

Fall 2010
Volume 7, Issue 3

Minoa News

Serving the People of Minoa

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Minoa News

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The Minoa News
will be published
on a continuing basis.

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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 @ 7:00 pm..

Village Office

240 N. Main St..

Mon.-Fri.

8:30- 4:30

656-3100

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News from the Mayor

Now that the elections are finally over, we know who we are working with at the different levels of government at least until the next election.

Hopefully, the people elected will understand and address the problems that face governments at all levels and will understand that local government is the one closest to the people, the most efficient and cost effective government we have. The trend from the top is to consolidate or eliminate local government and form a metro style government, which means that the County manages everything.

This concept is being forced upon us at the local level by the State and our County Executive. I have to ask, what does Onondaga County do for you, what services do they provide you, and how efficient do you feel they are in delivering your services? When do they meet?

Who would you call if you have a problem? Many of you called our office this summer about mosquitoes, by law we have no control over that problem and the spraying is done by Onondaga County and controlled by New York State. You were probably referred to the Onondaga County Health Department who monitors this issue. How long did it take to get the right person or get any kind of an answer? What's my point? Bigger government is not always better.

This next year is going to be an extremely tough year for municipalities at our level. The County Executive saw to it this year that villages lost their portion of the Sales Tax Revenue. The Village of Minoa is expected to lose approximately \$240,000 from the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget. County Executive Joanie Mahoney wanted to completely phase out Villages from the revenue, which would have represented approximately a \$460,000 shortfall in the village budget. Fortunately, we had County Legislator Kevin Holmquist as our biggest supporter and the support of the Onondaga County Mayors Association to combat the sales tax issue. The County Executive promised a large tax decrease for Village residents on their county tax bill, with the intent being that village and town governments would increase taxes to offset the loss of the sales tax revenue. After many meetings with the County Executive, the Legislature and individual Legislators, the sales tax issue was nothing more than political rhetoric under the guise of "we'll find out the true cost of government at our level." This action is clearly nothing more than a tax shift from Onondaga County to our towns and villages. The true purpose of this shift appears to be to plug the county budget gap which consists of millions of dollars. This has been a tactic used by the New York State and Federal government for years. As it turns out, Village of Minoa residents will not see any property tax decreases in their January 2011 Town and County tax bill.

The past election brought more rhetoric in the form of a tax cap. If passed, two things could happen; you will be told that your taxes won't go up every year more than a certain percentage and the Government has free rein to raise taxes every year by that same percentage. Again, as in the past, they will have no incentive to truly cut spending. If our mandated expenses continue to keep rising at the local level and we have a cap on the ability to raise taxes, we will have to borrow money or be forced out of business. Bottom line, you the taxpayer, who contributes to the sales tax revenue every time you make a purchase, are being forced to potentially pay more taxes at our local level to make up for this shortfall. Onondaga County government is using our money to bail out their mismanagement of resources and they will continue in their support of the City of Syracuse. Please keep in mind that if a Village is forced out of business, districts will be formed and Village residents will still be fiscally responsible for existing debt.

Continued on next page.



Continued Mayor's Message.

Districts will be formed for sewer, trash removal, street maintenance, sidewalks, street lighting and emergency services. These services would be presumably administered by the Town of Manlius and they would then have to hire more people and buy more equipment to provide these services, thus increasing taxes for everyone in the Town of Manlius and village residents.

What is the answer? A lot of hard work and your support! County, State and Federal leaders need to understand that less government starts at the top. Big government has only gotten bigger, more costly and less effective over the years. We need each level of government to pay their own way, work together, share and/or consolidate common services where it makes sense.

As part of that effort I'm honored to have been selected by the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) to be one of twenty Mayors from across the State to serve on a task force to address mandate relief and to present a much needed platform on unfunded mandates to the Governor-Elect and the public next month. Our hope is to address the impact that State mandates have on local government and by eliminating these mandates it would create a true reduction in taxes at our level.

Good news: Your Village Team, elected and paid, are working every day to make Minoa a great place to live, while making living here as affordable as possible. A town-wide RFP has been approved for a study on fire and ambulance services provided in the Town of Manlius and we look forward to the results. The goal of the report is to present a process and/or options that would improve emergency services in a cost effective manner. As a reminder, we are pleased to have the Minoa Fire Department which is 100% volunteer.

Along with my Trustees and staff, we continuously research options in each department to cut costs and maintain or enhance our services. We continue to work on innovative projects at the sewer plant, now known as the Cleanwater Educational Research Facility (CERF). The Town of Manlius Highway Department, working hand-in-hand with our DPW, provided the majority of the paving in the village this summer. These shared services efforts helped to reduce our cost so we were able to complete more paving than expected and do so with limited available funds.

We have put together a collaborative effort between the Village of Minoa, SUNY ESF, ESM and private industry to continue our efforts to become sustainable at CERF. Our goal is to provide an educational and research facility with the potential to provide an income stream to further defray our costs of doing village business. Dr. Donna DeSiato, ESM Superintendent, has committed to a K-12 educational program that will work with CERF by utilizing food waste from the high school to reduce their waste stream cost and add an additional source of fuel for our digesters to create energy. There will be more information on this project in the next newsletter and our goal is to provide an open house in 2011 for all residents to tour our cutting edge facility.

On behalf of the Village Board and Staff, we wish all of you a happy and safe Holiday Season.

A Word from Codes Enforcement

Remember that from November 1, 2010 through April 15, 2011 overnight parking is not allowed on Village streets or Village owned parking lots between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

The fine is \$20.00 and your car will be towed away at the owner's expense.



Annual Tree Lighting

The Village of Minoa's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place Dec. 5, 2010. The children's party starts at 5:00 pm followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 pm. Please join us at the Minoa Municipal Building to start the holiday season.

FOOD DRIVE – The Heaven's Food Pantry will be accepting non-perishable food items at the Fire House throughout the ceremony. Please help those in need for the holidays.

Annual Santa Detail

The Fire Trucks will be going out on Sunday, December 19, 2010 carrying Santa's helpers throughout the Village and the Fire District. They will leave the Fire Station at approximately 10:00 am. Santa and his helpers will be giving out candy canes to children of all ages.



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@twcny.rr.com



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 capacity. Please call (315) 656-9204 for more information.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

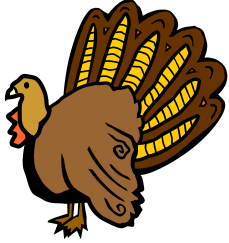
Please help the Minoa Fire Department by *adopting a Fire Hydrant* close to your home. Keeping it accessible and free of snow will save them time in case of an emergency.

The Village Historian, Norma Heigle Danboise Jenner, is retiring next year after many years of dedicated service. We are looking for interested volunteers to form a Board to help the Village of Minoa maintain our detailed and interesting history. If interested please, contact the Village office at 315-656-3100.

We are also asking for photos, scrapbooks, newspaper articles, or any other documents pertaining to Minoa for history purposes. Please contact us and remember, this is where your history comes from and we need to preserve it for the next generation!



Calendar of Events



December 2010

- 12/01/10 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 12/05/10 Children's Christmas Party – 5:00 pm – Minoa Fire Department**
- 12/05/10 Tree Lighting Ceremony – 6:00 pm – Municipal Building**
- 12/06/10 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 12/09/10 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 12/12/10 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 12/15/10 Food Pantry – 10:00 -11:00am, 6:00-7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 12/18/10 Boy Scout Troop - Luminary Delivery
- 12/19/10 Santa Claus Detail by the Minoa Fire Dept – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**
- 12/20/10 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 12/21/10 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 12/23/10 Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**
- 12/24/10 Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**
- 12/31/10 Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**

January 2011

- 1/02/11 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 1/03/11 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 1/03/11 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 1/05/11 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 1/13/11 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 1/17/11 Martin Luther King Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**
- 1/18/11 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 1/18/11 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11.00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 1/19/11 Justice Court – 5:00 pm/Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building

February 2011

- 2/01/11 Sewer Penalty Billing
- 2/01/11 Sewer Billing
- 2/06/11 ESM Youth Sports Board Meeting – 5:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/07/11 Village Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/09/11 Justice Court – 5:00 pm Doors Open 4:30 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/10/11 Planning Board Meeting – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building (**AS NEEDED**)
- 2/15/11 Food Pantry – 10:00 – 11:00 am, 6:00 – 7:00 pm – Municipal Building
- 2/21/11 Presidents' Day Holiday for Village Employees – Village Office Closed**
- 2/22/11 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 pm – Municipal Building

Golden Age meets every Thursday

Message from the Village Clerk/Treasurer

TAX REMINDER

If you have not paid your village taxes, all unpaid taxes will be added to your January 1, 2011 Town/County Tax Bill.

Sewer penalty billings are scheduled for the first of December, January and February and the next sewer billing is scheduled for February 1, 2011 for sewer usage from August 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011.

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



Suzanne M. Snider
Clerk / Treasurer