

Town of Vernon Times

www.townofvernon.com

Fall / Winter 2011

FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

Myron J. Thurston, Supervisor

Hello Town of Vernon Residents,

The times in which we live can be and have been challenging in recent times. The financial state of the federal and state governments appear to be in disarray. The town has felt the effect of poor planning and bad decisions by state government. We have lost \$150,000.00 in revenue from the Vernon Downs VLT. With costs of non discretionary spending increasing and making \$160,000.00 in spending cuts we were able to keep your total town tax at \$1.00/\$1000 of assessed value.

The Vernon Fall Festival went very well for only having seven weeks to plan. A good number of vendors were there and all seemed to enjoy the day. It was great to work with Village of Vernon on this project. We are going to start planning the 2012 Vernon Fall Festival in the spring. The Town and Village want to develop this event to showcase our businesses to the public. Thank you to all who attended.

The solar panels have been on your town hall for two years and have proven that they will produce all the electricity used by the town hall about eight months of the year. A savings of about \$5000 per year at today's prices.

The 19 house development I talked about in the spring newsletter, off Sholtz Road, has been completed by Wentworth Construction. Welcome to all of these new citizens and to others that have built new homes or moved into existing homes in our town.

It is a pleasure to serve you with all of the fine people I work with in our town government. You are served by people that are responsible with your money and want to make the town a little bit better place tomorrow than it is today. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, have a joyous holiday season. May God bless you and your family.



FROM THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Code Enforcement Officers for The Town of Vernon: Jody Thieme and Terry Williamson

Preparing your Home for Winter Checklist

Inspect Furnace Inspect your furnace to ensure it will be running properly when you need it the most. First, turn on the furnace to make sure it is working. It is recommended that you contact a HVAC professional to inspect and clean the ducts.

Sometimes, the pilot light will burn out, or you may need a couple thermal. If you are not comfortable making these repairs, then contact a professional. You will need to replace any filters. Filters should be replaced every 30 days that the furnace is running. Filters that are dirty will reduce the efficiency of your furnace by reducing air flow.

Clean Gutters After the leaves have fallen remove any debris from the gutters. Once you have eliminated the leaves, rinse them out with the hose. Drains that are clogged can create ice dams. This is where water backs up and freezes, which causes water to leak into the house.

Fill Holes This is one of the best things you can do when preparing your home for winter. Filling up small holes can also help save you money on heating bills. Fill up those holes with caulk, or you can apply tacky rope caulk. Buy door sweeps to help close up the spaces under the doors. Install outlet gaskets in electrical outlets that share an outer wall. Seal holes from the outside with weather resistant caulk. If there is brick, use masonry sealer.

Winterizing your Home Insulation Make sure you have enough insulation in the attic. You should have at least 12 inches of insulation in your attic. Go to the attic and if you can see ceiling joists, you likely do not have enough insulation because a ceiling joist is at least 10 to 11 inches. If you are trying to add insulation on top of existing insulation, do not use one that has paper backing. It will act as a vapor barrier, which can cause moisture in your insulation.

Check Duct work If the duct work is not well-connected and insulated, homes can lose up to 60% of heat before the air will reach the vents. This can lead to an expensive winter and a cold home. Inspect the ductwork. Make

repairs where the pipes are pinched. They should also be vacuumed every few years to prevent dust, animal hair, and other particles that can cause respiratory problems.

Winterizing Windows Take down window screens and put up storm windows. This gives you an extra layer of protection against the cold winter weather. If you do not have storm windows, there are some other ways for winterizing windows. Purchase a window insulator kit, which will consist of plastic sheeting that will be affixed to the window's interior with double stick tape. Use a hair dryer to shrink-wrap the plastic sheeting. This is one of the least expensive ways for winterizing windows.

Prevent your pipes from bursting this winter by taking a few simple steps. Shut the water off to the hose bibs inside the house. Do this by turning off the valve. Drain the lines. Wrap pre-molded foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation around pipes that are not insulated.

Check the crawlspace, basement, and garage. Drain all garden hoses and the air conditioner pipes. If the air conditioner has a shut-off valve, turn it off. Make sure to leave your heat set to at least 55 degrees if you plan on going on vacation to prevent the pipes from freezing.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Shovel Out Your Fire Hydrant !
To help protect your property in case of fire.

The Local Fire Departments are asking all Town of Vernon residents whose properties have a fire hydrant in the vicinity to shovel them out this winter. A 5-foot area around the hydrant would give firefighters sufficient room with which to work in connecting the hose and opening the hydrant. We appreciate all the help and support to get those hydrants shoveled out!



TOWN OF VERNON DIRECTORY

MYRON THURSTON

Supervisor, Budget Officer 829-2985

TOWN COUNCILPERSONS

GENE BENNATI

Deputy Supervisor
Education and Libraries 363-0060

SANDRA B. WILLIAMS

Intergovernmental Relations 829-2848

MICHAEL MCDONOUGH

Operations Committee 829-4729

RANDY WATSON

Economic Dev. Committee 829-2365

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Justices

WILLIAM CROLL 829-4481

ROBERT SUTTMEIER 829-4481

Court Clerk

KRISTIE MEYERS 829-4481

KATIE FAULKENMEYER 829-4481

Town Bookkeeper

WENDY COSTON 829-2985

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

JULIE MCELROY 829-2422

Deputy Town Clerk

JANET POHLEY 829-2422

BVEVERLY MACKEY

Dog Control

CALL TOWN CLERK 829-2422

Codes Officer

TERRY WILLIAMSON 829-2434

Fire Inspector

JODY THIEME 829-2434

Codes Office Clerk

JEAN HALSTEAD 829-2434

Chariman

FRANK LAGUZZA 829-2587

Assessors

TIMOTHY WAGNER 829-2587

ROBERT MOHER 829-2587

Assessors Clerk

JUDITH BEACH 829-2587

Chairman, Zoning Board of Appeals(ZBA)

NORMAN LAUBE 829-2434

Chairman - Planning Board

MICHAEL SHERIDAN 829-2434

Superintendent of Highways (Churton Road)

ARTHUR FREEMIRE 829-2742

COUNTY LEGISLATORS

2nd District

MICHAEL HENNESSY 798-5902

3rd District

PATRICK BRENNAN 798-5902

TOWN OF VERNON TAXPAYERS:

As of January 1, 2012 we will no longer be automatically sending out receipts for tax payments, as we are trying to lower our expenses and save your tax dollars. Keep the top part of the bill and send in the bottom part to us and your check or money order will be your receipt. If you do need to have a receipt, please check the box on the bill. Thank you for your cooperation.

**VERNON TOWN COURT REMINDERS**

Robert G. Suttmeier; Justice • William B. Croll; Justice
Katie Falkenmeyer; Court Clerk

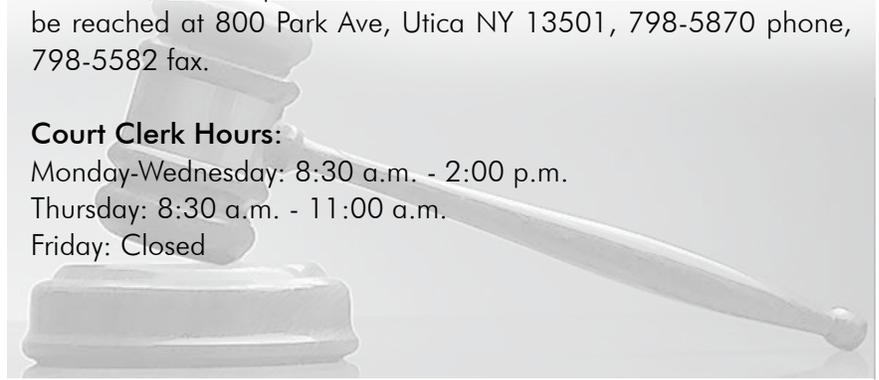
Court is held at 1:00 p.m. the third and fourth Wednesday of each month. Assistant District Attorney for Vernon Town Court is Kurt Hameline, who is present each court session. Kurt Hameline can be reached at 800 Park Ave, Utica NY 13501, 798-5870 phone, 798-5582 fax.

Court Clerk Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Friday: Closed

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday, December 5, 2011 - Board meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 8, 2011 - HEAP from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



VERNON TIMES NEWS CORNER

Louise Snyder has held the position of Vernon Town Court Clerk since **Robert Forsythe** and **Peter Bortle** were Town Judges. She has now left this position to pursue other interests. We wish her the very best in any new endeavor she may chose.

We want to congratulate **Myron Thurston III** (son of Town Supervisor, Myron Thurston, Jr.) on receiving the Strive 4 Success Honoree award from the Genesis Group for his contribution to his profession and the community.

A special thank you to **Gene Bennati**, Councilman, for his organization of the memorial service held on Veteran's Day at the Town Office

Building. We would also like to thank **Carl Knight**, Vernon Methodist Women and the American Legion Post 404 Vernon Honor Guard for their participation and contribution. An extra special thank you to the veterans and residents who came out for the service. The weather did not cooperate but the warmth extended by all present made up for the wet and cold.



VERNON TIMES NEWS

We would like to thank all the Town of Vernon residents that voted in the local general election on November 8, 2011. Although we ran unopposed, we appreciate your support and for taking the time to exercise your right to vote. We will continue to do the best job that we can in the interest of the Town and its' residents.

Myron J. Thurston, Supervisor

Julie A. McElroy, Town Clerk

Art Freemire, Highway Superintendent

Robert G. Suttmeier, Town Justice

Gene A. Bennati, Councilperson

Michael G. McDonough, Councilperson

Francis M. Laguzza, Assessor

Submit your own local at
www.townofvernon.com
and click on "Photo Galleries"



Photo by **Frank Laguzza**

APPOINTED EMPLOYEE PROFILES

BEVERLY MACKEY



Bev resides on Cooper Street in the Village of Vernon. She was married to Robert F. Mackey until his death in 2007. She has three daughters, Diana M. Seifert, Nadine Daniszewski both of Vernon and Christine Tersten of Whitesboro, NY. She has eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and twelve foster grandchildren.

Bev graduated from Vernon High School, Class of 1946 and from Utica School of Commerce in December, 1946.

Bev worked for The National Bank of Vernon for 53 years. Since leaving the bank in 1999 she worked for the Olde Canning Factory. Since 2002 she has worked for the Town of Vernon in a part time capacity as secretary to the Comprehensive, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning boards.

Bev's interests include gardening, cake decorating, painting, her grandchildren and family.

MIKE JANOWSKI



Mike has been employed by the Town of Vernon Highway Department since October, 1988. He states his job description as a plethora of assignments and whatever his boss wants him to do.

Mike lives with his wife, Dana, on Youngs Road in Vernon Center. He has three children, Ashley a sophomore at NYU; Scott a senior at VVS and Alina a 6th grader in Vernon. Mike states that he is "too young" for grandchildren! He was a 1981 graduate from VVS.

Mike asks if everyone would consider being an organ donor. It worked for him as he had a kidney and pancreas transplant in 1996.



• REMINDER •

TOWN OF VERNON DOG CENSUS

Please license your dog(s) as soon as possible.

The Town of Vernon conducted a dog enumeration on September 1, 2011 by mail. A two-part return postage-paid postcard was mailed to Town of Vernon residents to identify the number of dogs owned or harbored at each residence. The 30-day time period has expired. Any dogs found unlicensed by the Dog Control Officer will be subject to a court ticket and fine, this includes licenses that are expired.

A current rabies certificate and proof of spay/neuter, if applicable, is needed to license a dog. Please direct questions to the Town Clerk's Office at 829-2422. Thank you for your cooperation.



A representative from HEAP will be at the Vernon Town Office Building, 4305 Peterboro Rd., Vernon, on **December 8, 2011** from **12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** No appointment is necessary.



TOWN OF VERNON WEBSITE

www.townofvernon.com

The Town has updated its website, it changes frequently so be sure to check it out. Any business that would like to link to the Town of Vernon website can do so by emailing your website address to: bookkeeper@townofvernon.com. We are trying to spread the word to all Town of Vernon businesses, so please feel free to pass this along.

Any Town of Vernon resident or business wishing to submit pictures can do so on our website. All photos must be approved by the Town.



NEW DISPLAY SHOWCASE

Some years ago Supervisor Myron Thurston and I discussed the idea of building an attractive display showcase in the lobby of our town building. The main purpose of this structure would be to house many of the historical and significant items that are currently kept in our town storage system.

With the help and expertise of one of our Town Assessors, Mr. Robert Moher, who has an extensive background in display design, we were able to produce a showcase which we feel our town residents can be very proud.

As we continue to decide how and what to exhibit, recently, we chose a small number of items to begin displaying. There are so many interesting artifacts that it becomes difficult to decide which

to exhibit. Initially we will be putting items in our case on a rotational system. This method offers us the opportunity to eventually display all historical treasures.

We welcome any related items from our Town residents whether on a lending basis or as a donated display item.

This project is and will continue to be a work in progress because of the ever changing choices of artifacts to exhibit over the coming years.

We hope our town residents are as proud as we are to share the past history of the Town of Vernon with all who enter our town building.

Gene Bennati
Deputy Town Supervisor



FALL FESTIVAL!



Photos by **Janice Buneo**, NEO Images

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Anyone knowing of a household not receiving the newsletter is asked to contact Sandy Williams with a name and address. We are trying to maintain a database so all residents of the Town receive a copy.

Sandy can be reached at: 315-272-5793