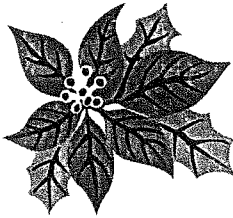


# NEW BALTIMORE

Volume 1, Issue 3

October-December 2005



*Wishing all  
Happy Holidays  
and a safe and  
prosperous New Year*

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Town Board meetings –  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays  
Planning Board meetings –  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays \*  
Zoning Board meetings –  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday \*  
\*if no agenda, no meeting  
Town Office Hours –  
Monday-Friday 9-4  
Highway Hours –  
Monday-Friday 7-3

**New Baltimore Town Hall**  
**3809 County Route 51**  
**Hannacroix, NY 12087**  
**518-756-6671**  
[www.townofnewbaltimore.org](http://www.townofnewbaltimore.org)

## Town Board News

The Town Board has met in regular monthly meetings on July 11<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>, and work meetings held on July 25<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>. Here is a summary of the actions taken:

**July 11, 2005**

- The Town Board took action on the recommendations issued by the Citizens' Planning Advisory Group, by adopting a Resolution:

- to undertake a revision to the Town Comprehensive Plan
- adopting the Vision, Goals and Sub-goals contained in the report of the Citizens Planning Advisory Group as broad direction for the Town as the basis for formulating an update to the Comprehensive Plan
- giving consideration to the research and evaluation presented by the Citizens Planning Advisory Group as "Findings" in its report to the Town Board in the update of the Comprehensive Plan
- to consider the results of the community survey in its deliberations over other actions that may be proposed or undertaken that are not directly related to the update of the Comprehensive Plan.

- The Town Board approved a Resolution to authorize and direct Councilwoman Donna Degnen, as Chair of the Parks Committee, to file an application for funds for the revitalization of Town parks from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in an amount not to exceed \$91,416 (including in-kind services), including a maximum cash commitment of \$15,500 from the Town of New Baltimore to be paid from the Parks Reserve Fund and other Town sources.

- The Town Board approved a Resolution to authorize a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with Serta Mattress providing for payment to the Town of 80% of taxes due, with the balance to be paid to the Greene County Industrial Development Agency for maintenance of the Kalkberg Business Park and infrastructure expansion. The Fire and Ambulance Districts will be paid 100% of taxes due. Payments under

this Agreement will begin in 2007, and the first year payments to the Town (excluding Fire and Ambulance Districts) are estimated at \$50,000.

**July 25, 2005**

- The Town Board authorized Highway Superintendent Jordan to purchase a used dump truck body for one of the Town trucks to replace a worn out truck body, for a cost of \$2,000.

**August 8, 2005**

- The Town Board approved a Resolution to establish a leave accrual policy for part time clerical workers, that include the Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Justice Clerk, and Planning/Zoning Clerk. Under this policy, these employees will accrue sick and vacation leave at the rate of 4 hours for each 100 hours worked, and will be paid for 4 hours work on each Town holiday.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution to appoint Francis McCarty as a Part Time Laborer in the Highway Department.

**September 12, 2005**

- The Town Board approved a Resolution to accept Lydon Lane as a Town Highway.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution to authorize Supervisor Louis to enter into a contract with Elan Planning and Design, Inc. to provide professional planning consulting services for the update of the Town Comprehensive Plan, at a cost not to exceed \$31,770.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution to establish the Town of New Baltimore Comprehensive Plan Committee and gave this Committee the following charge:

- To prepare an amended Town Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the requirements of State Law with the assistance of Elan Planning and Design Inc., the Town's planning consultant.
- To use the Vision, Goals and Sub-goals contained in the report of the Citizens Planning Advisory Group as broad direction for the preparation of the amended Comprehensive Plan.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Town Board News

*continued from page 1*

- To give consideration to the research and evaluation presented by the Citizens Planning Advisory Group as "Findings" in its report to the Town Board in the preparation of the amended Comprehensive Plan.
- To hold one or more public hearings and other meetings as it deems necessary to assure full opportunity for citizen participation in the preparation of the amended Comprehensive Plan.
- To recommend to the Town Board, upon the completion of its work, the amended Comprehensive Plan, to be considered for adoption by the Town Board.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee Members appointed by the Town Board include: David Louis, Supervisor and Co-Chair; Arlene McKeon, Councilwoman and Co-Chair, Lee Davis and Barry Guptill from the Town Planning Board; Meave Tooher from the Town Zoning Board of Appeals, and citizen representatives Warren "Skip" Curtis, Paul "Duke" Court, Jr., Eugene Albright, Louise Warner, John Cashin, James Eckl and Alta Turner.

- The Town Board approved a Resolution to support Greene County's application for designation of four sets of properties as Empire Zones, including property including significant acreage in the Town of New Baltimore that is currently zoned as Developmental in the southern part of the Town between the NYS Thruway and the CSX rail tracks.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution to support Greene County's application for designation of four sets of properties as Empire Zones, including property including significant acreage in the Town of New Baltimore that is currently zoned as Developmental in the southern part of the Town between the NYS Thruway and the CSX rail tracks.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution to amend the 2005 Town Budget by adding \$18,245 to budgeted expenditures and adding \$18,245 to budgeted revenues.

### September 26, 2005

- The Town Board held a spirited Public Hearing on a proposal for the Town to apply to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for designation as a Greenway Community.

### October 10, 2005

- The Town Board approved a Resolution to increase the mileage reimbursement rate to 48.5 cents per mile, effective September 1, 2005, in accordance with changes adopted by the Federal Government.
- The Town Board appointed Harriet Miller as a Part Time Laborer at the New Baltimore Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The Town Board reappointed Barbara Tanner to the Board of Assessment Review.
- The Town Board approved a Preliminary Budget for 2006, with minor changes to the Tentative Budget previously presented by Supervisor Louis, and set a Public Hearing date for October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- After a lengthy debate, the Town Board tabled a Resolution to apply to the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council for designation as a Greenway Community.

### October 24, 2005

- The Town Board appointed James Ravenscroft as a Temporary Building Inspector to complete certain compliance inspections for the Town at the Serta Mattress facility.
- The Town Board held a Public Hearing on the proposed 2006 Town Budget.

### November 14, 2005

- The Board of Fire Commissioners of the New Baltimore Fire District made a presentation to the Town Board and public regarding the proposed 2006 Fire District Budget and long term Capital Plan.
- The Town Board adopted a Final Budget for 2006, with no changes from the Preliminary Budget presented at the October 24<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing.
- The Attorney for the Town reported that the lawsuit filed against the Town Board over the creation of Water District No. 4 in the hamlet was dismissed by Judge Daniel Lalor. Judge Lalor ruled that the Town Board had acted properly in granting its approval for the establishment of the Water District. The Town Board was advised that the residents who sued the Town Board have 35 days from the date the decision was mailed to their attorney to file an appeal with the Appellate Division.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution to authorize Supervisor Louis to execute a renewal of the Town's contract with Greene County Emergency Medical Systems for the provision of paramedic services to the Town for the

period January 1, 2006-December 31, 2007. The cost for this service for the Town for 2006 will be \$25,449, which is reduction from the amounts paid in 2004 and 2005.

- The Town Board approved a Resolution calling on the Association of Towns to adopt a Resolution drafted by Supervisor Louis and endorsed by Councilwoman McKeon to change local funding for public education from property taxes to income based taxes to protect our older residents from being driven out of their homes due to high school property taxes. This Resolution is being submitted to the Association of Towns in the hope that it will be put on the agenda at their annual meeting in February, 2006 for adoption.
- The Town Board approved a Resolution dismissing a zoning violation regarding an illegal kennel as a result of the owners having ceased to operate the kennel.

## Election 2005

Congratulations to the winners of the recent election in November. David Louis was reelected to a 2-year term as Supervisor; Arlene McKeon was reelected to a 4-year term as Council-person; Janet Brooks was reelected to a 4-year term as Town Clerk; Diane Stuart was reelected to a 4-year term as Tax Collector; Kevin Kuenster was elected to a 4-year term as Councilperson; Lisa Benway was elected to a 2-year term as Councilperson; and Joseph Cosenza was elected to a 4-year term as Town Justice.

## A Note of Thanks

A note of thanks for their service to the Town of New Baltimore goes to Councilwoman Donna Degnen who leaves the Town Board at the end of the year, and to Town Justice Mike Frati who served 17 years as Town Justice.

*I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.*

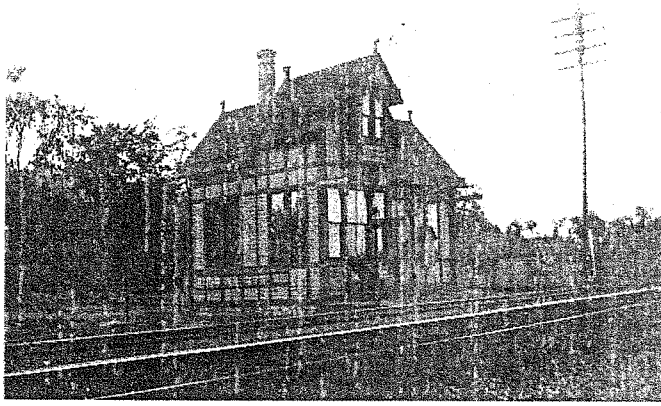
George Bernard Shaw, 1856-1950

## History Jottings: The Railroad Comes to New Baltimore

The 1860s were a fertile time for the creation of railroads. Daniel Drew, one of the famous Robber Barons of days past, saw a need for a line from Athens to Schenectady for several reasons. Two of the more important ones were to establish a terminal for his People's Line steamboat operation that might remain ice-free for a longer period in winter and the need to bypass the shoals between New Baltimore and Albany that grounded many boats.

The purchase of rights-of-way appears to have gone relatively smoothly until the company got to Coxsackie and New Baltimore. If a price settlement could not be reached with the property owners, State law allowed the railroad to petition the Supreme Court in seeking a resolution. In New Baltimore, James and Julia Houghtaling, Garret and Hannah Houghtaling, Jeremiah and Jane Springsted, Abraham and Sarah Jane Sutherland, Wessel B. and Maria Van Orden and George G. and Clarissa Wolf all decided to grieve their settlements. Some of the reasons presented as justification for higher payments included the loss of swampy muck lands, sold as fertilizer, proximity to the Hudson for shipping purposes, and lost access to critical water sources, like a spring.

When the line finally started operations, it was almost 38 miles of single-track road from a new Athens terminal on the Hudson, traveling slightly northwest then straight through the flats at West Cocksackie, on to New Baltimore, Ravena and finally Schenectady. The Athens complex was quite amazing, being composed of freight and passenger terminals, a hotel, and employee housing (still there, by Hagar's



Harbor), all brick, and a 1,600-foot wharf.

The first train through New Baltimore and the line's other communities may have come in January, 1866. Around then, the *Catskill Recorder and Democrat* was reporting that "An engine, with one car attached, was run over the entire length of the Athens and Schenectady Railroad a few days since. Everything worked to perfection, direct communication from Athens to Saratoga Springs may now be considered complete."

A March 19, 1866 *New York Times* article may have described this initial trek, giving a detailed account of the Athens facilities and the route the railroad was taking. After leaving Cocksackie, the author notes that "The next station is New Baltimore, which place also contains about 1,000

individuals, and like Cocksackie is situated on the bank of the river the railroad tapping it two miles in the westward."

Regrettably for the investors and hopeful customers, the Railroad was not a success, at least for passenger service. Freight carriage was more successful for a time. Almost from the beginning, it was called the "White Elephant" line, largely because the soon-to-be active New York, West Shore, and Buffalo Railroad (later part of the New York Central) and the ongoing removal of obstructions to River traffic from New Baltimore north made the little line from Athens superfluous.

Then, in 1876, a monumental fire burned the big dock and the main depot. The line lost whatever momentum it had. Eventually, most of the route became part of the West Shore segment of the New York Central system. The section from the main line into Athens was abandoned. By November of 1888, the *New York Times* was reporting that the tracks of the White Elephant were being torn up to avoid paying taxes on the property. Passenger service to New Baltimore ended in the 1950s but the road still is a major freight route.

Courtesy of  
Clessen Bush, Town Historian

## WEST SHORE ROUTE. New York, West Shore & Buffalo Railway. HUDSON RIVER DIVISION—GOING NORTH.

Time Table in effect August 20th, 1888, and until further notice.

Station	9	51	1	67	63	65	3	57	65	10	6	130	130
Leave Brooklyn, via Amherst	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
Leave New York, Cortlandt St.	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
Leave New York, Desbross's St.	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
Leave Jersey City, P. R. R. Sta.	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
5.30 Arr. Little Ferry, N. J.	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
6.00 Arr. Ridgeland Park	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
8.00 Arr. East Rutherford	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
9.20 Arr. Teaneck	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
10.10 Arr. West Englewood	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
12.00 Arr. Bergenfield	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
12.20 Arr. Schuylkillburg	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
12.40 Arr. Randall's	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
17.00 Arr. West Newburgh	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
19.10 Arr. Tappan, N. Y.	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
20.30 Arr. Trugoburg	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
22.00 Arr. Blauveltville	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
22.30 Arr. Rockland Park	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
24.30 Arr. Nyack Turnpike	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
26.30 Arr. Valley Cottage	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
29.50 Arr. Congers, Ave.	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
31.7 Arr. Trugoburg	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
33.3 Arr. Haverstraw	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
36.8 Arr. Cornwall Cove	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
39.3 Arr. Caldwell	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
41.1 Arr. Iona Island	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
42.9 Arr. Ft. Montgomery	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
46.5 Arr. Croton Neck	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
47.4 Arr. West Point	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
49.5 Arr. Storm King	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
52.2 Arr. Cornwall	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
53.8 Arr. Newburgh	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
55.8 Arr. Clark's Hook	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
61.3 Arr. Marlboro	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
63.3 Arr. Milton	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
72.4 Arr. Highland	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
77.0 Arr. Manassas	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
78.1 Arr. West Park	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
81.7 Arr. Enniscorthy	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
84.2 Arr. Kingston	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
89.3 Arr. Glenside	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
95.8 Arr. Saugerties	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
102.6 Arr. West Camp	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
103.4 Arr. Smith's Landing	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
110.0 Arr. Catskill	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
114.7 Arr. West Athens	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
120.0 Arr. Cocksackie	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
124.9 Arr. New Baltimore	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
128.2 Arr. Cocksackie	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
133.1 Arr. Solitick	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P
141.3 Arr. Albany	7 30 A	8 00 A	8 00 A	9 40 A	11 05 A	3 30 P	3 40 P	4 00 P	5 00 P	5 30 P	6 00 P	7 30 P	8 00 P

New York Times.  
Trains 5, 9, 61, 63 and 67 run daily; other trains daily, except Sundays. Train 51 will stop at Teaneck at 8.40 a.m., Nyack Turnpike  
9.15 a.m., and Valley Cottage at 9.18 a.m., on Sundays only.  
Parlor Cars on Train 56 from Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York to Albany and Saratoga.  
Parlor Cars on Train 63 from Philadelphia and New York to Rochester, and from Long Beach and New York to Albany and Saratoga.  
Close connections by ferry from West Point to Garrison's; from Caldwell to Catskill; from Newburgh to Catskill; from Highland to  
Poughkeepsie; from Saugerties to Tivoli. Hamilton's stages will transfer passengers and ordinary baggage between West Athens and Albany on  
the River.

## Planning Board Reports

The Planning Board conducted the following business:

### September 12, 2005:

Public Hearings were held on:

- Lands of Jonathan & Bodil Donald (Red Wing Farm Properties) Major Subdivision (held and recessed until September 8, 2005)
- Lands of Walter Labuda, Jr. Minor Subdivision
- Eagle Development Co. Site Plan
- In the Regular Monthly Meeting the following business was transacted:
  - Approved the minor subdivision of Walter Labuda, Jr.
  - Approved with conditions the Site Plan for Eagle Development Co.
  - Discussed with a Town resident a proposed subdivision as well as correcting the non-conforming status of the balance of his parcel.
  - Discussed with another Town resident and her surveyor the proposed subdivision of her property which is located both in the Town of New Baltimore and Town of Coeymans.
  - A Town resident discussed with the Board his concerns regarding what he believes to have been surveyor's errors when surveying for a subdivision of neighboring property which also affects his land.

### September 12, 2005

On September 12, 2006, Public Hearings were held as follows:

- Completed the Lands of Jonathan & Bodil Donald (Red Wing Farm Properties) Major Subdivision Public Hearing.
- In the Regular Monthly Meeting the following business was transacted:
  - Approved with conditions the Major Subdivision for Jonathan & Bodil Donald (Red Wing Farm Properties).
  - Continued non-conforming discussion with Laimonis Lapins and his new attorney.
  - Received the major subdivision application of Frank and Mabel Boehlke for a five-lot subdivision of their property located on Pine Grove Road. Required Public Hearing is scheduled for 7:30 pm, Oct. 13, 2005.
  - In connection with the proposed subdivision of a property located on the Town of New Baltimore/Town of Coeymans line, representatives of both the Town of Coeymans Town Board and Planning Board were

present for general discussion regarding the discrepancies in the Town lines and uncertainty of where the County lines are and in particular the line that would be used as the northern boundary of the parcel in the Town of New Baltimore to be subdivided.

- Received minor subdivision application of Carl and Barbara Cumm for a two-lot subdivision of their property located on Dean's Mill Road. Required Public Hearing has been scheduled for 7:45 pm, Oct. 13, 2005.
- Received minor subdivision application of Thomas and Endral Winslow for a two-lot subdivision of their property located on New Baltimore Road. Required Public Hearing scheduled for 8pm, Oct. 13, 2005.

### October 13, 2005

On October 13, 2005, Public Hearings were held as follows:

- Lands of Frank & Mabel Boehlke - Major Subdivision
- Lands of Carl & Barbara Cumm - Minor Subdivision

In the regular meeting following the Public Hearings, the following business was transacted:

- Approved the Boehlke Major Subdivision
- Approved the Cumm Minor Subdivision.
- Continued non-conforming discussion with Laimonis Lapins and his attorney and the owners of the non-conforming and undersized parcel and their attorney.
- Received the minor subdivision application of Richard and Rosemary Marino for a two-lot subdivision of their 10.6-acre parcel located on East Honey Hollow Road. Required Public Hearing was tentatively scheduled for 7:30pm, Nov. 10 and later postponed until December 8.
- Sandy Mathes, Greene County IDA Executive Director, provided the Board with a Kalkberg Commerce Park status report.
- Approved minor subdivision maps for the Lands of Bonnie Kollmann.
- Discussed with a Town resident his non-conforming parcels and how to bring up to the minimum acreage requirements an adjacent undersized parcel recently purchased.

### November 10, 2005

On November 10, 2005, the Board had its first short meeting in many, many months with following business transacted:

- Signed maps bringing into conformance a parcel previously non-confirming and undersized.
- Approved the Laimonis Lapins minor subdivision.

**Notice:** Due to the volume of business coming before the Planning Board, anyone wishing to be on the agenda should contact the Planning Board Clerk well in advance of the night they wish to appear before the Board.

## Zoning Board Reports

The Zoning Board of Appeals met in regular session on September 7, 2005 with the following business transacted:

- The Board passed an amended resolution denying an area Variance for Catskill Hospitality Associates/Mamta Hospitality, N.Y., Inc.

## Easing the High Cost of Heating

Complaining about the price of heating your house this winter is easy - doing something to bring it down a few notches is not that much more difficult, as Highway Superintendent Denis Jordan and Town Clerk Janet Brooks recently discovered.

In only a few hours, Janet and Denis sealed the windows in the Town Hall meeting room using a shrink-wrap kit found in a local hardware store. The kits include double-sided tape and clear plastic wrap which, measured and applied properly, can seal out drafts and lower heating bills.

If you need inspiration, stop by Town Hall and check out the windows. Ask Janet or Denis for some pointers.

## New Employee

In July, the Town Board appointed Joe Perino as a building inspector. Mr. Perino recently retired from the New York State Office of General Services where he worked in design and construction as an architect.

He is currently completing the requirements which New York State demands for certification of building inspectors. Mr. Perino has inspected dozens of buildings this summer and fall and will be a welcome addition to the town.

## 2006 Budget Adopted By Town Board

The New Baltimore Town Board has adopted the 2006 Budget, which calls for a modest increase of 2.36% in the town-wide tax rate. The proposed town-wide tax rate of \$4.94 per \$1,000 assessed valuation includes funding for the General Fund and the Highway Fund. In addition to these town-wide taxes, the Town property tax rate will include a chargeback from Greene County for the cost of sending New Baltimore residents to community colleges other than Columbia-Greene Community College. The tax rate for these chargebacks will be \$0.23 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, a decrease of \$0.10 per \$1,000 assessed valuation below the 2005 tax rate.

In addition to these taxes, the January, 2006 tax bill will include property taxes levied for Greene County services (currently projected to decrease by 2.1% in the proposed Greene County Budget to be enacted by the Greene County Legislature), and taxes levied for Special Districts in the Town of New Baltimore. All New Baltimore property owners will pay taxes for their fire and ambulance district. In the New Baltimore Fire District, which serves the eastern part of the Town of New Baltimore, the fire district tax rate will increase from \$2.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$2.41 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The ambulance tax (which includes paramedic services) will increase from \$0.14 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.157 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. In the Medway-Grapeville Fire District, which serves the western part of the Town of New Baltimore, the fire district tax rate will decrease from \$1.82 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$1.77 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The ambulance tax (which includes paramedic services) will decrease from \$0.099 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.087 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

There are a few other special districts in the town with taxing jurisdiction over a smaller number of taxpayers. In the hamlet area, the Lighting District tax will increase from \$0.287 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.337 per

\$1,000 assessed valuation. Water District Number 1, which provides funding for fire hydrants on the northern section of Route 9W will see a tax reduction from \$0.085 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.080 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, and Water District 2, in the Scheller Park Road area, will see a decrease from \$0.612 per \$1,000 assessed valuation to \$0.123 per \$1,000 assessed valuation; this decrease results from the end of debt service payments for infrastructure dating back to 1975. The user rates for the New Baltimore Sewer District in the hamlet of New Baltimore are still being formulated, but the overall budget will have no increase for 2006; there may be a slight increase in user fees to reflect changes in properties in the Sewer District from multiple family homes to single family homes. For a complete listing of all estimated 2006 tax changes for town taxing jurisdictions, please refer to **TABLE 1- 2006 TOWN BUDGET - ESTIMATED TAX RATES AND CHANGE FROM 2005.**

A summary of the 2006 Town Budget is presented in **TABLE 2.** Total expenditures for the General and Highway Funds are

budgeted at \$1,364,538, of which \$802,278 is budgeted for the Highway Fund (59%), and \$562,260 is budgeted for the General Fund (41%). The largest spending item is personal services in the amount of \$508,000 (37% of total budget), which includes salaries and wages for the Highway Department employees (\$254,200) and other town employees paid from the General Fund (\$253,800). These employees include the Town Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk, Justice Court Clerk, Assessor, Assessor's Clerk, Planning and Zoning Clerk, Deputy Justice Court Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, other Elected Officials (Town Supervisor, Town Board, Town Justices, Tax Collector) and other appointed boards and officials (Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Inspectors, Code Enforcement Officer, Animal Control Officer, Town Historian, Recycling Station Operator, Parks Program Director and staff).

*continued on page 6*

**TABLE 1**      2006 TOWN BUDGET - Estimated Tax Rates And Change From 2005

	Tax Rate		Est. Tax Change	
	per \$1,000	Change	for Home	
	Assessed	(per \$1,000	Percent	Assessed
	Value for 2006	Assessed)	Change	at \$100,000
<u>TOWN WIDE FUNDS</u>				
General Fund	\$1.658	-0.001		
Highway Fund	\$3.283	0.115		
TOTAL FOR TOWN-WIDE FUNDS	\$4.941	0.114	2.36%	\$11.39
County Chargebacks	\$0.228	-0.107	-31.86%	-\$10.65
<b>TOWN TAX TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5.169</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>\$0.74</b>
<u>FIRE AND AMBULANCE DISTRICTS</u>				
New Baltimore Fire District	\$2.410	0.260	10.79%	\$26.00
Ambulance District #1	\$0.157	0.017	10.80%	\$1.69
Medway-Grapeville Fire District	\$1.770	-0.050	-2.82%	-\$5.00
Ambulance District #2	\$0.087	-0.012	-13.96%	-\$1.20
<u>OTHER SPECIAL DISTRICTS</u>				
Lighting District (Hamlet Area)	\$0.337	0.051	17.62%	\$5.05
Water District #1 (9w Hydrants)	\$0.080	-0.005	-6.21%	-\$0.53
Water District #2 (Scheller Park)	\$0.123	-0.489	-79.93%	-\$48.93

Budget, continued from page 5

The next highest spending category (\$200,100) is for benefits, which includes health insurance for full time Highway Department employees and retirees, the Highway Superintendent and the Justice Clerk; the Town's mandated contribution to the State Retirement System, the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare, and Workers' Compensation and Disability Insurance.

The 2006 Budget for Highway Improvements and Repairs will be \$200,000, which includes the cost of all paving materials. The Debt Service budget (\$140,563) includes the annual repayment of the five year, \$385,000 bond issue for road reconstruction, of which 80% of the funding has been expended to resurface miles of roads throughout the Town; the debt service budget also includes bonds issued for highway equipment, and the repayment of a water district planning bond (\$35,000) authorized in 2003, of which \$25,000 will be reimbursed to the Town by a legislative grant secured by Senator Seward. Centralized Services includes all insurance on town buildings and Highway Department vehicles and equipment, the cost of maintaining the Town Hall and Highway Garage, printing expenses including the cost of publishing and mailing the Town Newsletter, and other miscellaneous expenses, such as administering elections, replacement of stolen road signs, disposal of recycled tires, dues to municipal organizations, educational seminars and technology.

The 2006 budget includes \$65,000 for the operation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment used by the Highway Department, primarily used for fuel and parts. Much of the actual upkeep of Highway Department equipment is done in-house by the Highway Superintendent and Highway Department employees, yielding significant savings to the Town. The amount budgeted for Snow Removal and Other Road Maintenance (\$51,000) includes road salt and sand used.

The amount budgeted for Departmental Non Personal Service (\$49,000) for 2006 includes \$18,500 to complete the update of the Town Comprehensive Plan. Also included are the costs incurred by the Supervisor for book-keeping and payroll services, the expenses of the Justice Court, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor, Animal Control Officer, Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Much of these costs cover

postage, newspaper publication and mileage reimbursement.

The Town's budget for professional services (\$17,800) primarily covers legal expenses under the Town's annual

Improvement Program, General State Revenue Sharing, and for 2006, the \$25,000 Legislative Grant secured by Senator Seward. Other revenue sources include Justice Court Fines, Mortgage Tax

**TABLE 2**

**TOWN BUDGET DETAILS FOR 2006**

	Adopted Budget for 2006	Change from 2005
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Personal Services-General Fund	253,800	15,015
Personal Services-Highway Fund	254,200	10,900
<b>Subtotal - Personal Services</b>	<b>508,000</b>	<b>25,915</b>
Benefits (Highway and General)	200,100	21,450
Highway Improvements and Repairs	200,000	10,000
Debt Service (Highway and General)	140,563	29,892
Centralized Services (General)	93,875	16,800
Machinery (Highway)	65,000	10,000
Snow Removal/Other Road Maintenance:	51,000	2,500
Departmental Non Personal Service	49,000	15,400
Professional Services	17,800	2,100
Programs	19,200	7,500
Transfer to Highway Equipment Reserve	15,000	0
Contingency	5,000	0
<b>Total Appropriated Expenditures</b>	<b>1,364,538</b>	<b>141,557</b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
Property Taxes	963,686	64,407
State and County Aid	113,150	20,850
Justice Court Fines Revenue	70,000	15,000
Mortgage Tax Receipts	45,000	3,000
Permits and Fees	26,202	-3,000
Interest and Penalty Revenue	21,500	8,300
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,239,538</b>	<b>108,557</b>
Appropriated Fund Balance	125,000	33,000
<b>Total Revenues And Appropriated Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,364,538</b>	<b>141,557</b>

contract with the Town Attorney The budget for Programs (\$17,800) includes the cost of maintaining the Town parks, the Town's annual support of the AgFest and American Legion Post. The budget also includes \$15,000 to be transferred into the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund to set aside funds for future equipment purchases.

The Town's revenues, other than property taxes, come from State Aid, including the Consolidated Highway

Receipts, permit and fee revenue, interest earnings and penalties levied for the late payment of property taxes.

For 2006, most of the increase in the property tax levy (\$64,407) will be offset by an increase in the tax base from new construction, resulting in an overall tax increase of 2.36%. In 2007, the Town will realize the tax benefit of the newly constructed Serta Mattress manufacturing facility.

## Highway Department

The Highway Department has been busy this year on town roads and street putting stone and oil on seven miles of road, blacktop on six road, and grader-patching on several others.

Grader patch was put on West Deans Mill, part of Deans Mill, Schoeller Park, and Kings Road with the new paver. These roads will be stoned and oiled in 2006 to finish the work. The Highway crew paved the following streets and roads: New Street, Madison East, High Bridge Road, the Antique Center road, and Swezey Road. Seven miles of stone and oil were placed on the following roads: East Honey Hollow, Hillcrest and West Deans Mill Road.

In 2006 the Highway department anticipates paving part of Alcove Road, Aqueduct.

Your Highway Superintendent, Denis Jordan, asks that when snow is forecast to please keep your vehicles off roads and streets. Also, be patient. It takes your highway crew 3-4 hours to complete a route while plowing. When conditions are snowy, please be cautious and travel slowly.

Reminder: The town plows only town roads. For problems with County Roads please call 943-4600; State Roads call 622-9312.

## Art Studio Tour

The New Baltimore Holiday Studio Tour is set for Saturday and Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, from 12 - 5 pm. Sponsored by the Hamlet and Hills Artists Guild, the art walk is now in its fifth year and provides an opportunity to combine holiday shopping with a stroll through the hamlet while supporting New Baltimore's artists.

Eleven local artists will be showing their work including paintings, decorative crafts, stonework and grandfather clocks. Many of the artists whose studios are outside the hamlet will show their work in the New Baltimore Reformed Church. Maps of the tour are available at the Litto Schoolhouse Gallery or can be downloaded from the New Baltimore Conservancy website at: ([www.newbaltimoreconservancy.org](http://www.newbaltimoreconservancy.org)).

Snow date for the tour is the following weekend, December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. For further information about the tour, call 756-6779.

## Making your Insurance Dollars go further

Gas prices on the rise and home heating bills are surging. These and other increasing expenses can hammer family budgets. Luckily, there are several steps you can take to lower your insurance premiums. The following tips can help cut your bill, without sacrificing the quality of your insurance.

1. **Raise your deductibles.** You need to ask yourself, "How much can I afford to pay in the event of a car crash or home mishap?" That will help give you an idea as to the deductible you should choose. Drivers can save by upping their comprehensive and collision deductibles to \$500 from \$200. More savings can be found by dropping collision coverage on older cars with a lower book value. Book Values for vehicles can be found at [www.nada.com](http://www.nada.com) or [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com) (Kelly Blue Book).

2. **Consolidate your insurance.** If you are buying auto insurance from one company and homeowners insurance from another, chances are good that your are paying too much for both policies. Most Companies that sell both home and auto insurance will give you a discount by having both policies through the same company.

3. **Stay around awhile.** It is tempting to insurance hop, especially with the frequent ads on TV and in your mailbox. But changing companies can lead to higher premiums over the long haul. Some companies will give renewal discounts on both home and auto insurance after you have been with them for usually 3 or more years. Some auto companies will not charge your for your first "at fault" accident if you have been with them for 3 years or more. Loyalty to your insurance company can also benefit you if you have a child that will soon be of driving age. Some companies will not write your insurance as a new customer if you have a driver in your home that is licensed less than 3-5 years.

4. **Check before buying.** Waffling between a Corvette and a Civic? The 'vette may be quicker on the highway, but its going to cost you a lot more to insure than the Honda. Considering the insurance cost of homes and cars before buying can help save substantial amounts. Try to sway younger drivers to purchase a car that will not need comprehensive and collision coverage.

5. **Take a class.** Taking a Defensive Driver Course can save you about 10% on your auto insurance per year. The discount is good for three years from the date of the class. This is especially beneficial if you have tickets, accidents, or a young driver on your policy. The cost of the class is usually around \$40-50 dollars. If you are over 55, you can take a "55 Alive" defensive driver class and the cost is usually about \$10. Beware of the "On-Line" defensive driver courses. Check with your Insurance Company if they will give the discount from the on-line course you are considering. Contact the School or Community College to see if they are offering the class. Your Insurance Agent may also have information on upcoming classes.

6. **Talk to your Agent.** Have you installed an alarm on your home? Removed the woodstove? Is your child now away at college over 100 miles away WITHOUT the car? Is your child an "A" student? Did you change jobs so you do not drive as far to work? Did you retire? These changes in your life and many others can reduce your insurance premiums.

## NOTICE from the Highway Department

Pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1660 - Section 8, there is to be no discarding of snow on any highway or public road. Also, there is to be no parking on streets and roads during snow removal. The Highway Superintendent is authorized to have any vehicle in violation towed at the owner's expense. Please make arrangements to park your vehicles off the streets and roads when snow is anticipated.

## Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all those contributing to the production of this newsletter, including the contribution of articles by Clessen Bush, Janet Brooks, David Louis, Arlene McKeon, Richard Guthrie, Lisa Benway, Kate Staples, Marjorie Loux and Denis Jordan.



We wish everyone  
**PEACE and JOY** this  
Holiday Season  
and throughout the  
New Year.

*Your friends at the  
New Baltimore Town Hall*

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