Customer Agreement, available at [www.dishnetwork.com](http://www.dishnetwork.com) or upon request. Local channels not available by satellite, are only available to customers who reside in the specified local Designated Market Area (DMA). Local channels may require an additional dish antenna from DISH Network, available for sale or upon request. Local channels not available at time of initial installation. Social Security Numbers are used to obtain credit scores and will not be released to third parties except for verification and collection purposes only or if required by governmental authority. All service marks and trade dress belong to their respective owners.

## October Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 1)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

### CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh reported the following for the month of September 2008: 2 building repairs, 2 building new accessory, and 1 zoning residential use for a total of \$134.00.

### Windmills

Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh mentioned that we are all reading about Shell who is interested in windmills in our area and Berne. The Town still has a 35 foot height limitation on structures. Windmills are structures, cell towers are structures.

The Town Board discussed the possibility of adopting in a six-month moratorium on wind farm energy. That would give the zoning committee time to discuss the windmill issue.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody authorizing Attorney Catalano to draft a 6-month moratorium law on residential and commercial wind power energy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Nickelsberg.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh's monthly report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Chase reported the following: The King Lane FEMA project - repairing the bank that was washing away. This work should be done by the middle of next week. Cutting brush and trees as necessary as well as ditching on Tanglewood Road. 800 feet of ditching has been done. By October 17<sup>th</sup>, we should be patching roads throughout the town. Earth Tech and the FEMA project were discussed concerning the reimbursement the Town should receive for preparing the FEMA records.

Superintendent Chase would like the following items put out for bid: 1996 F250 Ford pickup & plow, 1987 Ford Backhoe Model 555B

A motion was made by Councilman Chase that we put the following highway items out to bid: the 1996 F250 Ford pickup & plow and the 1987 Ford Backhoe Model 555B. Bids to be opened at the work meeting and considered at the November 13, 2008 regular meeting at 7:15 PM and that they be advertised in the official newspaper and other local newspapers and trade papers; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

Superintendent Chase reported that the new pickup is here; a few things have to be put on it.

Superintendent Chase mentioned that he received a call from a resident on Route 85 concerning water coming from Pond Hill Road onto his property and the culvert being plugged. The Highway Department will be looking at the problem.

### TOWN ATTORNEY

Attorney Catalano spoke concerning the budget request on charitable organizations. The NY State Constitution prohibits giving public funds to private entities that includes non-profit charitable organizations. However, there is a way that the Comptroller is ok with it is if the Town enters into a service agreement with such charitable organizations to provide services that are generally available town-wide for all citizens. You would have to enter into a services contract; anything short of that is considered to be a donation to a private entity. If the Town Board would like to look into that further, he will provide them with the information.

### American Tower

Attorney Catalano mentioned that American Tower has not been able to get the inspectors up there yet. They will get somebody out there as soon as they can. They have been very cooperative and sent a report on what has been done so far. This report has been given to CEO Overbaugh.

The Attorney General's letter on conflicts of interest was discussed. Attorney Catalano mentioned that with the Conflict of Interest Law that we have in place now and with the Committee that will be formed soon that opinion would come from that Committee.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to accept Attorney Catalano's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

(Continued on page 14)

## October Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 13)

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

### ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Assessor Pine reported that the Star rebate checks should be mailed out by the 29<sup>th</sup>. Information on this is on the bulletin board.

### CURRENT EVENTS

The Medusa Fire Company will hold their Turkey Dinner on November 2, 2008, 11:30 AM to 2PM. They will serve lunch on Election Day. Their breakfasts are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. The Rensselaerville Fire Company will hold a breakfast on Sunday, October 12, 7 to 11AM. October 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a chili cook-off at Conkling Hall and Trinity Church is holding a rummage sale.

There will be a registration day to register to vote at the Town Hall on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1 to 9 PM.

### RENSELAERVILLE WATER DISTRICT

Jack Long, Rensselaerville Water/Sewer Committee reported that the committee held interviews for companies interested in doing the engineering work on the Impounding Dam for the Water District. The Water/Sewer Committee recommended hiring Kenneth Fraser & Associates to be the engineer on this project.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to retain Kenneth Fraser & Associates to do the engineering work on the Impounding Dam for the Rensselaerville Water District, cost to be \$18,400.00 and that they submit a contract for the Attorney to review; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

### COM DOC

The copier that we voted to purchase last month has been sold; the motion needs to be rescinded. ComDoc has given the Town a new quote on a different machine.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody rescinding her motion of September 11, 2008 authorizing the lease of a 1350 SP for a 60 month lease for \$906.00 a month plus providing a check for \$6600 to cover the remaining balance on the Savin Copier (machine has been sold); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to authorize the lease of a new copier from ComDoc for a Ricoh Aficio MP 7500 SP for a 48 month lease at \$794.00 per month plus providing a check for \$6600 to cover the balance of the remaining payments on the Savin Copier; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried.

They will also print the November newsletter free of charge from their office.

### MYOSOTIS LAKE DAM - WOJDT REPORT

Attorney Catalano mentioned that he met with Mr. Jamison from the EN Huyck Preserve, some people from the Water/Sewer Committee, and some Board members to discuss the dam. An emergency action plan has to be set up to alert the people downstream if the dam should break. The Preserve has a plan in force already. This plan must be done by the end of the year. It was suggested that Rebecca Platel work on the draft emergency plan to be adopted by the Town. DEC also needs a copy of the plan.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody appointing Rebecca Platel to work on the draft emergency action plan for the Town; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to put Richard Tollner on the committee to alert people downstream in case the Myosotis Lake Dam fails; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

### SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to hold a Special meeting on October 20, 2008 at 7 PM to discuss general town business currently before the Board, a proposed moratorium on wind energy, the Myosotis Lake Dam and FEMA funding; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

### PLANNING BOARD CONFERENCE

Mr. Cooke would like to attend the New York Planning Federation Conference next week, the cost is \$180.00.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine authorizing Mr. Cooke attend this conference and the \$180.00 registration fee be paid; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

(Continued on page 15)

## October Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 14)

### RECYCLING

A Solid Waste Management Plan Modification and a Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership Inter-Municipal Agreement for a Planning Unit Recycling Coordinator has been received from the City of Albany, Department of General Services, Albany, NY. The Town is a member of the Capital Waste Management Partnership, formerly known as the ANSWERS Watershed Planning Unit. The agreement is for a three year period 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2010. The Town Board discussed this issue.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody authorizing Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign agreement with the Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase. (Agreement Attached).

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

### EXECUTIVE SESSION - UNION CONTRACT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and legal matters(8:10PM); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to come out of Executive Session (8:30PM); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

A motion was made by Councilman Chase authorizing Councilwoman Dermody to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Contract with the Highway Department; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

### NEW BUSINESS

#### ALBANY COUNTY WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE LIAISON

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to appoint Rebecca Platel as our liaison to the Albany County Water Quality Committee; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

#### 2009 BUDGET

##### WORKSHOPS

Supervisor Nickelsberg reported that the Town Board will hold Budget Workshops on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, if needed, at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

##### PUBLIC HEARINGS

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to set November 3, 2008, 7:15 PM to hold the public hearing on the 2009 Preliminary Town Budget; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to set November 3, 2008, 7 PM for a public hearing on the Tri-Village Fire Company proposed budget for 2009; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Pine.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to set November 3, 2008, at 7:05 PM for a public hearing on the proposed Medusa Fire Company 2009 budget on November 3, 2008 - 7:05 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Chase.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to set November 3, 2008 - 7:10PM for the public hearing on the proposed 2009 budget for the Rensselaerville Lighting District; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

#### HALL OF FAME

Supervisor Nickelsberg will put an article in the November newsletter asking for names of people to enter into the Hall of Fame.

#### REGISTRAR CONSOLIDATION

##### RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, CONSOLIDATING LOCAL REGISTRARS OF VITAL STATICS

A motion was by Councilwoman Pine to adopt the following resolution; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Dermody.

**WHEREAS**, The New York State Local Government Commission of Efficiency and Competitiveness has made certain recommendations to the Governor which affects the operation of local governments, and

**WHEREAS**, one of the recommendations of the Commission was to move all Registrar of Vital Statistics du-

(Continued on page 16)

## October Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 15)

ties to the County level under the direction of the New York State Health Commissioner, and

**WHEREAS**, the NYS Department of Health has developed a program bill that would allow the Commissioner to consolidate the function of the local registrar of vital statistics, and

**WHEREAS**, New York State Department of Health has inappropriately attached these proposed changes in the structure of the Registrar of Vital Statistics duties to the "Pandemic Flu and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Law" and

**WHEREAS**, THE Commissioner could consolidate these services without county legislative approval, and

**WHEREAS**, the local city, town and village clerks have provided this service professionally and efficiently over the years, and

**WHEREAS**, losing this business would have a financial impact on the local governments, and

**WHEREAS**, many citizens are under financial stress due to high fuel costs, and

**WHEREAS**, the County's geography would increase this burden since services would be located further from the residents,

**WHEREAS**, the local registrars presently charge \$10.00 per certified copy and the State proposes that the County will charge \$30.00 per certified copy, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that in the interest of good government, the Town of Rensselaerville opposes the consolidation of the function of local registrars of vital statistics, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and State Elected Officials of New York to encourage their support.

A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried:

### FEMA

The Town Board discussed the FEMA project and Earth Tec's bills. Mr. Coalts will be contacted to find out what percentage rate he is charging for the work he has done.

### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

What are the duties and authority of the deputy supervisor?

Attorney Catalano mentioned that the deputy supervisor is appointed by the town supervisor to take over the duties of the Town Supervisor in his absence or inability to handle the supervisor's duties due to illness or something like that. The deputy supervisor would then have the authority to run town board meetings, call town board meetings, do the statutory functions, everything except vote, he has no voting rights. The town supervisor can use the deputy supervisor to do some administration or management type of task. Nothing that are his statutory duties. If the delegation of the statutory duty to the deputy supervisor, that would have to be done by the consent of the Town Board.

Janet Case's name was submitted for the Hall of Fame. She has many hours of volunteering for the Medusa Fire Company.

The new tank for the used oil needs to be installed. You need to get going on this project. This will need to be put out for a RFP.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Lansing. Unanimously Carried.

### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Kathleen A. Hallenbeck  
Town Clerk

NOTE: Full Town Board Minutes can be found on the Town website ([www.rensselaerville.com](http://www.rensselaerville.com)) or at the Town Hall.





# 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEDUSA COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING

## November 30

## Starting at 6 PM

WITH SINGING of CAROLS,  
SPECIAL READINGS,  
"The Night before Christmas",

**ENTERTAINMENT,  
TREE LIGHTING, &  
REFRESHMENTS**

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SING SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SONGS (religious or non-religious)  
DURING THE PROGRAM.**

Contact Bill Moore at 239-4843 before Nov 25<sup>th</sup>.

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*Volunteer News and Events*

**Medusa Volunteer Fire Department**

*Company Meeting: Monday, December 1st, at 8:00 PM*

*Drill & Work Meeting: Monday December 8th and December 15th at 7:00PM*

*Special Events:* Clam Chowder— January 2, February 6, and March 6  
See ad on page 11

All You Can Eat Breakfast—See ad on page 5

**Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department**

Join us for another season of saving lives and homes in your neighborhood!!  
Calls as of November 10<sup>th</sup> : 40

**December:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 7pm Company Drill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7pm Ladies Battalion (Christmas Party)
- 6<sup>th</sup> - 3:30pm Kids Christmas Party
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Company Drill
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6:30pm Community Caroling
- 29<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm Company Meeting

**January:**

- 5<sup>st</sup> - 7pm Company Drill
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Ladies Battalion
- 12<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Company Drill
- 28<sup>th</sup> - 7:30pm Company Meeting

**Special Events:**

- **Ladies Battalion Christmas Party**, Conklin Hall, 6:30 Appetizers, 7:30 Dinner  
- Battalion Members, Contact Linda McCormick for reservations
- 2/15 - 8:00-11:00am Pancake Breakfast - Fight CABIN FEVER with hot Pancakes!!!

**Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Department**

*Company Meeting: Wednesday, December 3rd at 8:00PM*

**Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance Department**

*Company Meeting: Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00PM*

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## California Towns Named for Two Rensselaerville Lawyers

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society

The towns of Jackson and Niles in California were named for Rensselaerville natives who went west around the Gold Rush era.

**Jackson:** The town of Jackson was named for Alden Apollos Moore Jackson who set up a camp in 1848 at a year-round spring in what is now Amador County, California, in the heart of the Gold Country. Sutter Creek, where the gold was discovered that set off the famous Gold Rush of 1849, is just a few miles away.

The camp which A. A. M. Jackson set up became an important supply and transportation center for the neighboring towns. Jackson was a lawyer who was popular with the miners for settling disputes out of court. By 1850 the population of Jackson had reached an estimated 1500 and in 1853 Jackson became the county seat of the newly formed Amador County. In the U. S. Census of 2000 the population of Jackson was 3,989.

Alden Apollos Moore Jackson was born in Rensselaerville on November 4, 1807. His parents were Jeremiah and Martha Keyes Jackson. He was named for his uncle, Apollos Moore, whose wife Elizabeth was Jeremiah Jackson's sister. Apollos Moore built an inn on the main street in the hamlet of Rensselaerville in 1818. The building has been remodeled numerous times over the years and today is a bed and breakfast known as Bell's Hotel. It is owned by Bob and Edith Lansing who did much of the most recent renovation themselves.

Alden Jackson lived briefly in Florida and moved to Texas about 1839 where he fought in the Mexican War with Generals Winfield Scott and Zachary Taylor at the Battle of Buena Vista February 22-23, 1847. After this he was referred to as Col. Jackson.

Another town in California was also named for Col. Jackson. It was about 35 miles south of the present town of Jackson, at the junction of Wood's Creek and the Tuolumne River. Col. Jackson had moved there in the spring of 1849 and established a trading post there. It originally was called Jackson's Camp and then Jacksonville. In July of 1849 there were 40 miners at Jacksonville, and by April 1851 the U. S. Census recorded 252 inhabitants. It no longer exists because in the 1970s the Don Pedro Dam was built to create Don Pedro Reservoir, inundating Jacksonville.

In 1850 Col. Jackson moved to San Francisco where he worked in the Custom House. He met a woman who was a Mormon and he joined that church in 1852. He married her in late 1853 or 1854 and legal documents show that he became guardian of her two children in February of 1854.

Col. Jackson was the first attorney in San Bernardino and in June of 1854 at the first election of city officers, he was elected City Attorney. The family moved to the town of St. George in Washington County, Utah, in 1864 where they were active in the Mormon Church and in community affairs until their deaths in 1876, he in October and she in December.

**Niles:** The California town of Niles was named for Rensselaerville native Addison Niles. It is now a section of the city of Fremont between San Francisco and San Jose on the east side of San Francisco Bay. It originally was a small town known as Vallejo Mills which was only one street wide and four blocks long. It had a grist mill at one end of the main street. (Does that remind you of the hamlet of Rensselaerville?). When a railroad depot was built at the other end of the main street, the railroad owners named the rail stop in 1869 for their lawyer, Addison Niles. The town expanded around the train station area (Niles was a stop on the transcontinental railroad) and by 1900 the name Vallejo Mills was no longer shown on maps of the area.

In the 1950s the area was growing rapidly in the post World War II boom and nine small towns talked of consolidating to pool resources and to better manage the growth. Niles, Mission, Warm Springs, Centerville and Irvington formed the City of Fremont. However, Niles is still the name of one section of that city. There is a Niles Boulevard and several museums with Niles as part of their names. A canyon nearby is called Niles Canyon and scenic train rides through the canyon are a tourist attraction.

The town of Niles is also where the first motion pictures were made and one of the museums there is

*(Continued on page 20)*

## California Towns Named for Two Rensselaerville Lawyers

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society

(Continued from page 19)

housed in an old nickelodeon theater and specializes in silent film history. They are open only on weekends, with volunteer hosts and hostesses, and they show silent films every weekend. Charlie Chaplin's famous "The Tramp" silent film was made in Niles.

Addison Cook Niles was born on July 22, 1832 in the Rensselaerville house now known as "The Manse" (near the Rensselaerville fire house on the present Rt. 85). His mother was Polly Cook and his father was John Niles. John was a judge and Addison and his two younger brothers all became lawyers. Addison graduated from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Addison's first cousin (who was also his brother-in-law) had gone to California in the Gold Rush of 1849 and when Niles Searls and his bride, Mary Niles, moved to Nevada City, California in 1853, Addison followed soon afterwards. Niles Searls became chief justice of the California Supreme Court and during the years 1872 through 1880 Addison also served as an associate justice on the California Supreme Court. Addison Niles died in January of 1890, leaving one son who had no children. Addison is buried in California but the son is buried in the Rensselaerville Cemetery in the Niles plot.

*Information about Alden A. M. Jackson from a pamphlet "Alden Apollos Moore Jackson" by Choice M. Glover printed in 1985. Information on early history of the town of Niles from Dorothy Bradley, president of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum.*



**WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE  
AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY  
SEASON**

### **"Wine Making in the Hudson Valley" Topic of the Historical Society Parlor Talk**

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society

New history is being made in the town of Rensselaerville as a resident recently started a vineyard in the hamlet of Preston Hollow and will present a Parlor Talk on wine making on Sunday, January 25, 2009. The talk is being sponsored by the Town of Rensselaerville Historical Society.

"Some of the country's oldest vineyards can be found in the Hudson Valley. The French Huguenots planted the first vines in New Paltz in 1677, 100 years before any vines were planted in what is now California", according to the book *A Brief History of Wine Making in the Valley* by Rebecca Haynes.

Dennis Pitts will discuss wine making history in the Hudson Valley, provide an outline of his business plan to start a small farm winery on his property in Preston Hollow, talk about vineyard management and wine making procedures, and offer a tasting of some of his 2008 vintage. He is currently making several batches of wine from grapes picked in the Finger Lakes Region.

His topic is "Why Not Make Wine in Preston Hollow?" and "The Resurgence of Wine Making in the Hudson Valley". The Parlor Talk will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at the Rensselaerville Town Building on Barger Road. There is no charge and the public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR HEATING BILLS?

The following Fuel Assistance Outreach dates have been scheduled:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 12/01/08 | Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm          |
| 12/04/08 | Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm |
| 12/17/08 | WIC, Lutheran Church, Berne, 9:30am-12:30pm                 |
| 01/02/09 | Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm |
| 01/05/09 | Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm          |
| 01/08/09 | Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm                   |
| 01/14/09 | Hilltown Family Center, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm          |
| 02/02/09 | Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm          |
| 02/05/09 | Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm |
| 02/18/09 | WIC, Lutheran Church, Berne, 9:30am-12:30pm                 |
| 03/02/09 | Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm          |
| 03/05/09 | Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm |
| 03/11/09 | Hilltown Family Center, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm          |
| 03/12/09 | Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm                   |
| 04/02/09 | Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm |
| 04/06/09 | Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm          |
| 04/15/09 | WIC, Lutheran Church, Berne, 9:30am-12:30pm                 |
| 05/07/09 | Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm |
| 05/04/09 | Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30pm-3:30pm          |
| 05/13/09 | Hilltown Family Center, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm          |
| 05/14/09 | Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm                   |

**Cornell Cooperative Extension/CHOICES**  
**Faith Plaza, Route 9W**  
**Ravena, NY 12143**  
**756-8650**

**\*You can apply any day between 8:30am-4:00pm at CHOICES**

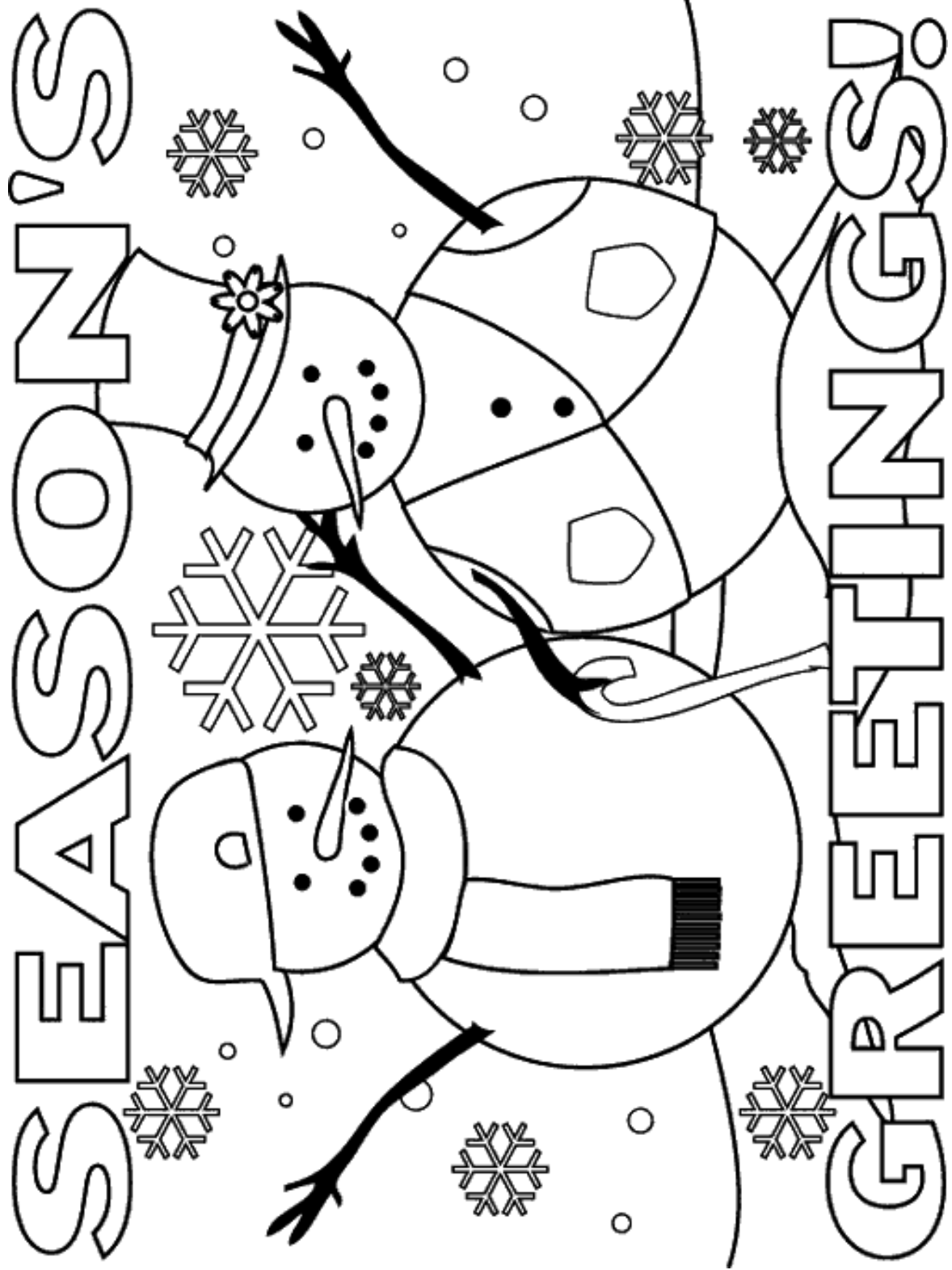
### Just A Reminder....

All newsletter articles, flyers, and notices should be sent to both [newsletter@rensselaerville.com](mailto:newsletter@rensselaerville.com) and [townclerk@rensselaerville.com](mailto:townclerk@rensselaerville.com) as attachments using .doc only. Other formats may not be included into the newsletter. The newsletter coordinator and its committee may make grammatical corrections as needed. The newsletter coordinator may also add graphics to your submission to enhance and draw attention to it.

We continue to strive to make this newsletter informational and your input is always welcome.

Thank you.





***Important Contact Information***

Town Board Meetings  
Second Thursday 7:00 pm

Working Meeting  
Tuesday 7:00 pm  
before regular meeting

Town Justice Court  
Mondays 7:00 pm

Planning Board  
First and third Thursdays 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals  
First Tuesday 7:00 pm

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer  
Thursday 8:00-10:00am, 7-9 pm

Town Clerk's Hours  
Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-3:30pm  
Thursday 1:30pm-7:30pm  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Supervisor's Hours  
Wednesdays 10am - 12 pm  
Home office 7 days 7:30am - 10:30pm

Assessors' Hours  
Thursday 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Assessors' Clerk Hours  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning

Dog Control Officer  
Cheryl Baitsholts  
518-797-5201

Town Refuse Station Hours  
Wednesday and Saturday  
7:00am-3:45pm

Water/Sewer District Meeting  
First Thursday 7:00 pm

Town Supervisor  
Jost Nickelsberg

Town Clerk & Collector  
Kathleen A. Hallenbeck

Town Justices  
Victor LaPlante,  
Victoria Kraker

Attorney for the Town  
Joseph Catalano

Deputy Town Attorney  
Jon Kosich

Councilpersons  
Gary Chase, Marie Dermody,  
J. Robert Lansing, Sherri Pine

Building Inspector  
& Code Enforcement Officer  
Mark Overbaugh

Assessors  
Jeff Pine, Peter J. Hotaling, Jr.,  
Donna Kropp  
Rachel Chase, Clerk II

Highway Superintendent  
G. Jon Chase

Planning Board  
Muriel Frasher, Chairman  
Rebecca Platel, Secretary

Zoning Board of Appeals  
Alden Pierce, Chairman  
Rebecca Platel, Secretary

Deputy Town Clerk  
Dee Andrus

Bookkeeper  
Patricia Britton

Town Highway Department  
518-239-4225, 518-797-3798

Sen. Neil Breslin, 42nd Dist. LOB,  
Albany, NY 12247  
518-455-2800

Assem. John McEneny,  
102nd Dist. LOB,  
Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-4100

County Legislature, 39th Dist.  
Alexander (Sandy) Gordon  
144 Beebe Road, Berne, NY 12023  
518-872-2602

Albany County Highway Dept.  
518-239-6715, 518-239-6710

Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911  
Social Number - 797-3218

Tri-Village Fire Company, 911  
Social number - 239-6780

Medusa Fire Company, 911  
Back up emergency number,  
765-5979  
Social number - 239-6166

Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911  
For Information - 518-797-5233

Albany County Sheriff, 911  
518-765-2351

State Police  
Rensselaerville and Hilltowns, 911  
518-477-9333

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Supervisor: townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com  
Town Clerk: townclerk@rensselaerville.com  
Planning Board: planningboard@rensselaerville.com  
Assessors: townassessors@rensselaerville.com  
Newsletter: newsletter@rensselaerville.com

Councilman Gary Chase: gchase@rensselaerville.com  
Councilwoman Marie Dermody: mdermody@rensselaerville.com  
Councilwoman Sherri Pine: spine@rensselaerville.com

Town of Rensselaerville  
87 Barger Road  
Medusa, New York 12120

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