

Feb. / March / April
2009
Volume 6, Issue 1

Minoa News

Serving the People of Minoa

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Minoa News

Editor

William F. Brazill

The Minoa News
will be published
on a continuing basis.

Materials may be
submitted to:

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Minoa, NY 13116
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Or they may be
E-Mailed to:

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The Village of Minoa
Board meets regularly
on the 1st and 3rd
Monday of each month
at the Minoa Municipal
Building @ 7:30 pm..

Village Office

240 N. Main St..

Mon.-Fri.
8:30- 4:30
656-3100
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www.villageofminoa.com

News from the Mayor

It is 2009 and it promises to be an eventful year! We have a new President and a new power structure, both at the national and state level of government. Our economy is struggling, unemployment is rising and yet we look for a new beginning, a light at the end of the tunnel. We Americans always find a way out of tough times and 2009 will be the start of that process.

Throughout 2008 the Village of Minoa has received three grants. The Onondaga Community Development grant for Rees Field Site Improvements in the amount of \$90,000 for the 2007 application was received and the work completed and another \$60,000 was approved for the 2008 application, which we will go out for bid in early spring for summer construction. The Department of State, with the help of Assemblyman Al Stripe, awarded \$10,000 to the Minoa Fire Department for a Clear Command Communication Systems. Finally, the Justice Court received a grant in the amount of \$7,249.48 from State of New York Justice Court Assistance Program for a walkthrough metal detector and office supplies. In an effort to continue and aggressively pursue grants we have entered into a grant writing agreement with KL Consulting Services. Our goal is to leave no stone unturned in an effort to reduce the burden on our tax base. KL Consulting will use their expertise to research and submit grant applications on behalf of the Village with the particular emphasis on monies to defray the cost of big ticket items such as replacement vehicles for the DPW (trash truck using eco friendly compressed natural gas) and Fire Department (replacement of Engine 22 and updating our Fire Station II). We will also focus on grants that will encourage commercial upgrading and growth within the Village, as well as infrastructure replacement.

Encouraging commercial up-grading and growth is a key component for the future of the Village. We have people that are interested in investing in our commercial area and we will pursue available grants to encourage this type of activity between the public and private sector. In addition, the Village Board will be considering a proposed Local Law that would provide a Business Investment Exemption under §485-b of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York that would allow for a partial real property tax exemption for certain commercial, business and industrial improvements to the Village. This law does not reduce current tax responsibility, but does offer a partial graduated tax relief on improvements made to the property. The enhancements made will increase our tax base and offer new business opportunities in a newly created atmosphere.

Though 2008 was a tough year economically, I am pleased to report that in 2008 there were twenty (20) new homes built in the Minoa Farms subdivision. This growth, along with the new construction, in 2009 will create an increased tax base and the potential for lower taxes in the future, as it has always been our goal to be fiscally responsible. The New Year begins the budget process for the upcoming 2009-2010 budget year. It will be a daunting task to put together a balanced budget without raising taxes or diminishing services for the up-coming fiscal year, however that is my challenge to the Board and the department heads. We will do everything possible to offset the anticipated reductions in state aid to municipalities. We are currently working with our Department Heads on budgetary figures and special Budget meetings will be held on March 4th, 11th, and 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building

I look forward to making this a positive and progressive year for our Village. It is easy to be negative and this will be a difficult year, but the strong survive and we will continue to make progress.

Information for our regular, budget and special meetings are routinely updated on the Village website <http://www.villageofminoa.com/calendar.html> or you can contact the Village Office at (315) 656-3100.

On behalf of myself, the Village staff, and the Village Board; may you have a happy, healthy and prosperous year.



A Word from your Trustees



John H. Champagne
Trustee

What an interesting year 2008 has been for the country. With a downturn in the economy, banking bailouts, job losses and auto industry problems, it has not been an easy year. The Village Board has taken every step possible to run the Village in a more efficient manner and continue to provide consistent services to the residents of the Village.

When fuel prices reached a shocking high this past summer I started looking at alternative fuel vehicles that might work for the Village, specifically, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles. CNG is about one half the cost of diesel fuel and area buses have been using CNG for years. We were able to test drive hybrid vehicles and a Compressed Natural Gas garbage truck that received positive feed back from our Department of Public Works employees. The garbage truck was quieter, emitted significantly less toxic fumes and was easier to load for the employees. The CNG garbage truck used just about the same amount of fuel a diesel truck would have used at half the cost of diesel fuel. CNG trucks are not inexpensive and it is my goal to look for grant opportunities to supplement the cost and help out the environment by going green.

We will persist in becoming more cost efficient for the residents of our Village. I am hoping that 2009 will bring us great opportunities and the economy will turn itself around. I welcome any suggestions or comments you think will help our community to be a better place to live. You can contact me at ichampagne@villageofminoa.com. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy New Year!



Ronald L. Cronk
Trustee

In response to the 2008 financial crisis, the Village of Minoa took immediate steps to keep spending at a minimum. The poor economic state will prove to be difficult one for all of us when working on the 2009-2010 budgets and we will have to work diligently to manage the upcoming budgets conservatively. To operate resourcefully, we will continue looking for grants to purchase a Compressed Natural Gas powered refuse collection truck and other Village improvements.

On a positive note, the Minoa Farms Development is moving along nicely by providing affordable, attractive homes and the construction of these homes will improve our future tax base.

I would like to wish everyone the best for a happy and healthy New Year. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at rcronk@villageofminoa.com or by phone at (315) 656-3100.



Edmond J. Theobald
Trustee

During a time of economic concern, it was a welcome relief that as a board, we were able to decrease our tax rate for the 2008-2009 budget. This was not done by chance, it was accomplished by a Board that strives to be fiscally responsible and in a coordinated effort, work together as a team. I am proud and honored that I can be part of that team.

Beginning my 6th year as your representative on the Town of Manlius Police Committee, I will continue to work with our local law enforcement agency to help keep our village a safe place to live. If there is continued interest, we will hold another "neighborhood" meeting with the Town of Manlius Police Department. Please contact me and I will be happy to schedule this with them.

One of my responsibilities as your village trustee includes celebrations and I am encouraged by the outstanding participation and community involvement. The attendance for the Easter Egg Hunt, which Trustee Champagne chairs, has brought back a family favorite in our community. Other favorites are, Minoa's Memorial Day Parade, the second annual Minoa Festival, the Halloween party in joint effort with our Fire Department and capping off our year with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. These celebrated events cannot be successful through my efforts alone and recognition must go to the tremendous support I receive from the village office staff which is headed by our Clerk-Treasurer, Suzanne Snider, as well as our hard working DPW team headed by Tom Petterelli. These valued employees spend countless hours getting these events set-up and prepared for your enjoyment.

It is an honor and a pleasure to again serve as your Trustee and I encourage open communication, especially regarding any concerns or comments you have to help keep Minoa the unique and special village it is. I wish everyone a prosperous and Happy New Year in 2009.

A Message from the Deputy Mayor



William F. Brazill
Deputy Mayor

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as your Deputy Mayor. I'm proud of being able to communicate and update our residents on events that are occurring in Minoa through the *Minoa News*. **2008 has been a challenging year, with rising prices and less funding from the State of New York, we were still able to cut taxes last year.** As always, I will continue to be fiscally responsible and always look for a more efficient ways to run our government.

Every year we, as a Village Board, use our own personal time away from our full time jobs to attend legislative sessions in Albany. This year we were able to bring back to Minoa a \$10,000 grant, which Assemblyman Al Stirpe helped to secure for our fire department. We needed this money to purchase Clear Command Communications system to add to our existing MSA SCBA Face Pieces. The system enables our fire fighters to communicate with each other clearly while they have their masks on. **These trips are important in helping our Village secure funding and save money for our taxpayers.**

I continue to serve on various committees with the ESM School District, Town of Manlius and I am a member of the Board of Managers for the East Area Family YMCA. In doing so, I provide ideas and information that will benefit our Village and the surrounding communities.

2009 promises to be another year full of challenges and full of opportunities to make our Village a great place to live and raise a family. As always, I welcome your input, comments and attendance at our Board meetings. Please feel free to contact me anytime at wbrazill@villageofminoa.com

In the New Year I will continue to work hard and resolve issues in a thoughtful and responsible manner and always communicate with you. Have a great winter season.



Time Out for Moms (formerly Minoa MOPS)

Meetings take place at St. Mary's Rectory at 411 N. Main Street, Minoa. Join other Moms for conversation, food and fun. Childcare is provided. Cost is \$3.00 for each meetings and the meetings will be held as follows: February 6th, March 6th & 20th, April 3rd, May 1st & 15th and June 5th & 19th. If you should have any questions, please contact Terry at (315) 656-8712.

YMCA After School Program at Minoa Elementary

In January the East Area Family YMCA started an after school program at Minoa Elementary school. The program is a state licensed school age childcare program that runs Mondays-Fridays from school dismissal until 6:00 pm and offers a variety of activities including homework assistance, art centers, group games, outdoor play, snacks and more. The program also offers care on half days, snow days, and all school holidays. For more information, please contact Kelly Butters at (315) 637-2025 x 207 or by email kbutters@eastareafamilyymca.org.



A Word from the Minoa Ambulance

The Minoa Ambulance is looking for Volunteers

The Minoa Ambulance is looking for dedicated individuals to help by volunteering as a driver for our ambulance service.

Qualifications: We are looking for retired persons or someone looking to help out whenever they are available. Volunteers should be available between the hours from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and be able to assist as an ambulance driver for our paid staff when an emergency call comes in.

We currently have one ambulance that runs 24/7 and we would appreciate any volunteer help that would enable us to utilize the second ambulance while the Paramedic Supervisor is on duty should a second call occur while the full time staff is on another call.

For More information:

Please call Keith Brandis AEMT-P, Paramedic Supervisor at 656-6899 or 530-8538.



A Word from the Minoa Fire Department

The Minoa Fire Department is always looking for Volunteers!!

Volunteers can assist in Emergency Medical Services, Fire Services, Incident Scene Support, or in a Support Group. Please call (315) 656-9204 for more information.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

Please help the Minoa Fire Department by *adopting a Fire Hydrant* close to your home. Keeping it accessible and free of snow will save them time in case of an emergency.

Minoa Fire Department Officers Installed

The Minoa Fire Department installed new officers in January. They are as follows:

Chief – Patrick Flannery
Deputy Chief – Dave Matthes, Jr.
1st Asst. Chief – Matthew McGarrity
2nd Asst. Chief – Richard Sabin
Capt. Station 1 – Jeremy Erard
Capt. Station 2 – OPEN
Lieutenant Stat. 1 – Dave Hess and Erich Schepp
Lieutenant Stat. 2 – Brad Cretaro and Adam Joslin

President – David Matthes, Sr.
Vice President – John Jarmacz
Treasurer – Pete Cipriano
Secretary – Al Tompkins



NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL URGES ALL NEW YORKERS TO MAKE SURE THEIR HOMES HAVE WORKING SMOKE ALARMS

State Fire Steps Up Education Campaign After Recent Tragedies

ALBANY – (January 6, 2009) – The New York Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) urges all New Yorkers to make sure there are working smoke detectors in their residence, as well as to clean and test them regularly. The first few days of 2009 have proven tragic to the citizens of our state given the loss of nine lives in residential structure fires lacking operating smoke detectors.

The Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control recently aided communities in the investigation of two tragic fires which claimed the lives of eight family members in Oswego County, ranging in age from six months to forty two years, and a six-year-old girl in Herkimer County. There were no working smoke detectors found in either instance. As such, the occupants were not afforded the protection of being warned of the developing, ensuing fire thus providing an opportunity for early discovery and escape. Working smoke alarms can dramatically increase a person's chances of surviving a fire. "Smoke detectors are the best way to protect your home and family in detecting a fire and providing them the opportunity for escape from a building involved in fire," said New York State Fire Administrator Floyd A. Madison. "We urge every household to prepare a home fire safety exit plan and to practice this plan routinely as a means to aid family members in swiftly exiting their home should a fire be detected."

Research by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicates that in 2004 no smoke alarms were present or operating in almost half (46%) of reported residential home fires. During the same period, 43% of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, while 22% resulted from homes in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate. Sixty-five percent of reported home fire deaths between 2000-2004 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or inoperable smoke alarms. Far too many New York fire departments report they continue to respond to calls in homes each year where there is no working smoke alarm present.

Most fire deaths and injuries occur at night while victims are asleep and most vulnerable. Smoke alarms provide early warning, allowing occupants vital time to escape a fire. Most fire deaths are caused by toxic smoke, not flames. When purchasing a smoke alarm, look for a loud alarm, a hush feature, a ten-year battery, a malfunction signal and UL listing. Take an active role in fire prevention with the following fire safety tips:

- 1. Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom.**
- 2. Test smoke alarms monthly.**
- 3. Vacuum alarms monthly to remove dust and cobwebs.**
- 4. Replace old alarms. Smoke alarms ten years old or older need to be replaced.**

Alarms should never be disconnected and batteries should never be removed unless for replacement purposes. The State Office of Fire Prevention and Control wants all New Yorkers to understand the value working smoke alarms have in protecting people from the tragedy of a home fire death and emphasize the need to continue planning and practicing home fire escape plans. For additional information regarding the proper installation, maintenance and benefits of home smoke detectors, please contact your local fire officials or the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control at www.dos.state.ny.us/fire NYS Department of State phone 518.474.6746 fax 518.474.3240 fire@dos.state.ny.us



A Word from the Department of Public Works



Winter Time!!!! Please do not park on or block sidewalks in the Village. The Village plow cannot get through. When plowing out driveways and sidewalks, **make sure the snow is not placed in the roadway or on the sidewalks.**

Failure to comply with this request will be subject to violation notices and/or tickets.

If you need assistance, please call Tom Petterelli, Superintendent of D.P.W., at (315)656-7574 or by email at minoapdw@twcnny.rr.com

Heaven's Pantry



Heaven's Pantry appreciates all that people and organizations of the Minoa, Kirkville area do to feed those who are in need through donations of food. We have been blessed over the years by this generosity; we would like to say a big Thank You!!!! **We would also like to make everyone aware that as a Food Pantry we can purchase food through the Food Bank of CNY at drastically reduced rate.**

If you would like to donate for those in need, you may do so by sending monetary donations to:

Heaven's Pantry, 240 N.Main Street, Minoa, NY 13116

Food distribution for income eligible recipients is the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the pantry.

The Senior Adult Ministry Announces Its Winter Program!

The First United Methodist Church of Minoa in conjunction with an Ecumenical Council that is composed of seven churches in the Bridgeport, Kirkville and Minoa communities announces the Winter Program for SAM (Senior Adult Ministry) starting January 6, 2009.

All program events are held at the Minoa First United Methodist Church, 246-248 East Avenue, Minoa, NY 13116. Programs are Tuesdays and Thursdays with a **Free Hot Lunch** at 11:00 AM, **Social Hour** with fun and informative events at 12:00 Noon, and a low impact seated or standing **Exercise Program** at 1:00 PM. Activities are **Free** to all Seniors in the Bridgeport, Kirkville and Minoa areas. Transportation can be provided on a first call basis to 656-9020 or 656-3117. Parking is available at the back of the church with a handicapped accessible entrance to the church in the rear. Scheduled programs will be cancelled if local schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Examples of Social Hour Programs include; BINGO – 1st Tuesday of each month, Birthday Show 'n Tell - 3rd Thursday of each month, and Prayer Shawl Ministry - last Thursday of the month.

As noted by Pastor Roosevelt Baums, FUMC – Minoa; "The SAM Program is an educational service designed to meet the learning, nutritional and fitness needs of senior adults. This program is educational based with an emphasis on social interaction between participants and also provides outreach opportunities. SAM enables older adults, age 60 and over, to remain active and independent members of their families and communities." Pastor Baums is a member of the Board of Directors of the Onondaga County Department on Aging.

We invite all Seniors to attend! SAM offers a wonderful opportunity to have fun, enjoy good food, exercise and socialize with peers and form new friendships. Best of all, it's located in your community and is free of charge.



Message from the Village Clerk/Treasurer

I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know the time table for the Village Budget process which begins in the first quarter of the calendar year.



**Suzanne M. Snider
Clerk / Treasurer**

The village budgeting process begins on February 6th and continues until adoption of the budget no later than May 1st. This is a very lengthy and involved process involving submission of budget estimates by departments, preparation and filing of the tentative budget, presentation of the tentative budget to the Village Board, public hearing on the tentative budget and finally adoption of the budget.

Special budget meetings will be held in the Village Office on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Public Hearing for Village Budgets, April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

Local Laws

The Village Board is in the process of reviewing three potential laws which pertain to the following:

- **Signage** – The administration and enforcement of restrictions relative to the erection, maintenance and alterations of signs within the Village of Minoa.
- **Professional Services Reimbursement** – Provides for a mechanism whereby the Village of Minoa may utilize necessary expertise for particular land development and construction projects without imposing the cost on its taxpayers and placing the costs on the applicant.
- **Business Investment Exemption** – Provides for a partial exemption for certain commercial, business and industrial improvements in the Village of Minoa.

As Public Hearings are scheduled the Legal Notices can be found posted throughout the village, the Post-Standard, and on the village website at

<http://www.villageofminoa.com/calendar.html>

If you have any questions regarding the above or any other topic, please feel free to call me at the Village Office at (315) 656-3100.

A Word from our ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM WINTER WEATHER

Please make sure you license your cats. Under our Village of Minoa Codes ALL cats, including indoor cats, must be licensed and have rabies shots. Cats can be licensed at the Village Office Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Please call 656-3100 if you have any questions about cat licensing.



Calendar of Events

February 2009

- 2/1/09 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:00 – 10:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/2/09 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 2/2/09 Sewer Billing
- 2/2/09 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/12/09 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (AS NEEDED)
- 2/16/09 Presidents' Day Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed
- 2/17/09 Village Board Meeting - 7:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/17/09 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building

Golden Age meets every Thursday

March 2009

- 3/1/09 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:00 – 10:00 pm -Municipal Building
- 3/2/09 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 3/2/09 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building – 240 N Main St
- 3/4/09 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/4/09 Special Meeting – Village Budgets 2009-2010 – 6:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/11/09 Special Meeting – Village Budgets 2009-2010 – 6:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/12/09 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (AS NEEDED)
- 3/16/09 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building – 240 N Main St
- 3/17/09 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 3/18/09 Special Meeting – Village Budgets 2009-2010 – 6:00 pm – Municipal Building (If Needed)

Golden Age meets every Thursday

April, 2009

- 4/1/09 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/1/09 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 4/5/09 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:00-10:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/6/09 Annual Meeting -7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/6/09 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/9/09 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (AS NEEDED)
- 4/10/09 Good Friday – Village Office Closes at Noon
- 4/11/09 Easter Egg Hunt – 10:30 am – Noon – Lewis Park
- 4/13/09 Public Hearing - Village Budgets – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/20/09 Village Board Meeting – 7:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/21/09 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 4/22/09 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building

Golden Age meets every Thursday

