

THE TOWN OF

Halfmoon Navigator

February 2016



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Supervisor's Office

Message from the Town Supervisor:



Kevin J. Tollisen
Halfmoon Town Supervisor

On behalf of the Halfmoon Town Board and myself, I would like to say Happy New Year. I am excited as we enter into 2016 and believe together we can continue to make great progress for the Town of Halfmoon.

In reviewing the financial picture for the Town of Halfmoon for 2015, I believe we have made great financial progress. Due to the great credit of our Department Managers and Town Staff, the initial analysis shows that we will be spending less than the amount allocated and our actual revenues will exceed what we expected in our 2015 approved budget. With expenses lower and revenues higher, I believe we will continue on the path to improving our financial condition for the long term fiscal health of our Town. I am pleased that in just two short years, the Town has increased its general fund unallocated fund balance from just over twenty eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to over one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1.2 million).

During the past year, we also faced many challenges. For the first time in three decades, and after several public input workshops, the Town Board and I decided to make the tough decision to impose a highway tax. While this decision was not an easy one nor one that anyone wants, the Tax will be phased in over two (2) years. This will help ensure our roads and infrastructure remain in good condition over the next several years.

We also took a critical look at our Town Transfer Station. After several public meetings and public input, the Town Transfer Station will remain open in 2016. The Town Board and I appreciated all of the input, suggestions and recommendations made by our Town residents.

For 2016, the Town Board and I are working on several projects. We have already received a grant in the amount of \$90,795 from New York State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Project to construct the final components of a multi-use trail that will connect the Champlain Canalway Trail with the Lighthouse Park. The Town has also received a grant award of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the New York State Canal Corporation's Canalway Grant Program for a canoe/kayak launch and aesthetic improvements to the east side of the Crescent Bridge on Route 9. The project will entail the installation of a floating dock for Mohawk River canoe/kayak access, construct a more formal parking area, and remove the invasive and nuisance vegetation from the Erie Canal Crescent Aqueduct.

With our beautiful and friendly neighborhoods, to numerous historical sites, walking and recreational trails, and beautiful Town Parks, I am proud that Halfmoon continues to offer our residents and visitors "the best of everything". And while we are optimistic for 2016, the Town Board and I are cognizant of the challenges that we continue to face in our Town. While we work to confront the realities of increasing costs at all levels of Town government, we will continue to make the very best decisions for our Town.

Lastly, this newsletter would not be possible without the businesses who have purchased advertisements that you see throughout the newsletter. Because of their generosity, this newsletter has been provided to all residents of the Town of Halfmoon at no charge. I encourage you to patronize our Halfmoon businesses and thank them for their contribution.

For more information about the Town of Halfmoon, I would welcome you to visit our website. The link to our website is www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov. If I or a member of our Team can be of service to you, please feel free to contact me at any time at 518-371-7410 X 2200. Thank you and with best wishes.

Kevin J. Tollisen

Halfmoon Town Supervisor

Town of Halfmoon Hours of Operation

**Supervisor's Office, Assessor's Office,
Building Department, Code Enforcement Office,
Finance Office, Payroll Office, Planning Department,
Recreation Department, *Receiver of Taxes,
Senior Center, Water Department** (located on Brookwood Rd.)

Open Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm

*During the month of January, the Receiver of Taxes Office is open
Wednesday 8:00am - 6:00pm and Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Town Clerks Office

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm;
Wednesday 8:00am - 7:00pm

Animal Control - On-Call As Needed

Justice Clerk's Office (check web site for Court times)

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Highway Department

 (Located on Route 146)

Monday - Friday 7:00am - 3:00pm (Winter Hours)

Monday - Thursday 6:00am - 4:00pm (Summer Hours)

Transfer Station

 (Located on Route 146)

Tuesday 8:00am - 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm - 5:00pm;
Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm

All Town Parks - Dawn-Dusk

Town of Halfmoon Contact Information

Dial (518) 371-7410 - extensions below

Animal Control	ext. 2452
Assessor	ext. 2242
Attorney	ext. 2202
Code Enforcement	ext. 2260
Finance/Payroll	ext. 2217
Grant	ext. 2206
Highway Department (alternate number 664-3127)	ext. 2500
Historical Society	ext. 2332
Justice Office	ext. 2400
Parks Department	ext. 2533
Planning Department	ext. 2266
Receiver of Taxes	ext. 2251
Recreation Department	ext. 2272
Senior Center (alternate number 371-3872)	ext. 2300
Senior Express	ext. 2320
Town Supervisor	ext. 2200
Town Clerk	ext. 2230
Transfer Station	ext. 2500
Water Department	ext. 2600

Elected Officials Email Addresses

Town Supervisor, Kevin J. Tollisen ktollisen@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Deputy Supervisor/Town Councilman, Paul Hotaling photaling@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Councilman, John Waiselewski jwaiselewski@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Councilwoman, Daphne Jordan djordan@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Councilman, Jeremy Connors jconnors@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Clerk, Lynda Bryan lbryan@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Highway Superintendent, John Pingelski, Jr. jpingsels@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Receiver of Taxes, Karen Pingelski kpingsels@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov

Please go to our website and sign up for our E-Alerts &
Text Alerts so we can keep you updated on
important issues. www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov



Historical Society

The Society has been taking a broad based approach in researching the Town of Halfmoon's past and sharing the information through exhibits and presentations.

Here are some of 2015 Highlights:

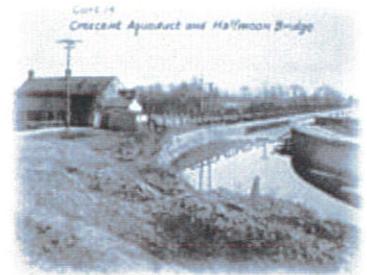
- Crossing the Mohawk
- Townsman News Clippings
- Gray's Corners Hamlet
- 100 Years of Military Conflicts
- Civil War Corporal Secor
- Civil War Camp Reenactment
- Wizard of Oz
- 100 year old Tool Shed now on permanent display

Hafmoon Historical Society's Mission is to bring together those people interested in the history of the Town of Halfmoon. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area. The Society collects printed material, pictures, portraits and other memorabilia; and provides for the preservation of old as well as new records. What is new today will be tomorrow's history!

The Historical Society is expanding the role of developing the Historical culture of our Town and discovering the mysteries that lead to this lifelong community as we know it today. If you are interested in the history of the Town, you are invited to attend any of our monthly meetings held on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Society building.

The Historical Building, is located at 280 Lower Newtown Rd. and is open to the public the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 1PM – 3PM and the 2nd Wednesday from 1PM – 4PM and 6PM - 8PM

We look forward to seeing you!



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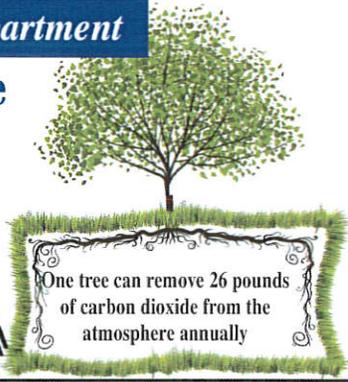
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Parks & Grounds Department

Promote the Value of Green Space

FACT: 2,500 sq. ft. of turf releases enough oxygen for a family of four to breathe.



10th Annual Canal Clean Sweep

Saturday April 23rd, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Come join us in recognition of Earth Day 2016 by helping to clean up your local park! Volunteers can participate by picking up litter, trash, and other debris throughout Crescent Park. Meet us at the bottom of Terminal Road to get your gloves and trash bags.

2016 RECREATIONAL BASEBALL

The Town of Halfmoon Recreational Baseball League will have open registration for the spring 2016 season starting on January 22nd, 2016 through early-March. Registration can be completed and fees are listed online at www.halfmoonbaseball.com



League Divisions this year are 5u (ages 4 & 5), 6u, 7u, 8u, 10u (ages 9 & 10), 12u (ages 11 & 12), and 15u (ages 13 to 15). League age and Division placement is based upon the player's age as of May 1, 2016. The season will run from Monday, May 2nd through Wednesday, June 22nd.

Halfmoon Girls Softball

The 2016 recreation and travel season is just around the corner so registration is now open through April 1st. Please visit our website www.halfmoonsoftball.com to register and get the latest news on clinics, travel tryouts, and open gym time. Travel teams are looking for players. Check the website for further details. If you have any questions, please contact **Anthony DePasquale** @ 518-810-9160 or halfmoongirlssoftball@gmail.com

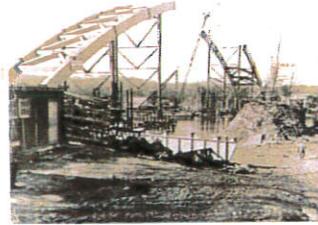


Paul Maiello,
Parks Director

Historical Society

You never know.... where you are going to find a piece of History!

Mr. Murphy of Brattleboro Vermont went to an auction one evening and successfully bid on a box of clock parts that were of interest to him. When he went home and checked out his treasures, he found some old pictures rolled up at the bottom of the box.



What he found were 13 pictures taken by Al Boice, a commercial photographer from North Troy,

New York, relating to the construction of the bridge over the Mohawk River on Interstate 87 (The Northway), now known as the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Bridge. The pictures were taken during 1958 – 1959. **What a find!**

We all know what the completed bridge looks like, but to be able to see each step in the process of building the bridge, is like being able to step back in time and watch it being built. How the pictures stayed together and found their way to Vermont is a mystery. We are very thankful that Mr. Murphy researched on the internet and found that the bridge was in Halfmoon. He then sent the pictures to Supervisor Tollisen for the Halfmoon Historical Society.

So, you never know where you are going to find a piece of History!



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Our Mother, Grace Wheeler Kwazneski will celebrate her 90th Birthday on March 6th of this year.

We would like to tell you more about our mother... She and our father, Charles, who was recently discharged from Overseas Duty in the Army, married right after WWII and started moving into their new life together as so many young people did in a new and

exciting world that was building up after years of rationing and sacrifices.

Grace loved the Town of Halfmoon since she spent her summers at her Parents and grandparents camps on the Mohawk River in Halfmoon. That is where our parents met, swimming in the Mohawk River. Mother from Cohoes, father from Waterford. They bought the home, my mother still lives in, on the street called then "The Village" consisting of a firehouse (one stall garage, the Grange Building, a store and a Baptist Church). Farm land all around.

Our parents and many other newcomers to the area joined the HMFC and Auxilliary right away and devoted many years to this organization and others such as the Legion Post, St. Mary's Church and the start of the Ambulance Corp. Mom in the Ambulance Corp was what today are called First Responders. She even drove the ambulance once "WOW". They also were on the committee that named the Shenendehowa School System.

The young couples of the 1940's, 50's really outdid themselves to show Civic Pride. She and a group of friends, including Betty next door, a former Cohoesier, danced and sang in shows run for charity causes in Town of Halfmoon. (Mom tapped danced and loved it).

So here is a big hug and kiss to mom and all the wonderful residents of Halfmoon who made our Town as great as it is!

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO GRACE, MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND BELOVED FAMILY MEMBER.

From: Daughters Gayle Amberman and Charyl Clark

Receiver of Taxes

WHEW! We all survived January tax season.

We all survived January tax season. It was nice to see those who paid their bills in person and the notes we received in the office. We continue to collect taxes during February with 1% penalty and March with 2% penalty plus a \$2.00 service charge.

We were also busy collecting the first quarter of Town of Halfmoon water bills. During January between tax bills and water bills Kiva and I have collected about 15,000 payments. We thank everyone for the understanding when standing in a line. The candy dish and lollypop tree were both filled often.

If you did not send me your entire tax bill and would like a receipt, you can find it online at www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov On the bottom right of the home page you will see a link for property tax bills. Click on the link and simply enter your last name in the field noted and your first name and click search. This will bring your bill up with a paid date, click on the printable version button and you are all set.

We hope you have a wonderful 2016 and are here to answer any question you may have. Respectfully,

Karen S. Pingelski, Receiver of Taxes Town of Halfmoon

Water Department

Water usage for 2015 was 809,448,322 million gallons.

Average daily usage was 2.2 million gallons.

HYDRANT FLUSHING – will begin in April through May 2016.

THIS WILL AFFECT ALL WATER SYSTEM USERS.

The watermain flushing will take place weekdays between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. During this period, all areas may notice some water discoloration and low water pressure. Please check the water prior to doing laundry.

New water rates:

Base rate of \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons for the first 30,000 gallons, \$6.38 from 31,000 to 50,000 gallons, \$8.50 from 51,000 gallons and higher.

Frank Tironi Jr., Director of Water Department

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Senior Center

The Halfmoon Senior Citizen Association Inc. is open to all seniors age 55 and over with no residency requirement. **The Halfmoon Senior Center** is open Monday thru Friday from 9am to 4pm and offers a variety of activities, programs, events, trips, seminars, and exercise programs. When many other avenues for senior activities and fellowship have dwindled, our Center continues to thrive and grow by leaps and bounds. Each day at noon the **Saratoga County Office for the Aging Home Delivered Meal Program** serves lunch at the Center. There is something everyday for you to participate in and enjoy at the Center. Come for a morning activity and stay for lunch or, come for lunch and stay for an afternoon activity!

One of our upcoming events is our Annual **Spring Bazaar** which will be held on **Saturday, April 30th** from **9:00am to 2:00pm**. This is our most popular fundraiser of the year and a vital one to the support of our programs. Our craft group has been very busy over the past several months making hand made crafts. Our bakers will have tables full of home baked items for you to choose from. There will be Grandma's Treasures and Raffles along with the "Halfmoon Café" offering our ever popular and totally delicious homemade luncheon items. So tell your family and friends, but most of all - come in and shop!!! All proceeds go to fund our activities and programs.

A unique program that we offer is our **Alzheimer's Support Group** which meets the third Thursday of every month at 12:00pm. Caregivers enjoy a complimentary lunch together while those they care for also enjoy a complimentary lunch, before participating in a group activity. This support group is not only for those with Alzheimer's but any type of dementia as well. If you or someone you know are interested in attending, please call the Center to sign-up. All caregivers of any age whether members or non-members are welcome.

Another service hosted by the Center and provided by **AARP** is **free income tax preparation** for seniors 55 and over. Taxes will be prepared every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** starting **February 2nd - April 14th** from **9:30am to 2:30pm**. You must call the Center to make an appointment as there are no drop-ins. The Center is only making appointments and are not able to answer any tax questions. Please direct those to AARP. Be sure to bring all of your required documentation and a copy of last years tax forms.

For more information on all of the programs, activities, trips, classes, etc. visit us at www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov Click on the *Senior Center* on the left and check out our Newsletter. You may also call us at 371-3892 or stop in to see us for a tour!

Eileen Pettis,
Director of the Senior Center

The Halfmoon Senior Express assisted seniors with 3,629 rides and delivered 6,999 meals in 2015.

If you are in need of transportation to a doctor's appointment or grocery store, please contact **Gale or Mike at the Senior Express dispatch at 664-2186** (Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 2:00PM). If you are in need of a delivered meal, please contact **Saratoga County Office For the Aging at 884-4100.**

John Pingelski
Senior Express Director



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An Update on Social Security from Congressman Paul Tonko

I am forever thankful to represent communities like Halfmoon in Congress. Specifically, I cherish the opportunities I have to visit with members of the Halfmoon Senior Center. Not only because it provides a great excuse to learn some moves from the best dancers around, but because I come away from every visit with valuable, real-life input that Congress severely lacks these days.



While jobs and the economy remain top priorities in my work, I also place high importance on the job Congress must do to support our retirees and senior citizens - and

that means fighting to protect Social Security and make the program work as hard for current beneficiaries as they worked for the program all their lives.

Social Security is a solemn promise that those who built the largest economy in the world and worked hard their entire life will retire with the dignity they deserve. And that is why, in the New Year, I will continue to fight for higher Cost Of Living Adjustments (COLA) and better benefits for our seniors, while voting against pay raises for myself and my colleagues in Congress. While a COLA of an extra twenty dollars may not seem like a great deal to others, we know that can be the difference between filling our gas tanks, buying the groceries we need, or being able to make a loved one happy on their birthday or anniversary.

Whether we're talking about serious issues like Social Security or just cutting a rug, I look forward to my continued visits with members of the Halfmoon Senior Center. It is truly one of the best parts of my job and I anticipate seeing my friends there again very soon.

If my office can ever be of help with issues like Social Security, Medicare, or any other federal issue, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 374-4547.

Paul Tonko, U.S. Congressman

Code Enforcement

The Process of Applying for a Building Permit

When submitting an application for a building permit the permit must go through a plan review. This is a review of your building drawing and permit application. Plan review is to ensure that the drawings submitted meet all applicable New York State and local codes. This process can take upwards of 3 weeks depending on the number of permits scheduled. After the Permit is reviewed you will be notified that the Building Permit it is ready for pick up or if we need further information before approving the permit. After the permit is issued, you must call for inspections that are applicable to your project. Please call a minimum of 24 hours in advance of your desired inspection. This does not guarantee you an inspection the following day as inspections are taken on a first come first serve basis. If you call and schedule an inspection, and you are not ready, please call and reschedule as soon as possible to free up your original time slot. This gives other people wishing an inspection the ability to get one sooner than later.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to a Code Officer, please call 371-7410 ext. 2260 and speak to Sharon. She will gladly direct your call to the appropriate person. Our office hours are 8am-4pm Monday through Friday.

Steffen Buck

Director of Code Enforcement

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Animal Control

"New Tool" in the Fight Against Animal Abuse and Neglect

2016 might just be the Year of the Animal. While the correlation between animal cruelty and anti-social, aggressive behavior (such as domestic violence) has long been known to animal control, police, social services and prosecutors, this year marks the beginning of the collection of data by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program – data which might well help target intervention efforts and provide another useful tool for law enforcement. This data will be added to Category A of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), a category designated for "crimes against society". This will now place animal abusers in a group with arsonists and murderers, removing the crime from the "other offense" category where it was previously - simply because the crimes were against non-humans.



Law enforcement agencies will need to report both incidents/arrests in four separate areas: simple/gross neglect; intentional abuse/torture; organized abuse (includes dogfighting and cockfighting); and animal sexual abuse, according to the FBI. The new classification of these crimes will help track animal abuse and neglect nationwide and is likely to give "more teeth" to animal cruelty laws in all 50 states.

Beth Abramson
Animal Control Officer

Eric A Catricala, LFD - Owner
Mark J Delaney, LFD

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TOWN CLERK'S HISTORICAL RECORDS

Beginnings of Public Education in Halfmoon

Currently, Halfmoon has 3 school districts in its town: Mechanicville, Shenendehowa and Waterford-Halfmoon. But... How did it all start? Where did our parents go to school?

"Pursuant to an Act for the Encouragement of Schools drafted the 9th of April 1795." We the subscribers – the Supervisors of the County of Saratoga do certify that pursuant to the directions contained in the said Act, we have apportioned to the Town of Halfmoon, as its share of the money allotted to the said county, the sum of two hundred and fifty-four pounds eighteen shillings and six pence (equaling \$1,250)."

This was the beginning of public education in Halfmoon. The Town of Halfmoon had School Commissioners as early as 1796. In 1844 there were 14 school districts and in 1878 there were 12.

Halfmoon's One Room Schoolhouses - early 1900's

- **Halfmoon School District #1** – Halfmoon Village -
Located at the start of Churchill Road.
Originally the Halfmoon Academy in the 1820's and Middletown Union School in 1877.
- **Halfmoon School District #2** – Newtown School
Located on Upper Newtown Road behind New Country Toyota.
Land was given for this school by Stephen Smith in 1843.
- **Halfmoon School District #3** – Crescent School or Barney Kane
Located at the intersection of Crescent Vischer Ferry & Beach Roads.
Mohawk Terrace Apartments now stands on this site.
- **Halfmoon School District #4** - McAran's School also known as Cary Rd. & Anthony School built in 1832 or 1833. The school burnt in 1950 & was replaced by a Quonset Hut, a military surplus building. *Located at the intersection of Cary & Angle Road.*
- **Halfmoon School District #5** – West Crescent School
Located on the east side of Dunsbach Road and currently a private residence.



Guideboard Road

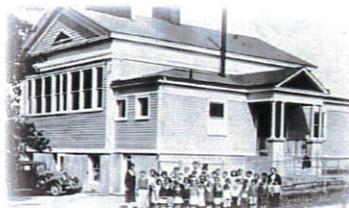


Newton School

- **Halfmoon School District #7** – Coons Crossing School
Located at about 15 feet from the Railroad tracks near the intersection of Coons Crossing & Staniak Road.
School was kept here from 1875-1929.
- **Halfmoon School District #9** – Guideboard School
It was moved across Route 9 to Grooms Road and was the home of the American Legion, it is now known as Sorrentino's.
- **Halfmoon School District #11** – Crescent School
Located at the north side of the intersection of Route 9 & Churchill Road. 8 different grades were all in one room.
- **The 1st Clifton Park Village School #12** – is now the home of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Fire House.

The meaning of the name "Shenendehowa" is "Great Plains", from the Iroquois nation of which the Mohawk tribe was a division. The following is a list of the different schools within the Shenendehowa School District with their Indian names.

Arongen	to Understand
Karigon	to Join Together
Orenda	Great Spirit
Skano	Peace
Tesago	Courage
Okte	to Achieve
Chango	Happy & Cheerful
Gowana	Great
Koda	Friend



Clifton Park Village School

The school was moved in 1917 to where it now stands on the corner of Old Route 146 & Cemetery Roads. This building was originally a Baptist Church and later housed the Town Clerk's Office & the Shenendehowa Library.

Lynda Bryan
Town Clerk

Lindsey's

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Sat 8 AM-4 PM

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Our Mother, **Grace Wheeler Kwazneski** will celebrate her **90th Birthday** on **March 6th** of this year.

We would like to tell you more about our mother...
She and our father, Charles, who was recently discharged from Overseas Duty in the Army, married right after WWII and started moving into their new life together as so many young people did in a new and

exciting world that was building up after years of rationing and sacrifices.

Grace loved the Town of Halfmoon since she spent her summers at her Parents and grandparents camps on the Mohawk River in Halfmoon. That is where our parents met, swimming in the Mohawk River. Mother from Cohoes, father from Waterford. They bought the home, my mother still lives in, on the street called then "The Village" consisting of a firehouse (one stall garage, the Grange Building, a store and a Baptist Church). Farm land all around.

Our parents and many other newcomers to the area joined the HMFC and Auxilliary right away and devoted many years to this organization and others such as the Legion Post, St. Mary's Church and the start of the Ambulance Corp. Mom in the Ambulance Corp was what today are called First Responders. She even drove the ambulance once "WOW". They also were on the committee that named the Shenendehowa School System.

The young couples of the 1940's, 50's really outdid themselves to show Civic Pride. She and a group of friends, including Betty next door, a former Cohoesier, danced and sang in shows run for charity causes in Town of Halfmoon. (Mom tapped danced and loved it).

So here is a big hug and kiss to mom and all the wonderful residents of Halfmoon who made our Town as great as it is!

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO GRACE, MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND BELOVED FAMILY MEMBER.

From: Daughters Gayle Amberman and Charyl Clark

Receiver of Taxes

WHEW! We all survived January tax season.

We all survived January tax season. It was nice to see those who paid their bills in person and the notes we received in the office. We continue to collect taxes during February with 1% penalty and March with 2% penalty plus a \$2.00 service charge.

We were also busy collecting the first quarter of Town of Halfmoon water bills. During January between tax bills and water bills Kiva and I have collected about 15,000 payments. We thank everyone for the understanding when standing in a line. The candy dish and lollypop tree were both filled often.

If you did not send me your entire tax bill and would like a receipt, you can find it online at www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov On the bottom right of the home page you will see a link for property tax bills. Click on the link and simply enter your last name in the field noted and your first name and click search. This will bring your bill up with a paid date, click on the printable version button and you are all set.

We hope you have a wonderful 2016 and are here to answer any question you may have. Respectfully,

Karen S. Pingelski, Receiver of Taxes Town of Halfmoon

Water Department

Water usage for 2015 was 809,448,322 million gallons.

Average daily usage was 2.2 million gallons.

HYDRANT FLUSHING – will begin in April through May 2016.

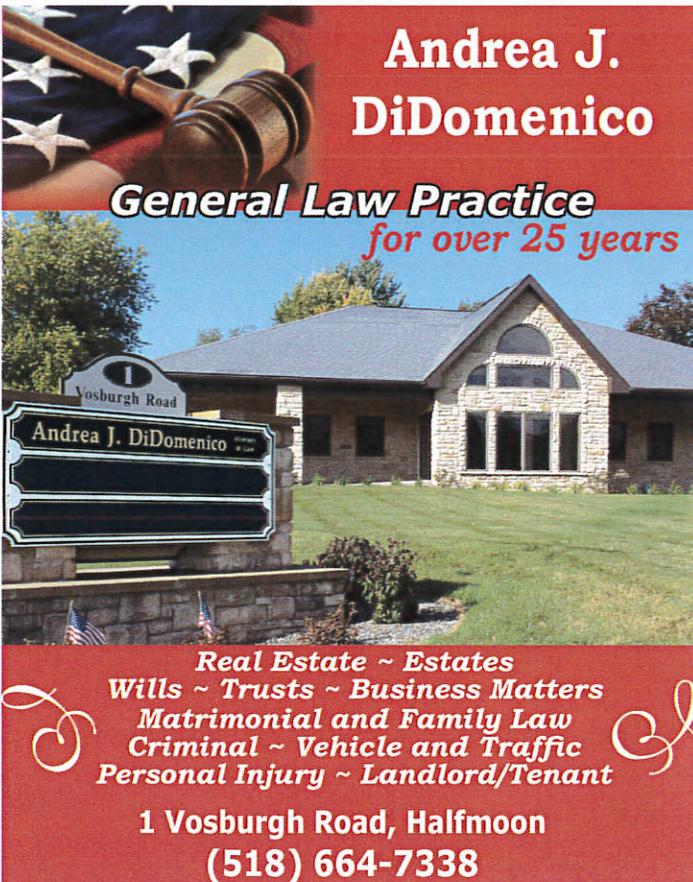
THIS WILL AFFECT ALL WATER SYSTEM USERS.

The watermain flushing will take place weekdays between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. During this period, all areas may notice some water discoloration and low water pressure. Please check the water prior to doing laundry.

New water rates:

Base rate of \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons for the first 30,000 gallons, \$6.38 from 31,000 to 50,000 gallons, \$8.50 from 51,000 gallons and higher.

Frank Tironi Jr., Director of Water Department



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The Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department Concludes Another Busy Year



The Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department is the only fire department that has its fire district (the Halfmoon Fire District #1) completely within the Town of Halfmoon. The fire department provides fire protection and suppression (including interior fire suppression), fire prevention, extrication, rescue, hazmat, fire police officers and basic emergency medical services (EMS) to the residents, visitors, and businesses of the Halfmoon Fire District #1 and the surrounding communities. During the calendar year 2015, the Hillcrest Fire Department responded to 278 calls for assistance. 2015 was the first full year that the fire department spent in its new fire station which is located at 145 Pruyn Hill Road, on the same parcel of land where the charter members built the original fire station about 50 years ago.

The past year was a very busy year for the fire department members. Hundreds of hours of firefighting and EMS training, endless hours of record keeping related to training, incident specifics, apparatus maintenance, equipment needs and maintenance, general administrative meetings, and financial planning, both on a fire district level and on a fire department level. Then the department members always make time for a kid's Halloween Party, fire prevention training at the Mechanicville Elementary School, and helping Santa Claus visit the district children just before Christmas.



What are our plans for 2016? Our fire district is continuing to grow, at an increasing rate, and our membership has leveled off. We intend to continue providing district residents with the best fire and EMS related services that we can – along with some social functions for the community, but we need to ask the public to join us in our efforts to protect our neighbors and their property. If you think you might have an interest, and would like to put a little adventure and drama into your life, call us at 664-3434 and leave a message. We will call you back.

Vic Knorowski,
Commissioner

Twin Bridges
Rotary
Club



The Twin Bridges Rotary club was chartered in 2002, and is one of 42 Rotary Clubs in the Capital District. Twin Bridges Rotary Club is a diverse group of local professionals who have come together to make a difference in Southern Saratoga County and beyond by carrying out the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Twin Bridges came out of the gate swinging with their first international project in 2003 which involved rebuilding a school in Zimbabwe. It won the club a centennial award from Rotary International. From its inception to today Twin Bridges has made a significant impact on both the local and international community.

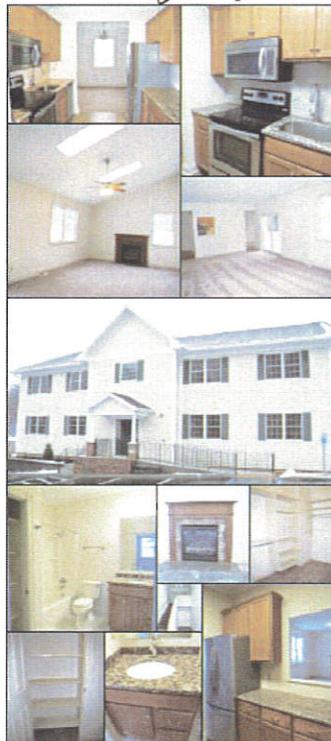
This year Twin Bridges is supporting Captain Youth and Family Services and to Love a Child. Captain serves the local community and To Love a Child serves children around the globe. Twin Bridges has also donated computers and other equipment to the Shenendehowa school system, been involved in redecorating the domestic violence center in Mechanicville, packed potatoes at the Regional Food Bank, painted camps in Albany, cooks dinner at the Ronald McDonald House in Albany every month and donated thousands of dollars to various non for profits in our area. Every year for the past 10 years, Twin Bridges co-hosts the spirit of Thanksgiving Dinner with Saly's Pub and Bistro in Halfmoon. This past year we served over 500 meals.

Our next community event is **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on March 26, 2016** at the Elks Lodge located on Macelroy Road. The Bunny Breakfast is a community activity that gives families the opportunity to go on an egg hunt, get pictures with the Easter Bunny and enjoy a full breakfast for a nominal fee.

The Twin Bridges Rotary Club meets every Thursday at noon at the Grecian Garden. For more information, please visit TwinBridgesRotary.com

Past District Governor, **Melissa Ward**,
Managing Partner, NewWard Development, LLC

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From the Desk of Supervisor Kevin J. Tollisen....

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED DUE TO WATER MAIN BREAK January 18 – 26

On January 18, 2016, as Town Supervisor, I declared a State of Emergency in the Town of Halfmoon due to a break in a large water main pipe in the City of Troy. During the State of Emergency, the Town of Halfmoon was under a mandatory water conservation order. Below are a few of the highlights of the State of Emergency:

1. Due to the shortage in water supply, Town residents were immediately asked to undertake water conservation measures. To aid in conserving water, water was made available to all Town residents during the entire emergency at the Highway Department. Town Staff delivered water to those who were unable to get to the Highway Department.

2. Town businesses also worked with Town Officials to institute immediate water conservation measures. Area restaurants switched to paper and plastic products to reduce water use. Businesses that were large consumers of water such as laundromats and car washes were closed or found temporary alternative water sources. Businesses switched to bottled water.

3. Area schools were closed until a plan was devised to allow them to open while conserving water. The Town delivered bottled water to the Mechanicville School for all students and faculty. –Town of Halfmoon by supplying water tanker trucks which transported water from the City of Troy to the Town of Halfmoon in an effort to supply additional water for Halfmoon clearwells. This aided in maintaining water pressure for the residents and businesses of the Town of Halfmoon. Special thanks to businesses like Stewarts Shops, Vermont Pure/Crystal Rock, Prestige Vending, Scott Earl, and Tanski Construction Company for their support and community involvement during this crisis.

4. Town Staff were available at all hours during the State of Emergency. Everyday, I held morning, afternoon and evening briefings/discussions with Town Staff. The Town Water Department had rotating crews which staffed the Water Department 24 hours per day. Additional Team Members were added into the late evening to ensure phones were answered and residents concerns were addressed. Highway Department personnel and other Employees passed out water and made deliveries.

5. Once the major water line in the City of Troy was fixed, the New York State Department of Health mandated that all municipalities affected, must boil their water. Therefore, Supervisor Tollisen issued a Boil Water Order mandating that water must be boiled if used for drinking purposes. After two days of sampling the water, no bacteria or harmful substances were found and the Boil Water Order was lifted.

6. During the State of Emergency, the Town used all of its resources to ensure Town residents were kept apprised and had the most up to date information available. The Town Facebook and website pages were updated at least twice daily, both in the morning and late afternoon/ evening. The Town sign was continually updated. News media and TV reporting was prevalent throughout the crisis.

E-alerts were sent to Town residents who were signed up for this "app" on the Town website. The Town even used the Saratoga County Reverse 911 system to provide "robocalls" to residents to provide the most up to date information.



Water being handed out to residents at the Highway Department



Water being delivered to Mechanicville School

7. In an effort to better serve you, please make sure you are signed up for the following: (a) For E-alerts, please go to Town website www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov. On the main page there is a button to bring you to a page to sign up to receive texts and/or emails of emergencies as well as other information posted to the web site. (b) If you did not receive the "robocalls", you can also sign up for Reverse 911 calls. Go to www.saratogacountyny.gov, and tap the "Emergency Services Department". You can then enter your phone number and other information to receive Reverse 911 calls. (c) Facebook is another way to be informed of town news and events. Feel free to "Like" the Town of Halfmoon.

As your Town Supervisor, I would like to personally thank you for your cooperation and patience during this State of Emergency. While it was not easy, your direct efforts to conserve water helped to ensure all Halfmoon residents had adequate water pressure, no residents lost water, and businesses were able to stay open. With best wishes.

Kevin J. Tollisen
Halfmoon Town Supervisor

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Recreation Department



**Resident
Registration Dates**
Saturdays: April 16th & 23rd
9:00am—Noon
Tuesdays: April 26th & May 3rd
6:00pm—8:00pm
All registrations will be held
at the Halfmoon Town Hall

Employment Opportunities

We are now accepting
applications for the
2016 Summer
Recreation Program.

Applicants must be at least 16 (Bus Drivers must be at least 21) years of age and be available for all 6 weeks of the Program. Deadline for completed applications is March 11, 2016.

To print an application, please visit the Halfmoon Recreation webpage or stop by the office for a hard copy.

Amanda Smith,
Recreation Director

Halfmoon Justice Court

Halfmoon Justice Court awarded Justice Court Assistance Program Grant (JCAP)

The Office of Court Administration has awarded Halfmoon Justice Court a JCAP Grant for Courtroom enhancements in the amount of \$15,500. The Grant funds will be used for a courtroom seal, bench and witness box. These new features will be added to the newly renovated court. New signage identifying "Halfmoon Justice Court Building" will also be added.

All Halfmoon Justice Court Officers have received additional training for CPR & Defibrillator use, provided by the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Emergency Corps at no charge to the Town. Training Certification was issued to Court Officers Nicholas McDonald, Jeffery Decatur, Carter Gulli, and Charles Sherman.

Town Justices Wormuth & Suchocki

Resident Relations Committee

Our Mission Statement: "The Resident Relations Committee is dedicated to fostering positive relationships between the residents and the Town by welcoming and informing all through social and print media, public events, and new resident contact. We have a community spirit that is "Halfmoon Proud!"

Committee members will be visiting Halfmoon's "new" residents in Spring with their "Blue Shirts" ready to welcome you to Town. We encourage you to check out our Facebook page and the Town of Halfmoon web site: www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov

In the meantime, let us say "WELCOME TO HALFMOON!"

John Wasielewski,
Committee Chair

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Halfmoon Celebrations in conjunction with the Recreation Department

Halfmoon Celebrations is a not-for-profit organization and is comprised of volunteers that have the commitment to deliver FREE family fun events to our residents and surrounding communities all year long!

FREE Easter "Egg"Stravaganza" Saturday, March 19th at the Town Hall from 1pm-3pm:

- Picture with Easter Bunny
- Child Id's
- Balloon Artist
- Petting Zoo
- Magician
- Crafts
- Pony Ride
- Scavenger Hunt
- Coloring Contest
and so much more!



First FREE Concert of the season is Thursday, April 7th from 6:30pm-9:00pm at the Senior Center
Light refreshments will be available to purchase to benefit the Halfmoon Seniors (Performer to be announced)

More details and future events can be found at www.halfmooncelebrations.org
or find us on Facebook under "Halfmoon Celebrations"



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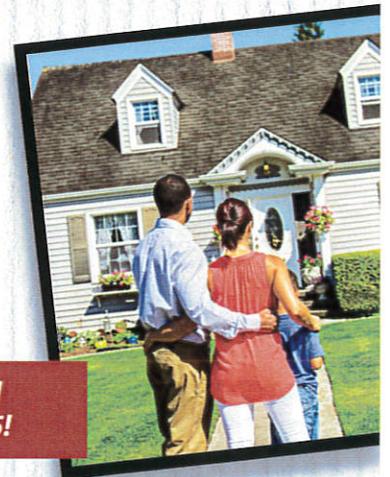
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Stormwater Management

In an effort to ensure the Town of Halfmoon continues to grow in a smart and balanced manner, last May, Supervisor Kevin Tollisen organized a town-wide inspection tour of all major active construction sites. Knick-named the "S.W.A.T." Tour which stands for Halfmoon StormWater Alliance & Tactical Tour, the half-day event included key staff from Town departments involved in the development process, including Planning, Building/Code Enforcement, Highway, and Water, along with some of the Town's elected officials and the Town Engineering firm, Clough, Harbor & Associates.

While staff regularly inspects and visits open development sites, the Tour improved coordination across departments and helped get everyone there in the process to get "on the same page" as the construction season swung into high gear. Following the success of the Spring S.W.A.T. Tour, the Town repeated the event in October, and was able to gauge how sites had changed and improved since the May event.

In 2016, the Town plans to again conduct a Spring and Fall Tour, and make this part of the Town's ongoing effort to promote economic growth and development and protect the quality of life for existing residents and businesses.

Thank you to all of the businesses in this newsletter for their support. Please patronize these businesses and mention the Halfmoon Navigator.



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Transfer Station

We are finalizing our plans for our Spring Clean Up in late April. Please check the website in late March for updated information. If you have not signed up for our E-Alerts please do so on our main website page.

A new rate for the Transfer Station went into effect January 7, 2016. The rate is now \$30 for a 10 punch card (10 - 30 gallon trash bags). This increase was approved by the Town Board in order to off-set the cost of maintaining the Transfer Station. If you have questions or need more information on hours of operation; details on recycling; or items allowed to be disposed of, please go our web site www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov or call the Transfer Station at (518) 371-7410 ext. 2500

Thank you to those who took the time to fill out the Transfer Station Survey.

John Pingelski
 Transfer Station Superintendent

Highway Department

Please be advised that Local Ordinance #2 of 1988 which prohibited the parking of motor vehicles on Town Highways between November 1st to April 1st has been replaced with the following:

Town Code 120-5: No person shall park or leave unattended by a licensed driver any vehicle on the pavement or shoulder of any Town highway, road or street during a period of snowfall, sleet, freezing rain or other winter-type weather and for a forty-eight-hour period after the precipitation ceases.

Remember to sign up for E-Alerts on our website www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov to receive updated information regarding Highway Department news. Feel free contact your Highway Department if you have any questions or concerns at (518) 371-7410 ext. 2500.

John Pingelski
 Halfmoon Highway Superintendent

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Calendar of Events

February

- 1st 7:00pm **Zoning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 3rd 6:30pm - 7:00pm **Town Board Pre-Meeting** Board Room
- 7:00pm **Town Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 8th 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Planning Board Pre-Meeting** Conference Room
- 7:00pm **Planning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 7:00pm **Open Space and Trails Committee Meeting** Board Room
- 15th (All Day) **President's Day Holiday**
All Town Offices and Senior Center Closed
- 17th 6:30pm - 7:00pm **Town Board Pre-Meeting** Board Room
- 7:00pm **Town Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 22nd 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Planning Board Pre-Meeting** Conference Room
- 7:00pm **Planning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 23rd 7:00pm **Historical Society Meeting**
Historical Building 280 Lower Newtown Rd. (located at Town Hall Complex)

March

- 2nd 6:30pm - 7:00pm **Town Board Pre-Meeting** Board Room
- 7:00pm **Town Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 7th 7:00pm **Zoning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 14th 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Planning Board Pre-Meeting** Conference Room
- 7:00pm **Planning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 16th 6:30pm - 7:00pm **Town Board Pre-Meeting** Board Room
- 7:00pm **Town Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 19th 1:00pm - 3:00pm **Easter "Egg" Stravaganza** Town Hall -
Halfmoon Celebrations/Recreation Department FREE Event

March *Cont'd*

- 25th 12:00pm **Good Friday Holiday** - All Town Offices and Senior Center Close at Noon
- 28th 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Planning Board Pre-Meeting** Conference Room
- 7:00pm **Planning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 29th 7:00pm **Historical Society Meeting** Historical Building
280 Lower Newtown Rd. (located at Town Hall Complex)

April

- 4th 7:00pm **Zoning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 6th 6:30pm - 7:00pm **Town Board Pre-Meeting** Board Room
- 7:00pm **Town Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 7th 6:30pm - 9:00pm **Concert (TBA)** Senior Center -
Halfmoon Celebrations FREE Event!
- 11th 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Planning Board Pre-Meeting** Conference Room
- 7:00pm **Planning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 7:00pm **Open Space and Trails Committee Meeting** Board Room
- 16th 9:00am - 12:00pm Sign-Up for Summer Recreation Main Meeting Room
- 19th 12:00pm - 9:00pm **Presidential Primary** - Various Polling Locations
- 20th 6:30pm - 7:00pm **Town Board Pre-Meeting** Board Room
- 7:00pm **Town Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 23rd 9:00am - 12:00pm Sign-Up for Summer Recreation Main Meeting Room
- 25th 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Planning Board Pre-Meeting** Conference Room
- 7:00pm **Planning Board Meeting** Main Meeting Room
- 26th 7:00pm **Historical Society Meeting** Historical Building
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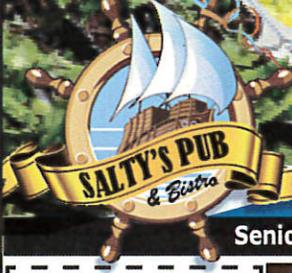
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On behalf of the Town of Halfmoon Supervisor, the Town Board and the Halfmoon Navigator staff; Dianne Mincher, Kathy Dougherty and Lisa Perry, we hope you enjoy the February 2016 issue of the Halfmoon Navigator.

