

Galway Reader

Published by the Town of Galway



Winter 2018

Supervisor

Post Holiday Greetings,

I hope you and yours had an enjoyable holiday season and had an opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. I would like to wish everyone a very happy 2018. It is my hope for everyone to have a healthy and successful 2018.

At the town level, there many things happening. By mid-winter, we hope to have a new plow truck on the road. Our Highway Superintendent Dave Costanzo was able to obtain a late model, low mileage Freightliner truck through the Federal Surplus Property Program and the truck is being outfitted with a plow, wing and dump box for sanding. The cost for this will be less than \$125,000. By comparison a new truck set up for winter plowing costs \$225,000. We are just now cycling through trucks at the town level that are 18-19 years old.

Also, another big project being seriously considered by the Town Board is a town wide property revaluation. It has been over 25 years since the last comprehensive revaluation and assessment roll update in the Town. Inside the Galway Reader, you will find an article outlining the rationale for considering such a project. There is more to follow on this.

Our recent bulk waste drop off conducted in October and early November was a big success. Many residents took advantage of disposing of unwanted and unneeded material. Based on the success of this program we will in all likelihood have two more in 2018 in late spring and fall.

Just a couple of reminders: if you heat with wood, please be sure your chimney and stove are in good condition. Safety first! Also please consider making a donation to the Galway food pantry. This is a great community resource for those who need it.

Should you have any concerns or suggestions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks for reading, and again, have a Happy New Year.

Paul Lent
Supervisor

DISCLAIMER: The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any article and is not obligated to accept and print all articles.

Historian

It is common knowledge that the early settlers who came to this area in 1774 were from Galloway, Scotland. We wonder, has anyone ever given much if any thought to what inspired these people to leave the land of their birth to embark on this long and dangerous journey, not knowing what they will find in this new land across the Atlantic Ocean. What ships were available in 1774? How many days would they need to live on a ship to reach the new land? Would there be enough food available to sustain them? Who do they deal with over there if they do survive the voyage?

A Bing search online for "Transatlantic Ships of 1774" brings up some images of the ships of that era. The website states "Crossing the Atlantic in the colonial period was a gruesome, life-threatening endeavor for all travelers, regardless of wealth or seamanship. Migration across the Atlantic often involved a series of steps, drawing people to London before they embark on their Journey. "Included are excerpts from the journal of a man named John Harrower, a 40-year-old Scotch shopkeeper and tradesman who lived in the far north of the British Isles, like many of the 40,000 residents of the Scottish Highlands who left after 1760. These people faced poverty and little opportunity, starving for want of employment. John Harrower left London for Virginia in early 1774 with very little money in his pocket. He signed up to serve as a schoolteacher in Virginia. He wrote in his journal on Tuesday, 24 May, 1774; "I left the ship at 6:00 a.m. having been sixteen weeks and six days on board her." According to John Chester Booth's History Saratoga County, 1858, "In 1774 John and James Major, with thirteen families from Galloway in Scotland, made a settlement in the neighborhood of what is now known as Galway". If there were children amongst these families, the parents might have heard "Are we there yet?"

It would be interesting to find out where their ship landed and let them off. Possibly in New York, after which they could have traveled up the Hudson River then possibly over to Schenectady. They must have dealt with Daniel Campbell as they settled in a part of the Patent of the Kayaderosseras. Whether or not these families were aware of the impending revolution before they left Scotland is unknown to us. We do know that they remained neutral until the autumn of 1780, when they were raided and driven from their land and homes by Joseph Brandt and his Indian followers. As we know, it wasn't until 1783 that our settlers, at least of few of them, returned to their "New Galloway".

Phyllis Keeler, Town Historian
Tom Cwiakala, Deputy Historian

Galway Public Library

The Galway Public Library is open Mon. & Tues. 10 - 6; Wed. & Thurs. 2 - 8; Fri, 2 - 6 and Sat. 10 - 2. We have a regularly-scheduled calendar of events for kids and adults. For kids we have:

1st Sat. at 10 – **Pokemon**; 1st Mon. at 3:30 - **Lego Club** (starting in Feb.); 2nd Mon. at 4 - **Artful Mondays**; 1st & 3rd Tues. at 10:30 - **Story Hour**; 2nd Thurs at 3:30 - **Tinker Thursday**; 3rd Thurs. at 3:30 – **Crafternoon**; 4th Thurs. at 3:30 **Stop Motion Animation**; Last Mon. of every month - **Weather Around Us**; and **Makerspace** opens every month on the 3rd Thurs. and ends the following Thurs.

Our adult programs include: **Mahjong** every Mon. at 11:00; **Afternoon Tea** 3rd Fri. at 3:00; **Open Art Sessions** 2nd & 4th Thurs 6:00-8:00; **Writers' Group** 3rd Thurs. at 6:30; **Readers Group** 4th Mon. at 7:00; **Intro to Tech** 2nd Sat. at 11:00 (Jan. is *Into to PowerPoint* & Feb. is Facebook Privacy Settings). The Board of Trustees meets on the 3rd Wed. at 6:30; Finance Committee the 1st Thurs. at 5:00.

We encourage you to register for programs (518-882-6385) and check the library website www.galwaypubliclibrary.org for details and additional programs. You can also subscribe to the library's newsletters, & follow us on Facebook. Better yet, stop in!

Groundbreaking for the library's new building is scheduled for this spring. A New Building Donation form is available on the library's website: www.galwaypubliclibrary.org.

The Galway Public Library's bi-weekly newsletter *The Galway Get Together* is a community resource for free advertising, events postings, job openings, and more. They are posted around town & available by email. The website, www.galwaygettogether.org, has a community calendar, bulletin board and directory of local businesses and organizations. The Galway Get Together Facebook page keeps you up to date on what's happening around the community.

A sampling of our **new books for adults** includes: *The Lost History of Stars* - Dave Boling; *Rules of Magic* - Alice Hoffman, *A House Among the Trees* - Julia Glass; *Barn Stories* - Mary Cuffe-Perez (local author!); *Why Buddhism is True* - Robert Wright; *Killers of the Flower Moon* - David Grann; *Lessons From a Third Grade Dropout* - Rick Rigsby; *The Essex Serpent* - Sarah Perry; *Out in the Open* - Jesus Carrasco; *Uncommon Type* - Tom Hanks; *Hiddensee* - Gregory Maguire; *The Ninth Hour* - Alice McDermott; *Fresh Complaint* - Jeffrey Eugenides; *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*; *Ramses the Damned* - Anne Rice; and *Endurance* - Scott Kelly.

Books for kids: *Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth* - Frank Cottrell Boyce; *Refugee* - Alan Gratz; *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the Getaway* - Jeff Kinney; *12 Days in May* - Larry Dane Brimner; *The Unwanteds* series - Lisa McMann; *Girls Made of Snow & Glass* - Melissa Bashardoust; *Come With Me* - Holly McGhee; *Pour Louie* - Tony Fucile; *Baabwaa & Wooliam* - David Elliot; *Becoming a Salamander* - Grace Hansen; *The Ship of the Dead* - Rick Riordan; *Auggie & Me* - RJ Polacio, *Bunny's Book Club* - Annie Silvestro; *Balloons Over Broadway* - Melissa Sweet.

New DVDs for kids: Lego Ninjago Movie; Cars 3; The Emoji Movie; Captain Underpants; Leap; Despicable Me 3. **New Adult Movies:** Transformers: The Last Knight; Kidnap; The Glass Castle; Dunkirk; The Book of Henry; God of War; *Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga*.

Town wide Real Property Revaluation

On behalf of Town Board and myself, we wanted to let the property owners of the Town of Galway know that the Town is in the beginning stages of planning for a town wide property revaluation for the purposes of updating our assessment rolls. It has been over 25 years since the last comprehensive town wide revaluation. It is very important for the town to keep its assessment roll as up to date and accurate.

Currently, the Town's equalization rate is at 56% which means on average property assessment values are 44% below full market value. Galway currently has the third lowest equalization rate in the County. Only the Towns of Edinburg and Waterford are lower. The Town of Waterford currently has a revaluation project underway. It is important for the town to work toward obtaining 100% equalization for accuracy, fairness and long term assessment stability which will benefit the town.

Many residents of the Town do not realize that the portion of County sales tax dollars we receive is based on a formula that utilizes both population and property assessed value. The population of the Town has remained relatively the same and the value of the property assessments has been slowly drifting downwards while other towns have obtained a 100% equalization rate. To illustrate how important, it is that we protect the amount of sales tax we receive, residents should know that sales tax receipts from the county make up just over 47% of the total revenue received by the town. Decreases in our sales tax revenue would require higher property taxes or dramatic cuts in services at the town level.

It is important to understand, simply by undertaking a property reassessment does not mean your property taxes will automatically go up.

If the full market value of your property is correct, you should see little effect on your taxes from the revaluation project. Other possible effects of a revaluation project might be for those whose full market values are either too high or too low, too high will result in some potential reduction in your taxes, or if your full market value is too low, you may see an increase in your taxes

Your tax rate per \$1,000 of assessment is based on the amount of money the Town needs to raise to cover the cost of services and other expenses. This is called the tax levy. The tax levy is what determines your tax rate not the amount of your assessment. The State of New York has imposed a tax cap on municipalities. The tax cap guards against rapid and unchecked increases in the tax levy.

The Town Board is planning an informational session to discuss the method, timing and other aspects of the revaluation. More will be forth coming regarding the date and time.

Galway Youth Commission

Winter Fun Programs

The Galway Youth Commission will sponsor Free Family Open Swim during the Holiday Break at the Glenville YMCA located 127 Droms Road in Glenville. The following days and times are available: Tuesday, December 26th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, December 27th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday, December 28th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and, Friday, December 29th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Just sign in at the YMCA Main Desk. Attend as many days as you wish.

We will also offer Free Day Ski Passes, which includes ski equipment at Royal Mountain. Youth in the Galway Junior and Senior High School included home schooled youth can pick up the ski pass registration form at the High School Office. Those that return the ski pass registration form to the High School will receive the passes on a first come, first serve basis. Pick the day of your choice and have fun skiing. Contact Cheryl Hardcastle for further information at 518-882-6993.

Youth Recreation Basketball Program

Boys and girls Recreation Basketball for youth in 1st through 3rd grades will be held on Saturdays from January 6th through February 24, 2018. Basketball will be held at the Elementary School Gym from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The youth in 4th through 6th grades will participate in the travel teams and open gym which is a different program. For further information, please contact Dan Anderson at 518-605-8127.

Pee Wee Wrestling Program

The Pee Wee Wrestling Program will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning on Wednesday, January 3rd for boys and girls in 1st grade through 6th grade. Classes will be held in the lower level Wrestling Gym of the Junior High area at Galway School. Beginner classes will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Advanced classes will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Pee Wee Wrestling Program will be held through the end of March. For further information, please contact Coordinator-Instructor Nick D'Alessandro at 518-320-6932.

Karate Club Program

The Galway Karate Club will hold classes for youth on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Galway School. The classes will be held in the Junior High Gym if it's available otherwise in the High School Cafeteria. Beginner classes will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Advanced classes will be held from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For further information contact Karate Club Instructor Chris Malley at 518-727-0385 or email shinanchris@gemakarate.com

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Galway Youth Commission (con't)

A special Thank You goes out to all of our local businesses, community service organizations and Galway School District for their continued support and donations to the Galway Youth Commission.

And also a special Thank You to members of the Galway Youth Commission Board as well as our many program coordinators and volunteers who contribute their time to serve our youth. Your dedication is greatly appreciated!

With everyone's support and help, we are able to provide our youth with a variety of programs.

Donna Sowle, Galway Youth Commission Chairman

The Galway Jr. Rifle Club

The Junior Rifle Club is open to all the kids in the area. Its primary purpose is to teach marksmanship and safety to the young people in our community. The club is sponsored by the Galway Fish and Game Club with help from the Galway Youth Commission and The Lions Club. The juniors shoot every Wednesday evening from September until May. There are several certified instructors associated with the program, so each junior gets a lot of individual attention. All new shooters are required to take a safety class and pass a written exam before they actually start shooting. Safety classes are scheduled for September and January.

Juniors are awarded prizes every time they reach new skill levels. They soon become accomplished marksmen. Every year there is a match of the juniors against their parents – the juniors have never lost.

Within the club, there is a smaller group that shoots competitively. They do very well, winning numerous state championships, regional championships, and even a couple of national championships. Along the way, they've accumulated seven Division I college scholarships.

If you have a junior (over 12 years old) who you think might be interested, call Coach Chuck Boykin for more information, or to get signed up (518-882-9352).

Galway Preservation Society

The Galway Preservation Society usually meets the first Monday of each month, through June, at the Galway Town Hall. Our meetings start at 7:00 with refreshments and social time, followed by a short business meeting at 7:30 and a program of historical interest which begins at approximately 7:45. Upcoming programs include: *The Hawkwood Mansion & St. Christopher's Cemetery Archeology Projects* with speaker Rick Reynolds (Feb.5); *War on the Middleline*, speaker James Richmond (March 5); and *Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga*, Lauren Roberts (April 2).

You may join the GPS at any time, although you do not need to be a member to attend the meetings. Membership dues is \$10 per household and may be mailed to: Galway Preservation Society, PO Box 276, Galway, NY 12074. Please include name, address, phone and email, and mention any areas of interest. All members receive the GPS newsletter during the months we meet.

Our book, *Galway 1900-1949, A Photographic History of Life in the Town of Galway, Saratoga County, New York*, is still available for purchase at the Galway branch of the BSNB, and Galway & Providence Town Halls. Mail order forms are on our website: www.galwaypreservationsociety.org.

Saratoga County Veterans Department

Saratoga County has honored over 300 Veterans at the monthly **Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony**. The ceremony has become a tradition here at Saratoga County, and includes participation from elected officials at all levels of government, as well as local Veterans organizations and supporters.

In 2010, the **Saratoga County Veterans Trust Fund** was established to accept donations and make disbursements to Saratoga County Veterans and Veteran's organizations in need of assistance. The Fund provides grants to Saratoga County Veterans or their families for training, education, health care, housing assistance and essential services and for the benefit of groups, organizations, programs, and projects dedicated to the welfare and support of the Saratoga County Veterans. Donations to the Fund are tax deductible, and all funds stay local.

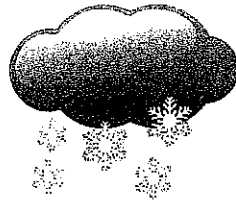
In 2013, the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency was one of four counties selected to participate in the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program for Veterans. The **Saratoga Veterans Peer to Peer Program** provides an opportunity for local Veterans who have reintegrated to civilian life to assist fellow Veterans who may experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other re-acclimation challenges. Personalized and informal, these pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from military to civilian life.
www.veteranspeertopeer.org

Frank McClement, Veterans Director

BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

2017 is rapidly coming to a close. The winter months are a great time to begin thinking about projects you might like to pursue in the spring. Please remember **MOST** building projects **require a building permit**. When in doubt, call the Building Department office and ask if your project requires a permit. Also, often times, especially in the Lake District, things like new construction, additions may require a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. This procedure can add additional wait time so please, come in and discuss your proposal with the building inspector to determine if a variance is needed.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS continue to be **EVERY TUESDAY EVENING FROM 4:30 to 7:30** but we encourage you to call ahead for an appointment.



Also as a reminder, **in the case of inclement weather**, Chet may not be available due to his County DPW job. **Please call ahead** before coming in, especially during winter storms.

Town Hall: 518-882-6070; Chet's cell #518-514-8012.

Galway Reader Article Submission Deadline

The publication deadlines for 2018 will be **at 4 pm** on (NO EXCEPTIONS):

Spring edition: Wednesday, March 14th, 2018

Summer edition: Wednesday, June 13th, 2018

Fall edition: Wednesday, September 19th, 2018

Winter edition: Wednesday, December 12th, 2018

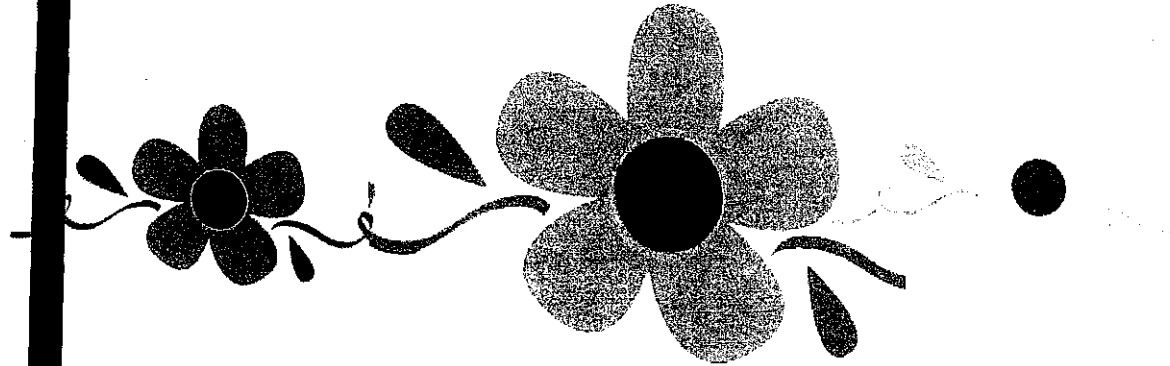
Articles may be dropped off at the Town Hall or e-mailed to me at: galwayreader@townofgalwayny.org. The publication will be sent to the printer the next day and mailed out within 2 to 3 weeks. Keep this in mind when submitting articles.

Articles must be one (1) page or less. Articles greater than one page will be returned for revision and/or not included. Pictures will not be included unless they are submitted by e-mail in jpeg format.

Pamela Wright, Galway Reader Editor

**8th ANNUAL
CRAFT FAIR**

Hosted by the Galway Lioness Club



Saturday April 14

10 - 3

Free Admission

Galway High School

5317 Sacandaga Rd (Rt 147)

Galway, NY 12074

Tax Collector

JANUARY ONLY MONDAY 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

pdefoe@townofgalwayny.org
518-882-6070 ext 10

PLEASE INDICATE ACCURATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON CHECKS WHEN MAKING PAYMENTS. We have found that many people are no longer using land line and just using cell phones. If we have an issue with your payment for any reason the first thing we try and do is contact, you by telephone first before returning the payment to you. This could be the difference in your payment being paid on time or a penalty amount needing to be added. So please double check and make sure that phone number is indicated on your payment, it will make things easier for you and me.

For the 2018 Tax Season the Town of Galway will continue to accept Credit Card payments. Property owners have the option to pay their tax bill by Credit Card/Debit Card/E-Checks. At the Town website: townofgalwayny.org under Tax Collector you can still pull up and view bill status along with additional option to pay bill online. ***All Credit Card/Debit Cards will be subject to a service fee of \$1.75 up to \$64, over 2.75%; E-Checks Access Fee \$0.01 to \$1,999.99-\$2.50; \$2,000 to \$3,999.99-\$5.00; \$4,000 to \$5,999.99-\$7.50; \$6,000-\$7,999.99-\$10.00; \$8,000-\$9,999.99-\$12.50; Over \$10,000 Increments of \$2.50 per \$2,000.***

If you have sold your home, have a new address for billing purposes, pay off your escrow please let us know as soon as possible so we can make the correction and get the bill where it needs to go. The mailing address is: Town of Galway Tax Collector, 5910 Sacandaga Road, Galway, NY 12074.

Galway Central School

The Galway Central School District is pleased to announce that all our Fall Varsity teams were named New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete Teams. This designation is earned when the combined grade point average for the team exceeds 90 during the sports season. This is how well our teams performed academically:

Girls Varsity Cross Country – 98.43 GPA
Girls Varsity Soccer – 97.41 GPA
Varsity Volleyball – 96.2 GPA
Boys Varsity Cross Country – 94.65 GPA
Varsity Golf – 94.65 GPA
Boys Varsity Soccer – 92.12 GPA

What makes this achievement even more impressive is the fact that many of these student athletes are involved in multiple extracurricular activities. Galway students are exceptionally well engaged. 80% of our students in grades 7-12 are involved in at least one athletic or extracurricular activity.

As a result of student engagement and the excellent work done by our dedicated faculty and staff, Galway Central School District has made the largest overall academic gains in the Capital District over the past two years! This represents an astounding shift from the lowest third to the top third of all school districts in the capital region, moving Galway from 63rd to 27th (out of 85 districts) as reported in the Albany Business Review. We have many reasons to be proud!

As we look forward to celebrating the holidays with family and friends, listening to the incredible music performed by our student musicians under the direction of our talented faculty and staff, we also congratulate the following students:

- Thor White became the eighth player in Galway Athletics history to break 1,000 career points in basketball. He is the first player since the 2004 season to reach this milestone.
- Dillan Palaszewski reached 150 wins in his wrestling career (just seven shy of the school record).
- Danielle Gabri won first place in the 2017-2018 Peace Poster Contest sponsored by the Galway Lions Club and the Galway Lioness Club. Morgan Ryder won second place, and Quinn Bernard won third place.

For up-to-date news and accolades, please visit the district's new website at www.galwaycsd.org and "like" our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GalwayCSD. We also encourage Golden Eagles fans to follow us on Twitter @GalwayAthletics.

Town of Galway
5910 Sacandaga Road
Galway, New York 12074

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Resident

**Galway Youth Commission
Youth Referral Service**

For youth 14 years of age and older, seeking babysitting, housework,
shoveling, yard work, and other odd jobs

Persons interested in hiring youth for odd jobs should contact:

Donna Sowle, Youth Referral Director, at 518-882-1347

(Clip and Save)