

# Town of Ancram Newsletter

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*April 2009—see [www.townofancram.org](http://www.townofancram.org) for more town news*

## **Work Ongoing to Improve Ancram, Ancramdale Centers**

In November 2007, our Town Board applied for a \$21,000 grant from the NY State Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), to focus on hamlet revitalization, economic development, and affordable housing. The grant was approved, and work began late last year.

Our CDBG Project Team includes Donna Hoyt, representing the Town Board; Town Historian Clara Van Tassel; Highway Superintendent Jim MacArthur; Fire District Commissioner Will Lutz; Ancram Preservation Group Chair Kit White; Comprehensive Plan Committee Chair Art Bassin; and residents Libby McKee, Lucy Eldridge, and Mary Ann Roche.

The CDBG project began four major research projects over the past six months, which include:

- 1.** Requesting alternative design concepts for the center of Ancram to create a town center area to attract businesses and stores.
- 2.** Evaluating three deteriorating buildings in the center of Ancram, to see if it made sense financially to restore these structures.

- 3.** Completing a traffic analysis of the intersection of Rtes. 82 and 7 in Ancram and the intersection of Rtes. 82, 8, and 3 in Ancramdale to see how to improve these intersections.

- 4.** Requesting an assessment of septic options and alternatives for the center of Ancram.

The early results of these efforts show some ways to improve the center of Ancram. To see sketches of these design options, visit the Town Hall Conference Room.

## **Congressional Election Shows Just How Important Your Vote Is**

The special election on March 31 to decide who will represent us in Congress was as close in Ancram as other voting districts. Our results show Scott Murphy leading Jim Tedisco by 181 to 115 votes.

In Ancram 1 District, which votes at the Town Hall, the vote was: Murphy, 116; Tedisco, 62.

In Ancram 2 District, which votes at the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, the vote was closer: Murphy, 65; Tedisco, 53.

With about 1,000 registered voters in Ancram, this means fewer than 30% of town voters actually voted. (Absentee ballots still to come.)

### **Funding Discrepancy Resolved**

Our Town Board recently discovered a discrepancy in funding in the year-end statement for 2008. A payment of \$11,000 had been made to the Community Rescue Squad in addition to the budgeted \$64,000 for 2008. When a review of the minutes of Town Board meetings for the 2008 calendar year showed no amendment to the budget for this additional money, the Board and the Rescue Squad together agreed to deduct the \$11,000 from Ancram's 2009 contribution to the Community Rescue Squad.

If you have any questions, contact Councilwoman Donna Hoyt via the town website or call 789-3580.

### **Your Tax Dollars at Work: We're on the Road, Literally**

This year, our Highway Superintendent Jim MacArthur estimates he'll spend \$385,000 of the town's annual budget to improve the following local roads permanently:

- Pools' Hill Road, beginning at Rte. 82 and leading two miles south.
- Five Roses Road West, beginning at Pools' Hill Road and leading to a dead end.
- Pat's Road, beginning at Rte. 82 and leading to Pools' Hill Road.

Total highway costs amount to more than twice the above amount and account for the largest segment of our annual budget.

### **Correction: Ken Leggett Serves As Ancram Town Assessor**

The March 2009 Town of Ancram Newsletter incorrectly identified our Property Tax Assessor as Tim Leggett; his name is Ken Leggett. We regret the error.

### **Comments Requested on Central Hudson Proposed Increases**

The New York State Public Service Commission has asked for public comments on Central Hudson Gas & Electric's proposed increase in annual electric and natural gas delivery revenues.

Under Central Hudson's proposal, residential electric customers with average usage would pay about \$93 more a year; gas-heating customers with average usage would pay about \$151 more a year. Increases would become effective July 2009.

The Department of Public Service evaluated Central Hudson's request and instead proposes that residential electric customers with average usage pay about \$42 more a year; gas-heating customers with average usage would pay about \$47 more a year.

If you would like to comment on Central Hudson's proposal, you can send your comments via email to Bob Mayhew at councilman-mayhew@townofancram.org (no hyphen in the email address), or mail your comments to him at Ancram Town Hall, 1416 County Rte. 7, Ancram, NY 12502. He must receive your comments by Thursday, April 30, 2009.



*Stan and Debbie Taft – a black-and-white version of their color portrait*

### **Local Photographer's Portraits Accepted in Competition**

Last month, local photographer John Masters entered photographs of 20 members of Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors in a competition sponsored by Digital Artist's Space in Troy, NY.

The competition notes the first 100 days of President Obama's term; artists were invited to submit work for an exhibit called "Imagining Forward: What's After 100 Days."

As John said in his entry, "The Ancramdale Neighbors group echoes the philosophy of President Barack Obama when he said, 'Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.'"

Photographs of these Neighbors members will be featured in the exhibit: Anne Carriere, Tom and Linda Dias, Madeleine Israel, Bill Leicht, Melissa Sorman, Debbie and Stan Taft, and Bob Wilcox.

The opening reception for the exhibit will be on President Obama's 100-day anniversary in office, Friday, April 24, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the gallery, 265 River Street, Troy. The exhibit will then run through June 19.

For directions to the gallery, see [www.digitalartistspace.com](http://www.digitalartistspace.com). The public is invited to the reception and to stop by while the show is on display.

## Mark Your Calendars

**Monday, April 13:** Town Board meets at the Matthews property, 6 p.m., and then meets at Town Hall, 7 p.m., for a workshop about the proposed Comprehensive Plan.

**Thursday, April 23:** Town Board meets at Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Monday, May 4:** Town Board Workshop at Town Hall, 8 p.m. Workshops have moved to the first Monday of the month, 8 p.m.

The following board meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, May 16:** Field Day BBQ, sponsored by the Youth Commission at Blass Park.

**Tuesday, May 26: Grievance Day:** File any appeal on your property tax assessment before this date and then appear at Town Hall on this date to present your case to the Town Grievance Board.

Ancram Town Hall  
1416 County Route 7  
Ancram, NY 12502

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### **Fire Commission and Fire Company Meetings**

The public is invited to attend Fire Commission meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ancram Fire House, and the Fire Company meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire House.

*If you have job, or are looking for a job, to advertise, contact Bob Mayhew. Town of Ancram Newsletter is supervised by Councilman Bob Mayhew (329-4436 or BMayhew16@fairpoint.net) and is edited by Jane Shannon (329-0123 or janeshannon@taconic.net). To save tax dollars and receive this newsletter by email, please go to [www.townofancram.org](http://www.townofancram.org) and enter your email address.*

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