

NEW BALTIMORE NEWS

Volume 2 Issue No. 2

April—June 2006

School Tax Reform Rally held at Town Hall

Approximately thirty people gathered at Town Hall on May 6 to show their support for a shift from property taxes to income taxes to fund the local share of education costs. The rally was held in conjunction with other town across the state to bring what they call an unfair system to the attention of State leaders in Albany.

New Baltimore has taken a leading role in the issue. The Town Board has adopted two resolutions – one in April 2005 and another in November 2005 – in support of property tax reform. “We want to be a partner leader with other towns,” said Supervisor David Louis. “The current system does not work, and the burden is particularly heavy for people on limited incomes.”

At the rally, Supervisor Louis brought up the possibility of two people – one with an income of \$250,000 and the other making \$25,000 – paying the same amount, assuming their properties were assessed at the same value, and cited the inherent lack of fairness, that there are town residents, who have grown up in New Baltimore, worked hard and dutifully paid their taxes are no longer able to afford their homes. He added that people currently in a high income bracket will likely someday be living off far less, so it is not just a concern of those with low or fixed incomes.

In response to resolutions passed by New Baltimore and other New York State towns, The Association of Towns of the State of New York recently voted to put the property tax issue on the docket of those to be pursued by the Association among lawmakers in Albany.

Several states, including Vermont, Wisconsin and Texas, have made efforts to change the current system, but none have managed a complete overhaul. The issue has become more pressing in recent years, however, with the steep increase in property values and rising educational costs. “It is getting



Supervisor David Louis addressed the crowd at the May 6th tax rally

worse every year,” says Supervisor Louis. “You can only stretch the rubber band so far before it snaps.”

With the towns becoming more organized and willing to press for change, Louis believes that there might be an opportunity to have a state-wide dialogue after the fall elections. “With a new governor, hopefully we can take a good look at this from the ground up.”

Citizens who wish to get involved in this issue should visit the town’s website (townofnewbaltimore.org) to print and sign the petition and send it to the Town Hall.

RCS Superintendent Presents New Budget Proposal

On May 8th, Superintendent Vicki Wright of the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk School District presented a proposed 2006-07 budget to the Town Board. This new budget, according to preliminary estimates, would include a 12% increase in school taxes, following a 16% increase the previous year. The amount of money in property taxes which must be raised by each town is determined by the Board of Education in the budget process, and this in turn is passed on to the taxpayers.

Superintendent Wright’s presenta-

In This Issue

- Update on the Progress of Comprehensive Plan Committee. Page 2
- Urgent health update: More experts list barrel burning hazards. Page 3
- News from Town Board and Planning Board. Page 4-5
- Historical Notes: Mystery Island. Page 6
- Business Spotlight: Meyer’s Taxidermy and Wildlife Studio. Page 6
- Agfest preview. Page 7
- New Baltimore residents honored as Greene County Citizens of the Year. Page 7
- Town hires new summer Parks Director. Page 7

Community News and Issues

(Continued from previous page)

tion, which included a list of various causes behind the increase, including health benefits for school employees, special education and collective bargaining increases, was met with a great deal of skepticism from members of the Town Board as well as citizens attending the meeting.

One resident noted that the RCS school district placed too great an emphasis on sports to the possible detriment of academics. Councilman Kevin Kuenster added to this concern by noting that in a school district where one out of each four high school students do not graduate in four years, the decision to cancel the district's summer school session to assist students who require remedial education was both puzzling and troubling.

The school's newly-constructed swimming pool was also raised as an issue. Although Superintendent Wright presented a written statement claiming that it is not a "drain" on the taxpayers, Supervisor Louis questioned that characterization, noting that in the printed budget summary, only 30% of the pool's expenses were being covered by user fees, and over \$75,000 (the portion not covered by user fees) is being funded by taxpayers.

Staffing and organizational issues were also raised, in particular the RCS School District's policy of hiring four different principals between its middle and high schools. Another hot issue was the proposal under consideration by the School Administration to shift the fifth grade from the elementary school, where it was moved in 1999, back to the middle school. The initial move was supported in a bond issue and widely favored by parents. Supervisor Louis noted, "This is a complete reversal in policy from what the voters said they wanted, and I would caution you that if you go forward with this kind of proposal, those who supported the prior bond issue will have lost whatever faith they have in the admini-

stration of this school district to follow their wishes."

Comprehensive Plan Committee Update

In September 2005, the Town Board established the Town of New Baltimore Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) to prepare proposed amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Plan for presentation to the public for review and comment for later consideration by the Town Board. The Town Board has also retained the services of Lisa Nagle, of Elan Planning and Design, Inc. She has performed similar work for many small municipalities, including the towns of Sand Lake (Rensselaer County), Copake (Columbia County) and Bolton (Warren County).

The work of the CPC has followed an intensive 18 month process, from January, 2004 to June, 2005, in which a diverse group of citizens, formed by the Town Board as the Citizens' Planning Advisory Group (CPAG), conducted a series of public workshops, prepared, distributed and tabulated a complete survey regarding town issues, and prepared a final report consisting of a Vision Statement for the Town's future and a series of goals and sub-goals aimed at securing that vision for the town.

The Town Board appointed twelve members to the Comprehensive Plan Committee, representing the different area and interests of the town. The members include Supervisor David Louis and Councilwoman Arlene McKeon who serve as Co-Chairs, Lee Davis and Barry Guptill from the Town Planning Board, Meave Tooher from the Zoning Board of Appeals, and residents Gene Albright, John Cashin, Paul Court, Jr., Warren Curtis, James Eckl, Alta Turner and Louise Warner.

To date, the CPC has held seven meetings. The early meetings were spent reviewing the work of the Citizens' Planning Advisory Group, gather-

ing data regarding current zoning, land use, topographic data, groundwater data, soils data and other information. From this research, a series of maps were prepared to assist in the identification of those areas of the town which appear to be most suitable for development, those areas which appear to be most suitable for conservation, and those areas where there could be a conflict between development and conservation. A separate "build out analysis" map was created, using existing zoning and land characteristics, which illustrates what the town could look like in terms of future development if all current land parcels are fully developed.

The next series of meetings have been dedicated to expanding upon the broad goals that were established by the Citizens' Planning Advisory Group and adopted by the Town Board. These goals are: to preserve and protect the rural character and environmental quality of the town; to promote and encourage business development that is consistent with the rural and historic character of the town and that contributes to the tax base; to promote agriculture and protect farmland by recognizing the unique role that agriculture can play in supporting economic prosperity and protecting the things that make New Baltimore special; and to advance the administration and understanding of local laws and ordinances. The CPC has reviewed each of these goals, and the sub-goals that were presented by the CPAG. While the goals have retained intact, some sub-goals have been refined. Additionally, the CPC is now in the process of formulating strategies for achieving the sub-goals within each program area (i.e. residential development, economic development, agriculture, and administration of local laws).

To achieve the town's goals for residential development, the CPC has focused on strategies aimed towards major subdivisions, which are currently defined in the town code as the creation of four or more lots out of one single lot.

(Continued on next page)

A number of strategies are currently under discussion, including requiring significant areas within major subdivisions be preserved as undeveloped open space or offering incentives for developers to do so voluntarily; that the town prepare a town-wide inventory of its natural resources to be used to guide where development is most suitable within the town and within a particular parcel of property, so that environmentally significant areas can be protected and allow for development that minimizes environmental impact; and that the town encourage the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes.

To achieve the town's goals for economic and commercial development, the CPC has focused on strategies geared towards encouraging business growth in the areas currently zoned for commercial use along Route 9W and in the developmental zone in the southern portion of New Baltimore, located between the rail tracks and the Thruway.

To achieve the town's goals for agricultural preservation and expansion, the CPC has focused on strategies which include the implementation of the Greene County Farmland Protection Board's Farmland Protection Plan; to adopt a "Right to Farm" Law in the town; to create an Agricultural Committee to promote local farming resources; to consider zoning changes that protect and promote farming; to connect current and future farmers with newly created markets, such as forestry, organic products, community supported agriculture; to encourage local stores and the Thruway Rest Area to market locally grown agricultural products; to promote farm-based tourism; to encourage and support the marketing of farmland and vacant land to out of area buyers for agricultural use; to explore the feasibility and cost of purchasing development rights to keep farms from being taken out of agricultural production; and to coordinate with support agencies like the Greene County Cornell Cooperative Extension to facilitate educational programs for product information, information sharing, marketing, etc.

To achieve the town's goals for advancing the administration and understanding of local laws, the CPC has focused on strategies which include providing adequate staffing and training of

enforcement personnel; retaining laws banning landfills; to provide more access to town forms, local laws, meeting agendas and minutes and other information on the town's web site; and work with law enforcement officials to enforce speeding, ATV use, vandalism and public trespassing laws.

In the next few months, the CPC will complete its work on preparing a Draft Town Comprehensive Plan Update. This update will be presented to the public for review and comment, and a mailing announcing the date (or dates) of the public meetings will be sent to all town residents. There will be at least two public hearings scheduled, one will be held before the Comprehensive Plan Update is approved by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for submission to the Town Board, and a second public hearing will be held by the Town Board before the Town Comprehensive Plan Update is acted upon by the Town Board. It is the Town Board, after public comment, that has the final say on whether or not the Comprehensive Plan Update is adopted.

The Town Comprehensive Plan Update will include strategies to address the goals for the town's future, and will also include an implementation plan to carry out the strategies in the Comprehensive Plan. The Update will not include any new laws, although it will include strategies that may recommend changes in existing laws. Any laws that are proposed to be changed or added as a result of the adoption of an update to the Town Comprehensive Plan will be subject to a separate public review and Town Board decision making process, which will not begin until after the Town Comprehensive Plan Update has been approved by the Town Board.

The Town Comprehensive Plan Committee will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for June 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Urgent Health Update

It's a common sight, especially in the spring, but there are plenty of hidden dangers in the disposal of household trash through backyard burning. Recently, several institutions, including the Department of Health, the Environ-

mental Protection Agency, The Department of Environmental Conservation and The New York State Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management have issued statements highlighting some of the potential health and environmental risks.

According to the Department of Health, toxic chemicals released by burning household trash include dioxins which can cause cancer, fetal abnormalities and skin disorders, as well as other less publicized but equally hazardous materials such as benzene (leukemia), nitrogen oxides (lung damage), formaldehyde and hydrogen cyanide. Additionally, these chemicals can cause eye, nose, and throat irritation, lung irritation and congestion, skin irritations or burns, stomach or intestinal upset, eye damage, and headaches or memory loss. There is also a proven connection between poor air quality and rising rates of asthma.

Backyard fires burn at temperatures much lower than at large incinerators, which result in more harmful fumes in the air and hazardous materials in the ash according to The National Center for Air Pollution Control. Toxic chemicals are released by burning anything other than untreated, unpainted wood and paper. Even burning your mail, which is frequently treated with chemicals and has plastic address inserts, releases dioxins.

Other items, such as plastic, foam, furniture, rugs, rubber, glass, metal, tree stumps, roofing materials, asphalt shingles, drywall or insulation should never be added to a burn pile.

Unlike some other communities, New Baltimore has no ban or restriction on open burning. Though when it comes to backyard burning, residents are urged to keep in mind that it's not just an issue of personal health, but being a good neighbor, since surrounding homes will also be affected by any chemicals being released. Members of the Town Board have been contacted by constituents made ill by their neighbors' burn piles.

There are alternatives to trash burning, including recycling, composting food waste and taking other materials to the transfer station.

Town Board News and Issues

Town Board Report

Here is a summary of the actions taken at the regularly scheduled Town Board meetings:

February 27th

- Councilman Kevin Kuenster provided a comprehensive overview on agricultural promotion and the protection of agricultural resources in the Town, including recommendations for the adoption of a Right to Farm Law in the Town of New Baltimore and pro-agricultural policies in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update.

March 13th

- Councilwoman Arlene McKeon reported on her representation of the Town at the annual meeting of the Association of Towns for the State of New York, which was highlighted by the adoption of a Resolution calling for changes in the way that local funding of public education is provided, to shift the burden off property taxes in favor of income taxes or another revenue source.
- The Town Board extended the period for bringing an unsafe building into compliance, based on the fact that the owner had retained an engineer and had recently made a good faith effort to begin making the needed repairs to the building.
- Supervisor Louis announced that the Town had been awarded a state grant for ultraviolet disinfection of wastewater at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the State's effort to make the Hudson River safe for swimming.
- The Town Board adopted a Resolution calling on the New York State Department of Transportation to reduce the current 55 mph speed limit on County Route 61 (River Road) from the Cox-sackie Town Line to a point south of Matthews Point Road where the speed limit is currently 30 mph.
- The Town Board authorized the solicitation of bids for the purchase of a used tandem axle truck for the Highway De-

partment, to replace a similar truck that is 27 years old and in poor operating condition, and also authorized the solicitation of bids for the public sale of the older truck. Authorization was also granted to pay \$30,000 of the purchase price for this tandem axle truck out of the Town's Capital Reserve Fund.

- The Town Board authorized budget transfers of \$15,000 from the Highway Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment, and \$10,000 from the Sewer District to the Capital Reserve Fund for Sewer Repairs.
- The Town Board endorsed the efforts of a local resident to pursue a designation of the Croswell-Parsons Paper Mill on the State Registry of Historic Places.
- Supervisor Louis presented a year end financial summary for 2005.

March 27th

- Bids were opened for the mowing of Town parks, with action deferred to April 10th
- A public hearing was scheduled for April 10th on proposed Local Law 2 of 2006 to increase the maximum property tax exemptions for Veterans.
- Anna Cooper was appointed as an interim Deputy Court Clerk,

April 10th

- A moment of silence was observed in honor of the memory of former Councilman and long time resident and farmer Clifford Armstrong, who died in March.
- The Town Board adopted Local Law #1 of 2006 to increase the income limits for eligibility for real property tax exemptions for senior citizens and persons with disabilities and limited incomes. With the passage of this Local Law, those senior citizens and persons with disabilities with income of less than \$17,500 will now be eligible for a 50% tax exemption, and the exemption percentage decreases as income increases, and phases out at an income of \$25,900.
- The Board, following a Public Hearing, adopted Local Law #2 of 2006 to increase the maximum property tax ex-

emptions for 2006 assessments for Veterans under the New York State Real Property Tax Law and consistent with similar action taken by the Greene County Legislature. Under this Law, the maximum exemption of assessed value for veterans who served in war-time will increase from \$15,000 to \$18,000; for veterans who served in combat, the maximum assessment exemption will increase from \$10,000 to \$12,000; for veterans with service related disabilities, the maximum assessment exemption will increase from \$50,000 to \$60,000. It is estimated that the Town will have to make up \$2,000 in annual lost revenue from these exemption increases. Contact the Assessors' Office 756-7888 for more information.

- The Town Board awarded a contract to LLL Landscaping, as the lowest bidder, for the mowing of Town Parks, at a cost of \$8,025.00.
- The Town Board, following the opening of bids, authorized the purchase of a used 1996 tandem axle truck from Trucks 'N Stuff for \$35,000, with \$30,000 of the purchase price to be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment and the balance to be paid from the Highway Fund, using the proceeds of the sale of the older 1979 tandem axle truck to be replaced by this purchase.
- The Town Board, following the opening of bids, authorized the sale of the 1979 tandem axle truck to Burns for \$5,600.00.
- The Town Board adopted Resolutions making determinations regarding the unsafe condition of two buildings in the hamlet, and authorized the Attorney for the Town to issue notices to both owners to have the buildings demolished. One of these buildings was demolished on May 9th, and the owner of the other building has committed to having that building demolished by June 30th.
- The Town Board formally accepted the grant award for ultraviolet disinfection of wastewater at the Wastewater

Treatment Plant and authorized Supervisor Louis to execute a grant contract with the State to secure state funding for the project.

- Councilman Kuenster presented a proposal to conduct a townwide educational program regarding the dangers of open burning of rubbish, citing the impact on air quality and public health. A constructive discussion involving the public in attendance followed his presentation.
- The Town Assessor, Gordon Bennett, in response to newspaper coverage of proposals regarding the assessment of trees on property, issued a letter to the Town Board stating that the Town has not and will not assess the value of trees on town properties
- The Town Board discussed the formation of a Committee to oversee the Memory Garden dedicated last fall.
- The Town Board appointed John Cashin as an additional Building Inspector to serve in the absence of the Town's primary Building Inspector.

April 24th

- The Board appointed Anna Cooper as Parks Director to oversee the operation of the 2006 Summer Parks Program
- The Town Board endorsed and authorized the submission of a grant application for the Justice Court Assistance Program to obtain updated computer equipment for the New Baltimore Justice Court
- The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to execute a retainer agreement with Patrick J. Prendergast, P.E., to provide engineering services in conjunction with the ultraviolet disinfection project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Representatives of the Coeymans New Baltimore Citizens Committee addressed the Town Board regarding illegal ATV use at the P&M Brick Mine and surrounding public roads. Supervisor Louis has met with Supervisor Hotaling of Coeymans and the mine owners to secure their cooperation in discouraging any use of the mine by ATVs, and the mine owners have agreed and the Town is calling on the State Police and Greene County Sheriff to increase police coverage in that area to prosecute illegal ATV use.
- The Town Board approved the purchase of a garden tractor for \$1,600 to be used for mowing at the Town Hall, Cornell Park and other Town property

that is not covered by the parks mowing contract.

May 10th

- The Superintendent of the Ravena Coeymans Selkirk School District made a presentation regarding the proposed 2006-07 school budget, which was followed by a question and answer period.
- Town resident Naomi Rubin, a board member of Greene County Community Action, made a very informative presentation regarding the work of this agency throughout Greene County.
- The Town Board re-appointed Santo Costanza as a Laborer to mow the town owned areas (Town Hall, Cornell Park, etc.) not covered under the parks mowing contract.
- Supervisor Louis updated the Town Board on efforts being taken in Greene County to bring Greene County into compliance with a federal mandate regarding emergency preparedness. The Town of New Baltimore will be training key employees on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and reviewing and updating the Town's Disaster and Emergency Management Plan.
- Councilwoman Arlene McKeon updated the Town Board on efforts being taken in conjunction with a proposal to have Greene County share its sales tax revenues with its towns; Greene County is one of only a few counties in New York State that does not share its sales tax revenues with its towns.

Planning Board Report

March 9th

- Public Hearing was held on the three-lot minor subdivision application of the Eugene Morrison property on Willowbrook Drive.
- In the regular monthly meeting following the Public Hearing, the following business was transacted:
- Approved Morrison minor subdivision
 - Received subdivision application for the two-lot subdivision of the Charles Irving, Jr. property located on Acquetuck Road. Required public hearing was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on April 13.
 - Held a preliminary discussion with a Town Resident considering subdivision of her property.
 - The Chair stamped and signed amended subdivision maps for the Jonathan & Bodil Donald Red Wing Farm Properties major subdivision.

April 13th

● Public Hearing was held on the two-lot subdivision application of the Charlen Irvin, Jr. property on Acquetuck Road. In the regular monthly meeting following the Public Hearing, the following business was transacted:

- Approved the Irving subdivision.
 - Discussed with a property owner and his surveyor the map requirements for correcting his non-conforming subdivision and increasing very limited access to the adjacent parcel that he also owns.
 - Discussed with Boat 'n RV's attorney the status of the incomplete Site plan and the steps that will be necessary before the Planning Board to bring their business into compliance.
 - Discussed with Sandy Mathes of the Greene County IDA a proposed subdivision of the Kalkberg Commerce Park property. It was determined that what they wished to do could be handled as a deed annexation.
 - Discussed with Robert Putre a proposed subdivision of his property on Union Street. It was determined by the Board what he wanted to do could be handled as a deed annexation.
 - Held a preliminary major subdivision discussion with the proposed purchaser of a parcel of land on Hillcrest Road.
- 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 of Appeals Report

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) conducted the following business:

March 1st

- The ZBA met in regular session for purpose of an update on the status of the Albany Tank Service Special Use Permit Application with regard to DEC SEQR determination and status of the applicant's Part 360 Permit Application before DEC.

April 17th

- The ZBA continued discussion on Albany Tank Service, Inc.'s application for a Special Use Permit to operate a transfer facility with light processing operations in a second structure to be erected on property owned at 270-274 Flatbush Road. At the conclusion of discussion, resolution was passed denying the Special Use Permit.

Historical Notes

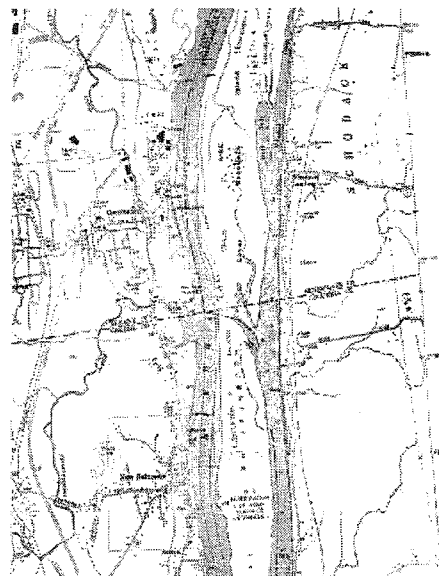
Mystery Island

Most people probably are familiar with Houghtaling Island across from the northeast corner of Town. It is the end of a land mass that once formed several smaller islands, now linked by dumped dredging spoils, diked and dammed sand and gravel, and natural infill. Fewer people may know that the first residents of our area were the Mohicans, who hunted, fished, and grew their maize and other crops right in our backyard. These two facts work together to provide an interesting mystery.

Just above New Baltimore, Upper Schodack Island was, for decades, the home of Skiwias, the sachem or leader of the Mohicans. Upper Schodack's name then was Aepjen's, which was Skiwias' nickname. Between Upper Schodack and Houghtaling was Lower Schodack, which, on the 1993 New York State Department of Transportation Ravena Quadrangle topographic map, spreads across the border into New Baltimore.

By the turn of the 18th century, land sales to Europeans, sickness, and other factors had led many remaining Mohicans to move to other locations, including Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The sachem of their greatly diminished numbers in our area now was a man named Ampamit, who lived on Lower Schodack, then called Moesimus Island.

In 1744, Alexander Hamilton (not the Alexander Hamilton), a Scottish adventurer, was one of the last people to write his recollections of the presence of the Mohicans on the Hudson. He noted that Moesimus Island had "a small nation of the Mochacander Indians with a king that governs them." The exact location of the Mohicans' home on Moesimus and the date of when the nation became indistinct is unknown. But the question remains: Were the last of the Mohicans (at least in their original River homeland) actually in New Baltimore.



1 Hamilton, Alexander, Gentleman's Progress. The Itinerary of Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 1744 (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, 1948), 60.

Business Spotlight

Meyer's Taxidermy & Wildlife Studio

When David and Robin Meyer opened their taxidermy studio 25 years ago, land was cheap, they had very few neighbors on School Hill Road and they worked out of a small 16 X 20 foot room. A lot has changed, both in New Baltimore and their business.

Today, Meyer's Taxidermy & Wildlife Studio has expanded to include a work studio in back and large showroom, where they display some of their wildlife,

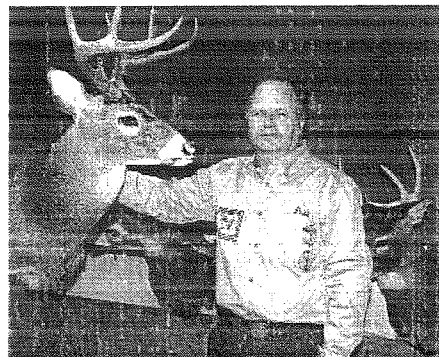


Robin Meyer with one of her custom shadowboxes

along with a range of nature-related items they offer for sale, such as Audubon bird castings, antler chandeliers, skins and large photo prints.

Recently, Robin began a new facet of the business, custom framing, a service she hopes to expand. "It's something I really enjoy," she says. "It's a way of preserving things – memories and keepsakes – in a way that you can always appreciate." Robin's specialty is creating shadow boxes, in which she can combine photographs and mementos in a way which is both commemorative and artistic.

Much of her current business comes from hunters, for whom she might put together a shadow box to go with their animal, including the shell, plate and photograph. She points out, however, that shadow boxes are also a great way of recording other memories, such as children's accomplishments or special occasions. "Part of why I love doing it is that every box is so different," she says. "Every piece which comes out of here, I

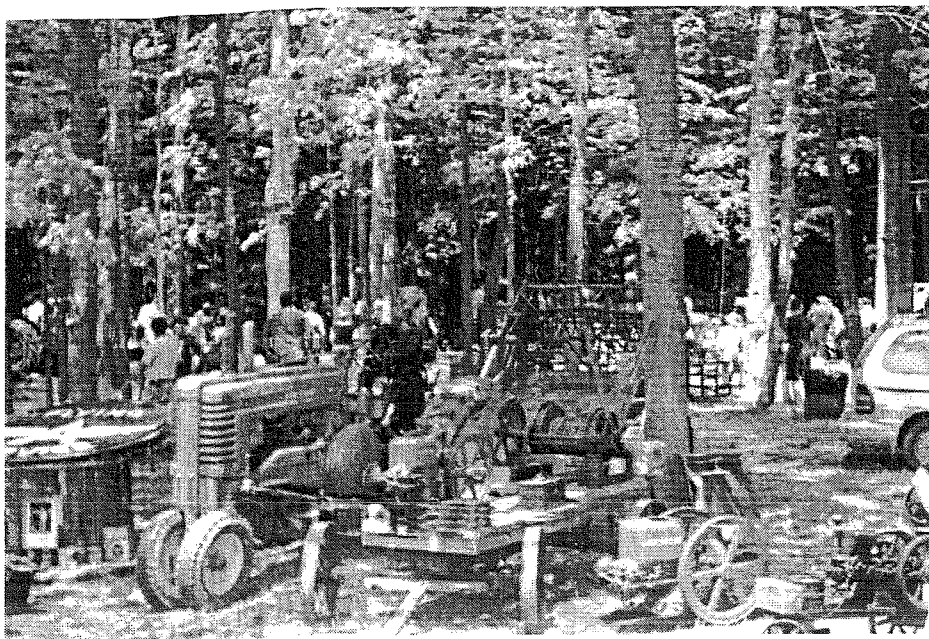


David Meyer with some of last season's trophies
want it to be nice enough so I would put it in my own home."

A few years ago, the Meyer's launched an internet site, but most of their business still comes through word of mouth. David's reputation as a taxidermist brings him business from as far away as California. He used to compete in taxidermy competitions, but now finds that he doesn't have the time.

The Meyers' studio is located at 54 Schoolhouse Road. (518) 756-2207. Or log onto www.meyerswildlifestudio.com.

Events & Announcements



A scene from last year's Agfest

Agfest '06

New Baltimore's annual weekend of tractors, music, food and lots of kid-themed activities is set to take place on June 3-4th at the Van Etten farm. Some of the highlights this year include a silent auction, a show of radio-controlled model airplanes, Leapin Lizards and Rockin Reptiles, a display by the Science and Technology Children's Museum of Troy and, of course, the tractor pulls, which will take place on both days of the fair.

There will also be plenty of food and music, with performances by Squeeze Play, The One Man Band and Sierra as well as a Dance Demonstration from Country Two Step Champion Tom Hourigan.

Representatives from Columbia-Greene College will also be on site to offer information and for recruitment.

For more information on this year's Agfest, call 756-3517 or 756-2793.

Parks Director Appointed

Anna Cooper has been appointed as New Baltimore's Parks Director. Mrs. Cooper is an English teacher at Cox-

sackie-Athens Middle School. Anna is also a graduate of Cocksackie-Athens Central School. Her teaching experience, love of crafts and arts, and her roots here in New Baltimore makes her highly qualified for the position.

Summer Youth Program

The 2006 Summer Youth Program will be held for four weeks beginning July 17th and ending August 11th at Hallock Park on Route 54. The town is currently accepting applications for position of Youth Counselor. Applications can be obtained at the Town Hall or by visiting the town's website. Deadline for submitting a job application is June 1st.

Child enrollment forms for the Summer Youth Program are available at the Town Hall or the town website. Enrollment forms will also be available at the Summer Youth Program beginning July 17th.

Justice Grant Application Filed

The Town Board's Grant Committee has applied for a new computer, flat screen monitor, laser printer, and locking file cabinets to replace the six year-

old equipment currently in the towns' court clerk's office.

The grants are available on a yearly basis from The Justice Court Assistance Program through The State of New York Unified Court System.

If approved, 100% of the awarded grant is paid for by the program and the new equipment should arrive in the fall.

Assessor Report

• In March, the office received filing assistance from RCS senior student Anna Brooks, daughter of Dick and Janet Brooks, as part of a community volunteer program.

• Assessment change notices were sent to property owners whose assessment may be changed due to new construction or data inventory changes. The notices were printed with the Tentative Assessment Roll.

• The Assessor sat with the roll on May 2, 9, 11 and 13 to address residents questions and concerns.

Calendar:

May 23, 2006

Grievance Day 1:00-5:00 & 6:00-9:00pm

June

Revisions to Assessments

July 1

Final Roll

Tanners Honored

New Baltimore residents Donald and Barbara Tanner were honored by the Greene County Legislature as the Greene County Senior Citizens of the Year. The Tanners were awarded with a plaque at the May 17th meeting of the Legislature by New Baltimore's County Legislator, Jim Van Slyke.

Don Tanner is the Town's Code Enforcement Officer and serves as a Commissioner of the New Baltimore Fire District. Barbara serves as a member of the Board of Assessment Review, and is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Cor-

In future issues, the newsletter will begin accepting business advertising as well as announcements for the community events page. For rates and information on placing an ad or a listing, please call Arlene McKeon at 756-6653

Town Officials

Supervisor

David Louis

Board Members

Lisa Benway
Richard Guthrie
Kevin Kuenster
Arlene McKeon

Planning Board

Lee Davis
James Coe
Barry W. Guptill
Kenneth Kuder
Eric Hogland
John Murray
Alta Turner

Zoning Board

Stephen Volkheimer
Meave Tooher
Christy Jo Cone
Anthony Rago
Roger Wilson

Town Clerk

Janet Brooks

Tax Collector

Diane Stuart

Assessor

Gordon Bennett

Town Justices

Joseph Farrell
Joseph Cosenza

Superintendent of Highways

Denis Jordan

Town Board Meetings:

2nd and 4th Mondays

Planning Board Meetings

2nd and 4th Thursdays*

Zoning Board Meetings

1st Wednesday*

*if no agenda, no meeting

Town Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-4

Highway Hours

Monday—Friday 7-3

Telephone

(518) 756-6671

Website

www.townofnewbaltimore.org

New Baltimore Town Hall
3809 Route 51
Hannacroix, New York 12087
