A Word from the Supervisor

Happy New Year! As we begin 2020, I would like to thank everyone in the community for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Town Supervisor for another 2 years. I appreciate the trust and support you have given me. Don’t hesitate to call or stop in to the office with any concerns you may have or just to say hello.

A lot of my time has been spent on working with members of the Owasco Lake Watershed Council where I serve as Treasurer. I also am working with Skaneateles Lake Council as well. It is very important to make sure we all work to keep our lakes clean.

My office hours are Tuesday 10 am-12 pm, Thursday 4-7 pm and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 10 am-12 pm. I am also available by appointment.

Joan Jayne, Town Supervisor

ASSESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION & HOURS

Tammy Schramm – Town Assessor                      Kristy Gans – Assessor Clerk
Phone: (315) 253-1092                                     Phone: (315) 253-1502
Email: tschramm@cayugacounty.us                             Email: kgans@cayugacounty.us
County Office Building Hours: Mon., Wed.-Fri., 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Niles Town Hall Office Hours: First & Third Tuesday of the month, 10 am-1 pm OR call (315) 497-0066 during those hours.

ENHANCED STAR PROGRAM

Property owners currently receiving Enhanced STAR no longer need to reapply each year. The forms filed for the 2019 roll year allowed NYS to annually verify income (through IVP – income verification program) and let the assessor know which properties qualify for the exemption.

Property owners currently receiving Basic STAR that are now eligible to apply for Enhanced STAR have two options.

1. File application RP425E along with RP425IVP with your local assessor by March 1st. The first year applying, proof of age and income is also required.

   OR

2. Opt to receive the Enhanced STAR credit CHECK by applying directly to NYS Department of Tax & Finance.

IMPORTANT: Enhanced STAR IVP does not automatically qualify property owners for the additional Aged exemption which they may also be eligible for if their annual income is under $25,000. In order to qualify for the Aged exemption, property owners are required to submit a yearly exemption application (along with proof of income) to the Assessor by March 1st.

Continued on Page 2
Reminder about Changes to New Basic and Enhanced STAR Application Administration

State legislation has changed how the STAR exemption/credit will be administered for anyone applying for a new Basic or Enhanced STAR. Property owners applying for STAR tax relief after March 1st 2015 now need to apply for the credit directly through NYS Tax & Finance. The phone number to call to apply is (518) 457-2036 or apply online at www.tax.ny.gov.

Garbage District Exemption

If your residence is seasonal or the property owner is over the age of 65 years you could qualify for partial exemption from the garbage district user fee. If you have already applied for the exemption and it has been granted, you do not need to reapply each year to continue receiving the exemption. The only instance where you would need to apply would be if circumstances had changed or if you are a new property owner seeking the exemption.

Garbage Exemption Form Link: http://www.cayugacounty.us/Documents/Garbage-District-Assessment-PDF

Key Dates

March 1 – Taxable Status date – All exemption renewal forms due back to the assessor by this date.

May 1 – Tentative Roll filed – After this date all current year assessment grievances must go through the Board of Assessment Review Committee including ratification of any reductions agreed to by the assessor and property owner.

May 28 – Board of Assessment Review (Grievance Night) 4:00-8:00 pm at the Niles Town Hall

July 1 – Final Assessment Roll filed

September 1 – School Tax bills mailed and available online https://gis.cayugacounty.us/webapp/tmo/

October 31 – Exemption renewal forms for the upcoming year are mailed to owners

January 1, 2021 – County/Town Tax bills mailed and available online https://gis.cayugacounty.us/webapp/tmo/

Board of Assessment Review

The Niles Board of Assessment Review will meet on Thursday May 28th, 2018 from 4-8 pm for the purpose of hearing property owners’ grievances on their assessments or exemption status for the 2020 assessment roll only.

Grievance forms are available from the Assessor or the Town Clerk. They are also available on the Town website (RP-524). Please have your paperwork filled out before meeting with the Board of Assessment Review.

From the Planning Board

The Planning Board’s responsibility is to ensure that all property, subdivisions, and add-ons comply with the Town’s Laws. Therefore, any changes in property lines or changes of use must be approved by the Planning Board. Also note that all new commercial construction or additions must obtain a site plan review.

In an effort to save you time and money, please contact the Planning Board Chairman, the Code Enforcement Officer or the Town Clerk before you start any project.

The Planning Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. If you wish to reserve time on the agenda, please notify the Town Clerk one week prior to the meeting.

All standard Planning Board forms are available on the Town’s website.

Planning Board Chairman, Terry Green

From the Dog Control Officer

I am looking forward to serving the Town of Niles as the Dog Control Officer for 2020! I have been a DCO for twelve years serving other towns and villages and also am assistant shelter manager at Country Acres Animal Shelter located in Homer, NY. For any dog related issues please call me at 315-224-3110. For any other animal/wildlife complaints or concerns I will try to help but can also refer you to the proper authority. We hope to host a Rabies/immunization/microchip/licensing clinic later in the year – check the website or call the Clerk's office for details. This is a great opportunity to catch up your cat and dog on those important vaccines. Did you know a dog license fee is cheaper if your canine friend is spayed or neutered? If you need low cost spay and neuter, I can give you information.

Suzie Tracy (315) 224-3110
Zoning Board of Appeals
OK, You want to build, modify, improve, or move a building on your property in our beautiful town. You also want the whole project to go smoothly…. A first step might be to align your desires with the town and NYS building codes, including setback and area laws of Chapter 164 of the Niles Codes (linked through the Town web site).
If you, or the Code Enforcement Officer, determine that your proposed project does not meet the laws, AND you would like to proceed, you will have to apply to the Town Board of Appeals for a Variance to the Town Laws.
The Variance application is available online and at the Town Hall. Once the Town Clerk receives your Variance application, and the required fee, we will schedule a hearing for your appeal.
In addition, there are four factors which the ZBA must consider in all appeals:
1. Will an undesirable change be produced in the character of the neighborhood or detriment to nearby properties be created by granting the variance?
2. Will the proposed variance have an adverse impact on the physical or environmental conditions of the neighborhood.
3. Can the benefit sought be achieved by some other method, other than a variance?
4. Was the alleged difficulty self created?

Happy Building!

Niles Youth Group
The Town of Niles sponsors a swim program for the youth who reside in the town.
The swim program is for children enrolled in kindergarten thru sixth grade. The swim program is held at the Auburn YMCA. The program is held during the month of July each summer. The bus makes two pick-ups and drop-offs; the first at the New Hope Church and the second at the West Niles Fire House.
We at the Town of Niles are happy to support your children in this program. However, as we are required to pay for each registered child, please do not register your child unless you are sure your child will be participating in this program.
We will hold two sign-ups for the swim program. The sign-ups are at the Niles Town Hall in New Hope. The first sign-up is Saturday June 6th, 9:00-11:00 am and Thursday evening June 11th, 5:00-7:00 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 315-685-3154.

Karen Porter

Code Enforcement Office
Happy New Year and welcome to 2020! I hope that everyone has been enjoying the holidays and time with family and friends.
2019 was a busy year in the Code Enforcement Office. Building permits were issued for several projects, including 5 new single-family homes in the Town. The total estimated valuation for permits issued from January 1 – October 31, 2019 was $1,577,000.
Several projects were referred to the Niles Planning Board in 2019 for Site Plan Review to ensure that erosion control measures and proper drainage plans are implemented, especially in environmentally sensitive areas on or near Owasco and Skaneateles Lake. Projects were also referred to the City of Syracuse Watershed Inspection Department and Cayuga County Environmental Health Department for review and approval.
The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for reviewing building permit applications to ensure compliance with the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes and the Town of Niles Codes, issuing Building Permits and enforcing the Codes of the Town of Niles. Building permit applications are available on the Town Website and at the Town Clerk’s Office. Not sure if you need a permit? Call with your questions before you begin your project at (315) 497-0066, office or (315) 729-3921, cell.
The Code Enforcement Officer also enforces the NYS Property Maintenance Code and the Junkyard Law for the Town of Niles. Niles residents and property owners are fortunate that we have town-wide garbage and recycling collection to help keep our Town clean. In addition, the Town Board has scheduled several clean-up days for 2020. More detailed information on clean-up days is in the Town Newsletter.
Code Enforcement Office Hours are held on Thursday from 5:00-7:00 pm and by appointment. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone outside of office hours at (315) 729-3921 or email me at nilescode@verizon.net.

J. Patrick Doyle, Code Enforcement Officer
From the Desk of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Thank you Niles Residents for the opportunity to serve as Town Clerk. I have previously served as the Town Clerk for Niles from 2013-2016 and look forward to serving as Town Clerk again. Patty Podolak will continue to serve as Deputy Clerk. Please stop by the Clerk’s Office to license your dog, get a hunting and/or fishing license, get a marriage license, submit a building permit or pay your County Taxes (until Monday, April 1, 2020). Please be advised you CANNOT pay your school taxes in this office. They must be paid at the school tax collector’s office.

Hours for tax collection for Jan. & Feb. are as follows:
   Tuesday ........................................10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
   5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
   Thursday ......................................4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
   2nd & 4th Saturday ......................9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The office will be open Monday, March 2nd from 4:00-8:00 p.m., which is the last day to collect taxes with a 1% penalty.

Or by Appointment

After February 28th, 2020, we will go back to our regular Clerk’s Office hours (shown below).
   Tuesday ........................................10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
   Thursday ......................................3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
   2nd & 4th Saturday ......................9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Or by Appointment

The Clerk’s Office will be CLOSED Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Weekends.

Please note that the Town of Niles website at cayugacounty:us/725/Niles-Town is a great resource for town residents. Information such as announcements, calendar of events, meeting minutes, forms, and much more can be found on the website.

Thank you and have a great 2020!

Tina Weed, Town Clerk
Patty Podolak, Deputy Town Clerk

Town Historian

This past year has been an exciting one for the historian office. My cousin, Lisa Hanley, and I have been working very hard to make the collection of articles and scrapbooks that we have much more user friendly. We have been breaking down the books and collections and organizing them into categories. We now have books of all obituaries, all engagements/weddings/anniversaries, people of interest, articles about the town, tragedies and others. We are working to index each book and then, out of that, create a central index so if you walk into the office and want to see information about a family, a piece of property or about an incident that happened, you will be able to open the central index and, hopefully, quickly find which book information is in and go right to it. It is a very big project and we are just at the beginning but we are getting there.

So, while working on this, we realize that we are missing some really great items of interest. We are talking about pictures. If, as you are cleaning out your stuff, or your parents’ or grandparents’ stuff, and you come across pictures, artifacts or period clothing that you would like to get rid of, we would love to take them! Even if you would just let us scan a picture so we have a copy of them, that would be great. We are especially looking for old photos that include houses and buildings from the town of Niles. Even if you don’t know who the people are in the picture, if there is a recognizable building, we would love to see it and copy it.

We are open every Thursday from 4-7 pm. We are located in the basement of the Niles Town Hall. Feel free to stop in for a visit. I can be reached at loriegew@aol.com or via text/phone at (304) 261-8733

Thank you for your support!

Lorie DeWitt-Antilla

Niles Senior Citizens

The Niles Senior Citizens meet at Midlakes Church in New Hope on the second Wednesday of each month. In July, we meet at the Ward O’Hara Museum for a picnic, and in December we have a Christmas party at Springside Inn. Lunch is at noon (bring a dish to pass and your own table service) and a meeting follows lunch.

We enjoyed trips to Newport, RI, Mystic, CT and White Deer Farm in Romulus, NY in 2019.

We would like to thank the Town of Niles for their help with funding bus transportation for our trips. Without their help these trips would not be possible. Thank you so much!

I am planning trips for 2020 which tentatively include Nashville, TN in August, Lancaster, PA and 2 other day trips. Please come and join us for fun and fellowship. Thank you to all our members who support our group all year.

Elaine Axton, Trip-Coordinator
New Hope Fire Department

New Hope Fire Department would like to thank our community for their continued support and participation in our events. Our 4th annual Bear Swamp haunted hay ride was a success. We hope to make it bigger and better every year. We welcome any input from the community to help make the event successful. Any input can be mailed to the firehouse at 5949 New Hope Road, Moravia NY 13118.

Our annual antique tractor pull is held the first Sunday in August (August 2). We have many special raffle, door prizes, and wonderful food cooked by our auxiliary. Our “Famous” Chicken Barbeques are held on the third Sunday of every month beginning in March and ending in October. Please watch for the “Facebook” events to place your pre-orders or you may contact 315-406-0262. If you are interested in supporting us for any of the fundraisers please see a member.

Plans for a new and improved fire house are under way and moving forward. As many know, our current station is small and is starting to show its age. We are in process and working forward one step at a time. Our building site is under progress at the tractor pull track if anyone would like to watch the progress. If you would like to donate to the process feel free to mail donations to the address listed above.

We are always accepting applications for new members, contact any member or come to our monthly meeting held the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. for more information on joining our team.

We would like to thank all of our officers for their continued support.

Chief – Edward Raymond
Assistant Chief – Jeff Stanton
President – Donald Slater
Vice President – Jeff Stanton
Secretary – Judy Cuddeback
Treasurer - Stefanie Raymond.

The department completed 2019 with over 200 alarms. I would like to thank our community again for their everlasting support and participation. Together we will make 2020 a great year and look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year.

Yours truly,
Edward Raymond, Fire Chief

West Niles Fire Department

We would like to first take the time to thank all of our volunteers for a successful year. Our officers stand as follows:

Chief: Dave Glanville
Assistant Chief: Doug Winters
President: Greg Palmer
Vice President: George Case
Secretary: Phillip Auchampaugh
Treasurer: Rich Winters

Our functions this year are as follows: Clambake May 2nd and the Harvest Dinner on November 7th. For tickets to our 5th annual clambake please see any West Niles Fireman. They are going fast so don’t wait too long!

We are always looking for new members; there are always jobs to do without going to the scene of a fire. To join, stop by the firehouse on any Monday night or ask at any of our functions.

The West Niles Fire Department is asking that everyone have one of our green reflective 911 signs in front of your home. It really saves us time in an emergency when minutes matter. For a small donation of $12.00, we would be more than happy to get one for you. Applications can be found on the Town of Niles website.

The West Niles Fire Company would like to thank the Board of Fire Commissioners for the purchase of a new engine located in West Niles.

Thank you for your continued support!

Have a safe year from the West Niles Fire Department!

Buy Local to Support Your Neighbors and the Town

The Business List is available to print or view from our website. Any new business wanting to be added or exiting business with changes to your status and/or hours can contact the town clerk.
**Three Town Fire District**

The Three-town fire district is rarely in the news and we would like to take the opportunity to let the taxpayers know a little about the happenings in the district. The district is composed of the Town of Sempronius (in part) and the Town of Niles. We house three different departments which are New Hope, Sempronius, and West Niles. The district is led by Three-Town Chief Patrick Merical and each department is led by Assistant Chiefs (New Hope Edward Raymond, Sempronius Tyler Bloodgood and West Niles David Glanville). We want to extend our deepest gratitude to all of the members of the community for their continued support over the years.

The district was originally formed in 1948, after a series of major fires on State Route 41A. The town of Moravia was originally included and later split to form their own fire district. We have had many advances since the early years. Each department currently owns their own fire house and The District pays each of them rent to house the fire trucks. Each department is responsible for the up keep and maintenance of their respective houses. New Hope Fire Department is actively fundraising to build a new fire house. Their goal is to do this without any taxpayer funding. To learn more about how you can help, please contact any New Hope member.

The received a new truck will be housed in West Niles. This truck is the third step to bringing the district up to the current state mandated requirements for fire departments and equipment.

We are continuing to participate in the State LOSAP program. Each member that meets the active firefighter standard within the district and also meet the state requirements will receive a reward that can be collected at the time of retirement.

The departments are always in need of new volunteers that are committed to the job. The requirement to be an active volunteer include completion of at least 40 hours of training every year, attend at least 6 meetings, and attend a percentage of calls each year. The commitment is high but so is the reward. If you are interested in joining please see any of the department chiefs.

The district hosts its monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month.

Thank you again to the members of the community for your continued loyalty and help supporting each department and the district.

Sincerely,

*Stefanie Raymond, Secretary/Treasurer*

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**Highway Department**

It was a very busy summer for our highway department again this year. Culvert replacements, paving and chip seals were the highlight of our work. The county highway department has even worked on some projects to improve travel on their roads in town. $115,003 in CHIPS and Pave NY funding was approved for Niles when the state budget was passed in April but the Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR) funding was not included. With many letters written and phone calls made to our state representatives, a modification to the budget was passed at the end of June reinstating the EWR fund which for Niles was $17,670 making a total of $132,673 for our town.

A good share of our funding went into paving and adding shoulders onto 1.1 miles of Harter road starting from Twelve Corners road using the recycled material at the West Niles Firehouse. There should be enough millings left at the firehouse to do at least two more miles of road in the next couple years. Thank you to the West Niles Fire Department for letting us stockpile this product and stage our paving operation there. It has saved the town money and we were able to accomplish more paving this year as a result.

This was the last year of the NYSDOT five year CHIPS funding capital plan as well as Pave NY and EWR, which were both on a year by year basis. The New York State Association of Superintendents of Highways is working hard at getting another five year capital plan with an increase of the base for CHIPS as well as including the Pave NY and EWR reinstated. In March of 2020 we will be taking our trip back to Advocacy Day in Albany to make the case to our legislative representatives the need for the program to continue and the need for increases in funding to keep up with inflation of our commodities.

Another piece of legislation that has been introduced and we are trying to get passed is the ability to run green lights on the back of slow moving snowplows. Many other states have already passed this legislation and there are some municipalities in New York that are using the lights now. The green lights are much more visible then amber when the snow is blowing around the rear end of the truck. I have seen this first hand and from a safety standpoint the motorist will recognize green as being a snowplow and will slow down and use caution near the plow in the most severe weather conditions avoiding rear end collisions.

In closing I have witnessed and a few times have almost been involved in an accident because
motorists are not stopping at the stop signs at intersections. Stop means stop! Cutting back brush and trees further at intersections may make the line of site better but will also allow the driver running the stop sign to go through the intersection faster causing a much worse catastrophe when it happens. Please follow the law!

- NYS DOT – Waterloo – 315-539-3112
- Cayuga County Highway – 315-253-1366
- Niles Highway Department – 315-497-2606

Pat Steger, Highway Superintendent

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Our Garbage Hauler is:
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.
Phone: 315-689-3910 • Fax: 315-689-1952

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Casella Waste Systems appreciates this opportunity to serve the Residents of Niles for their garbage collection. We are a private locally owned company located in Jordan, NY.

Your service day will remain on Monday, with the collection starting at 7:00 am.

Here are the two Holidays that will affect the trash pick-up schedule:
Memorial Day (May 25th) – trash pick-up will be on Tuesday, May 26th, and Labor Day (Sept. 7th) – trash pick-up will be on Tuesday, September 8th.

Garbage Pick-up Regulations:
1. Trash and recyclables are collected each Monday starting at 7:00 a.m.
2. Garbage is collected on Tuesday after Memorial Day and Labor Day.
3. Trash must be tied in clear plastic garbage bags.
   Please be considerate of your neighbors by tying it up.
4. Remember 7 bags per week per household is the limit. Please make special arrangements with the hauler if you have more.
5. All containers should NOT exceed 60 pounds when full.
6. No lumber in excess of 48 inches.
7. No tree limbs, brush, leaves or lawn clippings.
8. Cardboard needs to be flat and cut into 2 ft. x 2 ft. sections so that it will fit inside the Casella truck.
9. Trash must be placed at the edge of your property in a GARBAGE CAN.

PUT your garbage in a container and do not put it out till SUNDAY night or MONDAY morning.

Highway Department continued

Clean-Up Days are a service for Town of Niles property owners. Its purpose is to help residents keep their properties neat and tidy, by disposing of junk and debris generated within the town limits. We have scheduled, 6 days, (3 in New Hope and 3 in West Niles), for your convenience.

Residents are asked to be considerate when bringing items for disposal. We ask business owners within Niles, to refrain from bringing debris generated from their business operations. Please make separate arrangements for job site dumpsters. Excessive construction/remodeling debris will not be accepted. No large trucks (6 wheels or larger), No large open or enclosed trailers (14’ or larger), with junk or debris will be accepted! No junk cars, boats, cut up house trailers, etc. Will be accepted!!! The Town Representative in charge at clean-up day, has the right to turn away items they deem inappropriate for disposal. Please do not abuse this service the Town has provided you. Thank you!

NOTE: Again you will be asked to bring your tax map number and sign in to show proof that you own property in the Town of Niles. A Town Board Member will be recording this information so please have this available upon your arrival.

2020 Clean-Up Days Regulations

Tires
(* Passenger & Small Truck)
Limit four (4) per Household
Accepted only at the Niles Town Garage
(New Hope)

PLEASE DO NOT BRING TIRES TO THE WEST NILES FIREHOUSE!!

* Tires will be measured to ensure that they meet the Seneca Meadows’ requirements. NO Tractor or Large Truck Tires!

Refrigerators, Freezers, Dehumidifiers, and Air Conditioners WILL NOT be accepted unless the items are tagged with a Certified Freon Free tag. Refrigerant lines MUST be intact – appliances with cut lines will not be accepted. To remove the Freon from an appliance, call a qualified HVAC service tech or anyone qualified to work on air conditioning systems.
Niles Town Phone Numbers

Supervisor: Joan Jayne ......................315-497-0066

Council Members:
  Steven Cuddeback ......................315-784-5471
  Clancy Edmonds ......................315-496-2124
  Bernard Juli ..........................315-497-9525
  Joseph MacDuffee ....................315-209-0230

Highway Superintendent:
  Pat Steger ...............................315-497-2606

Town Clerk:
  Tiffany Landis ......................315-497-0066

Town Deputy Clerk:
  Patty Podolak ......................315-497-0066

Town Justice:
  Richard Winters ......................315-497-0066

Town Code Enforcement:
  J. Patrick Doyle ......................315-729-3921

Town Assessor:
  Tammy Schramm ......................315-497-0066

Dog Control Officer:
  Suzie Tracy ..........................315-224-3110

Town Planning Board:
  Terry Green ..........................315-604-2884

County Legislator:
  Charlie Ripley ......................315-246-4736

Town Historian:
  Lori Dewitt Antilla ..................315-497-0066

Niles Youth Group:
  Karen Porter ......................315-685-3154