

Niskayuna Town News



Fall 2009

Dear Neighbors,

This summer and early fall have been a busy time here at Town Hall. Our Highway Department has been out paving many miles of roadway and even reconstructing several streets. We appreciate your continued patience while we finish these improvements before the first snowfall. Our Water and Sewer Department has replaced several water mains, and all of the Town's commercial water meters, which will provide automated water readings and streamline the Town's billing process. Next, we will begin the replacement of residential meters to provide residents with improved convenience and accuracy.

In the last six months, in keeping with our priority of preserving open space, the Town Board passed resolutions that added almost 100 acres of parkland to Niskayuna; over 72 acres off of Consaul Road (Fieldstone Drive), with established hiking and walking trails, and another 23 acres at the end of Stanford Avenue. These trails and parkland are open to all residents, and I encourage you to enjoy them.

I am pleased with the positive response that our many new youth and recreation programs have received. Our online registration and communication process is working well, and we continue to look for ways to improve our website and information flow to all of our residents. We expanded our popular summer playground camps to include preschoolers and added a new location at Blatnick Park where older kids played golf, basketball, volleyball, tennis and caught many fish in the pond. Our fall recreational soccer program also now includes preschoolers, whose parents are always looking for opportunities for their children to exercise, socialize, and learn new skills. And speaking of exercise, I'd like to thank all of you who participated in the 1st Annual Nisky Fall Fun Run last month. Although I didn't actually run the race this year, I plan to make that my goal for 2010, and I hope to see you out there with me (or at least in front of me)!

One of my priorities as Supervisor has been to build partnerships between the Town and the many local community organizations which serve our residents. This year, the Office of Community Programs worked to partner with many of our Town's sports clubs to offer quality clinics, camps, and other recreational programs to the youth of Niskayuna. We hope to continue to build on these partnerships and to expand opportunities to connect a broader range of community organizations to our youth, adult and seniors in the upcoming year.

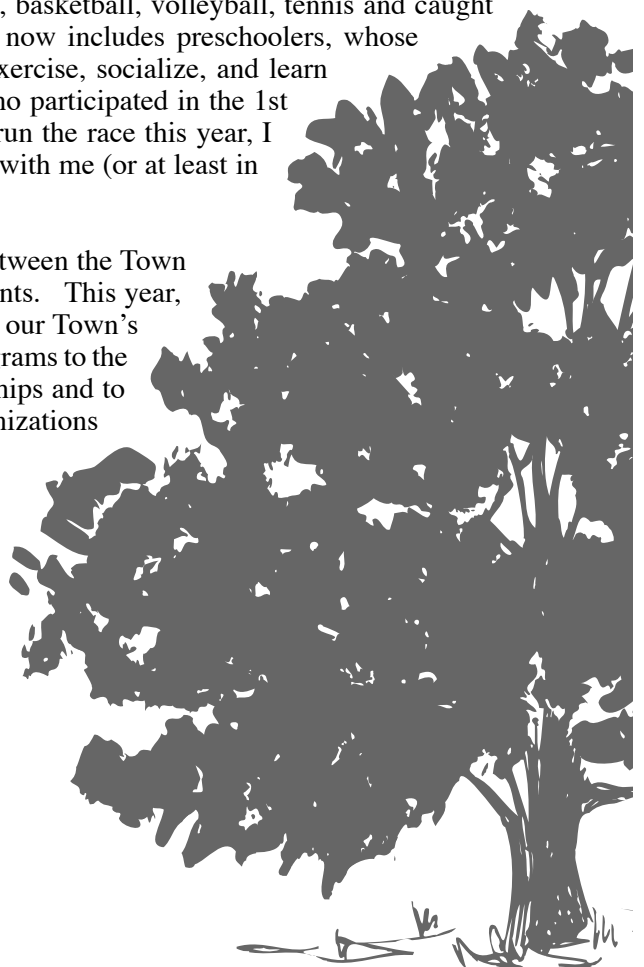
As the leaves begin to turn, remember to check the following pages of this newsletter or the Town website for your yard waste and leaf pick-up schedule. I encourage you to visit our website www.niskayuna.org when looking for any information on town services. This website is updated on a daily basis. Please remember if you ever need assistance to call my office at 386-4503.

Have a wonderful fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Landry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "L" and a checkmark at the end.

Joe Landry
Supervisor



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE:

Assessment information can be readily accessed from the Town of Niskayuna website, www.niskayuna.org. One of the ways to navigate this site for assessment information is from the home page. Click on **Town Departments**, then on Assessor. This will take you to the Assessor's page. Under the listing of office staff you will see **Additional Links** with a listing of the current reports. Simply click on the report you are interested in viewing. All reports list street names in alphabetical order. You may also navigate to the Assessor's information by clicking on **Residents** on the home page, then click on one of the categories under **Property & Property Taxes**.

Other Assessment Topics

- Exemption applications for low income seniors who are 65 years of age or older will be mailed in January 2010, and **must** be filed in the Assessor's Office **no later than March 1, 2010**.
- All Veterans new to the Town of Niskayuna should contact the Assessor's Office about exemption eligibility.
- All new homeowners should contact the Assessor's Office for STAR exemption information.

Should you have any questions, please call the Assessor's Office at 518-386-4550.



RECEIVER OF TAXES OFFICE

School Tax bills have been mailed, and payment is due by October 5. Anyone who should have received a bill, but didn't, should call the Tax Office for a copy. After the due date, a 2% penalty will be assessed until the collection closes on October 31.

Water Rent bills also have been mailed. That collection closes on November 1.

Schenectady County will be sponsoring its last free computer, TV, and fluorescent lighting recycling day in November. A fee will be charged for future recycling through the County. You can also visit our web site at www.niskayuna.org, or call the Town Clerk's Office at 386-4510 for details. As further details concerning the November recycling event and any other recycling events become available, they will be posted at www.schenectadycounty.com/hhw.

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Take advantage of this free rabies vaccination clinic to be held on Saturday, October 17, at the Duanesburg Fire Hall, Rt. 7, Duanesburg. Cats and ferrets will be vaccinated from 10 to 11 a.m., dogs from 11 a.m. – 12 noon. Bring previous rabies vaccination certificates. Dogs must be leashed, cats and ferrets must be in carriers. A cash donation will be appreciated. The next free clinic will be in February 2010.

Niskayuna Library Garden



Check out the library gardens!

The gardening volunteers have been busy on Thursday mornings all summer keeping the award-winning gardens at our Niskayuna branch library looking their best. We are happy to note that patrons of the library frequently stop to admire or ask about the many perennials and annuals that make the grounds a "must see" spot in our community. Weekly gardening, including weeding, mulching, pruning, new landscape planting, and fall clean-up will continue into October, or until there is a significant frost. Additional helpers, both men and women, are always welcome. The volunteers would especially like to have someone with an edger help to tidy up the borders of all the garden areas. If interested, please stop by on any Thursday morning at 9:30. For more information, contact Elaine at 377-4541.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Loose Leaf and Brush Pickup

As we do every year at this time, we will be picking up loose leaves and brush throughout the Town, except for certain areas (Troy Road, Balltown Road, and Union Street east of Balltown Road). Loose brush and loose leaf pickup schedules are:

Loose Brush Pickup

Zone 1	Week of October 12
Zone 2	Week of October 19
Zone 3	Week of October 19
Zone 4	Week of October 26

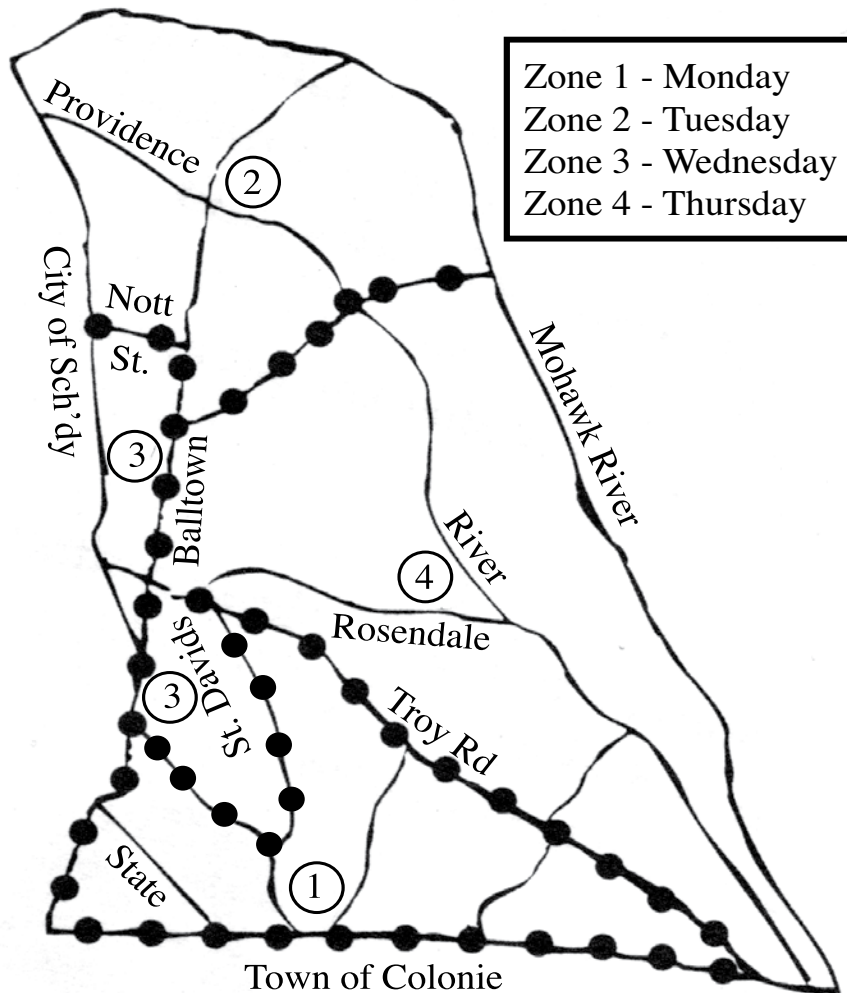
Loose Leaf Pickup

Zone 1	Week of Nov. 2 & Nov. 16
Zone 2	Week of Nov. 9 & Nov. 23
Zone 3	Week of Nov. 9 & Nov. 23
Zone 4	Week of Nov. 16 & Nov. 30

We will be picking up brush and leaves that are contained in biodegradable bags, barrels, pails, etc. Don't forget to paste the yellow "Niskayuna Yard Waste" stickers on all containers except bags. The maximum weight for each bag is 40 pounds, and the maximum size of a container is 32 gallons. Also, brush must be kept at a maximum length of 4 feet.

Please note that even though each zone is scheduled to be picked up twice, in the event of a heavy snowfall before your second scheduled pick up, you must put loose leaves into bags or other containers, as our machines are not equipped to handle wet, icy leaves.

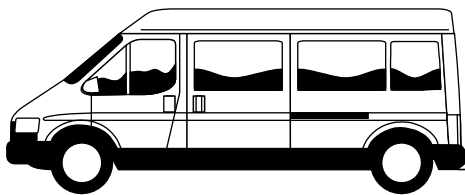
Please remember that loose leaves should not be raked and piled on the street. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.



ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

For information about the Niskayuna Senior Center
Please call Susan Leonard or Edie Cannizzo at
372-2519 (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday only)

Join the Niskayuna Seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays year round at the Niskayuna Recreation Center, which is located at 2682 Aqueduct Road. Activities begin at 9:00 AM and include Senior Fitness classes, Line Dancing, Indoor Bowling, Pickle Ball, American Corn Hole, Ladder Toss, Bocce Ball, Shuffleboard, Table Tennis, Crafts with Edie, Knitting, Crocheting, Scrabble, Bridge, Pinochle, Golf, Phase 10 and more... along with our NEW Wii Sports on our Big Screen TV! After a Chef-prepared hot lunch at noon, our afternoon activities include games, speakers, trips, movies and more. There is no membership fee, and many programs are free of charge. Join us on our shopping excursions, trips to shows, museums, luncheons, and more. Senior Activity calendars are available at the Recreation Center, Town Hall, and online at www.niskayuna.org.



BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

WHO: Niskayuna Residents, 60 yrs. & older

WHEN: Tues., & Thurs. pick up between 9:00 am – 2:30 pm for appointments 10:30 or later

WHERE: Destinations within Schenectady County

HOW: Call 372-2519 by noon the day before an appointment to reserve seat.

FEE: \$2/Ride

Our 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 bus on their own.

UPCOMING SENIOR CITIZEN TRIPS & EVENTS

Tues, Oct. 13th:

Decoupage Demonstration at the Senior Center by Edie Cannizzo

Sun., Oct. 18th:

Arkell Museum, Canajoharie & Lunch at Mercato's

Fri., Oct. 23rd:

Shopping at Colonie Center Mall and the Senior Expo

Fri., Oct. 23rd:

Lunch Bunch at the Olive Garden, Wolf Road, Colonie

Tues., Oct. 27th:

Baseball Art of Norman Rockwell-Senior Center by Richard Ratajak

Fri., Oct. 30th:

Trader Joes & Museum or Shopping at the Hampshire Mall, Hadley, MA

Tues., Nov. 17th:

Basket weaving demonstration at the Senior Center with Edie

Fri., Nov. 20th:

Lunch Bunch - Sonny's Restaurant, Ballston Lake

Mon., Nov. 23rd:

Trip to the Racino -- Saratoga Gaming and Raceway

December date TBA:

Holiday Luncheon and entertainment at the Senior Center

Thurs., Dec. 3rd:

'Grayairs' musical dance performance at the Senior Center

Thurs., Dec. 10th:

'Wicked' the musical at Proctors
December date TBA: Dinner at the Metro Diner & "Lights in the Park", Albany

NISKAYUNA COMMUNITY CENTER

The Niskayuna Community Center is located at 2682 Aqueduct Road in Niskayuna. It is a large, two-story facility that is used throughout the year for youth, adult and senior activities. It is also available to rent by residents of the Town of Niskayuna for private parties and other events. For more information, please call the Niskayuna Parks Department at 372-2519.

Visit the Niskayuna Parks 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.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN:

- CHESS INSTRUCTION (2 -6 week sessions 10/26 for ages 5 yrs. & older)
- FOOD FUNTASTICS (a 4 week program beginning 10/24 for grades 5th & 6th)
- FENCING (a 7 week program beginning 10/21 for ages 8-16 yrs.)
- FRIDAY NIGHT ROLLER SKATING (11/20 & 12/4 for 5th – 8th grade)

ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS:

- SCHENECTADY CHESS CLUB (a drop-in program for adults and young adults)

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department has continued to notice, throughout various neighborhoods of the Town, sporadic activity in theft of valuables left in unlocked cars overnight. Although a few incidents involved forced entry, the overwhelming majority of thefts reported are from cars that are left unlocked. Residents are encouraged to lock their cars and avoid leaving valuables inside them. The Department has prioritized the response to this problem with the increase of random preventative patrols during the evening and overnight hours, and several arrests for thefts have been made.

Should you see or hear anything unusual at your home, or at any home in the neighborhood, please report this observation to the police department immediately to ensure a timely police response. While we are out on patrol, an immediate call offers patrols the best opportunity to locate the subjects in question and determine if their activity is of a criminal nature. In many cases, a call from a concerned citizen can make a difference between an arrest and an open case which needs follow up. With the eyes and ears of our citizens and the dedication of our patrol division, we can make progress in responding to and addressing this problem.

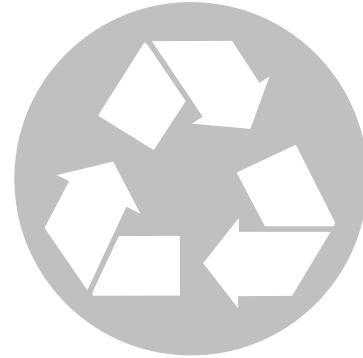
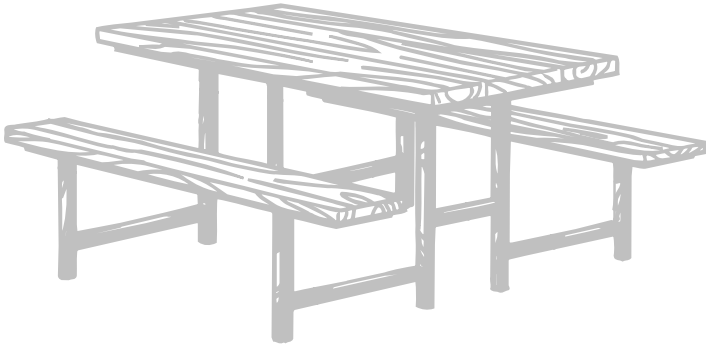
Prohibited Parking Reminder

Effective November 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010, overnight parking is prohibited in the Town of Niskayuna. Town Code Section 203-17 states, "The parking of vehicles is hereby prohibited on all highways within the Town between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from November 1 to April 1." During the month of October, the Police Department will place yellow notices on parked vehicles to remind residents of the law, after which offenders will be subject to being ticketed or have their cars towed away at their expense.

Section 203-27 of the Town Code also states that "No owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall park the same unattended on any town or county street or highway following any snowfall of three inches or more in depth until said street shall have been plowed by or at the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent of the Town of Niskayuna." One of the objectives of both Section 203-17 and 203-27 is to facilitate plowing operations during the winter season. Your compliance, therefore, will be greatly appreciated.

NISKAYUNA PARK PAVILIONS

The Town of Niskayuna maintains four parks with pavilions that are available for rental by town residents—Avon Crest Park, Blatnick Park, River Road Park, and the Community Center Park. Each park and pavilion is unique, with different facilities and amenities. Descriptions of these may be found on the town website. Pavilions may be rented beginning on January 1st of each year for use from May 1st through Columbus Day. Each rental requires, in addition to the rental fee, a \$200.00 security deposit, which is refundable if there are no damage or clean-up fees attributable to the rental. Please call the Niskayuna Parks Department at 372-2519 for more information.



NISKAYUNA TOWN PARKS

All Niskayuna town parks will close for the season by October 13, 2009. This means that bathrooms will be winterized and locked, and pavilions will be used to store picnic tables until next spring. Certain fields, including the lacrosse fields at the Niskayuna Recreation Complex Park on Aqueduct Road, the softball fields at River Road Park, and the soccer fields between Balltown Road and the Zenner Road parking lot at the Niskayuna Soccer Complex (fields 1 - 3) are closed for the season for maintenance. The soccer fields located between the Zenner Road parking lot and the fire station (fields 4 - 7) will be open until the recreation soccer season is completed at the end of October.

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.

NISKAYUNA DOG PARK

It's time to renew your dog park permits! 2009-2010 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. Owners of dogs without current tags who are found using the park will be ticketed. The dog park is located in Blatnick Park across the road from the Skate Park and behind the baseball fields. Please call the Niskayuna Parks Department at 372-2519 for more information.

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

Fire Hydrants

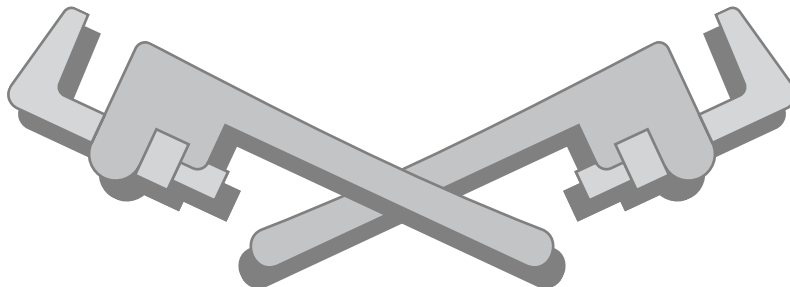
Fire hydrants need to be highly visible and readily accessible all the time for effective fire protection service. Excessive vegetation in the summer, piles of leaves in the fall, and snow in the winter obstruct visibility and hinder access to hydrants. Whether you do your own property maintenance or you contract it out, please make sure “your” hydrant is visible and accessible. With winter soon upon us, please don’t bury hydrants under piles of snow; if anything, help clear snow away from hydrants.



Water Main Replacement Projects

The Town replaced just over one mile of old water main this past summer, and plans to replace another 3500 feet of pipe later this fall. This summer, we replaced the water main on Niskayuna Road, Old River Road, the eastern end of Rosendale Road and the first block of Lisha Kill Road, just south of Troy Road. In addition to a new pipe, hydrants and standard valves were added to improve the system and to increase the “life expectancy” of the new pipe.

The next project to replace a water line will involve Whitney Road, and possibly a portion of Harris Drive. Plans have been drawn up and will be submitted to the NYS Health Department for approval. Depending on the bid results and contractors’ schedules, it is anticipated that construction will start in late October, and be completed this year.



Water Meter Replacement Project

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, the Town contracted for the replacement of all commercial water meters throughout the Town. Replacing the commercial meters was phase 1; replacing the household meters will be phase 2. At this point, phase 1 is almost complete and phase 2 will be starting later this fall.

The new meters have radio transmitters that allow our staff to remotely collect water meter readings from the street. These new units will do away with meter read cards, and will provide a more efficient means to collect data and generate accurate water bills. The new meters will also be more accurate than many of the older meters by virtue of their age. When this project is completed next year, we will have the ability to generate accurate water bills at lower cost. We will also be able to identify potential leaks in customers’ homes and notify them of unusual water consumption patterns. Please visit the Town of Niskayuna webpage (www.Niskayuna.org), or call our Water and Sewer Department at 377-8411 for additional information and for updates on the status of the program.

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



Joe Landry
Supervisor

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

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