

THE NEWS FROM TOWN HALL...

A NEWSLETTER UPDATE FROM THE TOWN OF DRYDEN STAFF
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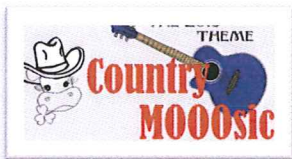
May 2013

From the Supervisor:



Most of the things I wanted to tell you about this month were eclipsed by the May 2 announcement of the court decision upholding our zoning prohibition of gas drilling – again. The case continues to receive national attention as “The Little Town That Could” and I’m proud of everyone who has contributed to this effort. The conversation about drilling and fracking will continue and the reasons for the conversation are becoming clearer as events unfold.

I recommend reading [The End of Country](#) by Seamus McGraw. When the author’s mother was approached by a landman wanting a gas lease, she asked her son to “look into it.” This non-fiction story tells what happened in a small Pennsylvania town as the author’s mother and her neighbors tried decided about whether or not to lease.



Dairy Day is Saturday, June 8 and the theme is “Country Mooosic!” What’s not to love? The Parade kicks off at 9:30 Saturday morning.

Festivities continue in Montgomery Park with music, games and food until 3:00. It’s great fun. You should come!

Statistics tell us that in the 1950s families enjoyed five or six picnics a year. Recently, only two. Let’s get that number back up. Plan an outing to one of [Dryden’s wonderful parks](#):

Dryden Lake Park, Montgomery Park, Von Engeln Preserve, Etna Community Park, Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve, Mill Dam Park and many more.



Supporting Community Events

On 4/18, the Dryden Town Board approved just over \$30,000 in Community Grant Funding. After vigorous review and evaluation of dozens of applications, the Town of Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission (DRYC) recommended town funding for seventeen community associations and program providers. Priority was given to applications that supplement existing programs by offered by the Recreation Department, serve a large number of Dryden residents, and have a significant positive impact on quality of life in Dryden.

Funds will support the youth Fire Academy offered by the Dryden Fire Department; family, youth and senior programs offered through Ellis Hollow and Varna Community Associations; Teen Summer Program at Southworth Library; and music programs at the Dryden Community Café.



Special events such as the Dryden Lake Festival and a new harvest festival at the historic Southworth House were also funded. The Ellis Hollow Community Center will receive funds to improve the drainage of their field and special event area. A volunteer group of Dryden parents were granted just over \$5,000 to implement Rachel’s Challenge, an on-going program geared to prevent bullying and increase confidence and compassion for middle school and high school aged children.

These programs enrich our community and we thank the not-for-profit groups that bring them to us.



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Town Saves Money and Reduces Emissions with Hybrid Fleet Vehicle

In March the Town of Dryden bought a Honda Insight hybrid car for use by code enforcement officials for daily on-site inspections. The decision to buy a hybrid was based primarily on operating costs. The Honda hybrid costs more, but over the lifetime of the car savings from increased fuel efficiency more than make up for the higher initial cost.

Previously, the town reimbursed the two code enforcement officers for more than 11,000 miles driven in their personal vehicles – both pickup trucks. Calculating purchase price, insurance, gas and maintenance, the town expects to save about \$2,500 a year for three years and still realize a substantial trade-in value.

The Insight gets 42 miles per gallon, compared to the 18 mpg achieved by the trucks used previously. This translates into saving 350 gallons of gas every year. Fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions are expected to plummet to less than half of last year's totals.

Code enforcement officers were skeptical at first about the transition to the smaller, two-wheel-drive vehicle, but are now cautiously optimistic. Says Officer Dave Sprout, "It certainly has great gas mileage. It goes for two or three weeks without filling up. It's gotta be saving the town money."

Hamlet of Varna Honored with Statewide Recognition

At its recent Annual Planning and Zoning Conference, the New York Planning Federation presented the Comprehensive Plan Award to the Hamlet of Varna for its Community Development Plan. The award is given each year by the NYPF to recognize a noteworthy comprehensive plan or plan update. The Varna plan was nominated by Jane Nicholson, Senior Planner for the Town of Dryden, who accepted the award along with Town of Dryden Director of Planning, Dan Kwasnowski.



Adopted in December of last year, the Hamlet of Varna Community Development Plan was created in response to increased development pressure in the surrounding communities. "The hamlet has experienced little growth since the 1950s," the nomination read, "and is unique in that it provides the comfort of a small town with immediate access to the conveniences of a city, as well as to neighboring Cornell University. In order to maintain character, enhance quality of life, improve the transportation system and encourage economic development and new uses in Varna, a plan was needed to help guide the future of the community."

The resulting plan focused on design and public participation. Input was gathered from public meetings and workshops, a community survey, the ad-hoc Varna Advisory Committee, and comments from landowners and developers. The completed plan includes components on community character, quality of life and transportation. Supporting documents specify new design guidelines, landscape standards and zoning districts in the hamlet. "The Hamlet of Varna Community Development Plan is a strong example of a comprehensive plan amendment developed in partnership with the community it serves," the nomination reads. "Using innovative design tools, it balances the need for growth and development with the imperative for sustainability. This unique plan will allow the Hamlet to move successfully into the future without losing the key elements of its past."