



# TOWN OF LAKE LUZERNE COMMUNITY REPORT

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE ACTIVITY OF YOUR TOWN GOVERNMENT

SPRING 2007

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

## A Word from Your Town Supervisor

Dear Fellow Lake Luzerne Residents,

My first year as your supervisor was a great experience! I knew from the beginning that it takes a great team, not just one person, to run a complex municipal government. Your councilmen and I spent



*Gene Merlino*

many hours working on a comprehensive plan for 2006. The first order of business was for each board member to act as a liaison between the taxpayers and town departments. The idea was well received and has helped strengthen management controls and identify areas needing improvement. (see "Getting to Know Your Town Board Liaisons") The Councilmen, the offices of the

Town Clerk, the Assessor, Zoning Officer, Highway Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Dept., Town Justices, Water Dept., and town Bookkeeper are a well-coordinated team, working hard to make Lake Luzerne the best place it can be. We don't always agree, but when a decision is made, we all pull together to push the wagon in the right direction. I maintain an open door policy for all town employees, caring about their problems and hearing their ideas for improving the workplace. The Town has a new attorney to advise us, and I feel confident in the many changes made in various departments. Everyone is working together for this wonderful community in which we are proud to live, work and play.

As I look back at what we achieved in 2006, I know we all learned something new every day. And I hope I brought new energy to your town government. With this great team in place, I look forward to even more

improvements in 2007. Why not join us at our bi-monthly Town Board meetings (second Monday 7:00 pm and 4th Wed. 1:30 pm) and become part of the future of Lake Luzerne:

### **BUDGET AND FINANCES**

- We took steps to modernize the way in which town finances are managed, and were able to add to the town's revenues. Your monies are now invested in high interest accounts.

- We prepared a 2007 town budget with less than a \$500 bottom line increase over last year's budget, even after giving town employees a 4% raise and making our first payment on a 2 million dollar bond for the new highway garage.

- We are actively pursuing grant funding to help with much needed improvements and have hired grant writers to help us.

- The town has re-established its timber-cutting contract, bringing in \$107,000 for trees harvested off Reservoir Road under the guidance of a professional forester.

- NYS D.O.T. generally cuts the grass along Route 9N, but didn't have sufficient personnel to do a good job last year. The town parks and recreation crew took care of the job and NYS reimbursed the town for all expenses.

- We negotiated a donation by International Paper for an acre of filament (a felt-like by-product of paper making) to aid the fight against the lake's milfoil problems. (see "We're Working on Removing Milfoil on Lake Luzerne" below)

- We have a \$30,000 contract from Warren County bed tax funds to promote tourism.

- We actively pursued ways and have achieved significant savings in employee health benefit packages.

*...continued next page*

## Town of Lake Luzerne Leadership Directory 2006

All of the following people can be reached at Lake Luzerne, N.Y. 12846 unless otherwise noted.

### Supervisor

Eugene Merlino, Town Hall  
.... O: 696-2711 Ext 3 H: 696-5256  
E-Mail ..... supervisorlakeluzerne@hotmail.com

### Deputy Supervisor

Thomas Diehl ..... 696-2430

### Town Clerk and Collector

Cynthia Sherwood  
51 Main Street ..... 696-2711 Ext 1

### Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk

Linda Mason ..... 696-2711 Ext 2

### Town Justice

Rodney Johnson ..... O. 696-4294  
..... H. 696-3644

### Town Council

Thomas E. Diehl ..... 696-2430  
Robert Shiel ..... 696-2974  
Mark McLain ..... 696-3464  
Dan Waterhouse ..... 696-3011

### Town Attorney

Russell C. Tharp, Jr.  
Glens Falls ..... 798-1785

### Assessor

Deanne Rehm ..... 696-2711 Ext 5

### Superintendent of Highways Water Superintendent

Bruce Podwirny ..... O. 696-3071  
..... H. 696-5873

### Deputy Superintendent of Highways & Water Superintendent

Danny Clute ..... O. 696-3981

### Parks and Recreation

Glenn Shiel ..... 696-2711

### Zoning Enforcement Officer

Allen Saheim ..... O. 696-2711 Ext 4

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Robert Forte ..... 696-2400

### Planning Board

Richard Dashnaw, Chairman ..... 696-2252

### Board of Assessment Review

Pamela Petteys ..... 696-5804

### Dog Control Officer

Tina Boyce ..... 654-5459

### Town Historian

Beatrice Evens ..... 696-2324

### Town Librarian

Cynthia Hedger ..... 696-3423

### Transfer Station (The Dump)

Rick Carvajal ..... 696-2105

Chamber of Commerce ..... 696-3500

Meals on Wheels-Firehouse ... 696-2200

Hadley-Luzerne Public Library .. 696-3423

School Tax Collector ..... 696-6108

Hadley-Luzerne

Historical Society ..... 696-4520

Lake Luzerne Music Camp .... 696-2771

**EMERGENCY**  
**FIRE - POLICE - MEDICAL**  
**911**

## WE'VE MODERNIZED THE TOWN HALL

- Much needed office space was added and upgrades were made to the conference room at the Town Hall. The roof was painted and the parking lot was re-paved.

- Last year's 3-day power failure brought awareness of the need to increase our ability to respond to MINOR emergencies. A generator was installed enabling the offices to continue work uninterrupted in the event of a power outage. A satellite telephone allows making calls even if regular lines come down and outside help is required. It will also permit those who still have phone service to call in if other help is needed so we can attempt to assist them.

## WE'RE SERVING OUR SENIORS

- The Town Board reinstated the Senior Bus. It leaves from the Town Hall on the first Monday and the third Friday of each month. To make arrangements, call Edith Tubbs at 696-2994.

## WE'VE IMPROVED EMERGENCY SERVICES

- In addition to the satellite telephone, Nancy Galvin volunteered her time as an emergency management coordinator and she is putting together a comprehensive program for us. Anyone with suggestions should contact her at 696-2920.

- The firehouse on Route 9N is available for temporary shelter in the event of a major emergency. Cots have been purchased and stored there. Please call the town hall or visit the town website [www.townoflakeluzerne.com](http://www.townoflakeluzerne.com) for further emergency information.

- In order for fire, police or ambulance services to find your home, it is suggested that 911 house numbers be displayed on your home and mailbox. Place your 3" reflective numbers on or along the main entrance or on a separate signpost close to the curb if your house is more than 50 ft. from the road. Contact the town hall at 696-2711 if you don't know your 911 address number.

## WE'RE IMPROVING LOCAL CELL PHONE SERVICE

- We have permitted Saratoga County Emergency Management Corp. to erect an emergency tower on our water property for fire and police calls and we plan to lease the tower to cellular companies. This would not only allow for much needed cell phone service in town, but would also be a source of significant yearly revenue. It is hoped that we will have this plan in place by the end of the year.

## WE'RE WORKING ON REMOVING MILFOIL ON LAKE LUZERNE

- Robert Forte and Mike Schaffer head a committee actively pursuing ways to control the milfoil problem in Lake Luzerne. The town has applied to the APA for a permit to install the donated filament from International Paper Co. and has hired Steve Lamere as a consultant water manager.

## WE'RE DEVELOPING AN UPDATED MASTER PLAN

- We are currently in the process of forming a volunteer citizens committee to work on updating the town's master plan. We hope to have the group in place within a few weeks with a goal of accomplishing the task within two

years. A \$147,000 grant with a 50% town match will fund the project with a consulting company leading the effort. This endeavor should make it easier for the town to obtain major restoration grants.

### **WEST MOUNTAIN PROJECT**

- Plans for this project are ongoing. Please stay informed, ask questions and get your concerns answered by checking the Pennysaver News, the Post Star Legal Notices and the town website for public hearings to be held on this project.

### **MORE LAKE LUZERNE NEWS**

- After many labor-intensive months, the Rockwell Harmon Cottage was restored from major fire damage. There was a very well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony and open house in October 2006. Thank you to all the volunteers who did such a beautiful job while saving the town money on this project. This was truly a group effort. Look for the Grand Opening of the Cottage in May.

- The Gailey Hill Schoolhouse Museum has been finished. We expect it to be open to the public this summer. Exact dates and times to be announced.

- The Courthouse parking lot was paved and two dangerously decayed bridges have been repaired.

- The Highway Garage project is complete.

- Last Summer, beautification projects were applauded by visitors and residents alike. Flags and flowers were placed on available poles and we plan to repeat the effort this summer.

- A power source was installed at the corner of School and Bay for use at holiday time to light a Christmas tree and Chanukah Menorah.

- Purchases enabled employees to do a more effective job including a surplus truck from Lake George to be used by the water dept., and a 2006 Jeep Liberty for the Meals on Wheels Program.

- New contracts were negotiated for cleaning uniforms for employees.

- The Town Board is reviewing the zoning ordinance and expects to make modifications this year.

### **FILM: SEE ROCKWELL FALLS AND LAKE LUZERNE ON PBS**

- Would you like to see our beautiful Rockwell Falls in a film? "Swim for the River" is a documentary featuring Chris Swan who, in 2004, swam the entire length of the Hudson River from Lake Tear of the Clouds to the Atlantic Ocean. It is scheduled to be shown on PBS channels, April 22, 2007, and may be shown in our viewing area. Thank you to the Hadley Luzerne Historical Society for bringing the film to our attention.

### **GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TOWN BOARD LIAISONS:**

Gene Merlino	696-5294	Parks and Recreation and Garbage Pick-up depts.
Tom Diehl	696-2430	The Transfer Station and Recycling Center
Bob Shiel	696-2974	Planning and Zoning Boards
Mark McLain	696-3464	Highway Department and Town Website
Dan Waterhouse	696-3011	Finances and Budget

### **THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP US HELP YOU**

- Recycle your glass, plastic, metal, cardboard and newspapers. It is not only ecologically responsible, but fiscally responsible too. The town pays for every ton of garbage taken to the burn plant. Recycled material omitted from your garbage represents a savings to the town.

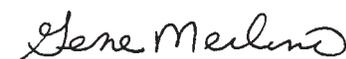
- Mowing your lawn all the way to the road helps keep town maintenance costs lower. For you gardeners out there, consider composting your vegetable peelings and grass clippings. Your plants will love you for it!

- Give us your email address. You will automatically receive updates in town news. Mailings like these are important tools to keep you informed but are also costly. Electronic mailing reduces printing and postage fees.

- Visit your town website [www.townoflakeluzerne.com](http://www.townoflakeluzerne.com) for a wealth of information about the town, its departments and town meeting minutes. If you don't have a computer, you can use the one at the local library.

Please note that this mailing is sent to those addresses on the tax roll. If you know someone who you feel would like one, a tenant perhaps, let us know; or pick up one at the Town Hall. Enjoy the coming of spring and have safe summer.

Regards,



GENE MERLINO, SUPERVISOR

Email: [supervisorlakeluzerne@hotmail.com](mailto:supervisorlakeluzerne@hotmail.com)

Town of Lake Luzerne

Office phone 518-696-2711

Cell phone 518-361-2404

Pager Number 518-748-6768 (wait for the beep, enter your phone number, hit # and hang up)

**Town of Lake Luzerne**  
**P.O. Box 370**  
**Lake Luzerne, New York 12846**



## **Email the Supervisor**

It's my plan to keep all of the citizens of Lake Luzerne updated and informed on town plans and activities, and one of the best ways I can do that is through the Supervisors email listing. By subscribing to the email list we can email you notices of what's going on in the Town and you can let me know how you feel about these plans. To subscribe go to the town website which is [www.townoflakeluzerne.com](http://www.townoflakeluzerne.com). Click on Departments, Click on Supervisors and Click on Email Supervisor. The system will ask you to type in your name and email address. From here you can email me or any department in the Town on how you feel about the Town or where you stand on any issue in front of the Town Board. The system will capture your email address so we can email you on important issues.