

Town of Hammond Newsletter



2018 Edition—New Town Office Building Plans

Provided by: Indian River Lakes Engineering PLLC

Please enjoy our 2018
Newsletter from the
Hammond Town Board!

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EXCITING MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE ~

Hammond is experiencing exciting times! The Town Board is moving forward from the concept to reality stage of our new municipal building—which is anticipated to break ground in Spring of 2019!

Several years ago, our Town Board explored the idea of a NEW Town Hall. Through the extreme generosity of Donald Ceresoli, Sr., our Town was gifted the former *Home Restaurant* building to be renovated into town offices—housing the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Court, Assessor, Code Enforcement, Town Board meeting room and Library. A new municipal building will provide necessary and improved office space as well as the opportunity to return our current Town Hall into its former glory: *An Opera House*. In Hammond's early years, our existing Town Hall served as an entertainment venue promoting cultural activities and experiences.

As with all projects, our Board analyzes the pros and cons associated with making decisions on behalf of our taxpayers. While deciding to move forward with a new Town Building, we considered renovating the existing restaurant structure (given to us) versus the cost of new construction. Due to the renovations required to house our various departments, it was determined that the cost of repairing the restaurant building created multiple financial issues. Thus, a decision was made to tear it down completely, allowing for proper design and use.

Two years ago, the Board began a 50' x 80' building plan/study to narrow down many aspects of the new floorplan. Discussions began with the United States Department of Agriculture's Office (USDA) in Canton, NY, to secure necessary financial assistance to undertake this project. The Town has received prior financial assistance from the USDA to purchase one of our new plow trucks. Supervisor Bertram along with Councilmen Delosh and Pitcher sat down with representatives from the USDA to learn the financial procedures required to bring our building plan to fruition. It is the Town Board's position that our current fiscal obligations will not interfere with the successful completion of this project. At this time, it can be positively projected that the Town will obtain proper bonding and funding needed for construction—and it can be accomplished with minimal, if any, tax liabilities (*none anticipated!*).

By simply using the USDA lending service, a \$50,000 Grant will be offered to the Town. Library and Courtroom grants are also one of the Board's available revenue sources for this project, lessening the overall cost of construction. USDA funding is anticipated to be between \$650,000-\$750,000 before grants, with a 25-year payoff.

We invite you to review the complete building design and floor plans on our website: www.TownOfHammondNY.com. The new building will be ADA compliant, provide fireproof records storage and will include security requirements—ensuring employee and public safety.

As representatives of your Town Board, we are proud to be working for the betterment of the Town of Hammond and will continue to focus on the future needs of our community. It takes many ideas and perspectives to cultivate an action that benefits the place we call home. We believe a new municipal office building will continue to keep Hammond a vibrant community for decades to come—creating a place everyone can be proud of today and in the future.





PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS & NEWS ~

The Town Board would like to thank Thomas Chapman for his many years of service and dedication to the Town of Hammond on our Planning Board. We would also like to congratulate Gregory Demick and Annamarie DeStefanis on their recent appointments. They now join Bill Billings, Jr., Kent Hollister and David Burton on the board. The administrative and regulatory roles of the planning board include review of site plans, special use permits and subdivision plans. Recently the planning board approved—with contingencies—an application for a meat processing facility (now pending an Article 78). Meetings take place at 7 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for those wishing to stay abreast of developments in our Town and Village.

TOWN DOCK SAFETY & NEWS ~

Last spring was an experience that will go down in the record books as a year that “Mother Nature” was not as friendly as one would wish for. Water levels on the St. Lawrence River rose beyond recognition causing widespread shoreline damage and making it difficult for small businesses who depend on summer enjoyment. Access to many river properties was almost nonexistent. The Board recognized safe access to the river needed to be addressed. Many residents attempted to launch their watercraft from the main dock which was under water and covered with moss (the ramp was poorly visible). Our Highway Department, along with help from Councilmen Delosh, Demick and Pitcher reconstructed a walkway to assist the launching of boats—making the town dock system a safe environment for all.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM ENJOYS MANY TRIPS ~

Any senior citizen wishing to get involved with the Town’s programming can contact Mary Bowden at: (315) 324-5472. In 2017 the group enjoyed a few trips! In March, 25 people experienced “Rhythm of the Dance” performed at Brockville’s Art Center. In July, 36 people went to Upper Canada Playhouse in Morrisburg to see “Boeing, Boeing.” In December, 25 people ventured to SUNY Potsdam’s Hosmer Hall to enjoy the famous “Vienna Boys Choir.” What an experience! They were one of four ensembles touring, with boys aging from 10-14 and a very spirited choirmaster who brought out the best of them. In the past years bus tours have taken them to Alex Bay, Rockport (Canada), Old Forge, Stillwater and plays in Potsdam and OCA. An annual dinner was organized by Mary Mazurkiewicz who also does all calling for trips. The dinner was held at the Village Community Hall with 35 attendees; 50 people attended the previous year. The group thanks the Town Board for purchasing tickets and providing a bus driver, Max Milsap.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM EXPERIENCES SUCCESS ~

We wish to thank Cory Tanner for his many years of service as Youth Program Coordinator. The Town now welcomes Coach Kevin Toland as our new coordinator in 2018. Last year’s spring/summer sports season encompassed a total of 52 boys and girls from ages 7-13. Boys baseball fielded 2 teams, one Senior League team boys 10-13 and one Junior League team ages 7-10. Both teams participated in the Ogdensburg Kiwanis league during the spring/summer season. Kevin Toland and Nick Gardner dedicated their time to these two groups. The girls fielded 2 teams, a 10u team coached by Andrew Hodgdon and a 13u team coached by Yvette Barney and Mike Roberts. Coach Hodgdon guided his 10u club to the NNYASA championship game, but the girls fell to the Watertown Pride by one run in the last inning. Coach Barney and Roberts did a terrific job with their group after Alexandria Bay and Hammond merged to form HATS (Hammond/Alex-Bay Town Softball). Both groups showed vast improvements and overall had a terrific year in 2017. The Town wishes to sincerely thank this year’s coaches (Micah Neuroth, Brandon Webster, Allen Howie and Andrew Hodgdon) for their time, pride and dedication in coaching our youth—good luck to all teams in 2018!

TOWN ASSESSMENT NEWS ~

Hammond proudly maintains the lowest tax rate in St. Lawrence County! Town Assessor Steve Teele has been frequently updating data on real property to maintain a 100% assessment equalization rate. Change of assessment notices were mailed to property owners on May 1st. **Grievance Day is Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018**—please contact: assessor@cantonnewyork.us or (315) 324-5321 Ext 14 if a grievance appointment is needed.



Deputy Supervisor (Doug Delosh) and Deputy Highway Superintendent (Van Amyot) worked on town docks in Chippewa Bay last spring



Completed Town Dock System ~ Summer 2017 ~



Town of Hammond Summer Youth Softball Team (Girls Division 2017)



DREAMS FOR HAMMOND'S OPERA HOUSE BEGIN ~

Deputy Supervisor Doug Delosh along with Councilman Howard Demick and Jim Pitcher are exploring options regarding the transformation process of our current Town Hall building to its original form as an entertainment hall. Preparations include understanding the scope and directions the Town Board can take moving forward, allowing for fruitful conversations to take place. Doug and Howard will be meeting with Heuvelton's Pickens Hall, the Edwards Arts Council and Ogdensburg Command Performances—all of which have successfully completed projects of this nature. Supervisor Bertram contacted Clayton's Opera House. More info will be compiled and brought forth as time progresses on this exciting endeavor.



SEARCH & FOLLOW:

"Hammond Town Clerk and Community Connections" on Facebook for town meeting dates/events and area info from our Clerk, Pam Burton



TOWN CLERK NEWS & RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULED ~

Town Clerk Pam Burton encourages pet owners to attend the **Town and Village Rabies Clinic on Wednesday, May 23rd from 6:00-7:30 PM at the Town Barn.** Three-year vaccinations are available with a current rabies certificate. The Town provides a discount for eligible Hammond residents through SpayNeuterNow.org or by calling: (315) 486-0094. More area Rabies Clinics are scheduled throughout the year (contact the clerk's office). Thank you to all who are cooperating in Hammond's current Dog Census—it is NY State Law that all dogs four months old *and older* be licensed in the town they reside. In other news: 2018 election info as well as notary services are available during office hours. Up-to-date tax info and previous tax receipts are available at: TaxLookup.net. As "Record's Manager," Pam is pleased to report that the oldest Town Minute Book from 1912 has been fully restored! Find & Follow "*Hammond Town Clerk and Community Connections*" on Facebook to stay connected.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATES ~

Highway Superintendent Don Greene reports we have a brand new 2018 "Western Star" dump truck in our fleet. We anticipate receiving \$129,500 in funds from the *Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)* in 2018. A new fire alarm system was installed at the Town Barn and is monitored 24/7 by Barkley's in Canton. Lon Hollister (a 10-year employee) retires in May and Tod Youngs (a 3-year part-time employee) will be joining the department in July. Don Greene and Supervisor Bertram are working diligently with FEMA on Chippewa Bay's dock system—collaborating on cost, repair and upgrade efforts due to last year's high water.



TOWN OF HAMMOND'S FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS ~

Hammond's Library is in the Town Hall on Main Street—offering computers, magazines, DVD's, workshops as well as children and adult programs. Four new computers and a new router were recently purchased for public benefit. Librarian Sherrie Moquin offers a children's program each month where kids can read, snack and enjoy a craft. Summer Hours are May-September: Mon: 5-8:00 PM; Tues. and Weds: 12:30-5 PM; Thurs: 12:00- 5 PM and Saturday: 9 AM– Noon. Stop in to use this great community resource! For complete summer event information call: 315-324-5139.



What a way to go!
(Lisa Proven, cutting her retirement cake)

WELCOMING A NEW TOWN JUSTICE ~

The Town Board would like to congratulate Mr. Fred Paddock for being voted in as one of Hammond's new Town Justices. Mr. Paddock now shares "*the bench*" with Ms. Sonja Kocan, our present sitting judge. We would like to express our appreciation to Mrs. Lisa Proven for her 27 years of service to our community—happy retirement, Lisa!

CODE ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION ~

Code Enforcement Officer James Gleason continues to oversee that building standards are in line with NYS codes. Info relating to permits and fee schedules can be viewed on our Town website. Get a jump on spring—get your permit early! Office hours are Monday & Saturday: 9–11 AM.

HAMMOND HONORS 200th ANNIVERSARY OF SCOTTISH SETTLERS ~

Our Town was officially founded in 1827. However, 2018 marks the 200th Anniversary of our *Scottish Settler Heritage*. Town Historian Donna Demick encourages our community to attend this summer's historic **Scottish Festival celebrations taking place July 14th-22nd**. The Hammond Museum is pleased to announce its new and improved website: www.HammondMuseum.com dedicated to preserving and promoting our local history—new volunteers and advocates welcome!



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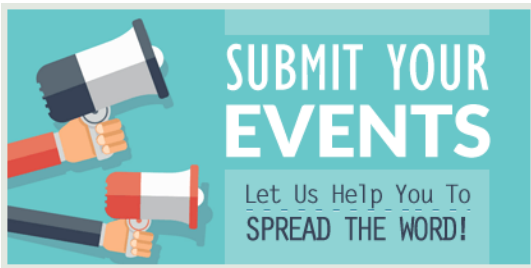
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MEETING DATES & TIMES.

TOWN BOARD -

2ND Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Town Hall

PLANNING BOARD -

3RD Wednesday, 7 PM, Town Hall

TOWN CONTACT INFO.

TOWN CLERK.



Phone—(315) 324-5321 Ext. 11

Fax—(315) 324-5302

hammondtownclerk@gmail.com

www.TownOfHammondNY.com

TOWN CLERK OFFICE HOURS.

Monday, 9 AM – 4 PM

Tuesday – Thursday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Office closed on all legal holidays



PURPOSE & MISSION OF OUR NEWSLETTER ~

A lot goes on in the Town of Hammond and it is our goal as Board Members to maintain your trust in protecting the public *health, safety* and general *welfare* of our residents. We realize not everyone is able to attend our monthly Town Board meetings. As a result, the Town's official *newsletter* is made available once per year to communicate the business and workings of our Town Board on your behalf. The *purpose* of the Town of Hammond's newsletter is to provide transparent information on Town Board business and Town Council actions; to update the public with accurate and accessible information concerning Town services and to inform citizens of government operations, meetings, events, decisions, activities and similar information about Town departments. It is our goal to maintain positive information flow between residents, taxpayers and Town officials at all times.

COMMUNITY EVENT LISTING SERVICE ~

There are many exciting events to be a part of in our special community! If you own or operate a business, non-profit organization, club/group, school group, religious organization or if you're planning an event that would benefit the Town of Hammond's citizens, we welcome your submissions to our ongoing and **FREE Community Listing of Events Service** (online)—made possible through cooperation with our Town Clerk's office. Please email (in a WORD Document) your event's name, date, time and location to hammondtownclerk@gmail.com to publicize your event on "Hammond Happenings." This list of events can be printed at home, picked up at the Town Hall and is searchable by residents/visitors online (24/7) at www.TownOfHammondNY.com.

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER OF RECORD ~

The official newspaper for Town notices in our community is the *Watertown Daily Times*. For those wishing to stay informed on Town Board meeting summaries, the *Thousand Islands Sun* reports on our meetings monthly (which is appreciated). News and event submissions can be submitted to the TI Sun (tisun@gisco.net or 315-482-2581) every Monday **before** 5 PM. We encourage citizens to use these publications' services to communicate to our residents.

Wishing you a GREAT summer on behalf of our entire Town Board!

Ron Bertram | Doug Delosh | Howard Demick | Jim Pitcher | Jim Tague

Supervisor

Deputy Supervisor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman