

Niskayuna Town News



Fall 2008

Dear Neighbors,

Of all the seasons of the year, autumn has always been my favorite season. As a native New Yorker, I have grown up to expect and fully appreciate the changes that accompany autumn. Each year, as autumn approaches, I find time to reflect upon the events of the year, and to begin to prepare for the new year ahead. Not surprisingly, as Town Supervisor, I am finding that autumn means budgetary preparation and planning for next year. This entails reviewing and evaluating the Town's programs of this year, and planning the programs and services for next year.

During the budgetary process, I adhered to some very simple priorities as I developed and put forth a tentative budget for the Town. First, it was important that the Town continue to provide the services that the residents have come to appreciate and expect. Second, I attempted to improve the delivery of services in select areas. And, finally, I embarked on a course of action that would enhance the information available to residents about services provided by the Town.

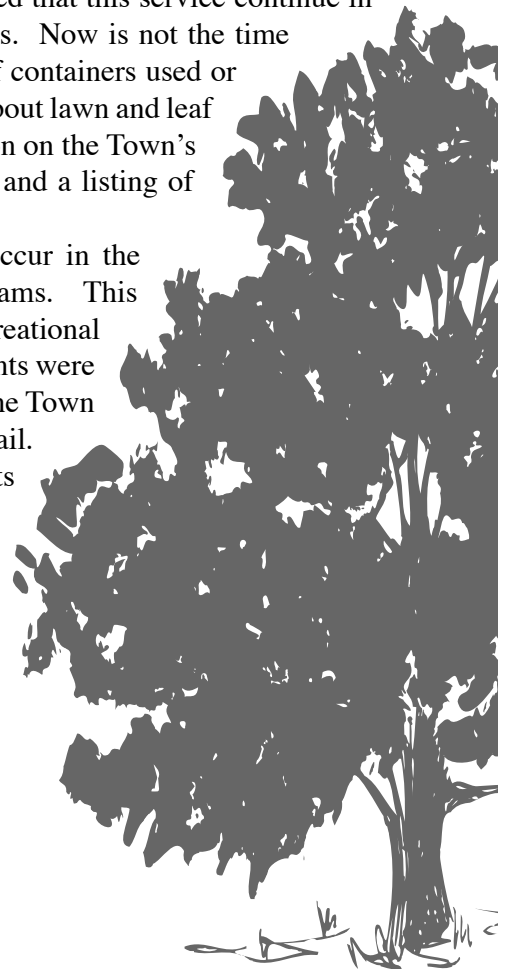
A service provided by the Town that has received considerable attention this year is the removal of leaf and lawn debris. After extensive review by the Town Board, I have recommended that this service continue in its present form. I have not recommended any additional fees or limitations. Now is not the time to charge a fee for this service, nor should the Town be limiting the types of containers used or restricting the amount of containers used. Further, to better inform residents about lawn and leaf removal (zones and days of pick-up), we have included additional information on the Town's website such as a more descriptive Town map outlining the pick-up zones, and a listing of each street in town with its zone and day of pick-up.

Perhaps the most noticeable change in delivery of services will occur in the registration and administration of our recreational and community programs. This summer, we put forth an on-line registration program for numerous recreational programs. Most noteworthy was the on-line registration for Fall soccer. Parents were able to sign-up their children for Fall soccer over the internet. Additionally, the Town was able to communicate with all the parents in the soccer program via e-mail. In other words, parents received an e-mail from the Town regarding all aspects of the administration of the Fall soccer program --- i.e. cancellations due to inclement weather, schedules, field maps, announcements, surveys, etc... In fact, next year we will be able to communicate with these parents to inform them about registration for 2009 Fall soccer.

As we move forward, I will continue to place the interests of the residents first as we review all the services and programs provided by the Town.

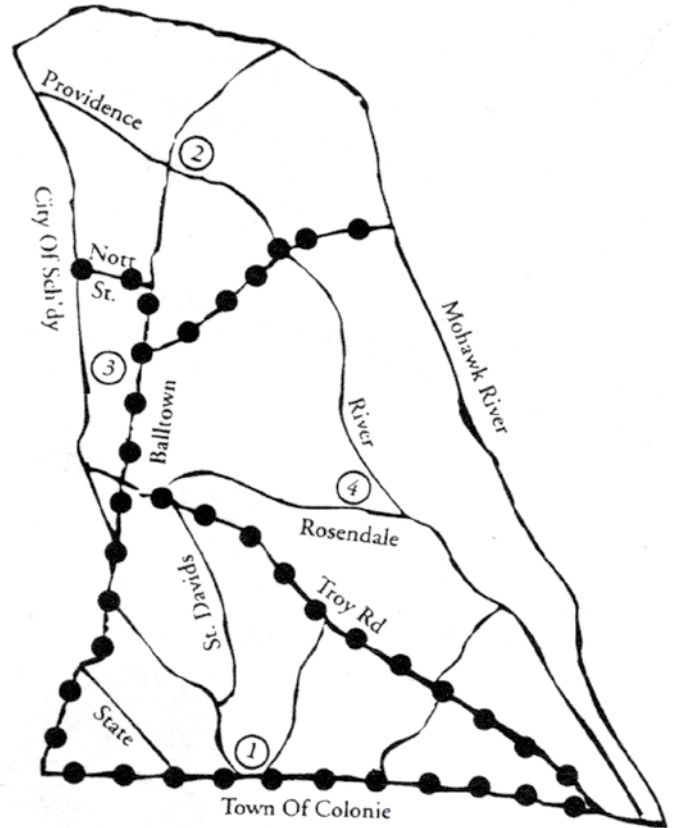
Sincerely,

Joe Landry
Supervisor



Loose Leaf and Brush Pickup

There is no loose leaf or loose brush pickup on Troy Road, Balltown Road, or Union Street east of Balltown Road. For all other locations, a pickup schedule is listed below. Pickup schedule and street/zone listing are also available at www.niskayuna.org under "News & Announcements."



Along with loose brush and leaves, we will also be picking up brush and leaves that are in containers – bags, barrels pails, etc. beginning Tuesday, October 14. The yellow “Niskayuna Yard Waste” stickers must be pasted to your uncovered containers or they will not be picked up. After your containers have been emptied, please remove them from the curb as soon as possible that day. To avoid injury to our Highway Department workers, the size of these containers should not exceed 32 gallons, and paper bags should not exceed 40 pounds. Brush must be kept at a maximum length of 4 feet.

Each zone is picked up twice, weather permitting. If you have had your first loose leaf and brush pickup, you are encouraged to put your loose leaves in a container if heavy snowfall is forecasted. Our machines are not equipped to handle wet, icy leaves.

Loose Brush Pickup

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Zone 1 | Week of October 6 |
| Zone 2 | Week of October 13 |
| Zone 3 | Week of October 20 |
| Zone 4 | Week of October 27 |



Loose Leaf Pickup

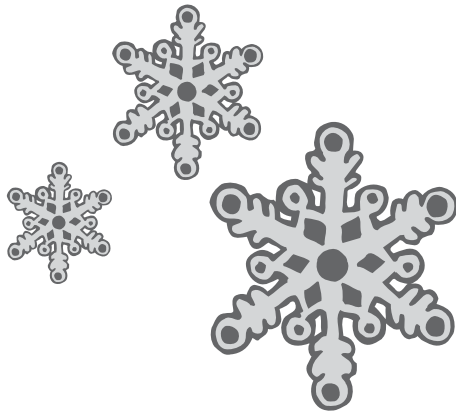
| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Zone 1 | Week of Nov. 3 & Nov. 17 |
| Zone 2 | Week of Nov. 10 & Nov. 24 |
| Zone 3 | Week of Nov. 10 & Nov. 24 |
| Zone 4 | Week of Nov. 17 & Dec. 1 |

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

Snow Emergency Parking

Following any snowfall of three inches or more, all vehicles must be removed from Town or County streets or highways until the streets have been plowed by or at the direction of the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Niskayuna. A snow emergency shall continue for 48 hours after the snowfall ceases. Adherence to this regulation will greatly facilitate the clearing of our roads. This regulation is in addition to the one that prohibits parking on the street from November 1 to April 1, between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Please keep the area in front of your mailbox free of snow, and do avoid blowing or plowing snow across the street from your property, as you may be held responsible for any damage or injury caused as a result of this action.



EASEMENT DOs & DON'Ts

This article addresses the purpose of easements and how to avoid some common problems or misunderstandings about what is allowed or prohibited within an easement. First of all, property owners should determine whether they have any easements on their property. Easements are recorded at the County Clerk's office. One can search the records online through the County Clerk's website, in person at the County Clerk's

office, or hire a title search company to do the job. An easement document will specify to whom the easement was granted, its purpose and location, and specific restrictions associated with it. If you understand the purpose of the easement, it's fairly easy to avoid problems.



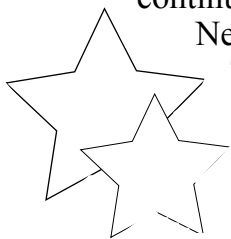
Town owned and operated utilities, which include potable water and sanitary and storm sewer, are located within an easement. Water and sanitary sewer systems involve underground piping, catch basins and manholes. Storm water drainage easements may include piping, catch basins, drainage swales and/or flood storage areas including wetlands. When pipes deteriorate and start leaking, they usually have to be dug up and repaired or replaced. Sanitary sewer lines must be inspected and maintained on a regular basis to prevent backups. If improvements obstruct or redirect the flow of storm water runoff, or if flood storage areas are compromised by placement of fill on less pervious surface treatments, then drainage easements will not function as intended. If an easement in which pipes are located is free of obstructions, emergency repairs and maintenance can often be accomplished without great difficulty. On the other hand, if features such as fences, sheds, play-sets, pools, irrigation systems, driveways, trees, shrubs, gardens, landscape walls, etc. obstruct access in an easement, then it becomes more difficult and expensive to perform the necessary work.

If homeowners want to make improvements within a town easement, they must first seek approval from the Town and if approval is granted, it is typically contingent upon signing a standard waiver regarding removal of and damage to the improvements.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

2008 Middle Class STAR Rebate

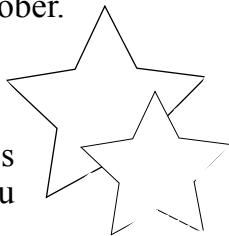
The Middle Class STAR Rebate Program continues this year administered by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Your rebate check provides property tax relief in addition to the STAR exemption on your school tax bill.



Basic STAR Recipients

- If you're a property owner who applied for the 2007 rebate, you don't have to reapply as long as your ownership and mailing address remain the same. We'll issue you a rebate check automatically by the end of October.

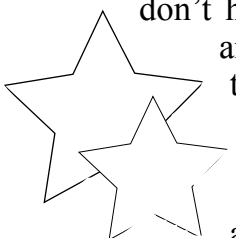
- If you didn't apply for 2007, or if your ownership information or property address changed during the year, you must apply by December 31, 2008. We'll send you an application automatically by the end of October.



- If you're a property owner and your income is more than \$250,000, you are not eligible for a rebate check, even if you have a Basic STAR exemption.

Enhanced STAR Recipients

- If you're a senior citizen receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption, we'll issue you a rebate check automatically by the end of October. You don't have to apply. Enhanced rebate amounts will be about 40% higher than last year.



Property owners should visit the Tax Department's website at www.nystax.gov for more information including the 2008 rebate application and check mailing schedules, rebate amounts, and for answers to frequently asked questions.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

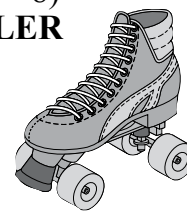
For more information about any of the programs listed below, please check out our town website. **NEW THIS YEAR!! REGISTER FOR MOST PROGRAMS ONLINE AT: www.niskayuna.org** (click on Online Registration)

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN:

- **CHESS INSTRUCTION** (5 week session beginning 10/27 for ages 5 and older)
- **FALL AFTER SCHOOL BOWLING** (6 week session beginning 9/24 for grades 2 – 5)
- **FENCING** (6 week session beginning 11/5 for ages 8 to 16 yrs)
- **FRIDAY NIGHT BOWLING** (10/31 & 11/7 for grades 5 – 8)
- **FRIDAY NIGHT ROLLERSKATING PARTIES** (11/21 & 12/5 for grades 5 – 8)
- **FRIDAY NIGHT COMMUNITY FUN NIGHT** (11/14 & 12/12 - a fun night of music, games & socialization for grades 6 - 8)
- **NISKAYUNA MOM & TODDLER GROUP**

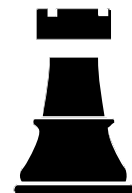
(a morning group for kids and their moms)

- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**



ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS

- **LOW IMPACT FITNESS** (program meets twice a week - we offer both a morning & evening session)
- **TAI CHI** (10 week session beginning 11/18)
- **COMPETITIVE TABLE TENNIS** (a drop-in program beginning 9/29 for ages 15 and older)
- **SCHENECTADY CHESS CLUB** (a drop-in program for adults and young adults)
- **OPEN PICK-UP BASKETBALL** (a drop-in program beginning 9/17)



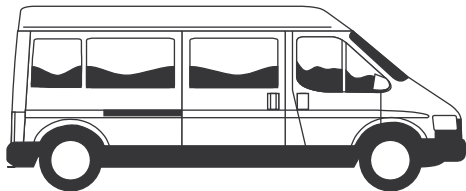
ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

- **LOW IMPACT FITNESS** (14 week program that meets twice a week beginning 9/9)
- **LINE DANCING** (Tuesday mornings and meets year round!)
- **BOCCE/PICKLEBALL/AMERICAN CORN HOLE** (year round morning activities)

ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS!!

For information on the Niskayuna Senior Center, please call Susan Leonard or Edie Cannizzo at 372-2519.

Join the Niskayuna Seniors each Tuesday & Thursday. In addition to activities listed below, our morning programs include crafts, Scrabble, Bridge, Pinochle, Rummy and other card games. After a hot lunch at noon (\$4.00), our afternoon activities include games, speakers, trips, movies and more. There is no membership fee, and many programs are free of charge. Also, join us on our monthly shopping excursions, and trips to shows, museums, luncheons, etc. Senior Activity calendars are available at the Senior Center, Town Hall and online at www.niskayuna.org. You can email the Senior Center at: niskayunaseniors@yahoo.com.



BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

WHO: Niskayuna Residents, 60 yrs & older
WHEN: Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 am – 2:30 pm
WHERE: Destinations within Schenectady County
HOW: Call 372-2519 in advance to reserve seat
FEE: \$2/Each Way

Bus travels on a specific route throughout Niskayuna. After bringing seniors to the Senior Center, we take others to medical appointments, beauty salons, grocery stores, pharmacies, libraries, etc. All passengers must be able to board and ride the bus on their own.

UPCOMING SENIOR CITIZEN EVENTS

Mon., Nov 10: Trip to the Racino -- Saratoga Gaming and Raceway.
Thurs., Nov 13: After lunch entertainment by Niskayuna High School Chorus
Wed., Nov 19: Big Band Christmas Spectacular at Michael's Banquet House
Tues., Dec 2: Holiday Dinner and entertainment by chorus from Niskayuna High School
Mon., Dec 8: Beck's Grove Dinner Theatre, "My Favorite Christmas."
Wed., Dec 17: Dinner at the Metro Diner followed by "Lights in the Park" in Albany.
Spring 2009: "55 Alive" Defensive Driving Course. Please call after February 1 for dates and times.

NISKAYUNA YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

This is a free service for Niskayuna students who need a job, and residents and businesses who 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.



2008 SKI AND SPORT SALE

Mark your calendars now!! Craig Elementary School will host its annual ski and sports equipment swap/sale on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to buy or sell all kinds of sporting equipment and clothes. More information will become available in the coming weeks at: www.niskayunaschools.org under "Niskayuna News."

To volunteer or for additional information, please contact Mike Parzych at 347-2453 or email him at mparzych@nycap.rr.com

SNOWSPORTS ARE FOR LIFE!!

Schenectady Ski School at Maple Ski Ridge offers lessons for the whole family. Additionally, the after school program during the week gives your children an opportunity to ski or snowboard with their classmates for six weeks. See www.schenectadyskischool.com for more information, or call 377-3730, or pick up registration forms after October 6th at the main offices of all Niskayuna elementary and middle schools and at St Helen's School.



Visit the Niskayuna Recreation Department on the web! Go to www.niskayuna.org and click on "Town Departments." Then, click on "Parks and Recreation", and follow the links to the information you need.

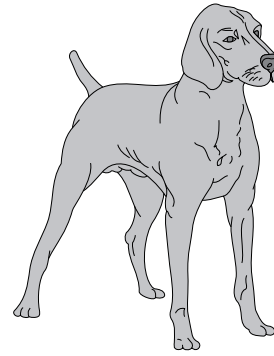
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Yearly Dog License Fees are as Follows:

All dogs in the Town of Niskayuna must be licensed. The cost to residents under age 65 is \$20.50 for an unsprayed/unneutered dog and \$12.50 if it is spayed/neutered. Senior citizens (age 65 and older) receive a discount as noted below.

Seniors' Dog License Discount

Senior citizens receive a \$10 discount for dog licenses. The fee for a spayed or neutered dog is \$2.50; for an unneutered/unsprayed dog it is \$10.50.



Dog Park Permits

It's time to renew your dog park permits! 2008-2009 permits can be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall weekdays from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. 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. The dog park is located in Blatnick Park across the road from the Skate Park and behind the baseball fields. Please call the Recreation Office at 372-2519 for more information.

Responsibility of Dog Owners – Town Law Section 81-3

It is unlawful for dog owners to fail to leash a dog with the result that such dog creates a nuisance by defecating, urinating or digging on public or private property other than the property of said owner.

Yard Waste Stickers

Yard waste stickers are available in the Town Clerk's office Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

General Election Polling Places

To find your polling place, check the Town's web site at www.niskayuna.org. Please click on the Town Clerk Department page, Polling Places. You can check by district location, which shows streets contained in that district, or connect to the

Schenectady County Board of Elections web site to look up your street address. Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4th.

Garage Sales

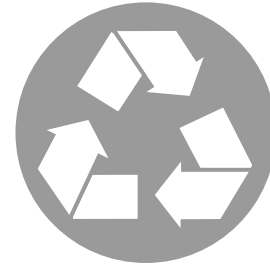
No permit is required in Niskayuna to hold a garage sale.



TAX OFFICE

There's a 2% late payment penalty if you pay your school tax bill between now and October 31st. Payments will no longer be received by the Niskayuna Tax Office after October 31st, and must be made to the Schenectady County Finance Office with a 5% penalty until the first week in December (please call the County for exact date). After the December deadline, any unpaid amounts will be added to the General Property Tax bill in January with a 7% penalty.

Water rent bills have been mailed and collection ends on November 7th, after which no further payments will be accepted. Unpaid amounts will be added to the General Property Tax bill.



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

On October 25, 2008, the Town of Niskayuna will participate in **Schenectady County's America Recycles Day Electronics & Fluorescent Lighting Collection** to take place at the facilities of Waste Management and Recycling Products on Route 5 at the Scotia-Glenville Industrial Park, Building 405C from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Items Accepted: TVs (NO console TVs) computers, computer monitors, computer parts, telephones, VCRs, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes.

NOT Accepted: Do NOT bring console TVs, small consumer appliances, microwave ovens, computer software, CDs, disks, computer manuals or mouse pads, fans, vacuums, lights, stereo speakers, calculators, incandescent light bulbs, batteries or fluids.

You must have a COUPON to participate in this event. Niskayuna residents may pick up coupons at the Town Clerk's Office at Niskayuna Town Hall, or download the coupon online and bring it to the recycling facility with one of the following proofs of residency:

- * A County Farm permit
- * A yellow Schenectady County voter registration address confirmation card
- * A Schenectady County real property tax bill.

For further information please visit www.schenectadycounty.com/hhw, email recycling@schenectadycounty.com or call 386-2225.

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
One Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, New York 12309-4381

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Schenectady, NY
Permit No. 137

Joe Landry
Supervisor

Town Council

Liz Orzel Kasper
Julie M. McDonnell
Diane P. O'Donnell
Maria P. Freund

