

THE NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

A NEWSLETTER UPDATE FROM THE TOWN OF DRYDEN STAFF
93 East Main Street, Dryden, NY 844-8888 www.dryden.ny.us

March 2013



From the Supervisor: *Snowplows and their drivers*

The sun is shining. Bluebirds are house hunting outside my office window. This may be the weekend for tapping maple trees. Still, it seems likely that we'll have one or two more "snow events." To me, snow in the weather report means I should leave early for work. To the highway department's fourteen employees, it may mean a long day. They're all on call whenever snow is forecast.

I rode in one of those trucks once. The first step was about waist high and the floor of the cab was at eye level. I have special admiration for the guys who plow the steep hills. But even the flat routes include roads where the driving lane is only ten feet wide. The snow plows with wings are fourteen feet wide. So, the driver has to have an eye on the centerline and the shoulder, with its mailboxes, at the same time.

They're driving to work at 4:30 in the morning. It's dark and the roads haven't been plowed yet. Their day may be half over before I go to work. Or, it may still be snowing and they'll be plowing 'til dinner time. When I'm home late at night and I hear a snowplow, I'm pretty sure I know the driver's name. And I silently thank him and his co-workers on all eleven snowplow routes around Dryden.

Dryden Village Election March 19, 2012



Village of Dryden residents, remember to vote Tuesday, March 19, 2012. Mayor Randy Sterling, and challenger Jim Zimmer are competing for the office of Mayor. Six candidates are running for three vacancies on the Board of Trustees: Republicans Paul Rchetta, Mike Hattery and Dan Wakeman as well as Democrats Mary Ellen Bossack, Lisa Valentinelli and Mike Murphy.

DEC's Twin Sheds Management Plan

will guide the management of the 5,002 acre Twin Sheds Unit for the next 20 years. Twin Sheds includes the Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn State Forests covering about 8

square miles in Caroline and Dryden. It's called "Twin Sheds" because it drains to two watersheds: the Greater Lake Ontario basin to the north and the Susquehanna River Basin to the south. The plan is intended to balance long-term ecosystem health with current and future demands on the forest. DEC is seeking public comments on the draft plan which you can read here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/88726.html>

WHEN: Thursday, **March 7, 2013**, from 3:30 pm to 5:45 pm, and 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm

WHERE: At the **Tompkins-Cortland Community College Forum Room**, located at 170 North St., Dryden, New York. Directions to TC3 are here:

http://www.tc3.edu/about_tc3/map.asp

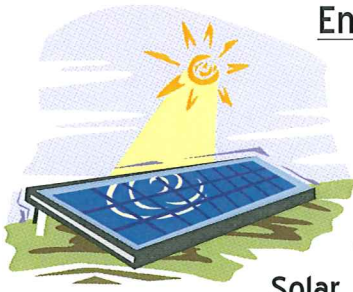
WHAT: To reach as many people as possible, two public sessions will be held; the first from 3:30 pm to 5:45 pm; the second session from 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm. The first half hour of each session will be an open house format with time for the public to informally discuss the draft plan with DEC Lands and Forest staff. Beginning at 4 and 7 pm, respectively, DEC staff will present highlights of the draft plan, after which, the public may comment on the plan. If you cannot attend the meeting please submit comments by mail to: NYSDEC, Division of Lands and Forests, Attn: John Clancy, 1285 Fisher Avenue, Cortland, New York, 13045- 1090, or by email to: jmclancy@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Written comments will be accepted until April 7, 2013.



See the winners of the Dryden Recreation Snowman contest here: <http://dryden.ny.us/departments/recreation/snowman>

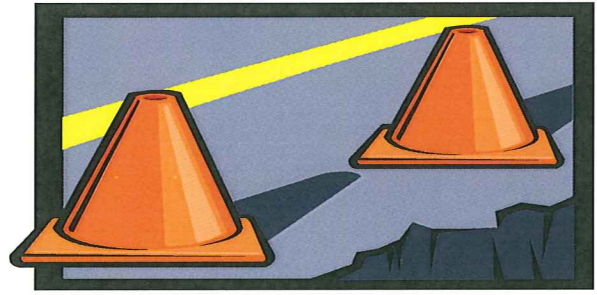




Energy Initiative

The Town of Dryden has entered into a contract with Solar Liberty in Buffalo, NY to lease and install Solar panels on the Highway Department barn and the Town Hall. The panels are expected to supply 100% of the barn's electricity needs in a year, and about 40% of the town hall's usage. "We're very excited to move forward with this," reported Town Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner. "We've taken a while to finalize the contract, but we've wanted to do this since we moved into the new town hall. Our geothermal heating and cooling system in the town hall uses a lot of electricity, and the barn has an enormous surface to support solar panels." The 15 year lease agreement with Solar Liberty guarantees that our savings on electricity will be greater than the cost of the lease. Lease payments total \$63,900 over 15 years. The panels will generate an estimated 71,000 kWh per year for a total saving of \$105,000 at current prices.

The panels will be installed as soon as weather allows. With a subsidy from NYSERDA, leasing the solar panels costs less than purchase and Solar Liberty will maintain them throughout the 15 year lease. "Solar Liberty does it all," according to Dan Kwasnowski, Director of Planning. "They have a division that installs the system, and then another division that provides the lease agreement. The town simply makes a lease payment of about \$400/month combined, and is guaranteed to save money - up to \$7,000 a year." The electricity converted by the solar panels is sold to the grid. According to Supervisor Sumner "We will have a credit balance in February through October. Only in November, December and January when the days are short, and the angle of the sun is low, will we be using more electricity than the solar panels generate."



Tentative Road Repairs for 2013

In addition to general road repairs town-wide, the following are tentatively slated for paving or surface treatment this year:

- Bone Plain Road at Sheldon Road to Scofield Rd.
- Red Mill Road at Hile School Road to Bridge
- Red Mill Rd. at W. Malloryville Rd to Hile School Rd.
- Mott Road at Cady Lane to Hart Rd.
- Hart Road at Rt. 38 - a distance of .2 miles.
- Upper Creek Rd at NYS Rt. 366 to Etna Road.
- Lower Creek Rd at Etna Lane to Pinckney Rd.
- Bailey Drive at Neimi Road to turnaround.
- Beam Hill Rd. at Irish Settlement Rd to seasonal.
- Beam Hill Rd at NYS Rt. 38 to seasonal.
- Bradshaw Road at NYS Rt. 392 to Walker Rd.
- Dug Rd at Beam Hill Road to NYS Rt. 38.
- Dutcher Road at NYS Rt. 13 to North Rd.
- Hunt Grove Rd. at Hunt Hill Road to turnaround.
- Kimberly Circle at Kimberly Drive to Kimberly Dr.
- Kimberly Drive at Lake Road to Keith Lane.
- Lailani Lane at NYS Rt. 13 to turnaround.
- Morris Rd. at W. Malloryville Rd. to Peruville Rd.
- Mt. Pleasant Rd at Turkey Hill Rd to NYS Rt. 366.
- Old Dryden Road at Gee Hill Road to NYS Rt.13
- Orion Drive at NYS Rt.392_to turnaround
- Peaceful Drive at Ellis Hollow Road to turnaround.
- Scenic Way at Ferguson Road to Scout Lane.
- Scout Lane at Scenic Way to turnaround.
- Simms Hill Road at Walker Road to NYS Rt. 13.
- Sunny Knoll Rd at Ellis Hollow Creek Rd to turnaround.
- Sweetland Road at Gulf Hill Road to NYS Rt. 13.
- Utility Drive at NYS Rt. 366 to turnaround.
- W. Malloryville Rd at Fall Creek Rd to bridge.
- W. Malloryville Rd at Peruville Rd to bridge.
- Walden Lane at NYS Rt. 34B to turnaround.
- Walker Road at Simms Hill Road to Bradshaw Rd.
- Wood Road at W. Dryden Road to swamp.
- Wood Road at Bone Plain Road to swamp.
- Hart Road at NYS Rt. 38 to Mott Rd.

Varna Road Improvements Funding

The Town of Dryden Planning Department has applied for funding to implement parts of the 2012 [Varna Community Development Plan](#). The plan proposes improvements to NYS Route 366 between “The Fox Bridge” and Game Farm Road. Proposed improvements include construction of sidewalks on both sides of the road, planted medians, crosswalks in strategic locations, speed indicators, and most dramatically, a small roundabout at the Freese Road and Mt. Pleasant intersection with Route 366. Two Department of Transportation programs are now accepting applications: the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the most common source of federal funds for highway projects, and the Strategic Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP), a new funding opportunity for projects that support sustainable economic development.

Negotiating the acronyms is Dryden Planning Director Dan Kwasnowski. “The applications are a long shot, but worth the effort,” reports Mr. Kwasnowski, who is also the Chair of the Planning Committee of the Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council. “The community supports the plan, and our STEP application nails all of the criteria 100%.” The town’s year-long planning project and the community support underlying it strengthen the project. Still, transportation funding is very limited.

The improvements proposed for Route 366 in Varna will help shape the community and encourage investment in Varna. Medians and a roundabout will provide traffic calming and safety on this important commuter route. “It’s exciting to think that we could have all of that in five years,” according to Jim Skaley, a resident of Varna and member of the ad hoc Varna Advisory Committee. “Sidewalks are extremely important here in Varna, for pedestrian safety and bicycle safety.”



The Varna Trail

The town is once again actively pursuing development of the Varna Trail to provide a direct, off-highway link from the end of the East Ithaca Recreation Way on Game Farm Road through the Varna Hamlet to Route 13 near NYSEG. “This is a great example of a project that everyone agrees would benefit the area, but one little glitch holds up the whole thing,” reports Planning Director Kwasnowski. The NYS Game Farm raises pheasants nearby “to help meet the demand for pheasant hunting opportunity.” Game Farm personnel believe a public trail passing through the wooded, brushy area north of the pheasant enclosures may endanger the birds. The alternative is a wide loop around the wooded area.

Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner and Planning Director Dan Kwasnowski recently met onsite with interested officials to discuss trail plans. For several reasons, the direct route on the railroad right-of-way is preferable if Game Farm security issues can be addressed.

The trail, when complete, will form another leg in the complex network of trails throughout the county. Completion of Ithaca’s Pine Tree Road project will provide a connection from the East Ithaca Recreation Way down to Pine Tree Road. The current bridge replacement on Route 13 near Lower Creek Road will accommodate a trail crossing under the bridge for future trail development toward the Village of Freeville.

We would love your feedback! If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered in a future newsletter, please let us know! Email secretary@dryden.ny.us or call at 844-8888 ext. 226.



If you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to receive future issues via email, please send an email request: secretary@dryden.ny.us . Thank you!