



Town Supervisor Webb A. Stevens

Town Clerk Lisa Valletta

Highway Superintendent Carl Wiers

Town Councilors: Richard Fesko - - Ken Lieberman - - Merrill Clark - - Jeffrey Ireland

Town of Spafford

Newsletter #14

April 2008

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REVALUATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED

The Town Board of the Town of Spafford has suspended the 2008 Revaluation. There were many discrepancies in the property data files and not enough time to make corrections before the filing deadline. The Revaluation will now be completed in March 2009. The revaluation values will be in place for the 2009-2010 school tax and the 2010 County/Town tax.



*2008 Town of Spafford
Memorial Day Observance*

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service to our nation. The Town of Spafford will observe Memorial Day with a parade and commemorative program to be held on **Sunday, May 26th at 1:00 p.m.** As in previous years, the parade will begin at the Borodino Fire Hall and conclude at the Veterans' Memorial. All former and current members of the armed services are invited to march in the parade. The program will last approximately one hour, and in case of inclement weather, will be held indoors. Questions can be directed to Susan Underwood, (315) 673-1206.

The Memorial Day Observance Committee has been appointed by the Spafford Town Board. Members of the committee are: Merrill Clark, Joe Marcheterre, Barbara Shoemaker, Susan Underwood (chairperson) and Mark Valletta.



Hello from the Assessor's Office – Kim Stone-Gridley

The Assessment Revaluation has been suspended for one year. During the coming months I will be out recollecting all of the property inventory within the Town of Spafford. I will be driving a red Ford Escape with Town of Spafford signs displayed.

In March & April new construction will be collected to be valued for the Tentative May 1, 2008 tax roll. Taxable status date is March 1, 2008 and therefore all new construction must be collected in present condition under present ownership.

On Tuesday May 27, 2008 Grievance day will be held. Please turn in your grievance forms by May 21, 2008. (Forms available at the Spafford Town Hall and at www.orps.state.ny.us) This does not preclude you from coming in the day of grievance and handing in a Grievance form. However according to law, if the assessor does not have time to prepare, they may adjourn to another day. To avoid this inconvenience for all, please deliver to the town hall by May 21, 2008, 2:00 p.m. Please call 315-673-4144 to schedule an appointment for Grievance day.

Over the next few months I am in the office on Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. On Thursdays I will be in at 9:00 a.m. for appointments then out to data collect.

→→ COMING IN OCTOBER'S NEWSLETTER: WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT FROM THE REVALUATION.

CONTACT THE ASSESSOR FOR NEW AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS – TAX EXEMPTIONS MAY APPLY



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Building Department – Kim Fairchild, Code Enforcement Officer

As a resident of the Town of Spafford you live in a beautiful area of the State and I have been impressed with how friendly you are towards new faces.

As your Code Enforcement Officer, it is my responsibility to keep the construction built safely and protect your neighbor’s property and the environment. In 2006 the uniform building code changed and there has been confusion on what projects require building permits. You will need to apply for a building permit when doing the following:

1. all new construction
2. any project that alters a present structure
3. decks, sheds, fences, new driveways
4. any portable swimming pool 24” or higher is treated the same as a permanently installed pool
5. solid fuel burning appliances; example: wood, coal, corn, pellet and also outside installed solid fuel burning appliances
6. all oil & gas heating units; even when changing from one fuel source to another

Agricultural buildings may be exempt if they qualify.

If there is a conflict with a building project where your property does not conform because of lot size or property line setbacks, you have a process to apply and ask for relief from local zoning ordinances. Your town has a Zoning Board of Appeals which is comprised of 5 members who live in the community and will take your situation under review. This process may take some time because of requirements that public hearings have to be arranged and Onondaga County Planning Board is required to review your application as well. I understand that this may be frustrating at times and cause delays in a building project but be assured we will follow all laws and expedite this as quickly as the process allows.

If you have any questions please feel free to call our office at (315) 673-9557.



Veterans Memorial Park

The Spafford Veterans Memorial Park Committee will hold its first meeting of 2008 on Saturday, April 19 at town hall at 9 AM. Any gardeners interested in helping out are asked to contact Joyce Green at 673-9565 for details.



Transfer Station – The complete guide for using the Spafford Transfer Station is available at the Town Hall and at www.townofspafford.com.

- **April! Metal Day is back!** Any item at least 50% metal that cannot be recycled may be brought to the Spafford Transfer Station for disposal on the third Saturday of the month, April – October. If you are looking to dispose of a unit that contains Freon, there is an additional fee of \$10 to allow for proper disposal. A valid Transfer Station permit is required.
- **Large Item/Household Days** Our next Household Day is June 7, 2008. Mark your calendars!

Reminder: No hazardous materials are accepted at the Transfer Station.



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Supervisor's Desk – Webb A. Stevens

We begin 2008 with a few changes to our Town Hall staff. First, we welcome Kim Stone-Gridley, our new Assessor. Kim was appointed by the Town Board last December and replaces Bob Brown, who retired after many years of service. Kim is currently reviewing and updating our tax records to prepare for our upcoming revaluation.

We also welcome Kim Fairchild, our new Codes Enforcement Officer. Kim was hired by the Town Board in December, and his job is to oversee all building projects in town. He brings with him a lot of experience in these matters.

At this time, I'd also like to share with you some of the Town's accomplishments for 2007. I'm pleased to report the following:

- The Southern Onondaga Water District was officially established in 2007. The District will provide more than one hundred families in the Town of Spafford with drinking water. The construction phase of this project is expected to begin this summer.
- In recognition of invaluable service to our country, the Town Board unanimously approved a resolution to decrease the property tax burden for our local veterans. Through Congressman James Walsh, the town received a commemorative US flag that once flew above our nation's capital, in honor of Spafford's veterans.
- A flood damaged section of Spafford Landing Road was repaired with a new drain culvert and retaining wall. Culverts on Howe Road and Craig Road were also replaced.
- Improvements were made to Spafford's Transfer Station, including a new gate and repairs to the fence and concrete retaining wall.
- Town Historian Barbara Shoemaker applied for and received a grant from the William Pomeroy Foundation for an historical marker which commemorates the steeple bell located on the site of the Spafford Union Meeting House, near the corners of Route 41 and Bacon Hill Road.
- Construction of the town parking lot adjacent to the Borodino Hall Community Center is nearly complete. This important project provides safe and handicapped-accessible parking to Spafford residents.
- Brush and debris were removed from Town property in the northeast corner of Borodino. Rough areas were graded and re-seeded to make mowing easier and safer.

I personally thank all of our Town staff, Board, and committee members and other volunteers who continue to work together to make Spafford a better place to live.

TOWN OF SPAFFORD OFFICE HOURS

Town Clerk Lisa Valletta

Tuesday & Wednesday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Thursday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 Noon

(315) 673-4144

spaffordtown@windstream.net

Assessor --- Mrs. Kim Stone- Gridley

Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. – 12 Noon

(315) 673-9559

spaffordassessor@windstream.net

Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Kim Fairchild

Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(315) 673-9557

spaffordbuilding@windstream.net



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Spafford Food Pantry

The Spafford Food Pantry is serving breakfast ever Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. through April 26. Join your neighbors, or invite some to join you, for pancakes, eggs, toast, sausage, ham, home fries, coffee, cocoa, milk, and juice at the most reasonable price in Town!

A Closer Look – Barbara Shoemaker, Town Historian

When Spafford was formed in 1811, it was named for Horatio Gates Spafford, author of New York State’s first gazetteer, published in 1813. From Sempronius, Spafford acquired all 8 lots on the east side of Skaneateles Lake, 13 lots were taken from the southern end of the Town of Marcellus and 16 lots from Tully. Lot #1 of the original Town of Tully is now in Spafford, just west of the Causeway.

We are located in the South Western portion of Onondaga County, bounded on the east by Otisco Lake and on the west by Skaneateles Lake. Our southern border is Scott, in Cortland County, and our northern border are the towns of Skaneateles and Marcellus. In area, Spafford is about 28 square miles, and we share the western shore of Otisco Lake with the Town of Marcellus. Spafford has more lake frontage than any other town in Onondaga County. Spafford’s elevation is the second highest in Onondaga County with 1,982’ at Ripley Hill.

Mr. Spafford was here collecting material for his gazetteer; and must have made quite an impression on the locals; as they would name the town after him if he would settle here. (Sounds like politics even back then.) There has not been any record found of him living here or even owning property here. He provided the new town with its first blank book to keep its records in. Spafford still has that first record book, and with the exception of a couple of years all of its records are intact.

Many of those settling here after the Revolution were war veterans, and most came from the eastern states. They were predominantly of English, Irish, Dutch and German descent. They came as farmers, cooperers, blacksmiths, harness makers, mill wrights, teachers, doctors, store and tavern keepers as well as people with other needed skills to survive in the wilderness.

The Free Will Baptist Church, on the hill east of Spafford Corners, was taken over in the mid 1830’s by the new Mormon Religion. The pastor of the Baptist Church, Elder Gould was baptized into the new religion and influenced much of his congregation to do likewise and go west with the Mormons. The exact number leaving for the west has never been determined, but the census records may tell the story. From a high of 2,647 in 1830, it dropped by nearly 750 people during that 10 year period of Mormon exodus. It has not reached the 2,000 mark again.

Around 1813, Spafford was divided into five rural school districts: #1 Nunnery School; #2 Spafford; #3 East Side Hill; #4 Cold Brook; and #5 Woodworth. Other districts were added or changed over the years, many becoming joint districts with other towns, i.e.: Marcellus, Otisco, Skaneateles, Tully or Scott (Cortland Co.). Now students attend school at Marcellus, Skaneateles, Tully, or Homer.

Our small dairy farms continue to dwindle with only about five remaining (2008); while some have become huge and big businesses. Still, some of the land is farmed for cash crops, some lays fallow, or is now being purchased for home construction.

We are served by four different post offices: Marietta, Skaneateles, Preble, and Homer and there are two telephone area codes (315) & (607). We have one fire district with two departments – one in Borodino, one in Spafford. There is only one active church left in town: the Methodist Church at Borodino. Gone are the old stores and gas stations – two new stores have opened: Vernak Farms Country Store, (open year round); and the Borodino Market (open part of the year).

(Beauchamps: Collins History of Spafford; Census records; Onondaga County, The Early Years.)