

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
One Niskayuna Circle  
Niskayuna, New York 12309-  
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Luke J. Smith  
Supervisor

Town Council

Liz Orzel Kasper  
William R. Chapman  
Diane P. O'Donnell  
Maria P. Freund

# Niskayuna Town News



Fall 2006

## Supervisor Says:

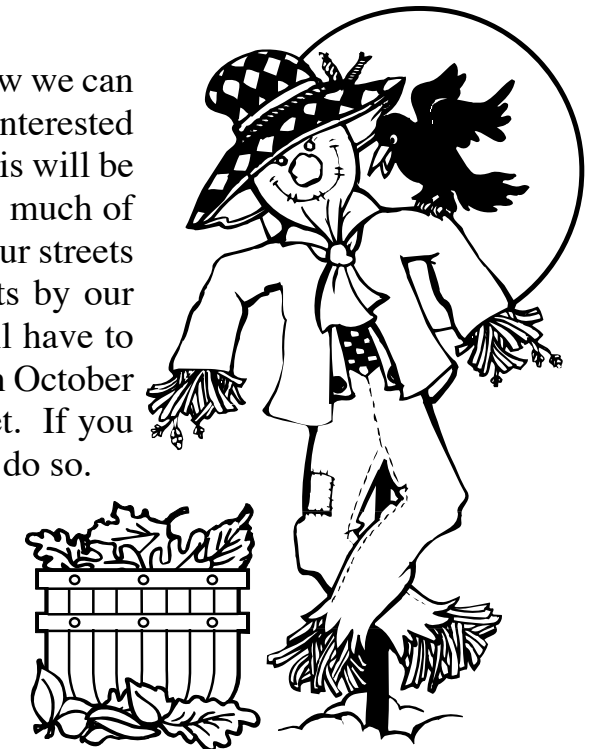
In attempting to manage the Town, I have always relied on you, the residents, to assist town staff in providing services, thereby ensuring the greatest efficiency in delivering those services. We have created great working relationships with various sports clubs, allowing for the greatest level of participation of our young people. How many times have you observed town residents working in our parks—perhaps rehabilitating facilities at our Little League and Babe Ruth Fields? Recently, family members of the Lacrosse Club have been putting in “sweat equity” establishing new lacrosse fields at the Community Center, and Pop Warner families have recently built their own field house for their programs. Other families are always working to groom our sports fields or to volunteer as coaches in our various recreation programs.

Individuals can also help in making our town government as efficient as possible. Something as simple as cleaning debris from the drainage grate in front of your home helps encourage proper drainage and decrease staff labor. In this newsletter, there are several tips for individual residents, which will help your town government run more cost-efficiently. This allows us to maximize the benefit of your tax dollars.

Another way you can help is to share your ideas about how we can serve you better. This fall your Town Board and I will be interested to hear from you as we formulate your Town Budget. This will be a very difficult year, based on the rising cost of fuel. So much of what we do is dependent on oil—from the patrolling of our streets by the police to the reconstruction of those same streets by our Highway Department. Some very difficult decisions will have to be made as to how we raise and spend our tax dollars. On October 24, we will hold our Public Hearing on the Town Budget. If you wish to provide input, this would be your opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,  
Luke J. Smith

  
Supervisor



## NISKAYUNA YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

This is a free service for Niskayuna students who need a job and residents and businesses that need students to work. Please contact the Niskayuna Youth Employment Program at 372-2519. We can help you find a job, or the right student to work for you.

Visit the Niskayuna Recreation Department on the web at [www.niskayuna.org](http://www.niskayuna.org). Click on “Town Departments,” then “Parks and Recreation.”

## NISKAYUNA DOG PARK

It is time to renew your Dog Park permits. 2006-2007 permits can be purchased weekdays from 9:00 a.m.–5 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office in Town Hall. The cost is only \$30 per year for one dog and \$15 per year

for each additional dog owned by the same family. Remember, town ordinances require all dogs using the park to wear a current park permit ID tag. Dog owners will be ticketed if they are found using the park without current tags for their dogs. Dog licenses and distemper shots must also be up-to-date.

The Dog Park is located across the road from the Skate Park, behind the baseball fields in Blatnick Park. Please call the Recreation Office at 372-2519 for more information.



## YOUR TOWN COMMITTEES AT WORK

### FINANCE COMMITTEE:

*Luke Smith, Chair*

- Request for Proposals sent out soliciting proposals to undertake property revaluation.
- Developing Tentative Budget for 2007.
- Working on sale or lease of several Town properties.

### HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

*Diane O'Donnell, Chair*

- Reviewing street repair technologies.
- Completing seasonal road reconstruction.
- Evaluating rehabilitation of Grange Hall on Rosendale Rd.
- Reviewing 2007 Budget proposal.
- Implementing plans for Oakmont St. and Heather Lane intersection.

### SPECIAL DISTRICTS:

*Maria Freund, Chair*

- Replacing water line on Trottingham Road.
- Evaluating plans for new Water & Sewer Garage.
- Evaluating upgrades to Water Treatment Plant through grants in cooperation with NYSERDA and RPI.
- Implementation of Stormwater Regulations.

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

*Liz Orzel Kasper, Chair*

- Fall recreation soccer underway with record numbers—763 young people involved.
- Several grants from the County to upgrade various sports facilities in town parks.
- Fall schedules for youth activities and senior citizens' trips are on town's web site.

### POLICE COMMITTEE:

*William Chapman, Chair*

- Completing National Incident Mgt. System (NIMS) training for Town employees.
- Equipment for computer reporting system being placed in police patrol cars.
- Progress towards state accreditation of PD in spring 2007.
- Evaluation of various Stop Sign requests.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

*Luke Smith, Chair*

- Revising Comprehensive Plan to include "Safe Routes" map and goals.
- New Ingersoll Home project on Consaul Rd. under review.
- Commercial development of present Ingersoll Home site under review.
- Cerrone/Paulsen development on hold pending court decision.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Police Department will have already installed new equipment in the vehicles assigned to the patrol fleet. The equipment consists of computers, printers, and other peripherals that will allow a program called TraCS to be run. TraCS is an electronic Ticket and Accident Report project that has been partially funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. TraCS allows officers to scan bar codes on drivers' licenses and vehicle registrations for quick entry into traffic summonses and accident reports. TraCS will increase officer safety by reducing the time officers spend on the paved portion of the highways, and will also result in better and more efficient reporting to DMV and our Town Court.

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Activities for children will include:

- Cross Country Run
- Chess Instruction
- Fall After School Bowling
- Fencing (SABRE and FOIL)
- Friday Night Bowling
- Friday Night Fall Parties
- Friday Night Roller Skating
- Friday Night Community Fun Nights
- Food Funtastics
- Niskayuna Mom/Toddler Group



### Activities for adults will include:

- Low Impact Fitness
- Tai Chi
- Pick Up Basketball
- Competitive Table Tennis
- Schenectady Chess Club
- Niskayuna Town Band



### Activities for seniors will include:

- Low Impact Fitness
- Line Dancing
- "55 Alive" Defensive Driving Class
- Bocce
- Mini Bus Transportation



### Upcoming Senior Trips and Special Activities:

- Wed., Sept. 13: Trip to Chef Josef for "Vaudeville is Back," with music, magic and humor with radio's greatest funnymen.
- Fri., Sept. 29: Garnet Hill Lodge and the Upper Hudson Railroad. Buffet lunch overlooking the 13<sup>th</sup> Lake, with historical train ride along the Hudson River.
- Mon., Oct. 9: You are invited to attend "Guido's Wedding" at the Tides of North Haledon, NJ.
- Tues.–Thurs., Oct. 10-12: Overnight trip to Indian Head Resort in White Mts. of New Hampshire. Food, entertainment and wonderful accommodations.
- Thurs., Oct. 19: "Mama Mia!" at Proctor's Theatre.
- Sat., Nov. 4: Neil Diamond Spectacular with Chris Denem as Neil Diamond at the Log Cabin.
- Thurs., Nov 16: Thanksgiving feast with entertainment by Niskayuna HS Studio Singers.
- Mon., Nov. 20: "Christmas in Killarney" at Beck's Grove. Includes dinner buffet and dessert bar.
- Tues., Nov. 28: Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show.
- Fri., Dec. 1: Deerfield Inn Holiday Trip & Yankee Candle. Includes a homemade luncheon and New England's largest Holiday light display.
- Tues., Dec. 19: Holiday Party and entertainment by Bel Canto Chorus from Niskayuna High School.
- February 2007: Seventh Annual Snow Ball Dance!

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## WATER SYSTEM

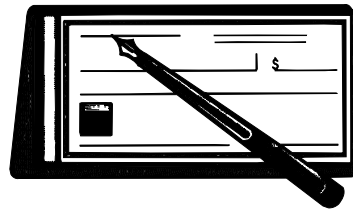
Fire hydrants must be highly visible and readily accessible at all times for effective fire protection service. Excessive vegetation in the summer, piles of leaves in the fall, and snow in the winter obstruct visibility and hinder access to hydrants. Whether you do your own property maintenance or you contract it out, please make sure your hydrant is visible and accessible.

When clearing the snow from your property this winter, be careful not to bury the hydrants under piles of snow. If anything, help clear snow away from hydrants.

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

### Town-wide Revaluation

The Town Board is considering a town revaluation to be completed for the 2008-2009 assessment roll. This assessment roll will affect school tax bills of September 2008 and the municipal tax bills of January 2009.



Requests for Proposals (RFP) were recently mailed to ten companies which specialize in real property appraisal revaluation projects. For the project, the RFP has outlined the Town's minimum standards that must be met by the revaluation company. The proposals must be delivered to the Assessor no later than Monday, October 2, 2006. The Town Board and Assessor will review all proposals submitted, and interview those companies that have met all the standards set forth in the RFP.

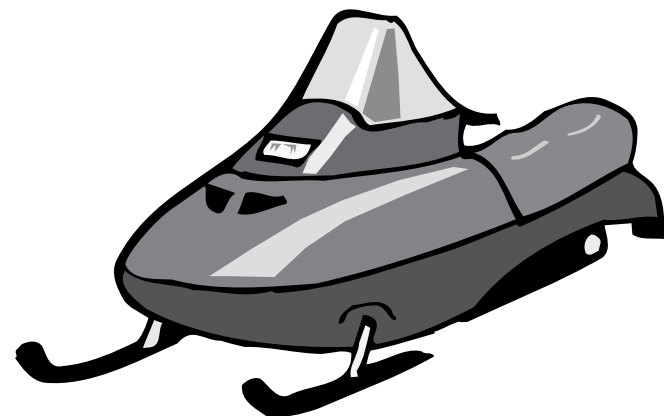
## What is a Town Revaluation?

Due to the changes in property values over the past years, the Assessor, with the aid of the revaluation company, will appraise all real property using recent sales data, income, and cost information. The new appraised values will reflect current market values of real property for the 2008 assessment roll.

The Request for Proposal is the preliminary step in considering a town-wide revaluation. At each of the subsequent stages of the revaluation process, you will be kept well informed by the Town Board and the Assessor. If you have questions or require more detailed information regarding the revaluation process, please contact the Assessor, Amy Houlihan, at 386-4550 or [www.ahoulihan@niskayuna.org](mailto:www.ahoulihan@niskayuna.org).

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

With fall upon us, it is time to remember an important date — October 31. That's the last day that boats, campers and RVs can be stored in the front driveway. They must be moved to the side or rear yard, or removed from the property completely. Conversely, from November 1 through March 31, snowmobiles and snowmobile trailers can be brought to the front. Please note that the front yard storage may only be in the driveway — not on the lawn area.



## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



### TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Niskayuna Police Department, in its pursuit to provide safety for our community, will diligently increase its enforcement of the Vehicle and Traffic Laws on State, County and Town roads.

### PARKING RESTRICTION

To facilitate the removal of snow from our streets, the Town enacted Local Law 9 (1981), which prohibits parking on public highways in the Town of Niskayuna from November 1 to April 1 the following year. Violators of this law may be summoned to appear in Town Court, facing possible fines as a result of the infraction.

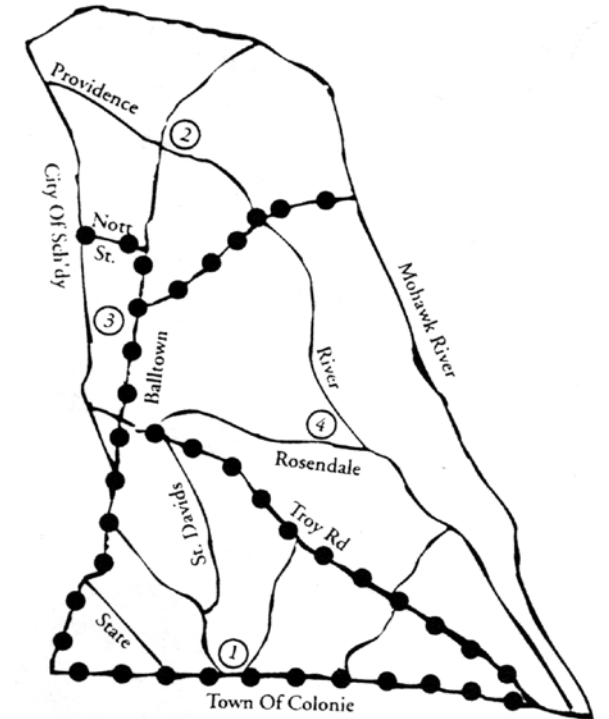
### LOOSE LEAF AND BRUSH PICK UP:

**There will be no loose leaf or loose brush pick up on Troy Road, Balltown Road, or Union Street east of Balltown Road.** Residents who live in other areas of town should check the schedules above for information on loose yard waste pickup in their zone. Remember to keep loose leaves and loose brush in separate piles. The brush should neither be more than 4 feet long and 3 feet in diameter nor heavier than 30 pounds.

Due to the unpredictability of the weather, you are requested to bag loose leaves after your first scheduled pick up has occurred. A heavy snowfall may impede a second pickup by the Town as our machines are not equipped to handle wet, icy leaves.

### Loose Leaf Pickup

Zone 1	Week of Oct. 30 & Nov. 20
Zone 2	Week of Nov. 6 & Nov. 27
Zone 3	Week of Nov. 6 & Nov. 27
Zone 4	Week of Nov. 13 & Dec. 4



### Loose Brush Pickup

Zone 1	Week of October 2
Zone 2	Week of October 9
Zone 3	Week of October 16
Zone 4	Week of October 23

At 6:30 AM on Monday, October 23, random pickup of yard waste in bags or other containers (free of dirt, sand or rocks) will begin. Please promptly remove all empty containers from the curb. The volume of barrels and pails used should not exceed 32 gallons, and brown paper bags, if used, should not exceed 40 pounds. Please place the free "Town of Niskayuna Yardwaste" sticker on any container other than the brown paper bag.

## DOS AND DON'TS

- Do clear the snow away from your mailbox.
- Do obey NYS Highway Law, Section 319 and avoid obstructing the road or right-of-way with baseball hoops, rocks, posts bushes, trees, etc.
- If found in violation of this law, do comply as directed or you could be penalized.
- Do pick up after your dog, even when using the Dog Park.
- Do place yard waste containers or loose leaves at the curb, on your property - not in the street.
- Don't use plastic bags for your yard waste. They will not be picked up.
- Don't place containers with garbage for private collection at the curb any earlier than 6:00 a.m. on the day prior to the day of collection, and
- Do remove them no later than 6:00 p.m. the following day.
- Don't blow snow from your property onto the street. You will be held responsible for any damage caused by such action.

## TAX DEPARTMENT



As you read this, the School Tax bills will have already been mailed. Please see the back of the bill for helpful information. If you are non-escrowed and did not receive your bill, please call the Tax Office at 386-4540.

The Water Rent bills will also arrive shortly. We at the Tax Office request that residents write two separate checks for their water rent and school tax bills since they are assigned separate bank accounts—the water rent

money goes to the Town while the school tax money goes directly to the schools. School Tax collection will end on October 31, after which no further payments will be accepted. The Water Rent collection will end on November 3, 2006.

## TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE



### WEB SITE

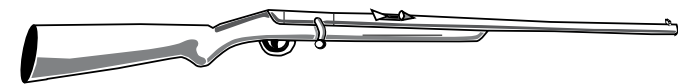
Residents are encouraged to view the Town's web site at [www.niskayuna.org](http://www.niskayuna.org) for up-to-date information about the Town.

## DOG LICENSE DISCOUNT FOR SENIORS

Residents 65 years and over receive a \$10 discount off their dog licenses.

## FISHING & HUNTING LICENSES

Fishing and hunting licenses are now on sale for the season which starts October 1, 2006, and runs through September 30, 2007.



## IDENTIFICATION FOR TRAVEL

New, stricter security standards may require you to obtain a recently issued certified birth certificate for travel to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean. If you do not have a passport, be aware that some forms of identification accepted in the past may no longer be allowed. Contact the town or city where you were born to inquire how to obtain your birth certificate.



## WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

### THE COST OF CONVENIENCE OR DISPOSAL DOS AND DON'TS

People get rid of "stuff" every day, but proper disposal could significantly reduce the cost of discarding such items. Careless disposal negatively impacts our water, sanitary sewer, and storm drainage systems, unfairly shifting the expense to other residents. The following information identifies materials that are frequently discarded, and suggests actions that should be taken to eliminate prospective problems.



### SANITARY SEWER

Whatever goes into the sanitary sewer system (over 100 miles of pipe) must be able to pass through our collection system freely. Next, it must be treated at a wastewater treatment plant, and finally, the treated products must be disposed of. The clean water is returned to the Mohawk River and the solids end up at a landfill or as a soil amendment.

Unfortunately, many products not easily pumped through stations or readily biodegradable at wastewater treatment plants are conveniently poured into sinks or flushed down toilets. Items such as paper towels, cloth rags, used mops, plastic articles, diapers, etc. tend to clog and destroy pumps as a result of blockages at various points throughout the system. Staff must then spend time, often at the higher emergency call-in rate, to remove the blockage and repair the damage; and even if these products make it all the way to the treatment plant, they cannot be treated biologically, but

must be screened, physically removed, and sent to a landfill. Obviously, therefore, it is easier and cheaper to place these items into a wastebasket and send them directly to a landfill than to mix them up in the wrong waste stream.

In addition to the solid, non-biodegradable products mentioned above, there are semi-solids, emulsions, and liquids that should not enter the sanitary sewer. Grease from cooking or cleaning a barbecue grill, high concentrations of soaps or detergents that create excessive foaming, gasoline, oil, paint, garden chemicals, etc. cause various problems throughout the wastewater system.

One final liquid that causes havoc in the sanitary sewers and the wastewater treatment plants is ground water. This is primarily a quantity issue. The pipes, pump stations, and treatment plants are not sized to accommodate huge volumes of water related to storm events or constant de-watering of wet areas. Too much water flowing or leaking into the system causes it to back up, sometimes even causing the pipes to overflow into basements.

Various studies have found that 80% of the "inflow and infiltration" water in sanitary sewer systems enters through private sewer laterals. If you have a sump pump that discharges to the sanitary sewer, or if you have had to call a sewer cleaning company to have roots removed from your service lateral, you are definitely contributing to the problem. Please plan to correct the situation. This may involve installing a new pipe to the sanitary sewer and/or the storm sewer system.

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