

THE TOWN OF

Halfmoon Navigator

November 2015



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Thanksgiving Food Drive
Highway Infrastructure News
Calendar of Events



WELCOME
TO HISTORIC
HALFMOON

1664 *W*

GATEWAY TO SARATOGA COUNTY

ALSO

Winter Tips • Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
Clifton Park/Halfmoon Fire Department



Message from the Town Supervisor:

The Fall season is upon us and during this season, it is a time to be thankful for our family, our friends, and our Town.

The Town of Halfmoon has had a very busy summer, serving over 600 youths in our Summer Recreation Program. Our Town Parks and recreational trails were full with residents walking, biking, and enjoying nature. Many of our children were involved with baseball, softball, soccer and other events at our Town Parks.

We have enjoyed many successes over this past year, including refunding and refinancing our bond obligations resulting in \$1.6 million dollars in savings to the Town over the remaining term of the loans. Our solar energy project of installing solar panels on Town property is just about finished and should be completely operational by the end of the year. This will result in estimated savings to the Town budget of \$170,000 in the first year and over \$4.2 million dollars over 20 years. Recently, our Town bond rating was changed from a "negative" financial outlook to a "stable" financial outlook (Moody's 09/14/15).

The Town Board has also held several public workshops over the past several months regarding the Transfer Station and a long term plan for road improvements. The Transfer Station will remain open in 2016 and a plan has been made to keep our roads and infrastructure upgraded and improved. More information about the Transfer Station is available on page 12.

We have so much to be thankful for in the Town of Halfmoon. But as the Holiday season approaches, we are reminded of those that are less fortunate and in need. I would encourage you to please donate to our annual Halfmoon food drive. We will be partnering with General Manager Michael Raucci and his team at Toyota of Clifton Park to provide over 800 families throughout our area with a turkey and meal at Thanksgiving. Food donations are critically needed and appreciated. Donations may be dropped off in the Recreation Department until November 20th. Food baskets will be delivered on November 21st; meet at Town Hall at 10AM if you would like to volunteer.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the businesses and companies who purchased advertisements in this newsletter. I encourage you to patronize all of our Halfmoon businesses and thank them for their continued contribution to our Town.

Lastly, from my family to yours, I wish all of you a blessed Holiday Season. If I or a member of our Team can be of service to you, please feel free to contact me at any time at 518-371-7410 X 2200. Thank you and with best wishes.

For more information about the Town of Halfmoon, I would welcome you to visit our website at www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov.

*Remember you can subscribe for **E-Alerts** in order to receive notifications by email when items are posted to the web site.*

And please, "like" us on the town of Halfmoon Facebook page.

Kevin J. Tollisen

Halfmoon Town Supervisor



Kevin J. Tollisen
Halfmoon Town Supervisor

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TOWN CLERK'S HISTORICAL RECORDS Election Records – Counting the Votes

This is a brief look through the Election process in the Town of Halfmoon starting in 1859. These Historic documents are protected and stored in the vault in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Election process started with a meeting of the Board of the Town Auditors who decided which of the local houses will be used as the Polling location for the ensuing town election for each of the 2 districts.

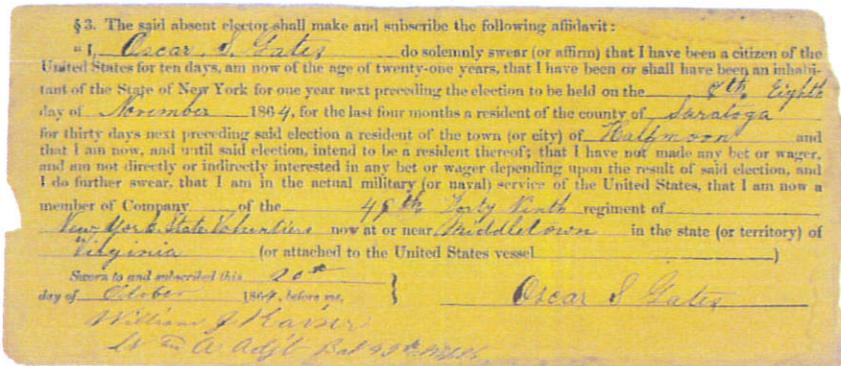
Each district has a handmade book that they use to log in the voters name, called a **POLL LIST**. Many of these books are sewn by threads or tied with ribbons. The total number of votes for each district is verified by the **POLL CLERK** and given to the **TOWN CLERK**.

The **CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS** is the next process. It is a statement of the results of the paper ballots cast in the election. We have a ballot box that was last used in the primary of September 6, 1949 with actual ballots still in it.

SOLDIER'S POWER OF ATTORNEY: during the **CIVIL WAR**, a law was passed on April 21, 1864 allowing the soldier to **PROXY** their vote.

They had to sign a sealed affidavit stating:

- They are a citizen of the United States and over the age of 21
- An inhabitant of the State of New York for 1 year, County for 4 months and resident of Halfmoon for 30 days next proceeding said election
- Have not made or bet any wager, and not directly or indirectly interested in any bet or wager depending upon the result of said election
- Swear that he is in the Military or Naval service and state the name of the company, regiment and their current location
- List the person who they are giving their proxy to.



The proxy's signatures (5 were signed with an X) were witnessed and put into a sealed envelope. We have 23 original proxies from Halfmoon soldiers!

Voting in the 1800's was a lot more difficult than it is now. You walked or traveled by horseback to the Polling locations, which could take a large portion of the day. It also meant no work being done at the farm. The right to vote was very important to them and is proven by the high percentage of qualified voters that signed the Poll List.



CLIFTON PARK/HALFMOON FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



It's been a busy year so far for the men and women of the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Fire Department. With over 430 calls so far this year, we are heading to 500 calls before year's end. As we start getting into the cold weather we ask you to remember a few safety tips:

Please have your furnaces and fireplaces checked. During the cold weather we use our heating systems more. Failure of your system doesn't only leave you in the cold, but could cause a fire in your home. When was the last time you had your chimney cleaned? Depending upon how much you use your wood stove or fireplace, burning wood can cause creosol to build up on the chimney walls. When creosol gets to its burning point it will ignite, causing you to have a chimney fire. Did you know a chimney can also start your house on fire? The heat of a chimney fire can reach 1,500 degrees. The radiant heat from the chimney can start the wood in your walls on fire - and now your house is burning! Take the time to get your chimney cleaned by a professional. It is important to keep checking it as you

may need a second cleaning depending on the type of wood you burn and how much you use it.

Are your Smoke Detectors and Carbon Dioxide (CO) Detectors working? Please check them and change the batteries. As we tighten up our homes to keep in the heat, CO can become a problem. Make sure to have all gas appliances checked to make sure they are operating properly. Do not run your car, a generator or snow blower in the garage for long periods of time. These all put off CO and will cause your house to fill and set off your detectors. During power outages, make sure that if you are using candles, to place them in areas away from combustibles. Make sure candles are placed where they can't fall onto a chair or couch and start a fire. Blow ALL candles out before going to bed or leaving your home Never leave candles burning with no one home. During the holiday season don't forget to keep watering your Christmas tree. A dry tree with lights on it or direct flames can catch on fire so quickly you will not have time to react.

Join us at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Firehouse the first Sunday every month for our Pancake Breakfast. You can enjoy good food, and the kids get to see the fire trucks. If you want to join our team, stop by any Monday night to see what is involved with becoming a volunteer firefighter. Please e-mail **Chief Arthur Hunsinger** at AHunsinger@cliftonparkfire.org if you have any questions.

From our family to yours, we wish you a **HAPPY** and **SAFE** Holiday Season!

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21ST
CENTURY PROPERTIES

1 Vosburgh Rd., Halfmoon

Senator Kathy Marchione takes part in Harvest Distribution Center Open House in Halfmoon



New York State Senator Kathy Marchione is pictured (above left) with Harvest Church Pastor Carolyn Tebbano (above right) at the recent open house of the Harvest Distribution Center in Halfmoon. Photo credit: Kelly Mapes.

New York State Senator Kathy Marchione (R,C,I-Halfmoon) recently attended and spoke at the open house of the Harvest Distribution Center located in the Town of Halfmoon. The Harvest Distribution Center is a 15,000 square foot warehouse dedicated to providing food, clothing, household items, furniture, personal care products and educational supplies to agencies that support individuals and families in need. The Center is operated by Harvest Church. Senator Marchione secured \$10,000 for the Harvest Church's Raven Food Pantry as part of the 2015-16 State Budget.

The Center's vision is to strengthen families in our communities by providing life-sustaining items that stabilize households. The Center works with established non-profit human service agencies to increase the flow of emergency staple items to individuals and families in need. Senator Marchione presented an official New York State Senate Certificate to commemorate the open house. Also in attendance at the open house were Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen and Halfmoon Town Councilwoman Daphne Jordan.

From the Receiver of Taxes

Who can believe that we are in November already!

Fall is here and that other season is just around the corner. In this issue I would like to remind everyone to make sure the Assessor's Office and my office have the correct address for the upcoming 2016 Saratoga County Property Tax Bills. It is the property owner's responsibility to make sure that addresses are correct and current.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is postdated checks. Postdated checks are illegal and my office cannot be responsible to hold a check. During the month of January the Town is collecting tax bills and water payments. We are receiving between 250 and 300 payments a day.

If you did not pay the November water bill on time, it will be on your 2016 Saratoga County Property tax bill. The books must be closed by November 1, 2015 and therefore we cannot collect any water payments after that date. The amount on your tax bill will include the water bill plus the penalty - there are no exceptions.

For your convenience, the Receiver of Taxes Office has extended office hours in January. In addition to Monday - Friday, 8AM - 4PM, the office is open until 6PM on Wednesday and Saturdays 9AM - 12PM.

Kiva and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2016.

Respectfully,

Karen Pingelski

Receiver of Taxes, Town of Halfmoon

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Sat 8 AM-4 PM

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Corporate Gifts Available

From the

Senior Center



Senior Center - Programs, Events, Classes and more

The Halfmoon Senior Citizen Association Inc. is open to all seniors age 55 and over with no residency requirement. The Halfmoon Senior Center is open Monday thru Friday from 9am to 4pm and offers a variety of activities, programs, events, trips, seminars, and exercise programs. When many other avenues for senior activities and fellowship have dwindled, our Center continues to thrive and grow by leaps and bounds. Each day at noon the Saratoga County Office for the Aging Home Delivered Meal Program serves lunch at the Center. There is something everyday for you to participate in and enjoy at the Center. Come for a morning activity and stay for lunch or, come for lunch and stay for an afternoon activity!

One of our upcoming events is our **Annual Holiday Bazaar** which will be held on **Saturday, November 7th** from **9:00am to 2:00pm**. This is our most popular fundraiser of the year and a vital one to the support of our programs. Our craft group has been very busy over the past several months making hand made crafts. Our bakers will have tables full of home baked items for you to choose from for your holiday needs. There will be Grandma's Treasures and Raffles along with the ever popular Christmas Tree Room! The Halfmoon Café will offer our ever popular and totally delicious homemade luncheon items. Our Quilt group has made the most beautiful red, white and black quilt that will be raffled off at the Bazaar. So tell your family and friends, but most of all - come in and shop!!! All proceeds go to fund our activities and programs.

A unique program that we offer is our **Alzheimer's Support Group** which meets the third Thursday of every month at 12:00pm. Caregivers enjoy a complimentary lunch together while those they care for also enjoy a complimentary lunch, before participating in a group activity. This support group is not only for those with Alzheimer's but any type of dementia as well. If you or someone you know are interested in attending, please call the Center to sign-up. All caregivers of any age whether members or non-members are welcome.

With winter coming and the snow about to be piling up outside, our Fitness Center is the perfect place for you to exercise, because it was designed with you in mind. The Center offers an **Osteoporosis Class** every **Monday and Wednesday** at **9:45am**. Osteoporosis causes bones to lose their strength and to break. The body does make new bone tissue but not as fast as it is lost, therefore decreasing bone strength. There is no cure for osteoporosis, but it can be slowed by preventative measures. This class can help. This class is for those that have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, and for any one who is at risk. You might want to join us on **Fridays**, at **9:15am** for some **Light Aerobics**. This class offers light aerobics and strength building. It is geared for the mature body and is tailored for the individual. Classes are \$3.00 per class. If that class is not the right speed for you then try a new **PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise)** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** at **10:30am**. This class focuses on the individual and is tailored to each participant's level of ability. This is an ongoing free class. Come and observe any class you wish. Our fitness center also offers a treadmill and exercise bike to use at your leisure. Keep yourself healthy and active!!!

For more information on all of the programs, activities, trips, classes, etc. visit us at www.townofhalfmoon.ny.gov Click on the Senior Center on the right and check out our Newsletter. You may also call us at 371-3892 or stop in to see us for a tour!



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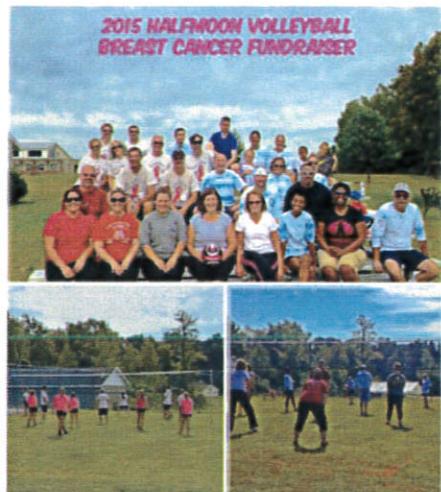
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The Recreation Department in conjunction with the Mechanicville-Stillwater Breast Cancer Walk held the first annual Volleyball Fundraising Tournament on September 12th! The event was able to raise \$620.00 for Breast Cancer Awareness. While it was all smiles and fun, the Boob Brigade team dominated the courts! They received the winner's trophy and a year's worth of bragging rights! We would like to thank all the participants and hope to see you again next year!

Winter Camp

Need someplace for your kids to go over February break? Come join us for our 4th annual **WINTER CAMP!**

Winter Camp will run February 16-19th from 8:30am- 3:30pm at the Town Hall (no transportation will be provided to and from camp). The cost will cover a daily activity and lunch. This program is available to **ALL** youths grades 1-8 (minimum of 20 participants to run program, max of 50).

Registration will begin January 11, 2016. Please feel free to call the Recreation office at 371-7410 ext. 2272 with any questions.



Please join us for a family movie night!
When: Friday, November 13th at 7pm
Where: Town Hall, Main Meeting Room
 We will provide free popcorn and water! Don't forget your chair or a comfortable blanket!

Santa's mailbox will be installed outside the front doors of the Town Hall from December 1st to December 18th for children to mail their letters to Santa Claus. Children will get a response from Jolly Old Saint Nick and a special surprise just for them! Please remember to include a self addressed stamped legal size envelope. This must be included for a child to receive an answer from Santa!



SKI PROGRAM

Registration forms for Our Learn to Ski/Snowboard program at Willard Mountain will be available starting **October 1st** in the Recreation office and on the Town's website.

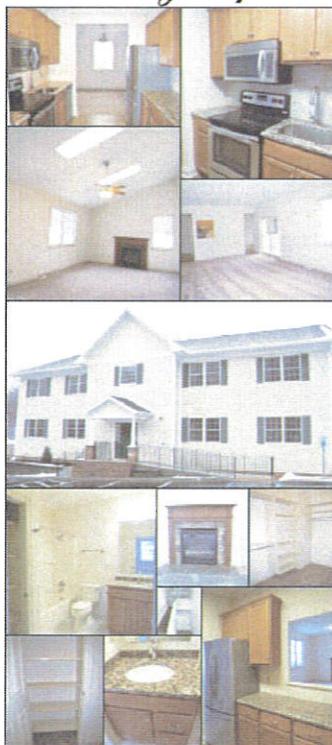
Parent Night Out

Need to finish holiday shopping? Have a party to attend? If so, take advantage of this great opportunity!

Please join us on **Friday, December 18th** from 6pm- 10pm at the Town Hall.

Children in grades Kindergarten through 8th can participate. The cost is \$15.00/child, with a family maximum of \$50.00, when registered by December 17th. Registration fee is \$20/child on day of the event.

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 Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
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Winter Tips from The Highway Department

When traveling please keep a safe distance from snowplows, and use extreme caution when you see one backing up, remember, the driver is alone.

Avoid pushing snow into or across a road, it is illegal and you can be ticketed.

When clearing the end of a driveway, we suggest placing the snow to the **right** of the driveway so that as the plow comes through the snow you cleared is not being re-deposited back onto the driveway.

Garbage and recycling containers should be kept at the edge of the driveway and not in the road.

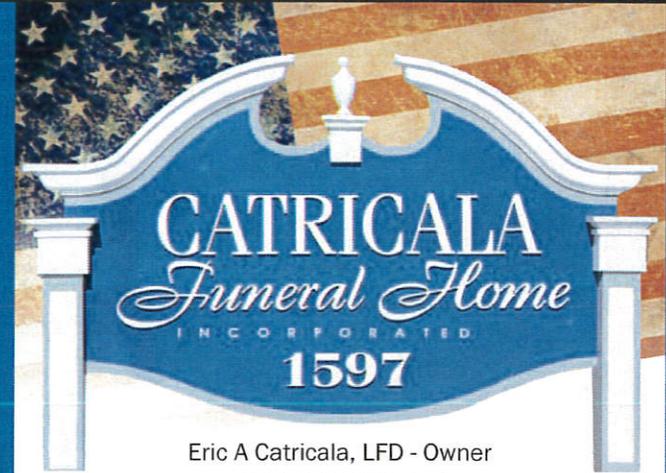
To protect our children, please remind them how dangerous it can be to play or build snow forts near the road, drivers may not see them.

Although we take great care at minimizing mailbox and lawn damage during the winter season, unfortunately sometimes it cannot be avoided. To allow us to prepare for future storms, it becomes necessary for the plows to push the snow beyond the edge of the road. If you install snow markers in the Town right of way, please keep them at least two feet from the edge of the road. This will help prevent them from being knocked down from the weight of the snow as the plow comes through.

Together we all can continue to keep Halfmoon a safe and healthy place to work, live and play. See updated information at the Town website townofhalfmoon-ny.gov, or please call 664-3127 for questions or comments.

On behalf of the entire Highway department please stay healthy and have a great holiday season.

John Pingelski, Halfmoon Highway Superintendent



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November

- 1st Daylight Savings Times ends at 2:00am
TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR!
- 2nd 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 3rd 6:00am - 9:00pm Election Day Various Polling Places
- 4th 6:30pm - 7:00pm Town Board Pre-Meeting Board Room
7:00pm Town Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 7th 9:00am - 2:00pm Holiday Bazaar Senior Center
287 Lower Newtown Rd., Waterford, NY 12188
- 9th 6:00pm - 7:00pm Planning Board Pre-Meeting Conference Room
7:00pm Planning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 11th (All Day) Veteran's Day Holiday
All Town Offices and Senior Center Closed
- 12th 7:00pm Public Workshop re: Transfer Station Fee Restructure
Main Meeting Room
- 13th 7:00pm Indoor Movie Night Main Meeting Room FREE Event!
- 16th 7:00pm Trails and Open Space Meeting Board Room
- 18th 6:30pm - 7:00pm Town Board Pre-Meeting Board Room
7:00pm Town Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 21st 10:00am Thanksgiving Food Drive Delivery Meet in Main Meeting Room -
ALL ARE WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER
- 23rd 6:00pm - 7:00pm Planning Board Pre-Meeting Conference Room
7:00pm Planning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 24th 7:00pm Historical Society Meeting Town Hall Lobby
- 26th & 27th (All Day) Thanksgiving Holiday
All Town Offices and Senior Center Closed

December

- 2nd 6:30pm - 7:00pm Town Board Pre-Meeting Board Room
7:00pm Town Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 5th 4:00pm - 6:30pm Holiday Party Town Hall - Halfmoon Celebrations FREE Event
6:30pm Memorial Tree Lighting Abele Memorial Park

December *cont'd*

- 7th 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 14th 6:00pm - 7:00pm Planning Board Pre-Meeting Conference Room
7:00pm Planning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 16th 6:30pm - 7:00pm Town Board Pre-Meeting Board Room
7:00pm Town Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 18th 6:00pm - 10:00pm Parents Night Out/Kids Night In
Main Meeting Room FREE Event!
- 24th & 25th (All Day) Christmas Eve Holiday & Christmas Day Holiday
All Town Offices and Senior Center Closed
- 31st (1/2 Day) New Year's Eve Holiday
All Town Offices and Senior Center Close at noon

January

- 1st (All Day) New Year's Day Holiday
All Town Offices and Senior Center Closed
- 4th 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 5th 1:00pm - 6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive Main Meeting Room
- 6th 6:30pm - 7:00pm Town Board Pre-Meeting Board Room
7:00pm Town Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 11th 6:00pm - 7:00pm Planning Board Pre-Meeting Conference Room
7:00pm Planning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
Registration begins for Winter Camp! (February 16th - 19th 8:30AM - 3:30PM)
- 18th (All Day) Martin Luther King Day Holiday
All Town Offices and Senior Center Closed
- 20th 6:30pm - 7:00pm Town Board Pre-Meeting Board Room
7:00pm Town Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 25th 6:00pm - 7:00pm Planning Board Pre-Meeting Conference Room
7:00pm Planning Board Meeting Main Meeting Room
- 26th 7:00pm Historical Society Meeting
Historical Building 280 Lower Newtown Rd. Waterford, NY 12188

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Halfmoon Celebrations

Halfmoon Celebrations is a not-for-profit organization and is comprised of volunteers that have the commitment to deliver FREE family fun events to our residents and surrounding communities all year long!

Annual Holiday Celebration & Memorial Tree Lighting

Saturday, Dec 5th • 4pm-6:30pm • Town Hall

FREE...

Pictures
with Santa

Crafts

Jodie Fitz from
Price Chopper's
Kid's Club

Horse Drawn
Wagon Rides

Face
Painting

Balloon
Making



Join us after the celebration for our annual Holiday Memories program where we light trees in memory of loved ones lost and the lighting of the town tree (6:30pm until 7:30pm). If you are interested in purchasing a memorial tree please email Halfmoon Celebrations at halfmooncelebrations@gmail.com

Deadline to purchase a tree is November 13th

Meet Frosty, Rudolph, Mr. Gingerbread Man,
The Grinch and Santa's Elves

Elf Yourself Station

Refreshments available for purchase to
help raise money for The Home Bureau.



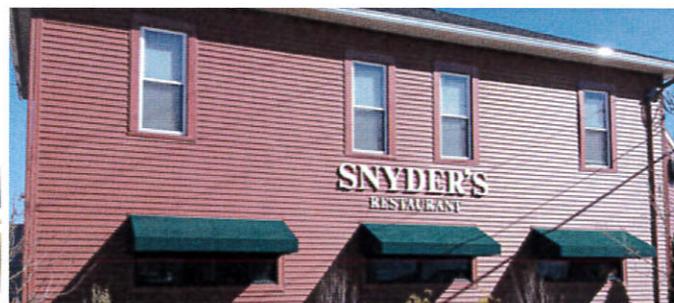
For more information please visit www.halfmooncelebrations.org or find us on Facebook under "Halfmoon Celebrations" or follow us on Twitter @HMCelebrations or call Dave Maxfield at 518-496-4530

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NICK MARCHESI-CLUBHOUSE



LUCY BELKEVICH-MANUPELLA-PARKS

This year we awarded 4 staff members for going above and beyond their job duties with our summer programs. Within each of our programs, a young adult was chosen for their outstanding service and dedication to the youth of our community! Deputy Supervisor Paul Hotaling had the honor of awarding and acknowledging their contribution in making our community the best it can be!

Congratulations Marlene Carey



As the Justice Clerk for 16 1/2 years, Marlene's patience and dedication was always exceptional; often helping victims and family members understand the process of Halfmoon Justice Court. Marlene was well known for having a candy dish on her desk that was there to be shared by all.

We wish Marlene well in her retirement with her husband Norman of 45 years, her three children and four grandchildren. I'm sure we will find her next summer up at their camp in the Adirondacks, sitting on the sandy beach at Schroon River with her feet in the cool waters.

She will be missed and we wish her well.

Congratulations also to 2015 retirees **Milly Pascuzzi and Ron Fellows**. Thank you all for your service to the Town of Halfmoon, enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

Halfmoon Justice Court and Halfmoon Town Staff

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**Town of Halfmoon
Hours of Operation**

**Supervisor's Office, Assessor's Office,
Building Department, Code Enforcement Office,
Finance Office, Payroll Office, Planning Department,
Recreation Department, *Receiver of Taxes,
Senior Center, Water Department** (located on Brookwood Rd.)

Open Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm

*During the month of January, the Receiver of Taxes Office is open
Tuesday 8:00am - 6:00pm and Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Town Clerks Office

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm;
Wednesday 8:00am - 7:00pm

Animal Control - On-Call As Needed

Justice Clerk's Office (check web site for Court times)

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Highway Department (Located on Route 146)

Monday - Friday 7:00am - 3:00pm (Winter Hours)

Monday - Thursday 6:00am - 4:00pm (Summer Hours)

Transfer Station (Located on Route 146)

Tuesday 8:00am - 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm - 5:00pm;
Saturday 8:00am - 1:00pm

All Town Parks - Dawn-Dusk

**Town of Halfmoon
Contact Information**

Dial (518) 371-7410 - extensions below

Animal Control	ext. 2452
Assessor	ext. 2242
Attorney	ext. 2202
Code Enforcement	ext. 2260
Finance/Payroll	ext. 2217
Grant	ext. 2206
Highway Department (alternate number 664-3127)	ext. 2500
Historical Society	ext. 2332
Justice Office	ext. 2400
Parks Department	ext. 2533
Planning Department	ext. 2266
Receiver of Taxes	ext. 2251
Recreation Department	ext. 2272
Senior Center (alternate number 371-3872)	ext. 2300
Senior Express	ext. 2320
Town Supervisor	ext. 2200
Town Clerk	ext. 2230
Transfer Station	ext. 2500
Water Department	ext. 2600

Elected Officials Email Addresses

Town Supervisor, Kevin J. Tollisen ktollisen@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Deputy Supervisor/Town Councilman, Paul Hotaling photaling@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Councilman, John Waiselewski jwaiselewski@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Councilwoman, Daphne Jordan djordan@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Councilman, Jeremy Connors jconnors@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Clerk, Lynda Bryan lbryan@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Town Highway Superintendent, John Pingelski, Jr. jpingsels@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov
Receiver of Taxes, Karen Pingelski kpingsels@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov

Please go to our website and sign up for our E-Alerts & Text Alerts so we can keep you updated on important issues. www.townofhalfmoon-ny.gov

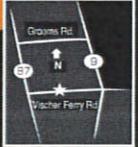



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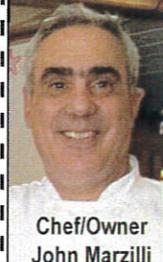
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Just because the warm weather has ended does not mean that the outdoor activities should as well!



Town Parks and trails along the Mohawk and Hudson River are great places to snowshoe, cross-country ski, build a snowman, or sled down a hill. The D.E.C. Forest Preserve on Ushers Road has a network of wood-ed trails for those who enjoy winter hiking.

The fish won't stop biting just because it's getting colder. Grab your fishing gear and put on some warm clothes while you test your skills on the ice. Did you know that ice seldom freezes uniformly? It may be a foot thick in one location, and only an inch or two just a few feet away. Have fun but please be aware and be careful!



Maintaining lawn equipment is an important step to keeping healthy turf and watersheds. Keep blades sharp, grease moving parts, stabilize fuel, and calibrate spreaders so applications remain accurate. Winter is a good time to get these projects done.

Transfer Station/Residential Garbage Pick Up Update

As you may know, there was a Public Hearing at the September 2, 2015 Town Board Meeting regarding the possibility of having a Town wide garbage pick-up. Earlier this year a Feasibility Study was conducted to determine if closing the Transfer Station and implementing a Town wide residential garbage/recycle pick up would benefit Town residents. This would affect all Town residents; except those in apartments where dumpster pick up is provided. A straight fee would be accessed for those affected. It was estimated at a cost of \$22/month. This fee would appear as an annual amount on your County Property Tax Bill. At the Public Hearing, the over whelming comments were against this project. The majority who spoke use the Transfer Station and feel the Transfer Station was a convenient and cost effective way to dispose of their garbage and recyclables. The Town Board reviewed all of the comments made and appreciates everyone's input and time to attend the Public Hearing.

After informal discussion amongst the Town Board members and Highway Superintendent, it was agreed that the Transfer Station will remain OPEN into the 2016 year. The Town Board has scheduled a Public Workshop on November 12, 2015 at 7:00pm to discuss the fee structure for the Transfer Station in 2016.

We will also be posting a survey on the main page of the Town's web site for feedback on the Transfer Station. If you do not have access to the internet, copies of the survey will be available at the Town Clerk's office and Senior Center. The survey will be available from November 15, 2015 until March 1, 2016.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Supervisor's Office at (518) 371-7410 ext. 2200.

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TOWN OF HALFMOON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TOWN HIGHWAY TAX

Over the past several weeks, the Town Board has held seven public workshops to discuss both short term and long term road improvements in the Town of Halfmoon. The Town has approximately 115 miles of Town owned and maintained roads. The average cost to pave one mile of a Town road is estimated to be approximately \$125,000, but is dependent on a number of factors including the cost of oil and the extent of the road repair necessary.

Maintaining our roads is one of the biggest issues facing the Town of Halfmoon over the next several decades. In order for the Town of Halfmoon to be on a 20 year plan for road improvements, the Town must pave 5.75 miles of road per year. The critical question during the public workshops is whether we continue to do the best job we can and pave less than 5.75 miles per year or set forth a long range plan that will ensure proper maintenance of our Town roads.

The Town Board has decided that the long range investment plan is the best choice. While NO ONE wants to have a highway tax and this has been a very difficult decision, residents recognize the need to keep Halfmoon's roads safe, passable, and in good repair. In this year alone, the Town has spent over \$250,000 on salt so that our roads are usable during inclement weather. This cost continues to rise and has a large affect on our Town Highway Department Budget.

The total Highway Tax that the Town Board discussed and debated during the public workshops was \$1.2 million dollars. This would include monies for paving the required amount of 5.75 miles of road per year and also provide the Highway Department the updated equipment needed for our growing Town. The Tax would be phased in over a two year period, instead of one year as originally discussed in the workshop. In reviewing and analyzing our budget operations, we were able to find significant savings in one of our water funds, thus allowing the Town to impose a \$630,000 Highway Tax in the first year and the remainder in year 2017. The phased highway tax approach allows Town residents who qualify to continue to take advantage of the property tax freeze credit checks in 2016 per the State sponsored program.

The total cost to each resident household is on our Town website: www.townof-halfmoon-ny.gov. Click on the button named Workshop Minutes or find it on my page under Halfmoon Government.

You can also visit the Town of Halfmoon website to review my power point presentation utilized during the public workshop.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further. The direct phone to my office is 371-7410 X 2200 or my email is ktollisen@townofhalfmoon-ny.gov.

Where in Halfmoon is Gray's Corners? *How did it get its name?*

Gray's Corners is located east of Exit 8 of the Adirondack Northway (Rte. 87) at the intersection of Crescent-Vischer's Ferry and Dunsbach Roads.

James Gray was born in 1794 and his wife Gitty, in 1793. Sometime before 1820 they were married and had several children. He was a farmer his entire life and lived at the corner of what is now Dunsbach Road and Crescent Vischer's Ferry Road. Both of them are buried in the West Crescent Cemetery.

The original road that is now Crescent Vischer's Ferry was a dirt road that came up the hill from Crescent around where Fire Road is today and behind where the Country Drive-In is currently located. Part of the old road is where Morris Lane is located today. In the 1940's the road was paved and parts were relocated.

He owned both sides of the road where his property adjoined John Daniel DeVoe's property on the west and adjacent to Pattison Freeman's property where the West Crescent Cemetery is located. He also owned property on Dunsbach Road to the Thomas Pott's property on the north side and sold property to Simeon Dutcher on the south side.

The intersection of those two roads was named after James Gray; and consequently titled Gray's Corners. And that is how Gray's Corners got its name! Over the years this property exchanged ownership nine times.

A footnote to this story: One of James and Gitty's daughters was Jane, who married Michael Mayott. They had a daughter Harriet Melissa who married John Taylor. Their daughter Maggie married John DeVoe; they are my great grandparents on my mother's side.

The property that was originally owned by James Gray later belonged to my grandparents, Charles and Nettie Morris on my Dad's side. My parents, Gerald (Jud) and Norma Morris, owned their first house on part of this property.

**Nancy L. Morris, Past President
Halfmoon Historical Society**



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Boy Scouts of America

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
to do my duty to
God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
to help other people
at all times;
to keep myself
physically strong,
mentally awake,
and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy,
loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind,
obedient, cheerful, thrifty,
brave, clean, and reverent.



Scouting provides youth with an opportunity to try new things, provide service to others, build self-confidence, and reinforce ethical standards. These opportunities not only help them when they are young, but carry forward into their adult lives. The skills they learn in Scouting help them overcome obstacles and challenges with courage and character throughout their lives.

Discover why Scouting is for families like yours. Boys in 1st grade through 5th grade are invited to join a Cub Scout Pack while boys age 11 to 17 are invited to join a Boy Scout Troop. To join the adventure of Scouting and to find a Cub Scout Pack or Boy Scout Troop in your area contact the Twin Rivers Council at www.trcscouting.org

Harry S. Truman, 1945-1953 "The Boy Scouts of America, since it was founded in 1910, has contributed greatly to the character training of our youth. What a greater nation this would be if the principles of Scouting could be woven more closely into our daily lives. If we can impress upon our youth principles of friendliness and mutual respect, we shall go a long way toward establishing a better understanding among the nations of the world. The Boy Scouts of America is making a vital contribution to the character-building of our boys and young men. Let us work together to make the program of the Boy Scouts available to every American boy."

Gerald R. Ford, 1974-1977 "One of the proudest moments of my life came in the court of honor when I was awarded the Eagle Scout badge. I still have that badge. It is a treasured possession. I am the first Eagle Scout vice president. The three great principles which Scouting provides—self-discipline, teamwork, and moral and patriotic values—are the basic building blocks of leadership. I applaud the Scouting program for continuing to emphasize them. I am confident that your ability to bring ideals, values, and leadership training to millions of our young people will help to bring about a new era—a time in which not only our republic will progress in peace and freedom, but a time in which the entire world shall be secure, and all its people free."

Join Girl Scouts today

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Contact **Michele Kuhns** at mak8818@nycap.rr.com to put her on the list to join a troop in the area. New leaders are always needed to help guide the girls.

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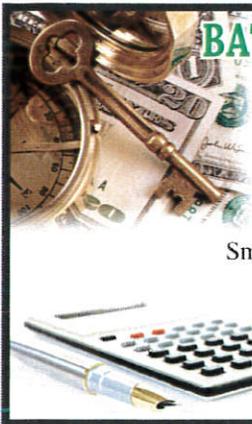


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From the
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**Cold Weather Care and Holiday Safety
Tips for Our Furry Friends**



The advent of colder temperatures has an impact on pets as well as on people. Even though they are covered in fur, most pets are not equipped for being outdoors in frigid temperatures for long periods of time. Pets can suffer from hypothermia and frostbite just like humans. Dogs that spend extended periods of time outdoors must have a shelter. This shelter must be raised off the ground and large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in-while not being so large that the dog's body heat cannot adequately warm the shelter. The shelter must also be insulated from the cold. Outdoor pets need more food during the winter months and plenty of fresh, ice-free water to drink. A good rule of thumb is if it is too cold for you outside, it is likely too cold for your pet.

- ◆ Pet paws can become crusted with ice and irritated by ice melting compounds, resulting in sore feet. A paw rinse with warm water upon coming in can help. You can also consider booties if you pet will tolerate them.
- ◆ Shoveling deep snow to create a "potty spot" can encourage pets to continue to eliminate outside.
- ◆ Watch out for cats sheltering in cars parked outside. Bang on the hood of your car before you start it and blow the horn to give cats the chance to escape before the car's fan belt starts moving.
- ◆ Beware of antifreeze spills as some pets can't resist its sweet taste- even ingesting a small amount can be deadly.
- ◆ Darker days and longer nights can mean pets, and the owners who are walking them, are more difficult to see. Consider reflective collars, tags and leashes for improved visibility.
- ◆ Holidays such as Christmas can also pose serious risks to your pet. Make sure to keep items such as chocolate, raisins, poinsettias, holly berries/leaves and tinsel away from your pet. Call the Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 or your vet immediately if you think your pet has ingested something dangerous.
- ◆ Animal Control wishes you and your pet a safe and healthy holiday season.

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On behalf of the Town of Halfmoon Supervisor, the Town Board and the Halfmoon Navigator staff; Dianne Mincher, Debbie Lucarelli and Lisa Perry, we hope you enjoy the November 2015 issue of the Halfmoon Navigator.

