

Town of Ancram Newsletter

March 2009—see www.townofancram.org for more town news

Get Involved With Your Neighbors

Local resident Anne Carriere and Ancramdale Postmaster Debbie Taft founded Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association, Inc., in 2006.

The organization helps neighbors in need in a variety of ways, from distribution of food and toys at Christmas, Thanksgiving dinners for area farm workers, to temporary help for residents for a variety of reasons.

The group also promotes fun activities in the community, through an annual pig roast, holiday caroling, creating a local area cookbook, tag sales, and more.

To participate in Neighbors, or to let them know about a need in the community, contact Anne at 789-9134 or stop by the Ancramdale Post Office to see Debbie.

New Senior Commission

The Town Board has authorized the formation of a Senior Commission. To volunteer for the commission, call Councilman Bob Mayhew at 329-4436.

No Medical Insurance? County Offers Free Screenings

The Columbia County Health Consortium will offer free mammograms for uninsured women age 40 and older at the Belleview Mammography Van, which will be

parked next to the Ancramdale Post Office on Monday, March 30. Uninsured men and women age 50 and older can receive free colorectal kits. For appointments between 10 a.m. and noon, call 822-8741 or call Debbie Taft at the Post Office, 329-6199.

Working for Stimulus Grants

Councilman Jim Miller has established a committee to seek stimulus grants for Ancram. Suzanne Bressler will chair this group (329-6512, ext. 5).

Meetings Held on Town Garage Identify Need for More Information

After meetings held this month and last to talk about options for a new town garage, the Town Board has authorized some additional research to help determine a recommended course of action.

Specifically, the Town Board has authorized an appraisal of the Matthews property, an engineering report on the current garage site, and research on wetlands issues that might allow expansion at the current town garage site.

A future town newsletter will include overviews of various proposals, and then later voters will receive a survey to get your input before putting the issue before a town referendum.

Information About Your Town

(All phone numbers are 518 area code)

Ancram Town Hall

1416 County Route 7
Ancram, NY 12502
329-6512

Ancram Town Board Meetings

Each month, the Town Board meets for a workshop on the first Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The intent is for public discussion of topics that will be voted on later each month at the Town Board meeting.

The Town Board meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Town Supervisor

Tom Dias, 329-0014

Town Board Members

Donna Hoyt, 789-3580
John MacArthur, 329-0532
Bob Mayhew, 329-4436
Jim Miller, 329-1474

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Monica R. Cleveland
Office hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Phone: 329-6512, ext. 1. Fax: 329-0962.

For a marriage license: Valid photo ID of both bride and groom and certified copies of any divorce papers. Cost: \$30.

For a dog license: your valid photo ID, current rabies certificate for the dog, and proof of spay/neuter for a reduced cost of only \$5.

For New York State Fish and Game licenses, see the Town Clerk or go to www.dec.ny.gov.

Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer

Edward M. Ferrato; Bill Hunt, deputy; Marie McDermott, secretary. Office hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Fax: 329-6535.

Town Court

Ancram Justices: George Wittlinger, Sr. and Robert Wilcox. Court Clerks: Ruth Wittlinger and Valerie Selfridge. Court hours: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Highway Department

James MacArthur, superintendent. To report a highway problem, call the Town Barn, 329-6190.

Ambulance/rescue: dial 911**Ancram Fire Company**
329-2922**Animal Control Officer**

Gary Dietch, 329-0105

Police Protection

Columbia County Sheriff's Department, 828-0601.

Property Tax Assessor

Tim Leggett, 329-6512, ext. 1;
Mary Boice, secretary, ext. 4.

Planning Board

James Stickle, chair. Meets to review and approve site plans, subdivisions, and special permits on the first Thursday each month, at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall.

How to Appeal Your Tax Assessment

*Prepared by Donna Hoyt, Town
Board*

If you believe your property assessment is unjust, here are the steps to take to go through the assessment grievance process.

Step 1

Make an appointment with Ken Legget, town assessor, to discuss your assessment (329-6512, ext. 1). Bring any or all of the following to help prove your case:

- Home owner's insurance policy,
- Recent appraisal by an outside firm,
- Sale paperwork for your property if you purchased it recently,
- Photographs of the building and property that you feel affect its value, and
- Values of surrounding properties similar to yours. Contact Mary Boice, the assessor's secretary (329-6512, ext. 4), who can help you get this information.

Step 2

If you and the town assessor are unable to come to an agreement, you can complete a form about your grievance and appear in front of the Town Grievance Board, made up of fellow Ancram residents.

You can get forms from the assessor's office, and the town assessor or his secretary will answer any questions you have about how to complete the form.

Be sure to file the form before the **Fourth Tuesday in May**, Grievance Day.

On Grievance Day, you'll present your case to the Grievance Board. You'll bring with you the information you presented to the town assessor, plus any additional information you may have collected.

The board will notify you by mail of its decision on your grievance.

Step 3

If you don't agree with the decision of the town Grievance Board, you can bring your case to County Arbitration.

You'll find forms for County Arbitration in the back of the booklet you received to file your grievance on Grievance Day. You can also get additional forms at town hall.

Follow the instructions on the form. When you sign and file this form, you agree to accept the arbitrator's decision.

Commercial properties only should consult a lawyer for representation.

You need seven copies of your grievance information, and you pay a fee of \$35 to file. Photos of your property will be helpful; you can get copies of those on file at town hall for a small fee (or submit your own photos).

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, March 19: Town Board meets at Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 28, 6 p.m. Enjoy all-you-can-eat Roast Beef Dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church, Rte. 7, Ancram. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for children age 10 and under. Limited seating. For reservations, call Mary Ann Roche, 398-5688.

Thursday, April 2: Town workshop at Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 16: Town Board meets at Town Hall, 7 p.m.

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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Help Wanted

General assistant with good computer and administrative skills wanted to help out for up to four hours a week at a pay rate of \$12 per hour (with the possibility of more hours a week over time). Looking for an organized, self-motivated person. Call Annie at 329-3210.

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 and enter your email address.

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