



BRUNSWICK

TOWN NEWSLETTER

www.townofbrunswick.org

Brunswick, New York

Winter 2015

A Letter from Supervisor Herrington...

Dear Resident,

Several months ago, on these pages, I took the opportunity to update you on the status of our ongoing comprehensive zoning law update. In a nutshell, in case you don't remember, having recently adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan, we are now focusing on a comprehensive update of our Zoning Law. We continue to meet regularly with our consultant, our attorneys, and other professional staff to make the countless judgments and decisions which are necessary to formulate a draft of our new Zoning Law, essentially consisting of a Zoning Map, creating and designating the various Zoning Districts, a list of the uses which will be allowed in the various Districts, a list of "bulk" requirements (e.g., setbacks, building heights, minimum lot sizes, etc.) for the various Districts, and the actual text of the Zoning Law, which we will ultimately present to you for your review, consideration and comment. I believe we are making slow but steady progress.



One of the challenges I mentioned in my last article on this subject is the significant cost of the zoning update process. The mapping alone, which is done by our consultant, is very expensive. The potential environmental impacts of the enactment of the new Zoning Law, must be fully and carefully analyzed and reviewed in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) by way of the preparation by our consultant of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), which is a large and costly undertaking in and of itself. That said, however, as I had also mentioned in my previous article, we are seeking grants and financial assistance to help defray these costs. That endeavor will be the focus of this article.

Most significantly, last April I wrote a letter to the Rensselaer County Bureau of Economic Development and Planning requesting financial assistance for the development and preparation of the new Zoning Law and the attendant environmental review. After discussing and making our case for financial assistance with County officials, last August the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency adopted a Resolution approving a Development Incentive Grant to the Town in an amount not to exceed \$95,000.00 for those stated purposes. Now that doesn't mean that we were simply handed a \$95,000.00 check. Rather, under the terms of the Development Incentive Grant Agreement, the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) agreed to reimburse us for expenses we incurred in connection with the development of the new Zoning Law and the environmental review. And that is just what we have been doing. When we receive a bill for, say, the services of our consultant, we pay the bill and then send a copy, with proof that it has been paid, to the IDA. Then the IDA sends us a reimbursement check. The process has been working very well indeed.

Continued on page 5

TOWN OFFICES

279-3461

HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Recycling Center

Hours:

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday
7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Town Board

Second Thursday of
the Month
7:00 p.m. (Town Hall)

Planning Board

First & Third Thursday
7:00 p.m. (Town Hall)

Zoning Board

Third Monday
6:00 p.m. (Town Hall)

Justice Court

Wednesdays
5:00 p.m.
Small Claims Court
Second Tuesday
7:00 p.m. (Town Hall)

Brunswick Library

4118 NY Rt 2
279-4023

Brunswick Historical Society

605 Brunswick Rd
279-4024

Dog Control Officer

477-8230

Mohawk Ambulance

274-4888

From the Town Clerk's Office

Bill Lewis & Lori Nicola

First, we would like to thank all the responsible dog owners in town who keep up with licensing requirements, come in with pictures or even bring their dog(s) to visit. This is much appreciated. Unfortunately, we feel the need for the following:

In almost every newsletter we remind residents about the legal responsibilities of dog ownership. Yet, all too often, owners still run into trouble. Some claim ignorance of the laws, which we suppose is possible, and some obviously had no intention of licensing their dog(s) or being responsible owners in the first place. It is very disheartening to us and can affect the owner(s) emotionally and financially. ***The New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets requires dogs to be licensed in your municipality and vaccinated against rabies.*** This is easy and inexpensive. For about the cost of one fast food meal you can license your dog for a year. You can also save money on rabies vaccinations by taking advantage of the frequent clinics sponsored by the Rensselaer County Dept. of Health. If your dog is impounded, current license and rabies vaccination tags will prove ownership and health status, streamlining the process of recovering your dog. On the other hand... if your dog is picked up running at large, or after being involved in an incident and/or is not licensed, the fees can be costly and are ***entirely your responsibility***. Possible expenses are:

Impoundment Fine. Mandated by NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets for each dog and/or occurrence of running at large and being impounded;

Impoundment Fee. The daily cost of sheltering and feeding the dog until you are able to legally have it released. This may include a lengthy quarantine period if the animal has been involved in a biting incident and no proof of rabies vaccination can be produced;

Veterinarian Expenses. Incurred if the dog is injured and/or determined to need immediate medical attention;

Rabies Vaccination. Administered by a Veterinarian if you cannot prove the dog is already inoculated.

Dogs ***will not*** be released unless properly licensed and all accumulated fees are paid in full. If your dog is missing or you think it may have been picked up, contact our Dog Control Officer, Catherine Crawmer, at 477-8230 or our office at 279-3461 x104. We contract with Creekside Kennel in Poestenkill to care for impounded and stray dogs. They can be reached at 283-1251.



Rensselaer County Dept. of Health Rabies Clinic dates for dogs and cats are listed on the opposite page. Donations are accepted for each vaccination. Cats are the 1st hour and dogs are the 2nd hour. To receive a 3 year vaccine please bring proof of last shot. For further information call RCDOH @ 270-2655.

On a lighter note here are a few things you may not know we do and are happy to assist you with.

Handicap Hang Tags – These allow Brunswick residents with temporary or permanent disabilities to park throughout New York State and almost any other location in the U.S. where designated areas are in use. Application forms are available at our office or on the NYS Dept. of Motor Vehicles website. If you have a tag, make sure to check the expiration date and renew if necessary.

Street Light Repairs – Please call us to report the problem with the light, providing the street name and the number of the pole it is mounted on. In turn, we inform National Grid who will make the repair as soon as possible.

Vital Statistics – We are the repository for records of home births and deaths occurring within the Town of Brunswick. Records of marriage are also in our office if the license was purchased here originally. Where you were married doesn't matter, it's the license that counts. The NYS Dept. of Health also has these records, but if you need copies it is much easier to purchase them here. There are strict laws about accessibility to these records so please call for more information before stopping in.

Best wishes for a great 2015!!

Recycling Center

The Recycling Center processed a total of 501 tons in 2014. The Single Stream Recycling, metal/tin, plastic, paper/chipboards, appliances and batteries represented 55% (276 tons) of the 501 tons. Recycling as much as possible really helps everyone and the environment.

Try and have your garbage in blue bags prior to entering the center. The weight limit on the large blue bag is 35 lbs. If the weight is almost double then it causes problems. Please try and stay within the recommended weight of 35 lbs. We also would ask

self-haulers not to contaminate the paper bin with used Kleenex or used food containers, plastics, or anything else other than papers. We are getting better handling the cardboards that fit into the balers. Please ask any of the attendants to see how we bale the cardboards.

Thank you for recycling. The center is open from 7am-3pm Mon. -Fri. and Sat 7am - 2 pm.



2015 Rabies Clinics Sponsored by Rensselaer County Dept. of Health

Date	Place	Time
4/2/15 – Thurs	Sand Lake Public Works (25 Springer Rd West Sand Lake – 674-2026)	5pm-7pm
4/7/15 – Tues	Pittstown Town Hall (123 Tomhannock Rd. Valley Falls – 753-4222)	5pm-7pm
5/7/15 – Thurs	Schodack Highway Garage (3776 US Route 20 Nassau – 477-7590)	5pm-7pm
5/12/15 – Tues	Brunswick Community Center (18 Keyes Lane Brunswick – 279-3461)	5pm-7pm
6/4/15 – Thurs	Poestenkill VFW (25 Veterans Street Poestenkill – 283-5100)	5pm-7pm
6/6/15 – Sat	Knickerbocker Ice Rink (191 103rd & 8th Ave Troy – 235-0215)	10am-12pm
6/25/15 – Thurs	Grafton Firehouse (2385 Route 2 Grafton – 279-3565)	5pm-7pm
7/9/15 – Thurs	115th Street Firehouse (115th St. & 5th Ave. Troy – 270-4471)	5pm-7pm
9/3/15 – Thurs	Brunswick Community Center (18 Keyes Lane Brunswick – 279-3461)	5pm-7pm
10/3/15 – Sat	Knickerbocker Ice Rink (191 103rd St. & 8th Ave. Troy – 235-0215)	10am-12pm



WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

I would like to cover two topics in this newsletter. The first is the Town's effort to continue to conserve and find leaks in the distribution system and second is our continued commitment to informing you about managing stormwater as a MS4 community.

The Town water department recently purchased 13 new zone water meters. The new zone water meters will be installed in various locations in the water system in the next few months and this will bring the total number of zone meters in the system to twenty one. Monitoring the weekly zone flows for any abnormal increases, will allow the water department to investigate quickly and determine if there is a leak in the zone. Recently the water department knew there was a leak of about 100,000 gallons per day in the system, but because of the limited number of meters in the distribution system it took a week of investigation to find the location of the leak on Mountain View Avenue, the leak was flowing into the sanitary sewer. The resulting lost water cost the Town and our customers about \$3000.00 dollars. The new meters will improve the time needed to find leaks.

Because of continuous monitoring in the water system last year, the Town found most of our non-revenue water losses were in service lines to homes. Even a small hole in the water line can result in leak, losing thousands of gallons per day. If you hear any noise on your water line coming into your home please give us a call so we can investigate. Finding leaks early, will help to keep your water rates low.

The Town water department will also be installing new meters in every home in the South Lake Avenue and Brunswick Road area this spring. We will use this area as a pilot to determine the cost effectiveness of replacing all water meters in the system with new improved meters. We will start contacting homeowners in February to set up meter installation appointments.

Our second topic is Stormwater. The Town of Brunswick is a designated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Community (MS4 Community) As such the Town is required by Federal and State statutes to have in place a program for managing stormwater in the MS4 area of the Town. One key area is, educating the public to the importance of keeping our stormwater clean. This is a very important consideration since the Town of Brunswick enjoys a wide variety of water resources. How stormwater is maintained and managed in your own watershed area can impact you directly. Nearly all homes and business in the Town use wells or the Tomhannock Reservoir for their drinking water. Increased sediment runoff, or excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides or products dumped down your household drains can pollute your source of drinking water. So be the steward of your own watershed and keep it clean. Do not put or flush anything down your drain, but organic products and toilet paper. Look for and use organic cleaners at home or your business. Remember do not flush trash, plastic or pills.

Thank You.

Bill Bradley, Superintendent of Water



Supervisor Herrington - Continued from page 1

In addition to the grant from the County IDA, we have also applied for grant assistance from the 2015-16 Capital District Transportation Committee Community & Transportation Linkage Planning Program. We are proposing to use any grant funds we receive from the CDTC Linkage Planning Program to develop a Corridor Study for NYS Route 7 in the Town of Brunswick to address transportation and land use planning issues along NYS Route 7. We strongly believe that such a study is in all respects relevant and germane to the development of our new Zoning Law, and we are hopeful that we will be awarded a grant. If we are successful, the grant funding could become available as early as April 1, 2015. Such funds, however, would be subject to a 25% local match requirement. This means that if CDTC awarded us, say, a \$40,000.00 grant, the Town would need to also spend \$10,000.00 of its own funds on the specific purpose for which the grant was awarded (please note that I just picked those numbers out of the air to make the math easy).

We also applied for, and were fortunate enough to receive, a Greenway Communities Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Hudson River Valley Greenway intended to assist us in the development and preparation of our new Zoning Law.

We are constantly on the lookout for other grant programs to which we can apply for assistance, so as to reduce our costs, and the direct burden on Brunswick taxpayers, to the minimum possible. The costs we have had to incur, first for the Comprehensive Plan update, and now the Zoning Law update, while regrettable strictly in a fiscal sense, are vital and necessary to the well-being of the Town. As I have pointed out in these pages before, our current Zoning Ordinance, which dates back to the 1950s, is antiquated and ill suited to serve the needs of our Town in the 21st Century. I will continue to keep you informed on the status of this important endeavor.



Highway Department News

With the event of an early snowfall, it causes many problems with all Highway Departments. Usually the ground is not frozen yet and when the snowplow comes through and catches someone's lawn, it rolls the lawn because of the weight of the plow wing. Residents are encouraged to put reflectors or painted posts (as long as they aren't metal posts) along their lawn to give the snowplow driver an idea where the road edge is.



We also receive numerous phone calls for the snowplows hitting mailboxes. We are not liable by Highway Law to fix the mailboxes. However, many times we will go to check out these issues and numerous times we are finding that the mailboxes are in poor condition. The heavy snow/ice has hit them, not the plow itself. During the summer months, residents are encouraged to check out the condition of their mailboxes and upgrade or repair if necessary. Please keep in mind that your mailbox should be 42-48 inches high and the face of the mailbox 18 inches from the edge of the road.

As was stated in our fall newsletter the Town has a new snow parking ordinance and as some residents have unfortunately found out that we are going to enforce this new law. For the safety of the plow drivers, emergency vehicles, and the public, we need your vehicles parked on your property during any snow event. It makes it safer and easier for the plow drivers to plow and sand the roads.

I would also like to mention the snow/ice storms that can break off numerous branches/limbs throughout the winter months. Please keep in mind that we end our brush pick-up in October. If you are going to stack brush out in front of properties in the winter, please keep it far enough off the road so that the plow wings don't catch the limbs and break the equipment or personal property. While on the subject of limbs, the Highway Department cuts low-hanging limbs/branches and dead trees in the winter when weather permits. These are usually limbs that hit the snowplow trucks in the windshields and mirrors when we are out plowing. We try not to destroy the looks of a tree when we prune it, therefore we recommend keeping your trees pruned back away from the highway to avoid unwanted cutting by the Highway Dept.

It's Not Too Late to Enjoy Songs Created, Sung, and Recorded in Brunswick!

By Sharon Zankel, Town Historian

About this time 15 years ago more than 400 students in grades 4-12 at Tamarac (Brunswick Central School District) were rehearsing for a very special choral festival scheduled for March 9, 2000. The performance was simply titled "Home Town," and included four songs based on Brunswick history, people, and legend that had been composed by a total of 45 young students who enrolled in one or more song writing residencies sponsored by the Garfield Library—as the Brunswick Community Library was then known—during the winter recesses of 1996, 1997, and 1998.

The idea of a song writing residency originated with the Library's then program coordinator, Carolyn Abrams, who looked to the NYS Council on the Arts for funding, recruited local song writer/recording artist Bridget Ball Shaw as music instructor, and enlisted the assistance of the Brunswick History Society and this town historian to guide the children in discovering and interpreting our area's history. While each year's residency concluded with a public performance of the musical compositions, concern that the songs would be lost with the passage of time sparked the idea of producing a music CD and, with the support of Bridget Ball Shaw, the Brittonkill Friends of Music, and all the teachers then on the Tamarac Music Department's roster, production of the CD was underway by the close of 1999. While the CD recording required Tamarac's most talented voices try out, all who wished to sing the Brunswick songs could participate in the Home Town concert. The memorable concert ended with the release and sale of the music CD also titled "Home Town."

While copies of the CD "Home Town" are no longer available for purchase, one may stop by the Brunswick Community Library or the Brunswick Historical Society to listen to the songs created, sung, and recorded here in Brunswick—"The Ghosts of the Drowned Lands," "The Brunswick Gold," "Mother Pickering of Lowland Grove," and "Let's Build a School." Brunswick is the only town in the local area with such a repertoire of songs—and I'd welcome the opportunity to work with a school, organization, or individual interested in composing more songs celebrating our community's history!

Name that Vehicle!

By Sharon Zankel, Town Historian

It's hoped one of our Brunswick antique automobile enthusiasts can identify the make, year, and model of the vehicles pictured here. Both were owned and used by Mr. D. C. Gutbrodt who operated the Sunshine Dairy and delivered milk in Brunswick, Eagle Mills, and Wynantskill. Mr. Gutbrodt, who appears in the photograph of the later model truck, also served as Brunswick Town Supervisor (1940-1947) and as a Town Justice (1960-1972) and was the husband of Helen Keyes. Please give Sharon Zankel a call at 279-3461 Ext. 116 if you can identify the vehicles. Many thanks to Bill Lynd for sharing these photographs.





Brunswick Grange #1337

Brunswick Grange sponsored the Agricultural Tailgate Sale at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds in October and will be holding our next ones on Sunday, May 5, 2015 & Sunday, October 4, 2015.

In October, Maureen Subcleff, Jim Welch, Jessie Falasco & Alice Grimsley attended the New York State Grange Convention in Oneonta, N.Y.

In December the Highlight Acting Troup put on a wonderful Christmas Show to sellout crowds. They are planning their next production that will be held at the Grange Hall on March 20, 21 & 22nd. Hope you will support this very talented group by attending their shows.

In October Sarah Barber and Alice Grimsley presented dictionaries to the 3rd grade classes at the Berlin Elementary School. This is our fourth year presenting books to Berlin students and they have been very favorably received.

Brunswick Grange held a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Thursday, March 12th from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. There will be seating downstairs and takeouts will also be available. Watch the sign at the Grange for other upcoming events to be held at the hall this Winter and Spring.

For more information and membership to Brunswick Grange please contact Alice Grimsley at 279-9113 or Wm. Hodges at 686-7539.

Alice Grimsley - Brunswick Grange #1337

Speigle Elders

For thirty-eight years, the Speigle Elders have brought senior citizens from the towns of Schaghticoke, Brunswick and nearby communities together to cultivate friendships, develop mutual interests and to share social, educational and recreational activities.

Our meetings are held at 12:30 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church on Route 40 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month with the exception of January, due to winter weather concerns. The business meetings are followed by refreshments and the opportunity to play cards, bingo, table games, etc. At the first meeting of each month, a collection is taken for a local charity.

Our senior group sponsors a seasonal, unsanctioned bowling league, held at noon on Mondays at the Alpha Lanes in Lansingburgh and are seeking full time and substitute bowlers. Our 2015 agenda has not yet been finalized, but occasional speakers, luncheons, day trips and special events are scheduled on a monthly basis, including birthday celebrations, theater trips, and the annual Christmas party. The Speigle Elders recently welcomed friends and neighbors from the Schaghticoke seniors as members. If interested in joining our organization, please contact membership chair, Ellen Lewis at 235-1596. We look forward to meeting you.

Brunswick Community Assistance Aux.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Community Center on Keyes Lane at 7:00 PM. We are a community centered organization. During this past year we have had (2) successful fundraisers. Our profits go to help residents at Thanksgiving. Also, if we are made aware that a family has financial problems due to a non-covered insurance health problem we will help. We also give free Halloween parties and one for Christmas for resident children. Any questions, call 279-9177.

W.A.Y.S Seniors

We meet every two weeks on Thursday at the Community Center on Keyes Lane at 10:00 AM. We play a variety of games. Please bring your lunch to have at 12 noon. We provide tea or coffee. Our meeting time is 12:30. We help churches and some community groups who need help also. We do at least 2 day trips and one over nighter. Usually in the spring. Come join us and Remember W.A.Y.S. stand for "We Are Young Seniors." Questions-call 279-9158 or 663-8245. Next meeting is January 15th.



The Brunswick Baseball League, located at the Brunswick Sports Complex on Rte. 2, is gearing up for the 2015 Baseball season. Free Winter Clinics are being conducted every Saturday between 12p-2p at the Tamarac School, multi-purpose gym. Clinics concentrate on conditioning and skill development and will run until April 1st. All persons 12–24 are welcome to attend. Sneakers & Glove required, all other equipment will be supplied by the league.

Registration for our House & Travel programs is open to all interested participants:

Minors League: Ages 13-16 - Opening Day – April 25th

Major League: Ages 17- 24 - Opening Day – May 23rd

Please visit our website: eteamz.com/brunswickbaseball for more information about the league and registration information. Players interested in travel baseball should contact our Travel coordinator, Guy Changa, 961-8139, for additional information.

Businesses interested in supporting the many kids who participate in the not-for-profit league can become a team/league sponsor. Please contact Mark Phillips, 279-3471, for additional information regarding the tax deductible contribution.



Parents,

Registration is now open for the 2015 Brunswick Girls Softball League. You will notice some differences this year with the registration. First we have reduced the T-ball fees from \$60 to \$55. The minis, minors and majors registration fee will be \$95.

You will also notice that we have realigned the league. T-ball is now ages 3-5, mini minors 6-8, minors 9-11 and majors are 12 and up.

Please go to <https://brunswicksoftball.sportssignupapp.com> to register and let your friends know about Brunswick Girls Softball anyone in Rensselaer County can play at BGSL.

Have a Happy New Year!

BGSL Board

bgsleague@gmail.com

Center Brunswick Fire

First and foremost, we would like to extend our gratitude for our fundraising events this past year, without your support it would be very difficult for the fire company to operate and we thank you. Just as a reminder with the snowy weather if your residence has a nearby fire hydrant, please clear a path to and around the fire hydrant. An easily accessible fire hydrant helps the fire company tremendously during an emergency. The fire company is conducting fundraising activities including selling 9-1-1 address signs. Besides being required by NYS Fire Code, an easily visible address makes finding your residence during an emergency easier and more efficient when seconds count! The fire company is expecting another busy year, and as always, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers that are willing to help. For additional information involving membership or fire department news please visit our website at www.Centerbrunswickfire.com and like us on Facebook@ search Volunteer Fire Company of Center Brunswick Inc. As always Dial 9-1-1 for ALL emergencies! Thank you again for your support..



2015 Line Officers

Chief Elwood Dalaba	Lieutenant Michael Collins
1st Assistant Chief Michael K Lewis	Lieutenant James Smith
2nd Assistant Chief Michael Drinkwine	Lieutenant Michael Wasiczko
Safety Officer John Singleton	Engineer Michael Kasmier
Fire Captain John Kreiger	Engineer Eric Manning
Fire Captain John Hudson	Fire Police Captain Gerald Simmons
EMS Captain Daniel F. Bruns Jr	Fire Police Lieutenant Rob Alber Jr



Eagle Mills Fire Company

- The Eagle Mills Volunteer Fire has responded to 210 calls in 2014.
- 2,000 man-hours were put in by members.
- Anyone who is interested in volunteering, please stop in on Monday night during drill at 7 PM and put in an application.
- **HELP US HELP YOU**

Our Highway Superintendent, Douglas Eddy was featured in the monthly magazine Superintendent's Profile. This article was originally published in August 2014. You can view the article in its entirety article at www.profilepublications.com.

By Mary Yamin-Garone

PROFILE CORRESPONDENT

Doug Eddy grew up on his family's farm in Johnsonville, in the town of Pittstown.

"We were a typical family," said Doug. "We raised everything from beef cows to chickens, sheep, pigs, even hamsters. I can remember my mother butchering the chickens and then we'd have to pluck the feathers and she'd hang them on the clothesline. My father worked nights at St. Regis Paper Company. He'd come home and mow a field of hay. He'd catch a few hours of sleep, go to work and come home and rake the hay. We didn't have all the modern equipment. We just had a mowing machine, a rake and a baler. Times were tough. I had four brothers. Three were older. Two went to Vietnam and one served in Korea. Quite a time growing up like that. It was different then. You had to wait on pins and needles. My mother waiting for another letter but they all came back."

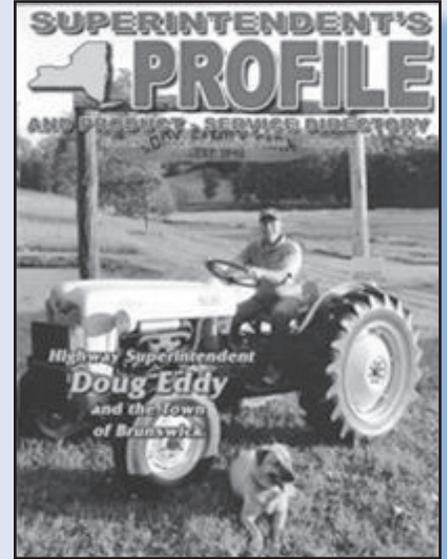
Years later, Doug is still a country boy at heart.

"I go up to the farm every weekend and brush hog and maintain it. We don't have the animals to chew the grass anymore. We go up in the fall and hunt. Maybe after I retire we'll go back up and I'll start raising cows again."

Doug attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill where he majored in agricultural engineering.

"During my college years I drove a truck for a small, private company called Hoosick Valley Asphalt. After graduation I continued working construction for them. In 1978, the company was bought out by Peckham Industries. I worked there until 1996 when I changed jobs. I went to the Midland Asphalt Company and operated their first prototype NovaChip paver.

"In 1997, I was approached by a local farmer friend who had intentions of running for town supervisor. He asked if I would consider the highway superintendent's position. I was working out of town a lot and had two young boys at home. I was missing out on their Little League games and things like that. I wanted to get closer to home. Phil Herrington was elected town supervisor in 1998 and in 1999, I became the highway superintendent. Little did I know at that time that it would be the hardest job of my career. We were faced with a union that had gone without a contract for four years and a lot of worn out equipment."



The Town of Brunswick's town office.

Continued on page 11

Highway Superintendent - Continued from page 10



The Town of Brunswick Highway Superintendent Doug Eddy said that his department can do all of its own paving and save money in the process.

This seven-term superintendent credits his pre-highway department years working on roads for helping him do his job well.

“My equipment background has helped me a lot, too. I bought numerous pieces of equipment around here. Being part mechanic you have to make decisions whether to fix this or save that or get rid of it. When I came here we didn’t have much. We had tired iron.”

Doug and his wife, Manette, have been married for 29 years. She’s a computer software analyst for the New York State Unified Court System. Son Kyle, 26, is a landscaping architect and Shawn, 22, is a senior at Plattsburgh majoring in broadcast communications. Doug has been treasurer of the Rensselaer County Association of Town Superintendents for 16 years and participates in its scholarship program. He’s also an annual attendee at the Cornell Highway School.

When the time comes for Doug to turn over the superintendent’s reins to his successor how would he like to be remembered?

“As someone who always gave a fair and honest opinion, whether they agreed with me or not. I also did the job to the best of my ability.”

Wife, Manette, believes he has already done that time and time again.

“Even though the highway superintendent position is demanding. I think Doug is doing a great job. He truly cares about the town where he lives and raised his family. We enjoy being part of the Brunswick community. I’m also proud of the work he does. I know the taxpayers are getting their money’s worth. Doug takes his job very seriously and is conscious of keeping spending down. After all, we’re taxpayers, too!”

About the Job

The highway department’s facilities consist of an upper and lower garage.

“Our snowplows are housed in both of them. The upper one has nine bays. The other has five and also serves as the mechanics’ garage. That’s where we store our bulk oil, welders and cutters and do all our repair work. The building up here was built for storing equipment. We’ve been in it about eight years now. There’s also a ‘green’ building that houses our recycling department,” Doug said.

The department also boasts a new salt shed. Constructed in 2012, it holds 4,000 yards of salt and sand.

“We mix out here in the rural areas. The state is all straight salt and calcium while the county is quite heavy on more salt than sand. Unfortunately, at the end of the winter you have to pick up all your sand. I probably gathered up about 1,500 yards of it this spring. We save quite a bit of money by doing it. You don’t look like the best person on the block when the other roads get bare before yours. We’re old-fashioned. That’s part of my problem with these jobs. In the old days, we never asked anyone for anything. We’d go out in the culvert that was plugged out front and we’d take a shovel and clean it out ourselves. We’re from a different era.”



The Town of Brunswick’s highway department runs on a total operating budget of \$2,100,100 that includes salaries and benefits for employees and an annual CHIPS allocation of \$209,969.

Continued on page 12

Highway Superintendent - Continued from page 11



In winter, Doug is quick to admit that clearing roads is the most important part of the job.

In spite of the obstacles and challenges winter presents, Doug is quick to admit that clearing the roads is the most important part of the job.

“The highway department is geared to plow snow. Residents don’t care what happens during the summer. The most important part of this job is to clear the roads so residents can get out of their driveways in winter. It’s important for us, too. You can’t be sick in the winter. You can hire someone to come in and do your paving or your drainage work but the highway guys know their routes. They know where that manhole cover sticks up.”

Doug’s 18-member crew help serve the town’s 11,941 residents. His staff includes Dan Dougherty (deputy superintendent); Kevin Anders (HEO); Philip Arnold (mechanic); Joe Dawson (HEO); James DelSanto (mechanic/welder); Robert Duncan (laborer); Bill Harris (HEO); Robert Hayner (HEO); Kevin Herrington (laborer); Brandon Hill (HEO); Gordon Kneer (mechanic); Ed O’Donnell (general foreman); Rodney Rodgers (laborer); Gill Roscoe (HEO); Terry Scriven (LEO); Randy Southwick (mechanic/welder); Ray Wilson (HEO); and Ned Zareski (HEO/working foreman). Three members of the town’s Water Department also work with Doug’s crew: Wayne Savage (general foreman); Michael Mason (HEO/working foreman); and Charles Saunders (laborer).

“We all work together. They plow snow and if they need a truck we help them.”

Doug knows the importance of having a good and loyal staff. He also believed is tough love.

“I tell my crew every day that we’re not here for a good time. We’re here to do a job. I told them from Day One that there’s nothing I would ask my crew to do that I wouldn’t do myself.”

Under Doug’s conscientious eye, the town of Brunswick’s highway department runs on a total operating budget of \$2,100,100 that includes salaries and benefits for employees and an annual CHIPS allocation of \$209,969.

As the highway department’s “commander in chief.” Doug is in charge of keeping up the town’s 225 lane miles of road; seven of which are gravel and three belong to Rensselaer County. That translates into 16 plowing routes that take about three hours to complete.

“This spring we finally got a better snowplow ordinance program. Now we can go out and ticket [vehicles] at four o’clock in the morning if they’re in our way. We never enforced the original law. It said you must have four inches [of snow]. Four inches? You still have to go out and plow the same roads with two inches. You have trucks going like a mouse through a maze with plow wings on them. It’s tough. Some roads are narrow. The difficult part is you don’t want to fill out accident reports for the guys getting hurt and you don’t want to be hitting cars. It’s a balance.”



The highway department’s salt shed was built in 2012.



The Town of Brunswick Highway crew poses for a group shot.

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Highway Superintendent - Continued from page 12



Seen here is just a small sampling of the Brunswick highway department's equipment fleet of more than 60 items.

To help with its daily operation the department uses an armada of equipment and who maintains all that equipment?

"The mechanics fix any problems we have. With a 60-plus fleet they're very busy. The drivers are responsible for checking the fluids, directionals and other standard stuff."

Doug earmarks \$156,000 each year for purchasing new equipment.

"Over the years I've purchased 40 vehicles. The first truck I bought in 2000 was a six-wheel dump truck with a sander body and everything in it. It cost \$100,000. Today, that same truck will set you back \$180,000. I'm trying to fix up some of our old trucks. We're trying to do some repair work and save them."

Doug admits that technology makes repair work more challenging than it once was.

Technology also has changed how the highway superintendent does his job.

"It's changed it a lot starting with the computers. Now we're always looking at the weather. We have Intellicast weather and some other things we bring up to try and get a good grip so we can figure out the snowstorms. I'm all about planning, so I want to know if something's happening the next day. Sometimes you get burnt. Knowing the weather also allows us to plan ahead when it comes to paving. All the maintenance and inspection schedules for the vehicles are computerized, too."

In addition to its regular duties the highway department is responsible for maintaining the town's athletic fields, community center and town park.

Looking back, one of the highlights of the job thus far for Doug was purchasing a paver.

"Now we can do all our own paving and save money in the process. I also implemented a monthly brush/yard waste pickup for the residents."

Like most highway superintendents, Doug finds doing more with less to be the most challenging part of his job.

"A limited source of income makes it hard to keep our equipment up-to-date. The life expectancy of a snowplow is about 10 years and we're getting past that. How do towns keep up? Maintaining and trying to fix the old vehicles and keep them in good condition also is a challenge."

What does the future hold for this highway department?

"We're gearing up for a bridge replacement job on White Church Road. The design work is complete and it will go out to bid this fall. It's scheduled for a full replacement next year. This year also seems to be the year that all these metal culverts in the ground are coming to life. We do the replacements ourselves and some of them are big."

If he were to look through a crystal ball, what else would Doug see on the horizon?

"A new highway garage so all our equipment could be stored under cover. A 200 foot by 100 foot wide facility would be perfect"



The Town of Brunswick highway department works on a culvert replacement this past June.



Brunswick Town Newsletter

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Town of Brunswick

Town Officials

Philip H. Herrington, Supervisor

James Sullivan, Councilman

Daniel Casale, Councilman

Gordon Christian, Councilman

Mark Balistreri, Councilman

William J. Lewis, Town Clerk

Jayne Tarbox, Receiver of Taxes

Lawrence Kronau, Town Justice

Robert Schmidt, Town Justice

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Mark Balistreri was appointed to the Town Board on November 13, 2014. Mark was joined by his wife Lisa and their daughter Madeline.