



Town of Saratoga News

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Warm Greetings

The month of April brings us even longer days, warmer temperatures, and the return of residents and birds that have spent the winter in warmer climates. The next meeting of the Town Board is scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. Some of the items that will be covered at this meeting include: zoning officer's report, town clerk's report, supervisor's report, committee reports, a public hearing on Mass Gathering Permits #1, #2, & #3 for regattas on April 25th - 26th, May 2nd - 3rd, and May 9th - 10th by the Saratoga Rowing Association. On Thursday, April 9th the Town Board will conduct their monthly agenda meeting at which they will review agenda items scheduled for the April 13th meeting.

Schuyler Park Update 2014 Annual Report

The Schuyler Park Committee is pleased to report that 2014 was another successful year. We continue to work closely with FRIENDS OF SCHUYLER PARK, The Towns of Saratoga and Northumberland, the Schuylerville Central School, the Old Saratoga Athletic Association (OSAA) and Schuylerville Youth Lacrosse, for the benefit of all.

The FRIENDS OF SCHUYLER PARK is our 501-c3 not-for-profit arm for fundraising and capital projects. They have an excellent Board of Directors that is forward thinking and excited about their fundraising efforts. 2014 events included a ladies night at Saratoga Winery in March and an outdoor movie night at the park in September. We thank FRIENDS, and Smith Signs, for designing and erecting a new display sign at the park entrance. Not only is it a great sign that improves the entrance visibility, but events and announcements are able to be posted on it, which has been very well received. With the new sign in place, we removed the original sign that was beautifully painted by Sue Reynolds and hung it on the back wall of the pavilion where is proudly displayed for all to enjoy.

We continue our strong working relationship with both the Towns of Northumberland and Saratoga and with the Schuylerville Central School for usage and maintenance of the fields. We thank Northumberland for their maintenance help with the parking lots and roadways and we thank Saratoga for handling the snow removal and for clearing trees and brush at the entrance. That really opened things up and greatly improved visibility both of the park itself, and for traffic exiting the park. We thank the school staff for helping to prepare the softball and soccer fields. Both OSAA and Youth Lacrosse continue to expand their programs and their use of Schuyler Park. Practices, games and tournaments are held daily and most weekends throughout the spring and fall with hundreds of kids participating in soccer, softball, baseball and lacrosse.

Schuyler Park ctd.

Volunteers from both organizations also spend countless hours helping with the fields. Soccer camps were also conducted again in the summer.

Collins Turf Services served as our field maintenance contractor again in 2014. Jim and his crew do a great job and the fields continue to be in excellent condition. We laid the soccer fields out in a different configuration this year and we continue to encourage all coaches to rotate their play patterns as much as possible to reduce the wear and tear on the fields. The Pavilion and playground areas continue to be enjoyed by families during sibling practices, as well as for general play and stand-alone events. We had several scheduled pavilion uses during the year, primarily for birthday parties and reunions. These scheduled events are posted on line on our web site use schedule. Plaques were added to the memorial benches at the playground area and the benches were dedicated by the Thomas and Cummings families.

We did have a couple personnel changes in 2014. Dan Gale moved out of the Town of Northumberland and although he still resides in the Schuylerville School District, he is no longer a Committee member. We sincerely thank Dan for his years of service and we are indebted to him for his leadership and commitment to the Park's success. Dan remains active and involved with Friends of Schuyler Park and he continued his role maintaining and overseeing the field and pavilion schedule as well as assisting with the soccer field layouts. We welcomed John Delisle to the Committee in Dan's seat. John is on the Northumberland Town Board and is a great addition to the Committee. Tom Stayer took on the role of Committee Co-Chair as the Northumberland representative, along with Laurie Griffen as the Saratoga representative. We were very pleased that Tim Blanchard, a Town of Saratoga employee, began assisting with minor park projects and general oversight a few hours per week as needed. We had discussed the need for such assistance for the past year, and as the usage and demands have grown, this was a logical step. Tim has been a great addition to our management program.

Finally, we began a renovation/expansion project in the fall, with the goal of having a new regulation softball and a multi-use regulation baseball/softball field ready for Spring 2015. The plan is to also add additional parking on the west side near the fields, as the increased use will dictate additional parking needs. We are excited by the progress that has been made and the recreational opportunities we are providing our residents. Schuyler Park has become a focal point of our community, with activity and use increasing each year. We look forward to a successful 2015.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Assessor's Office continues to update our file for the 2015 Assessment Roll. We have been working on a Townwide Update for 2015. Notices of changes to your assessment were mailed the beginning of April. If there has been no change to your current value, you will not receive a notice.