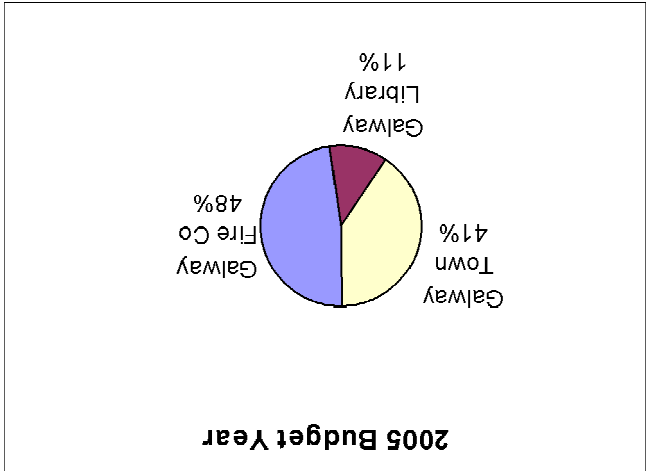
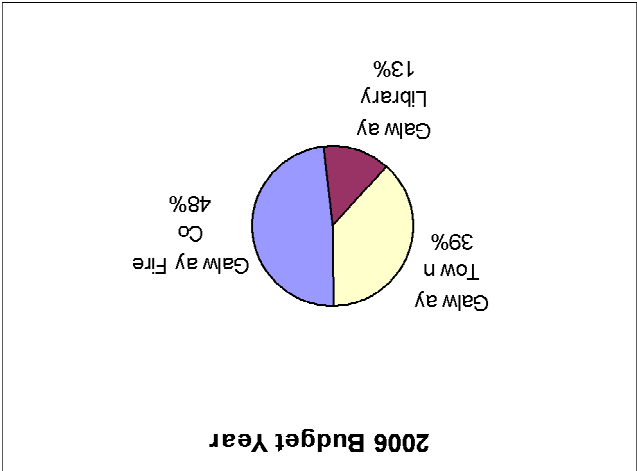


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Galway Resident



GALWAY READER

Published by the Town of Galway

Spring 2006

Supervisor

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful holiday. I want to thank the Town Board, the residents of Galway for their support. It has been a very good year and I am looking forward to working with the various boards.

The Tax bills should have been received by the time this newsletter is mailed. The Town Board has worked very hard on the budget and has once again held the line on our expenditures.

The various tax rates are:

	2006	2005
County	\$2.35	\$2.50
Library	\$0.24	\$0.19
Highway	\$0.69	\$0.70
Harmony Fire Dept.	\$1.65	\$1.54
Galway Fire Co.	\$0.90	\$0.83
Special Lighting Dist	\$0.36	\$0.37

I would like to remind the residents that it is illegal to push snow onto the highway, a very dangerous practice. Because of this, we have to send the plows out numerous times to clear the snow. This means that we are wasting fuel, not to mention wear and tear on the equipment and causing additional payroll expense.

George Hargrave
Galway Town Supervisor

Town Government Phone Numbers

Town Hall Phone:	882-6070
Town Clerk	X10
Town Supervisor	X12
Justice Clerk	X15
Fax Machine	X21
Town Highway Dept:	882-6651
Fax Machine	882-5325

Highway

Here we are in a new year and we now have all the latest mail box equipment. Last year we put the laser mail box sights on the trucks and this year we have added the *AJAX Mail Box Crusher* to each town truck. With the aid of the precision laser sighting this machine goes into operation. Two mechanical arms grab the mail box in mid-air, brings it back to the truck where it is crushed to its smallest possible size and then tossed back to the side of the road. Got to love modern technology!

Taking the subject of mail boxes seriously, please remember if you have a prize mail box you should remove it for the winter months and replace it with a standard metal mail box. If we should happen to HIT your mail box (not the snow) we will replace the box with a standard issue metal box. We do not replace your prize mail box with another prize mail box.

Another thing to keep in mind during the winter months is where you deposit your driveway snow. Remember it is against Vehicle and Traffic Law as well as Town Highway Law to push snow into the road or on the R.O.W. across the road. You may be liable if the hazardous condition you create by leaving snow in these areas causes an accident.

Over the past year and a half the Highway Department has been working on FEMA projects as a result of the heavy rains during the end of May 2004. We have replaced large culvert pipes on Mechanic Street, Peaceable Street and Crane Road as well as ditch and shoulder work. Ditching and shoulder work was also done on Consaul and Edwards Hill Roads. Scour protecting was completed on the bridge on Hermance Road near the intersection of Lake Road. We are still waiting to hear about a bridge replacement on Parkis Mills Road. The broad scope of this FEMA work was completed by your Highway Department in addition to the normal road construction and

Cont'd on page 10

Town Assessor

Will you be 65 in 2006? If so, you should see if you qualify for 2 tax exemptions – the enhanced STAR (a larger version of basic STAR) and the senior exemption (the size of the exemption depends on your income).

All resident owners must be 65, except for married couples, only one of which need be that age.

For enhanced STAR, the combined income listed on the income tax return filed in 2005 (2004 income) must be less than \$66,051. Please call me for information on the definition of “income for STAR purposes”.

For the senior exemption, the 2005 income must be under \$27,900, everything included – add up all the 1099 income forms mailed to you in January.

Don't worry about the details, just call me and we'll figure it out. Use my voice mail anytime, and I'll call when I'm back in the office.

Remember, all exemption applications have to be filed by March 1, 2006.

TRACY R. KILLEEN, IAO
Assessor
882-6070, extension 17

Story Quilt

The Story Quilt, a literary, social history project of the Galway Public Library, has received a second consecutive grant from the Saratoga Council on the Arts. The one page, free verse poems that compose the Story Quilt collection were contributed by the residents of Galway. Each poem, like patches of a quilt, depicts moments in time, people, places that frame the Galway character and heritage.

The over 200 submissions received were contributed by people of all ages, by natives and newcomers to the community. Poems were either drawn from the writer's direct experience or shaped from stories obtained through interviews with other members of the community. Collaborating on the project are the Galway Preservation Society, Galway Central School and Galway Players, among other community organizations.

The Story Quilt Editorial committee, writers from the community, contributed their own poems to the Story Quilt and helped shape the stories gathered through interviews into free verse poems. The

project included workshops conducted by professional poets and writers at the library, school and preservation society.

In 2005 the Story Quilt poems were performed for over 350 people at: the Poetry Zone of the Saratoga Springs Public Library, Galway Central Schools, the Galway Public Library and at the Galway Preservation Society and Cafe Lena.

“The real story behind the Story Quilt,” says Mary Cuffe-Perez, Project Director, “is the groundswell of community participation and pride it has generated.”

The project has heightened awareness among the residents of the special attributes that make living in Galway at once unique and yet very much a part of the American heritage.

During 2006, members of the Story Quilt project team will continue to collect stories, develop poems and conduct workshops in anticipation of publication of the collection in 2007.

Contributions for the Story Quilt will be sought through 2006. Those who wish to contribute poems, have a story to tell about their Galway experience, or would like to be a part of this exciting project, are invited to email Mary Cuffe-Perez at mcuffeperez@aol.com or calling 882-1456.

This program is made possible in part with funds from the Decentralization program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), administered by the Saratoga County Arts Council.

For more information, contact: Mary Cuffe-Perez, Director, 882-1456 or 442-4030 (mcuffeperez@aol.com)

Preservation Society

The Galway Preservation Society announces the following upcoming programs:

February 6, 2006, "Five Generations of the Donnan Family Farming in Galway"

March 6, 2006, "History of Bob's Trees"

April 3, 2006, "Clocks and Watches" by Dr. Roger Malebranche.

All meetings are held at 7:15 p.m. at the Town Hall on Rte. 147, and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

Historian

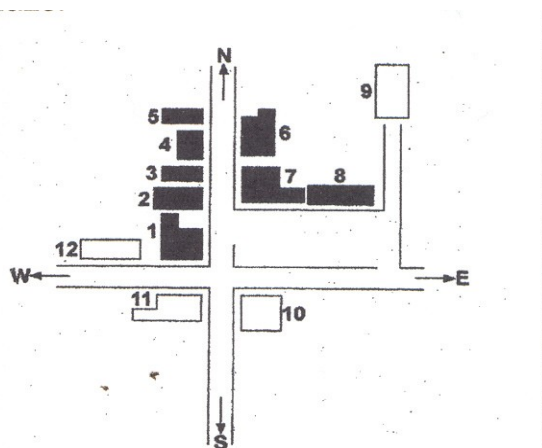
We have noticed that many of Galway's new residents as well as some of the long time residents are unaware that the village of Galway for the most part was destroyed in a huge fire in 1908. For these readers we are offering this brief summary of this episode in the history of Galway Village.

By the early 1900's the village of Galway was made up of stores, hotels, livery stables, churches, manufacturing facilities and was considered the center of a prosperous farming community. On September 17, 1908 a fire started in a barn located next to the Christopher Columbus Shayne livery which was on the north-west corner of the village crossroads. (The Galway Market is now there). The fire burned Shayne's livery, the barn it started in, Willard's store then the Willard residence plus one more residence to the north before crossing the street to McPherson's Hotel then to the Robinson Brothers store and attached storage building. It then jumped to the Van Henning Hotel and destroyed it. A shed in the rear of the hotel was torn down thus preventing the fire from reaching the barn, which stands today, a part of The Village Home and Garden business establishment.

A few years later, in a nearby town, a convicted arsonist allegedly confessed to starting the Galway fire. He is said to have spent the night before the fire in Shayne's barn.

We would also like to remind our readers of the fine scale model of Galway Village as it was before the fire of 1908. This model is located at Town Hall for viewing by anyone interested in Galway Village history. This model, at one time, was on display at the Saratoga County Fair.

There are also color post cards available that show this scale model from various angles plus black and white post cards with actual photographs of the ruins after the blaze.



Map Legend:

1. Shayne livery
2. Barn (fire started here) Also owned by C.C. Shayne
3. Willard Bros store
4. Willard residence
5. Residence
6. McPherson Hotel
7. Robinson Bros. Store, P.O. and storage bldg.
8. Van Henning Hotel
9. Barn (now part of Galway Home & Garden)
10. Presbyterian Church
- 11 . Residence
12. Residence

Buildings shaded in black were destroyed.

Phyllis Keeler, Town Historian

Tom Cwiakala, Deputy Town Historian

History of the Historian

One of the lowest profile but most important positions in local government is that of Town Historian. The job involves making sure that official documents are archived, stored safely and well preserved so we and those who follow us will always be able to access and research our community's history.

With more than 35 years of continuous service, Mrs. Phyllis Keeler, is one of the longest serving Town Historians in New York State, a fact often unrecognized by most of us.

As part of a course in Historical Agency Administration and Practice that town resident Mike Flinton completed at UAlbany this Fall, Mike tape recorded an interview with Phyllis. The "oral history project" involved research on the position of town historian and detailing the many responsibilities that Phyllis and others go quietly about doing around the state. It is most often a low profile job, (true historians prefer it that way) but always an essential one. You would be surprised to learn the number of ways a town historian's work can help you better understand where your community came from, how it works now, and where it may be headed in the future. Phyllis also goes way beyond the job's mandates to collect family histories, public events, school historical program information and much more.

Cont'd next page

History of the Historian (Cont'd)

Mike asks us to thank Phyllis, and Town Supervisor, George Hargrave, for their support and willingness to share information about how she does her job and what it means to our local government. He also recommends that the next time you see her, take a moment to ask Mrs. Keeler what it is that she does for us. She'll be happy to tell you, and you'll be better off for having asked."

Writers Group

A new Writers' Group will begin meeting at the Galway Public Library on the second Tuesday of each month 7 p.m. All writers of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, etc. are welcome to attend, share works in progress, and enjoy the opportunity to meet with others interested in writing.

Galway Open Space Exploration

Galway Open Space Exploration & Education Committee (E&E) had its first official meeting at Town Hall on Monday evening, December 12th. The mission for this newest citizens group is "to draw public attention to the hard facts about our town's growth, to educate our citizenry about basic conservation measures available to us – including terminology, zoning and planning initiatives – as well as to highlight resources available to help realize the kind of land conservation we hope to achieve."

Our belief is that a sound understanding of the issues of burgeoning growth and development in Saratoga County, will help us all to make good decisions for Galway's future. To that end, we will periodically distribute educational bits (through this newsletter, through flyers posted around town, through periodic town meetings, to name a few). *We also sense the need to distribute information more regularly to interested Galway citizens. If you'd like to be included in future town-relevant email communications please forward your contact information to either Dave Balbian (DRB23@ATT.NET) or Marsha Boelio (MBOELIO@AOL.COM)* The December 12th meeting was well attended by a group of concerned and energetic citizens. We determined that our efforts to define and explain the issues for our citizens will benefit us all, as the new proposed zoning laws

for Galway are formulated and enacted.

It was decided that a booth on the Galway Green on Memorial Day will be a great way to get our message out. A contest to create a decal and a tag line (for example "Keep Galway Green" or "Keep Galway Rural") will be offered to our students, and the resulting decal will be available for sale at our booth. Our next meeting at town hall is scheduled for Monday evening, January 16th at 7:00 PM. All are invited. Feel free to contact either Dave Balbian (882-9803) or Marsha Boelio (882-1336) for more information.

Cross Country Skiing

The Galway Youth Commission and Tree Haven Trails located at Bob's Trees, will once again offer discounts to Galway youth and their friends and family on cross county skiing and snowshoeing. Galway youth and those from towns participating with the Galway Youth Commission programs can fill out a registration form which will be available at your school office or the Galway Town Hall. Family and friends of registered youth are also welcome and will receive a special price reduction. The program runs from January through March (weather conditions permitting). Please call Tree Haven trails to check on the trail conditions 882-9455.

SEASON BEGINS – JANUARY

**DAYS- TUESDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
EVENINGS.**

TIMES-4:00PM TO 9:00PM-

**2 KILOMETERS OF LIGHTED TRAILS FOR
NIGHTTIME ENJOYMENT.**

COST-

GYC REGISTERED YOUTH:

TRAIL USE ONLY- \$1.25

SKI OR SNOW SHOE RENTAL-(trail use included)- \$2.50

WITHOUT REGISTRATION:

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH REGISTERED
YOUTH**

TRAIL USE ONLY- \$2.50

SKI OR SNOW SHOE RENTAL(trail use included)- \$5.00

Saratoga County Budget

For more than two decades, Saratoga County has enjoyed the distinction of having the lowest per capita property taxes in the state. Even while holding the line fiscally, we've maintained an aggressive capital program that has entirely reconstructed the county highway system over the past 18 years and eliminated all unsafe bridges. We have built new, efficient work areas for our dedicated staff and committed more than \$8 million to the overhauling of our emergency communications system. We have poured millions of dollars into law enforcement to bolster efforts of Sheriff Jim Bowen and District Attorney Jim Murphy in keeping us one of the safest counties in the state, and nobody has done more to honor the accomplishments of our servicemen, past and present.

Ultimately, however, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors is judged on the basis of our bottom line: the County tax rate. I'm pleased to report that the County property tax rate has been reduced by 6%. Based on the continuing surge in our tax base and sales tax collections as well as the strong fiscal controls, we have established on spending, **I am pleased to announce that the average rate for 2006 will drop by \$0.15 to \$2.35 per thousand of assessed valuation.** As in the past, our success is rooted in three factors: continuing growth in our property and sales tax bases, firm control over expenditure increases, and the judicious use of the fund balance to protect our residents from the sudden and frightening tax rate spikes that some of our neighbors have experienced.

EXPENSES:

This year, the most important factor is controlling expenses. The total budget is increasing by \$6.5 million, or just 3% over the budget we adopted last fall. In the general fund, the news is even better. Non-capital spending in the tax-generating fund is up than 1%. The primary reason for our success in this area was the State's decision to cap Medicaid costs at a **3.5%** increase. In fact, our commissioner believes we will be able to do even better than that next year. The implementation of a Medicaid cap was our top priority in the recent legislative session and Governor Pataki, Senator Bruno, and Speaker Silver really delivered for us. The savings they have made possible is being distributed directly back to the property taxpayer. You shouldn't get the mistaken idea that mandates are no longer a problem.

Even with the reduction, the cost of just three State Mandates: Medicaid, Community College tuitions, and education of pre-school handicapped children still consumes more than 90% of our tax levy and it is not a stretch to say that if all State mandates were removed, we could eliminate County property taxes entirely.

Net Capital spending is down by about \$1.4 million from 2005 levels. We have not, however, cut back on the maintenance of our capital infrastructure. Our roads and bridges are in tremendous shape, and our heavy equipment replacement cycle has not been compromised in any way. The county is also planning for our growing population, which has greatly increased demands for services. We will be making some decisions in 2006 to provide additional office space for our employees who will be serving the growing population.

The largest increase we show in Departmental expenses is the Board of Elections, but even that 50% increase is deceptively low. Under the Help America Vote Act, the sole responsibility for paying for elections will shift from the Towns and Cities to the County. The budget includes \$290,000 for software to operate new machines and provide training to elections inspectors. We have not, however, included funds for voting machines the State does not expect to pay for through Federal funds. This amounts to more than \$330,000 and would represent a breach of promise from our State legislators. We will work closely with Senator Bruno and our State legislature to ensure this potentially unfounded mandate doesn't land in the property taxpayer's pocket.

The cost of maintaining the Maplewood Manor Nursing Home continues to escalate, but by watching our expenses more closely and implementing many of consultant's recommendations, the increase for 2006 will be limited to 6.5%. The taxpayer subsidy for this important facility will reach \$6.5 million next year.

REVENUES:

Revenues are actually down in this budget, but that's largely because our mandated social services costs are down to match our capped costs for Medicaid. The general revenues are up nicely from 2005. Sales tax continues to increase despite the concerns that it may be leveling off. The budget

Cont'd on page 7

Galway Volunteer Fire Company

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The members of the Galway Volunteer Fire Company would like to wish you Happy Holidays and trust that all is well with your family.

The Fire Company, through the course of the year, has responded to just over 200 calls. This included a number of structure fires, car accidents, brush fires, mutual aid to adjoining departments and medical assists with the Ambulance Corp. A number of our Fire Fighters also joined in the search for a missing woman from Clifton Park.

Our members participated in dozens of in house, county sponsored, and state mandated schools including but not limited to "Techniques in Vehicle Extrication", "Fire Fighter Safety", "Incident Command", "Weapons of Mass Destruction" and "Hazardous Materials". Five new members took "Fire Workshop I" and nine Fire Fighters re-qualified their CPR cards. All this takes time, effort and dedication. Our reward is the knowledge that we can help our community in the best way we can.

This year's members and officers will be:

Fred Arnold	Captain
Doug DeRidder	Chief
Chad Jazwinski	1st Assistant Chief
Russ DeRidder	2nd Assistant Chief
Rick Smith	1st Lt
John Wiess	2nd Lt.
Bob Schlueter	President
Bill Schwab	Vice President
Kim Smith	Secretary
Chuck Quinlan	Treasurer
Dennis Numbers	Sergeant At Arms
Kim Smith	Secretary

Let's make 2006 a safe year. Check batteries in smoke detectors, keep chimneys clean, and drive safely. Please don't drink and drive.

From all of us at the GVFC - Happy Holidays!

Town Newsletter Deadlines

The winter issue will have a deadline of Friday, March 31st, and will be mailed during the 2nd week of April.

Articles can be dropped off at the town hall, or emailed to newsletter editor Mike Tillson at: mtillson@townofgalway.org.

Galway Junior Rifle Club

As part of the shooting qualification program, the juniors progress up through increasingly more difficult scores and positions with the ultimate goal of qualifying as Distinguished Expert - the highest possible rating in junior shooting. Recently two boys accomplished that goal - first Kyle Donnan, and then shortly afterwards John De-Cristofaro. Both of these boys also shoot on the Competition Team.

There are a lot of other shooters making their way through the qualification program every Wednesday evening. Normally it takes two or three years of pretty intensive effort to work your way to Distinguished Expert. Even if you don't get that far, you can win a lot of prizes, have a lot of fun, and learn to be a good marksman. You have to be at least 12 years old to participate in the program-but you don't have to be a good shooter. The whole purpose of the program is to teach you to be a good shooter. In addition, this is one of the only sports where girls and boys compete directly against one another - and if anything, the girls do a little better!

If you'd like to give it a try, call coach Boykin at 882-9352.

The Competition Team had it's first match of the season - an Air Rifle Sectional held at RPI. The team did well with Colleen Tillson winning the girls division, and Kyle Donnan taking the silver medal in the boys division. The next match is a 3-position smallbore match being held in Rotterdam. The team will shoot in nine indoor matches through the winter with most of them being State or sectional championships. The team competes in Air Rifle, 3-position smallbore, and 4-position smallbore matches. All of the team members are recruited from the regular Galway junior club.

Extended Hours for Town Clerk/Tax Collector

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector will increase open hours at Town Hall beginning January 3rd 2006. Monday's & Friday's the office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Tuesday's & Wednesday's from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. & Thursday's 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saratoga County Budget (Cont'd)

contains a \$3.5 million increase in sales tax revenues that reflects an increase of 7.8%. That seems pretty aggressive, but over the past 5 years, we have averaged increases of 8%. In light of all the new construction we see throughout the County, the projections for this year seem reasonable. The new construction has also led to the incredible growth in our tax base. Real Property reports that the increase for 2006 is on the order of 11.5% and that we have averaged more than a 10% increase per year for the past five years. We will generate an additional \$1.7 million from our property tax levy, even as we drop the rate by 6%. The total taxable value of the County will nearly reach \$15.9 billion, which is particularly impressive when compared to our \$2.5 billion value in 1984. In two short decades, the value of this County has grown by a whopping 525%. While it would be imprudent to expect those kinds of increases over the next five years, it seems pretty obvious that our economy is not in any immediate danger.

CONCLUSION:

The process of preparing a \$217 million budget is long and tedious, but the finished document is well worth the effort. Our 2006 county property tax is the lowest rate in memory and is fully sustainable for the next five years. We have been able to cut the rate without cutting any essential services and despite picking up a greater portion of the cost of operating our nursing home. We have not had to increase our sales tax rates and still boast a rate that is 33% lower than our neighbors in the Capital District. Saratoga County is, indeed, the standard by which all other municipalities in New York are measured.

Seniors

We would like to thank our outgoing President Ruth Mathias; outgoing Recording Secretary, Mary Ann Denison and the present Senior Citizen Board for their past years work, as offices in the Galway Seniors.

The Galway Senior Citizens Executive Board as of January 1, 2006, is as follows:

President: Mary Ann Denison
Vice Pres: Shirley McChesney
Treasurer: Ruth Gerardi

Recording Sec.: Cathie Suito
Corresponding Sec: Shirley Cornell
Trip Chairman: Betty Cleveland
Membership Chair: Margaret Boedecker
Sunshine: Joan Milan
Directors: Carole Lilawski Joan Milan
Margaret Boedecker Irene Ginaitis

The Galway Seniors during the year, gives a donation to the Providence Ambulance Corp., the Galway Ambulance Corp., and donates to the Galway Food Pantry.

Senior Trips: Our group of seniors will have many upcoming trips in 2006, usually starting in March and would welcome any new members who would like to come and join us. The trips for 2005 that we enjoyed by way of Wade Coach was to Turning Stone Casino, seeing Charlie Prose at a luncheon show, the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford, NY, to see Oliver, and the John Davidson Show and Buffet Luncheon at the Villa Roma, Callicoon, NY. On the Brown Coach bus, the Seniors went to the Aqua Ducks lunch and Albany Carriage Tour in Albany, NY, Chez Josef Blue Grass Showdown, Lobster and Chicken Luncheon at Agawam, Massachusetts, Lake Champlain Shore Line Cruise and Luncheon and toured the Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington VT. Other Trips included one to Perthshire Theatre (luncheon and show) in Perth NY, and an overnigher at Indian Head Resort at Lincoln, New Hampshire. Each of our eight trips this year was enjoyed by everyone who experienced them and many memories were made!

In December, the Galway Seniors enjoyed their Christmas Luncheon Party at the C&R Restaurant. All had a wonderful time, enjoying the good food, and friends they had made during the years.

An Irish Show had been scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th, 2006. there will be a luncheon and show at The Thayer Hotel, West Point. Cost is \$41/member - \$45/non-member. A buffet luncheon will be served. Bus service will be announced later.

The Galway Seniors meet twice a month, the first (1st) and third (3rd) Thursdays of the month, at the Galway Town Hall. At the 2nd meeting of the month, usually there is a speaker to address the group on interesting and informational matters for the seniors.

Please come and join us.

Town Clerk

Dog License - NYS regulations have changed once again... "No license may expire after the expiration of the dog's rabies vaccine. This will especially affect the licensing of puppies. The primary (first) rabies vaccination on all dogs expires 1 year after administration. This means that unless the owner licenses the dog on the day it is vaccinated, the license will not be valid for a full year. If the license is not valid for a full year, the fee is not pro-rated; the owner pays the regular fee. Most veterinarians use a three year rabies vaccine to booster dogs so this will not be a problem for most dogs receiving a second or subsequent immunization within the past two years. However, dogs needing a booster within the license year should be immunized prior to licensing in order to have a full year on a license. New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets will begin sending notices with the January license renewals explaining this to dog owners."

Handicap Hangers – Handicap hangers can be obtained immediately upon completion of NYS Department of Motor Vehicles form MV-664.1 by physician & applicant from the Town Clerk's office. Forms are available in our office for your convenience.

Marriage Licenses – Both bride & groom must be present to apply for a marriage license; along with driver's licenses; birth certificates if possible; divorce decrees and/or death certificates for previous marriages; fee is \$40.00.

Tax Collector

The 2006 Town & County Tax's will be mailed to reach you for the 3rd of January. If you don't receive your tax bill and your taxes are not in escrow, give our office a call (882-6070 ext. 10). If you have moved or no longer hold ownership please let us know immediately. Remember if paying in cash, exact change is required.

Volunteers Needed

Do you have some time available to help out with various town activities. We have a constant need for volunteers in almost all areas. Some jobs might only meet once or twice a year, and some would require a little more time. Please call the town hall at 882-6070, and we'll help you find the position that's right for you.

Library

Book Sale - The Friends of the Library will be having a book sale at the library on Friday, January 27th (3 – 6 pm) and Saturday, January 28th (10 am – 2 pm). The snow dates will be February 3rd and 4th.

Will You Be Mine? - Create a one-of-a kind treasure for your valentine! Children of all ages are invited to the library on Saturday, February 11, 2005 at 2:00 to make valentines for friends and loved ones. The unique handmade cards will be treasured for years to come. Call or visit the library to register.

A Series of Thursday Events - Come to the library for a depressing afternoon of dismal discussion, unpleasant activities and a repulsive snack. After school on Thursday, February 2, the library is hosting the first meeting of a new book group for kids. We will be discussing *The Bad Beginning*, the first book in the Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket. Age and grade don't matter – if you read the book, you're invited to come! Copies of the book are available at the library. Call or stop by the library to sign up. The group will be meeting after school on the first Thursday of each month. Watch for posters at school or check the library website for the book of the month.

Hot Reads for Cold Nights – Winter Reading Program for Adults Come explore the library during the cold winter months as we celebrate "Hot Reads for Cold Nights" with events, recommended reading, and prizes. Sign up starts on January 30th and the program ends March 4th. Enter weekly drawings for prizes such as movie passes, restaurant gift certificates, and bookstore gift certificates just by reading a book! Participate at least two weeks and you are entered into the Grand Prize drawing for a one night's stay for two at the Friends Lake Inn in Chestertown (valued at \$257). All participants are invited to the Final Open House at the Library on Saturday, March 11th between noon and two. Refreshments will be served and all prizes will be awarded.

A Revolutionary War Road Trip on US Route 9, presented by Raymond C. Houghton Tuesday, January 31st at 7:00 pm This multimedia presentation includes sights, sounds and videos from the historical places along US Route 9. Mr. Houghton will be selling and signing his various road trip books. Registration required.

Cont'd on page 10

Library (Cont'd)

Adult Craft Programs - February 24th - Woven Scarf \$5 material fee Keep warm on these cold nights with an easy to make winter scarf. Great for those who can't knit or crochet, or even those who can! Registration required.

March 31st - Wax Collage \$3 material fee Learn the art of wax collage – layering different papers and items with hot wax to create a beautiful piece of art. Registration required.

Comics @ Your Library! - To celebrate our new graphic novel collection we will be holding two comic related programs. Comix Crash Course – Saturday, January 14th at 1:00 In this one-hour extravaganza – open to kids, teens, and adults – we'll learn the history of comics and graphic novels from cave paintings, to modern anime and manga. We'll also explore the proven benefits that exist from reading comics. Sign up now!

Graphic Novel Book Discussion of Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi – Saturday, February 11th at 1:00 Open to ages 13 and up. Join us for a book discussion of this powerful and fascinating autobiography of a young girl's life during the Islamic Revolution. Books are available at the library, sign up now!

Calendar of Musical Events

Upcoming music events for 2006:

- March 9 Middle/High School Instrumental Concert - 7:00 p.m.
- March 23 Middle/High School Choral Concert – 7:00 p.m.
- April 28-30 HS Band/C&T Trip to Maryland
- May 3 Elementary Spring Concert – 7:00 p.m.
- May 17 Grade 3 Instrumental Recruitment Night – 7:00 p.m.
- May 18 Middle School Spring Concert – 7:00 p.m.
- May 24th Scotia Parade – 6:00 p.m.
- May 29th Galway Parade – 10: a.m.
- June 1st High School Spring Concert – 7:30 p.m.

Highway (Cont'd)

maintenance activities. With the aid of this funding we've also updated some of our equipment, bought material and labor for these projects and placed some money into surplus. The FEMA funding has helped the Town out greatly because most of this work would have had to be done in the future at full cost to the Town. The money was used wisely by the Highway Department and the Town Board.

Have a safe and warm winter with thoughts of spring and we will see you on the road. As always if you have any questions or need assistance with town highway matters please give us a call at 882-6651.

The Highway Department

Bill	Buck	Karl	Gonzo
Phil	Harry	Vanessa	George
Michele		Sherrie	

Snowmobile Season

The snowmobiles trails in the Town of Galway are maintained by two clubs; the East Galway Snowmobile Club and the Charlton Snowmobile Club. The Charlton Snowmobile Club maintains trails that range from Ballston Lake in the south heading north and west through Ballston, Charlton, West Galway, Amsterdam, and Broadalbin, ending up at the Sacandaga Reservoir. The Club works with the New York State Parks and Recreation to maintain these trails to make them safe for all riders and property owners.

New legislation has been passed this year which go into effect in February 2006 which will require mandatory liability insurance for all snowmobiles that are operated off the owner's property. The maximum state speed limit will be 55 miles per hour on all public trails and lands. This change is added to the existing regulations which allow law enforcement officials to ticket riders for imprudent speed.

In addition as of February all children between the ages of 10 and 14 will be required to take a snowmobile safety course and must be accompanied within 500 feet by a guardian 18 years or older. All operators between the ages of 14 and 18 must take a snowmobile safety course to ride alone. These regulations are meant to promote

Cont'd next page

Snowmobiles (Cont'd)

safer snowmobiling for the children through training and supervision.

Snowmobile registrations will require the owners to either join a snowmobile club or pay an additional \$55.00 at the time of the annual registration. The additional money paid to either the clubs or New York State at the time of registration go to funding trail maintenance. Studies have shown that snowmobilers who belong to clubs are more educated regarding the sport. This education allows our trails to be safer and more enjoyable for everyone. For additional information on these regulations and other snowmobile questions you can access the Charlton Snowmobile Club's website at <http://charltonsnowmobileclub.com> or by calling President Bob Bryant at 882-9543.

Town Athletic Fields

Ten years ago the need for additional athletic playing fields in Galway was identified. This need resulted in the Town procurement of seventeen acres of relatively level fields adjacent to State route 147 just south of the village. The initial development of the front five acres resulted in space for soccer fields and provided an off road gravel parking lot. Progressive work on this facility has provided an expanded parking lot to provide adequate parking spaces during periods of heavy use, and the removal of the old stone/ tree rows that separated the fields and parking lot. Fundamental drainage work was done to control the water runoff during the spring melt and after lengthy or heavy rains. During this time the finished fields have been used and enjoyed for sports activities by numerous Galway organizations. If you have a need to use this facility, time can be scheduled by signing up for field time at the clerk's office in Town Hall. This signup is used to avoid field conflicts between the numerous organizations holding activities at this facility. Signups are received on a first come first serve basis and there is no fee for using the facility.

As with any public facility, a few rules of common courtesy need to be applied. By personal observation I see two issues that need to be addressed. The first issue is basic littering. A simple rule is invoked to keep this unsightly clutter from accumulating; **IF YOU BRING IT TO THE FACILITY, PLEASE TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU.** In order to keep Town taxes down the Town Board has

not created a parks and recreation maintenance department. This means that clean up is not a routine service at this facility. I have a tough time when I stop buy this property and see everything from used pampers to empty drink containers that have been discarded on the fields and in the parking lot. In addition to creating a problem for cutting the grass, it is very unsightly. As the sports programs further develop to bring visitors from out of town, is this a facility condition you want them to remember? A little effort on every ones part can avoid this condition. Please do your part to resolve this situation. The second issue is with children playing in the drainage trenches. Over the last two years we have had the crossing culverts wash out. Upon investigation, I have found large stones piled in the down stream end of the culvert pipes. This is a condition which can only be created by deliberately placing these stones in these locations. This results in the damming of the water flow, raising the water elevation and floating the plastic culverts up out of the ground. This creates a walking hazard for passage between the parking lot and playing fields. The highway department is needed to repair this condition at their very busy time taking equipment and manpower from the Galway road improvement and maintenance program, so this loss inconveniences other people in town. Also the upstream locations have been the home for wild geese which if you have not noticed comes with a rather large amount of sizeable droppings. The runoff water in which some of you are allowing your children to play in contains this matter and may under certain circumstances carry biological substances which could make your children sick. These culverts and trenches are there to provide for drainage of the facility and not as part of the entertainment; **DO NOT LET YOUR CHILDREN PLAY IN OR MODIFY THIS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT.** Please monitor the children when at this facility so that there is no side play that can damage the improvements or potentially impact the health of the youth.

And now, I have a more pleasant announcement. Phase II of the development plans for this property was initially identified at the time of the initial work. This was for the addition of a Babe Ruth size base ball field and some additional soccer field space together with full expansion of the parking lot. The town board has been working

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Town Athletic Fields (Cont'd)

on securing grant money to assist with the project funding. The final paperwork was filed with the project management organization in December that gives Galway a \$50,000.00 reimbursement grant for this project. The sponsor of this grant was Senator Hugh Farley. It is estimated that this will pay for ½ of the cost of this phase of the project. The balance of the funding is to come from Galway's share of the additional county sales tax revenue from the 2005 fiscal year. Thank you Senator Farley and Saratoga County consumers/Board of Supervisors! The specifications for public bidding of this project are presently being prepared. The project will start this spring with a completion anticipated for September '06. Usually the planted grass needs about one year to take root and be robust enough to play on so the fields should be playable by the fall of '07. This work should provide little or no inconvenience for those using the playing fields during the '06 sports season but the facility will undoubtedly be in various states of disarray presenting some opportunities for conflicts with traffic in the parking lot. In order to maintain appropriate levels of safety please do not spend any more time than necessary to travel to and from your car and place extra vigilance over your children to keep them from playing or loitering in the parking lot. Of course the back part (East end) of the property will be off limit to the public during the construction period. I expect that the contractor will be marking the construction zone appropriately so there is no concern for confusion. The alternative would be to close the entire facility for the '06 season, but this should not be necessary and I am sure that the organizations, coaches and players would not want to see this happen. I will be updating you in a future issue of this news letter as more of the details unfold. I wish you all a fun filled and eventful '06 sports season.

Bill Topper, Town Councilman
Buildings and Grounds Committee

Town Ice Skating Rink

The Youth Commission is in need of someone to clear the snow from the ice skating rink at the athletic fields this season. If you would have some time and be willing to help out with this, please call Al Blakley at 882-1171 for the details.

Youth Commission

The Galway Youth Commission is proud to offer a wide array of activities to the Youth of the Village of Galway and the Towns of: Galway, Providence, Charlton and Milton, who also participate in our programs. The following is a brief synopsis of the activities, current participation and contact people.

Winter Recreation - December to March as Weather permits:

Ice skating - 25 participants- Al Blakley, 882-1171
Cross Country Skiing - 35 participants- Valerie Bellon, 882-9148

Karate - All Year - 55 participants- Al Blakley, 882-1171

Spring Soccer - May to June - 160 to 280 participants- Cheryl Hardcastle, 882-6993

Summer Recreation - July - 185 participants- Donna Sowle, 882-1347

Learn to Swim - August - 35 - Valerie Bellon, 882-9148

Youth Drama - August - 25 participants- Christina Mevec, 882-9051

Junior Rifle - September to May - 20 participants- Chuck Boykin, 882-9352

Fall Soccer - September to October - 160 to 280 participants- Cheryl Hardcastle, 882-6993

Volleyball - November to July - 20 participants- Kathy Traver, 882-9804

Culture - All Year - 110 participants- Sharey Lane, 883-5212

Youth Appreciation Day - Saturday before Fathers Day - 250 participants- Donna Sowle, 882-1347 & Valerie Bellon, 882-9148

Feedback Requested

If you have any feedback on our Town government, please drop us a line. You may call the Town Hall, or email us at:

George Hargrave	gharave@townofgalway.org
Mark Concilla	mconilla@townofgalway.org
Mike Tillson	mtillson@townofgalway.org
Peg Defoe	pdefoe@townofgalway.org
Sue Sutch	ssutch@townofgalway.org
Bill Topper	wtopper@townofgalway.org
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