Niskayuna Town News

Spring 2009

Dear Neighbors,

As we were recovering from one of the worst "ice storms" in recent history this past December, Niskayuna Town Hall was the site where Governor Paterson, Senator Schumer and Congressman-elect Tonko conducted a press conference to announce their intentions to seek federal assistance for storm clean-up for affected municipalities. As one of the areas hardest hit by the "ice-storm," we are very appreciative of the support we received from our State and Federal leaders during this time of crisis. Their advocacy was very effective, and resulted in the December 11, 2008 "ice-storm" being declared a disaster by the President, which made the Town of Niskayuna eligible for reimbursement for emergency protective measures and debris removal. As we continue to move forward with clean-up activities, we will be seeking reimbursement for all eligible expenses.

A major initiative that will begin this spring is our water meter replacement program. The goal of this program is to replace every water meter in Town (commercial and residential) with new radio frequency meters. Some of the newer meters will just be receiving the radio frequency component. These new meters would allow remote data collection through the use of handheld wireless metering devices. In other words, each meter would contain a radio transmitter that could send a meter reading to a receiver operated by a Town employee who would be in a vehicle on the street in front of the residence or business. As a result, the current system of mailing "read cards" to each property owner would become obsolete. Also, readings would be actual readings and not estimates. We expect that all commercial meters will be replaced by early summer, and it is anticipated that residential meter replacements will begin in late summer or early fall.

The 2009 Niska-Day Committee of volunteers has been meeting regularly to plan for the 28th annual Niska-Day. Every year, these volunteers do a great job in presenting a premier community event. This year's Niska-Day will be on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Please check their website at www.niskaday.org for more details. This year, the Chairs of the Niska-Day Committee are seeking more organizations and groups to participate in the parade – either by entering a float, or just with marchers. This is a great opportunity for your group or organization to be part of a well-established community event, and we encourage you to consider participating in the parade.

Finally, as we reluctantly put away our snowshoes, cross-country skis, and "tip-ups," our Parks Department will be preparing our parks for another great season of outdoor summer fun. We hope to see you at one of our parks or trails this spring and summer!

Sincerely,

Joe Landry

Joe Landry
Supervisor

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Storm Cleanup

Highway crews will be collecting loose brush on all Town roads. This includes all State and County highways located within the Town of Niskayuna. Residents are required to pile all limbs and brush neatly in front of their property. **Do not place any brush on the paved portion of the road**. Brush and limbs cannot exceed 6 ft in length and 5 inches in diameter.

Storm Pickup Schedule

1st Pickup is scheduled to start April 6th

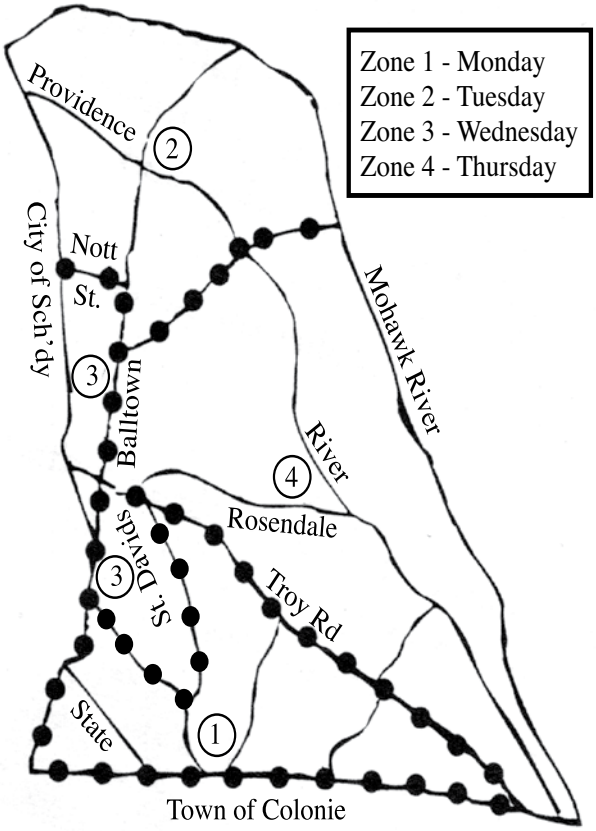
Zone 1	April 6th – April 11th
Zone 2	April 13th – April 18th
Zone 3	April 20th – April 25th
Zone 4	April 27th – May 2nd

2nd Pickup is scheduled to start June 1st

Zone 1	June 1st – June 6th
Zone 2	June 8th – June 13th
Zone 3	June 15th – June 20th
Zone 4	June 22nd – June 27th

Regular Pickup

Our garbage trucks are currently randomly circulating the town picking up lawn debris and tied brush. This service ends on June 26th. Regularly scheduled weekly zone pickup will commence on June 29 and are as follows:



If you have any questions, please contact the Highway Department at 785-9753, or visit our website, www.niskayuna.org, then click on Highway Department to find information on your zone number for the purpose of brush and debris pick up. Remember, brush must be tied into bundles not exceeding 3 feet in length and 3 feet in diameter, and other yard debris – leaves, grass clippings, etc – must be placed in containers and cannot exceed 40 lbs. Barrels, pails, and biodegradable bags can be used for this purpose.

Tree Planting Program

The Town is currently accepting requests for street trees to be planted in the fall of 2009. Approximately eighty trees, including several varieties of Maple, Ash, and Oak, to name a few, will be planted. The location for all plantings will be within your frontage of the Town's right-of-way adjacent to the street (typically 30 feet in from the centerline). Trees will be delivered on a first come, first served basis. As a recipient, your only responsibility will be to saturate the ground with water once a week during the dry season. If you wish to participate, please call the Highway Department at 785-9753 to have your name included on the list.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

ROAD PAVING

The roads to be paved this season are listed below. Please call the Highway Department at 785-9753 for further information on the paving schedule.

Road Reconstruction

Midland Ave; Holiday Dr. (old section); and Millington Road, Mayfair to East Country Club Dr.

Surface Treatment

Avon Crest Park; Styvesant Dr; Townsend Rd; Douglas Court; Lori Dr; Morrow Ave., Niskayuna Dr. to Balltown; Pinehaven Dr; Onondaga Rd; Cayuga Rd., Mohegan to Algonquin; Algonquin Rd., Mohegan to end; Ruffner Court; Owasco Court; Seneca Rd; Menlo Park Rd; Millington Rd., Mayfair to Highland; Highland Park Rd., Mayfair to Union; Apple Tree Lane, Atateka to the end; Belridge Rd; and Covington Court.

"Nova Chip" Treatment

Stanford Ave; Cliff St; Fillmore Ave; Leroy/Ralph St; Gasner Ave; Banker Avenue Ext; Winne Rd; and Hampshire Seat, Downing to Westminster.

Highway Obstruction

Many residents throughout the Town place their basketball hoops too close to the road. The safe distance between your basketball hoop and the road is 17 feet. Please adhere to this regulation.

Town Law § 81-3 - Responsibility Of Dog Owners

It is unlawful in the Town of Niskayuna for the owner of any dog to fail to control such dog with the result that it creates a nuisance by defecating, urinating or digging on public property, or private property other than that of the owner.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

Water Meter Replacement Project Begins This Spring

This spring the Town of Niskayuna will begin replacing the meters that measure water usage for all commercial customers in town. Many of these meters are more than twenty years old and have begun to show their age. As water meters age, they measure water flow less accurately. This gradual wear-and-tear may allow water to pass through meters without measuring all of the flow. By replacing our commercial meters, the Town can improve the overall metering accuracy and more fairly bill customers for the water that they consume. The new meters will be equipped with radio transmitters to allow town staff to remotely collect meter readings, and customers will no longer be required to submit meter read cards to the Town.

Contractors working for the Town will be contacting commercial customers beginning in April to schedule installation appointments. There will be no direct cost to the customers for this work. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of July. Following the successful replacement of the commercial water meters, the Town will then focus on the replacement of approximately 7,000 residential water meters that are installed throughout Niskayuna. The ultimate goal is to more accurately account for the water delivered to our customers, and to ensure that businesses and residents are more fairly billed for the water they consume. Please visit the Town of Niskayuna webpage (www.Niskayuna.org), or call our Water & Sewer Department at 377-8411 for additional information and for updates on the status of the program.

Receiver of Taxes

Many homeowners these days are paying bills online. Surely it is a great convenience, but there are some drawbacks of which you should be aware:

- Most bill-paying companies do not issue checks on the date requested. In fact, some of them explain that there is a four- to six-day delay.
- The checks issued online come in permit-marked envelopes. There is no postmark which would be honored by the Tax Office. Therefore, according to law, they must be accepted as of the date received.

What this means to the taxpayer is that, if received late, we must charge the late fee. We urge all online payers to initiate payment at least a week or more in advance. Remember, the money doesn't come out of the account until the check is deposited.

Another reminder is that we are now again collecting taxes at Town Hall. If your computer is still using the address of the 2008 Property Tax collection (P.O. Box in Cohoes, NY), it must be updated, or your payments will be received late and you will be subject to a penalty.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

The New York State Office of Real Property Services has established the Town of Niskayuna preliminary equalization rate or stated level of assessment as 100%.

For Niskayuna property owners, listed below are key assessment dates:

Tentative Roll Date: **May 1, 2009**

- The tentative assessed values are completed and the roll is legally filed in the Town Clerk's Office.
- Change of Assessment Notices mailed to property owners.
- Assessment roll is available for taxpayer review in the Assessor's Office.
- Grievance application: RP-524 available in the Assessor's Office.

Grievance Period: **May 1 – May 26, 2009**

- Grievance application: RP-524 will be accepted at the Assessor's Office.

Grievance Day: **May 26, 2009**

- Board of Assessment Review hears taxpayer complaints in Town Hall.

Final Roll Date: **July 1, 2009**

- Board of Assessment Review decisions are mailed to property owners.
- Board of Assessment Review decisions are entered on the assessment roll.
- Final assessment roll legally filed in the Town Clerk's Office.
- Final assessment roll is available for taxpayer review in the Assessor's Office.

2009 assessment roll affects 2009 School tax bill and 2010 General Municipal tax bill. Visit www.niskayuna.org for assessment information or call 518-386-4550 should you have any questions.

TOWN CLERK

Block Party Permits

Residents wishing to hold a Block Party can reserve barricades and signs by registering with the Town Clerk's Office (386-4510). Permits, which cost $5.00 each, are issued on a first come, first served basis. A maximum of three permits are issued per weekend.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Within a few weeks, Schenectady County will begin its monthly collection of hazardous household waste. The program allows County residents to drop off pesticides, paint, chemicals, and other items for disposal at the Schenectady County Composting and Recycling Facility at 24 Hetcheltown Road in Scotia. Residents need to pre-register for this event by calling 1-800-494-2273. Materials will be collected once a month between 8 AM and noon on May 5, June 6, August 9, October 2 and November 6, and from 4 PM to 7 PM September 2. On July 18, items will be collected at the Curry Road Plaza in Rotterdam between noon and 4 PM. The following items will not be accepted: motor oil, batteries, asbestos, explosives, smoke detectors, medical waste, propane tanks, electronics, computers, and empty aerosol or paint containers.

The program is open only to Schenectady County residents with valid permits. Permits cost $20 each, are available at the County Farm (399-6980), and are valid through December 31. Please visit www.schenectadycounty.com, e-mail jeff.edwards@schenectadycounty.com, or call 386-2225 for further information.

You can also bring loose leaves, grass, bagged yard waste (in biodegradable bags only, no plastic), logs, stumps, and brush not exceeding 4" in diameter and 5' in length to the

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Did you know that persons who come to your house for the purpose of solicitation may be violating a Town ordinance? A local law enacted on May 12, 1986, states: "It shall be unlawful for any person within the corporate limits of the Town of Niskayuna to act as vendor, hawker, peddler or solicitor without first having obtained and paid for, and having in force and effect, a license therefor."

Every year at this time, we at the Police Department receive reports of unauthorized work being done at residences in Niskayuna. Once the work is completed, the victims, usually the elderly, are pressured to pay for this unauthorized, and in many cases, shoddy service at a cost much higher than a reputable contractor would charge. That is why we are asking you, our good neighbors, to contact the Niskayuna police if you observe suspicious activity at the property of a neighbor, friend, or relative.

Tips and programs on crime prevention are available at the Police Department section of the Town's website, www.niskayuna.org; or you can call 374-3159 for further information.

NISKA-DAY 28

"A BICENTENNIAL BLAST"

May 16th will be the day that we once again come together to celebrate our Niskayuna community. "Niska-Day 2009….. A Bicentennial Blast" will recognize the 200th birthday of the Town of Niskayuna. After the overwhelming positive comments about Niska-Day 2008, Craig School will again be the site where we gather for the festivities.

The day will begin with a family fun run starting at Van Antwerp School, followed by our ever popular parade kicking off at 10:00 AM from St. Helen's, reaching the St. James Square parking lot around 11:30AM. There will be craft vendors, an information tent featuring local not-for-profit organizations, games for children, bounces and rides, a day-long food court and a gigantic fireworks display. Local businesses will again be present to promote their products and services. Other favorites returning will be karaoke, clowns, photo magnets and caricatures. Musical entertainment for the day is still being developed, but rest assured, it will appeal to "children" of all ages. Many other ideas are being considered that will enhance the day and promote the theme; and, as always, we invite suggestions. We can always use an extra set of hands to bring this day to our community.

We are excited about "A Bicentennial Blast" and again look forward to total community participation. It takes many organizations working together to create a day as anticipated and successful as Niska-Day. For more information, contact Denise & Bill Leader, Chairpersons, at (518) 370-1346.

NISKAYUNA LIBRARY GARDENERS

The Niskayuna Library Gardeners will have an orientation and planning meeting on Wednesday, May 6, beginning at 6:45 PM in the Library's Community Room. Mark your calendar to join us, whether you are a veteran gardener or someone who is just getting started. Volunteers help with a variety of tasks including planting, weeding, pruning, edging, and mulching to keep our award-winning gardens beautiful. The meeting on May 6 will be an opportunity to get acquainted with other gardeners, and to find out more about our gardening activity. In addition, Erin Kinal from the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center will be joining us to present a short program on gardening with native plants. She will share some ideas on how to promote visual harmony and contribute to ecological stability.

If you are unable to attend the May 6 meeting but would like more information about gardening at the Library, call Elaine at 377-4541 or stop by the Library any Thursday morning during the gardening season. We will begin our regular weekly sessions on Thursday, May 7, at 9:30 AM. Extra help early in the season is especially appreciated to clean up and prepare the beds and to plant annuals.

ATTENTION ALL MUSICIANS!

Niskayuna Town Band, under the direction of Norm Frederick, needs volunteer musicians of all ages and abilities for its upcoming 2009 summer season. Concerts will be held during July and August in the gazebo at Niskayuna Town Hall. Rehearsals will begin soon, and are held at the Niskayuna Community Center. Please call Norm at 374-7433 for further information.

NISKAYUNA DRIVING RANGE

The Niskayuna Driving Range is located at 2555 River Road, just east of the main entrance to Blatnick Park, behind the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. The range will open for the season in mid- to late April, weather permitting. Adult and youth lessons will be offered throughout the summer beginning in May. Part-time adult attendants needed. Call the Niskayuna Community Center at 372-2519 for more information.

For more information about any of the programs listed below, please call Lori Peretti at 386-4526.
NEW THIS YEAR!! REGISTER FOR MOST PROGRAMS ONLINE AT:
www.niskayuna.org (click on Online Registration)

Activities for Children:

• Spring Rec. Soccer (4-week session beginning 4/27 grades kindergarten to 5th)
• Spring Parade & Meet The Bunny (4/10 for children 8yrs & older)
• Niska-Day Family Fun Run (5/16 – All ages welcome)
• Babysitting Course (one day course on 5/9 for students 12 yrs & older)
• Niskayuna Skate Camp (8 sessions beginning 5/5 for grades 2nd to 5th)
• 3rd Annual Bike Rodeo (5/2 from 11AM – 2PM. Sponsored by Niskayuna Safe Routes Committee)
• Friday Night Roller Skating Parties (4/24 for grades 5th to 8th)
• Friday Night "Niska-Day" Party (5/15 for grades 6th to 8th)
• Friday Night "Moving Up" Party (5/30 for 5th grade)
• Volunteer Opportunities For Middle School Students

Activities for Adults:

• Adult Golf(5-week sessions beginning 5/4 for ages 16 yrs. & older)
• Niskayuna Women's Tennis Assoc. (beginning 4/20 – doubles play. Morning, afternoon & evening sessions available)
• Tai Chi (10-week session beginning 4/7)
• Competitive Table Tennis (a drop-in program 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 for adults)
• 55 Alive Defensive Driving Course (2 sessions on 5/18 & 5/20)

PARK RENTAL INFORMATION

As the warm weather approaches, residents of the Town of Niskayuna are invited to reserve space at one of Niskayuna's beautiful park pavilions or at the Niskayuna Community Center for special events. Our lovely facilities may be just right for your upcoming graduation, engagement, or other private parties. Pavilion rentals at Blatnick Park (seats around 75) and Avon Crest Park (seats 24 or fewer) are $25 per use; and pavilion rentals at River Road Park and the Niskayuna Community Center Park (each can seat around 150 people) are $50 per use. Please call the Niskayuna Community Center at 372-2519 for further information. Amenities at each park include:

Blatnick Park: Baseball fields, skate park, dog park, playground, pond, basketball courts, driving range, bathrooms, tennis courts and Mohawk River and bike path access.

River Road Park: Playground, bathrooms, softball fields, basketball court, open field for general use, and natural walking area. Tennis courts and additional playground located behind park at Iroquois Middle School and Rosendale Elementary School.

Avon Crest Park: Playground, tennis courts, bathrooms, basketball court, softball field, and large, open area.

Niskayuna Community Center Park: Community Center; outdoor pool; football & lacrosse fields; large, open area; bocce and horseshoe courts; and bathrooms.

NISKAYUNA SKATE PARK

The Niskayuna Skate Park, which is located in Blatnick Park on River Road, will open in mid- to late April, weather permitting, for use by individuals with skateboards and rollerblades only. Users will be required to wear helmets and elbow and knee pads, and follow all posted rules. Skate Park rules will be strictly enforced. Children under 11 yrs old must be accompanied by an adult when using this facility. For more information, contact the Niskayuna Community Center at 372-2519. Please note: Skate Park will be open only when conditions are safe. If in doubt, we suggest you check to verify that the park is open.

Join the Niskayuna seniors for some fun each Tuesday and Thursday, year-round, at the Niskayuna Community Center, 2682 Aqueduct Road. Activities begin at 9:00 am and include Senior Fitness Classes; Line Dancing; Indoor Bowling; Pickle Ball; Wii; Bocce and Shuffleboard; Crafts with Edie; Bridge; Scrabble; Pinochle; Golf, Phase 10 and more…. A Chef-prepared hot lunch is served at noon ($4.00), followed by an early afternoon activity with speakers; games; movies; or other entertainment. A free blood pressure clinic is offered monthly. Meal/activity calendars are available at the Niskayuna Community Center, Town Hall, and online at www.niskayuna.org; click on seniors, click on calendar or click on trips. We invite all area seniors to participate, and welcome suggestions for interesting and new programs. There is no membership fee and most activities are free of charge. We provide door to door bus transportation for Niskayuna residents aged 60 and older ($2.00 each way). Please come and join us. Call 372-2519 if you have any questions. Ask for Edie Cannizzo or Sue Leonard.

SPECIAL SENIOR EVENTS FOR SPRING 2009
Upcoming Activities Include:

***March 1 - April 30*: 5th Annual Senior Citizen Arts & Crafts Show** at Niskayuna Town Hall in the Town Board room. Join us for our "Meet the Artists" reception on **Thursday, April 23rd at 1:00 pm**.

***Friday, April 17*:** Trip to **Turning Stone Casino**

***Friday, April 24*: Rotterdam Square Mall**: *Join us for our monthly shopping trips to the local malls.*

***Sun, April 26*: "Murder at the Howard Johnson's"** at Stillwater Players Dinner Theatre for dinner and a show.

***Sunday, May 3*: "Enchanted April"** HMT-Spa Little Theater

***Wednesday, May 6*: Arkell Museum**, Canajoharie, NY

Tuesday, May 12: **24th Anniversary Celebration** of the Niskayuna Senior Center. Festivities begin at 11:30 am with a special luncheon. Reservations required. Call the Senior Center at 372-2519 for details. Luncheon $5.00

Monday & Wednesday, May 19 & 21: **AARP Defensive Driving Course** 9:15 AM - 1:15 pm at the Niskayuna Community Center. Must pre-register & attend both days. $12 AARP member $14 AARP non-member

Friday, June 6: Fenimore Art Museum and Farmers Market or Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY

Youth to Senior Program: ***We're looking for some enthusiastic middle school (must be entering 7th grade or older) and high school students to help improve the lives of Niskayuna senior citizens by volunteering time at the Niskayuna Senior Center. The Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm, year round, and offers a wide variety of projects, classes, entertainment and trips for older adults. This community service qualifies as hours spent towards satisfying requirements for the President's Volunteer Service Award, a national program coordinated locally by N-CAP.***

For more information, please call the Niskayuna Senior Center at 372-2519.

Be sure to check our website for upcoming summer trips….
Shows, museums, site seeing, cruise, and more…

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

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

Joe Landry
Supervisor

Town Council

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

NISKAYUNA DOG PARK

The Niskayuna Dog Park is located in Blatnick Park on River Road across the path from the Niskayuna Skate Park. The dog park is open year round, from dawn until dusk. The park is completely fenced and gated. All dogs must be leashed when outside the park, but may run freely within the fenced area. Niskayuna Dog Park tags are required for dogs to use the park, and are available at the Town Clerk's Office in Niskayuna Town Hall, Nott Street East (386-4510), weekdays between 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. To obtain a permit, owners must show proof of Niskayuna residency, and dogs must be licensed and have proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations. Niskayuna dog park permits are valid from August 1 through July 31 of the following year. The annual permit fee is $30 for first dog and $15 for each additional dog per family. Niskayuna residents 65 years and older may purchase annual dog park permits at half price. Beginning on March 1 of each year, residents may purchase tags valid for the remainder of the year (through July 31) and all of the following year for $45.00/$22.50 for senior citizens.

United States Census 2010

In the Neighborhood

U.S. Census workers are visiting your area to identify the addresses of all housing units for the 2010 Census.

Safe. Easy. Important.

U.S. Census Bureau
Boston Regional Census Center
One Beacon Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: (617) 223-3610
E-mail: Boston.PDSP@census.gov
This Notice Expires 6/30/09

IT'S IN OUR HANDS