

# The Bee

Town of Hume Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Town of Hume Museum, 10842 Claybed Rd. Hume, at 7PM. Town Board meetings are open to the public. Complete copies of the minutes may also be obtained at the Town Clerk's office.

Town of Hume Board  
Members

**Supervisor:**

Dennis Ricketts

**Council Members:**

Bryce Bower

Daniel Miller

Chris Austin

Greg McKurth

**Inside this issue:**

Hume Post Office	2
Our Town, continued	2
Brooks Hose Ladies Auxiliary	3
Winter Parking	3
Unregistered Vehicles	3
A Different Face	4
Mailboxes	4
Q & A	5
Water & Sewer	5
SPCA	5
A Glance Back	6

## Our Town ~ from Supervisor Ricketts

I would like to say Thank You to all who supported me in the last election. It's an honor to continue serving you.

The Town of Hume would like to commend Town Board Member, Bryce Bower, for his 12 years of loyal & dedicated service to the Town of Hume. When you see him...extend him a gracious & hearty Thank You!

The past 5 years the Town of Hume has been in the ongoing process of securing a Federal Grant to control the erosion along the banks of Cold Creek here in Fillmore. Each year, the banks of the creek by Brooks Hose Fire Company, Fillmore Little League, Town of Hume water well in Town Park, State Route 19 Bridge and private properties keep eroding away, threatening these specific areas and structures and causing the creek bed to widen. We anticipate starting work on this project the summer of 2012. We would also like to thank our Allegany County Board of Legislators in

helping to secure this grant.

In the spring of 2011, our NYS Governor imposed a 2% property tax cap that takes effect this year for the 2012 budget. I agree with the fact that taxes cannot keep increasing or spending go uncontrolled each year. Many people are not receiving 2% increase every year. In fact, they are making concessions and taking pay & benefit cuts; likewise, government must make cuts too.

After 3 months of much deliberation, our town's budget has been approved. Unfortunately, since NYS Retirement Fund no longer earns sufficient profits in the stock market to cover the mandated retirements costs, individual towns must now fund the difference themselves through levied taxes. The cost of NYS retirement for our town this year alone has increased 75.82%. With the additional projected 10-15% increase in health insurance, increased cost of diesel fuel and operating costs in general, it will be impossible to stay under the 2% tax cap without cutting spending and services somewhere. Cont'd on page 2

## Congressman Tom Reed

Congressman Tom Reed, Representing the 29<sup>th</sup> District conducted a Town Hall meeting at the Town of Hume Museum on Saturday afternoon October 22.

Seventeen area residents were on hand to greet Congressman Reed and to listen to his plan for the 29<sup>th</sup> District.



## Oldest Post Office in Town Listed for Closing

Earlier this year the USPS announced the first rounds of US Post Office closings for the entire country. The Hume Post Office was on the list to be closed within 120 days from the date of the published list.

The Hume Post Office was established in 1826, fourteen years before Fillmore had a Post Office; and it is 175 years old.

A public hearing was held at the Museum on Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> for public comment. Three representatives from Buffalo USPS operation were in attendance to listen to the community's concerns. More than 30 people attended the public hearing.

Some of the concerns were: address change, would they be able to keep their same PO Box number, would mail be delivered on a dead end street, and many more questions were asked.

For many, the Post Office is part of their daily routine; a place to visit with neighbors while waiting patiently for the mail to be sorted. It is a community's core, sense of identity; safe haven for unclaimed letters, packages, and oh yes the bills! A place to purchase stamps, even the "special collectible stamps," send packages, and to purchase money orders. To lose these

services on a local level and see those services moved to another location will truly impact the identity of the hamlet of Hume



This is the first "round" of Post Offices closings in the United States; another will follow in the near future. Hopefully the voices heard at the Hume PO hearing will have some impact on any decision concerning what may be the last remaining Post Office in the Town of Hume.

## Our Town continued from front page

Much consideration is in the air.

Our town has some funds accumulated from one year to the next. This surplus is called Fund Balance. Our town also has some funds in approved reserve funds for emergency repairs in sewer & water, equipment replacement, building repairs, etc. Our town was able to stay under the tax cap this year for the 2012 Budget by using a portion of these reserves and Fund Balances. The Board does not advise continuing this policy in the future as it will deplete our Fund Balance and could force us into borrowing money at prevailing interest rates.

There is an alternative option called the NYS Tax Cap Override which needs both Board and State approval which allows a town to go over

the 2% tax cap. The Board does not recommend using that option if at all possible. I'll have more information pertaining to this issue in the future should it become necessary.

A Thank You goes out to Kevin Peet and the highway crew for making our holiday bright and hanging the Christmas lights in Our Town!

A Very, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!

P.S. Contrary to rumor, the Town of Hume Supervisor, Board Members or any other part time employee is not provided with health insurance.

## A Difference Face at the Desk



Susan Bodnar, Deputy Town Clerk since 2003, resigned in August of 2011 to take a different position more suited to her life situation. That's a very stilted way of saying that Susan is no longer in our office, and her congenial presence

will be missed. She has a special gift for interacting with the public and making the office flow. She handled a lot of changes in procedures and personnel throughout her term, but always managed to work the Town into her busy schedule.

Joanne Cockle has now been appointed as Deputy Town Clerk. Joanne became Deputy School Tax Collector in September, and after showing her spirit, mettle and aptitude, was appointed Deputy Town Clerk.



Joanne brings lots of experience, a wide range of acquaintance with this area and our residents, and a friendly spark to the office. She is learning the routines and duties and just beginning to realize the scope of local government.

## Mailboxes on Town of Hume Highway Rights of Way

Mailboxes on Highway Rights of way which are displaced by highway plows in the course of snow removal...

There is no statutory or legal authority that grants a property owner or resident along a public highway any right to place a mailbox in a highway right of way. The owner may have an informal license, but this does not endow the owner of the mailbox with any legal rights in the highway when needed for highway purposes.

The Highway Superintendent and the State have a duty to keep the highway available for the public use. Snow removal and snow storage are an incident of that use.

*"...the highway (s) of the state are made for and devoted to public travel, and the whole public have the right to their use in their entirety and when obstructions to public travel are found within their bounds, the Commissioners of highway are clothed with the power to remove them without waiting for the slow process of the Law, even though travel be not absolutely and entirely prevented," (Emphasis Supplied) Van WYCK V. Lent.33 Hun301.*

When the necessity of keeping the highway

open conflicts with the individual's receipt of mail, the latter must stand aside. The owner might even be compelled to remove the box under highway Law #319.

The owner has no right to interfere with the speedy and efficient removal of snow by placing the mailbox in such a position as to cause this result, and on liability results on the part of the public official charged with the duty of snow removal if such a box is so placed that it may be injured by proper highway maintenance. (Informal opinion, Attorney General 2/28/66)

*If you have questions, call Highway Superintendent Kevin Peet at 585-567-2535.*

## Brooks Hose Ladies Auxiliary

In the last issue of *The Bee* the local fire companies and rescue squad members were recognized for their dedication. The Brooks Hose Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary roster was unintentionally excluded. This group plays an important role in the fire department as well. Without their dedication to help support the fire company during Bingo, chicken bar-b-ques and other fund raisers, that responsibility would fall on the shoulders of others.

The Brooks Hose Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1973. The group was formed initially to help with Bingo on Saturday nights after a five year run of bi-weekly fish fries was discontinued by the fire department.

The ladies organized in the old fire hall and were very thankful for the new kitchen when the new hall was built.

A very strong membership of local ladies, wives of firemen and daughters helped to support the fire department during emergencies by making sandwiches, coffee and snacks for “on scene” fire departments. Unfortunately, this practice has been phased out due to the decline of members.

The Auxiliary works on a rotating schedule for Bingo selling snacks, sandwiches and beverages.

The following is a list of active members of the ladies auxiliary: Sharon Gayford, Marge Bentley, Ellie Smith, Diane Neal, Janet Folts, Lanny Thomas, Shelley Reynolds, Shannon Gayford, Carey Hulburt, and Naomi Masterson.

A much deserved **Thank You** for your loyalty to our community goes out to all of you.

## Winter Parking ~ Plowing Etiquette

When winter arrives with a dump of cold, white snow, when driving becomes a slalom and test of patience, when the snow piles up along town roads and streets – then it is times to park off the road so that maintenance vehicles can make a clean sweep when plowing.

Town Law #1 of 1998 prohibits parking on any town road or street from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> during the hours of 12 AM and 7 AM. This is a public safety issue, and this law will be enforced.

The town crews make a dedicated effort to keep the Town’s roads clear and passable during win-

ter. Homeowners, facing their own trials in keeping their driveways open, can help both the plowing crews and their neighbors by adopting a bit of plowing etiquette.

Please do not push snow from your driveway across a road or onto the road right of way. Plowing the snow across the roadway causes ridges that vehicles unexpectedly encounter; this can produce a dangerous situation. Piling snow into the right of way hinders the line of sight of vehicles and pedestrians.

Please be considerate...let’s be safe this winter.

## Unregistered Vehicles

According to New York State statute, two or more inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicles shall not be parked, kept or stored on any premises. No vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.

The brief excerpt from State law is provided as notice that the Town of Hume will enforce the

regulations concerning “junk” vehicles. If you have two or more unlicensed vehicles on your property, you must remove them as ordered, or you must apply for a Junk Vehicle Business License.

Call the Town Clerk’s Office at 567-2666 for information concerning the Junk Business Permit.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why did the Town do a Dog Enumeration?

A: When NYS gave the mandate to monitor dogs to individual municipalities, the Town adopted a local law to provide guidelines. Local Law #2 of 2010 was adopted to protect residents and pets from rabies, to ensure the lawful and humane housing of dogs, and to provide a service for returning dogs to their homes if they are lost (or to provide an opportunity for a new home). An enumeration gives the starting point to enforcement of these “neighborly goals.

Q: How many dogs are in the Town of Hume?

A: On January 1, 2011, there were 422 dogs licensed in the Town of Hume. Since that time, in large part because of the enumeration, over 200 new licenses have been issued.

Q: Do you sell transfer station tags?

A: No, not if you’re referring to the annual tags that hang on your rearview mirror.

Those are obtained through Allegany County

## Water & Sewer

Winter is approaching and the temperatures will drop to below freezing. Town of Hume water customers are reminded to protect their water meters from the elements.

Frozen water meters are costly to replace and a break in service during the winter months only adds to the inconvenience.

The responsibility to keep water meters from freezing is the home/business owners.

Thank you, Dana

DPW. The Clerk’s office does sell the “per bag” disposal tickets. These come in 10-20-or 30 – dollar denominations.

Q: How do we get a marriage license?

A: If you intend to be married in the State of New York, you can apply at any Town Clerk’s office. These documents are needed: a photo ID, proof of current address, divorce or death certificates if you have been married before, and birth certificates. There is a \$40.00 fee.

Q: What is Executive Session?

A: An Executive Session is a closed, private session of a Board, such as your Town Board. It can only be called for very specific topics such as pending legal matters, some personnel matters, or to discuss privileged information. No action is taken during an Executive Session, but the Executive Session discussions may lead to action taken once the Board returns to Open Meeting.

## SPCA ~ News

The cold weather is quickly approaching! NYS Ag & Markets law requires dogs left outside in inclement weather have appropriate shelter from the elements. Appropriate dog shelters must: -be structurally sound & insulated – have a waterproof roof – allow your dog to stand, turn around, & lay down with their legs outstretched - be regularly cleaned of waste, including the area surrounding the shelter. To report inadequate shelter or any other acts of animal cruelty please call:

585- 268-9600

Visit the Town of Hume on the web, to find complete Board minutes, links to Town departments and general information. [www.humetown.org](http://www.humetown.org)

**Town Clerk** hours: Monday to Friday 9-12 & 1-5

phone 585-567-2666

email: [humetown@rochester.rr.com](mailto:humetown@rochester.rr.com)

**Posting places:** Town of Hume Clerk's Office, Community Bank, Wide Awake Library, Brooks Hose Fire Company Fire Hall, Wiscoy-Rossburg Fire Hal, Speicher's Groceries, & Jubilee.

**Newspaper:** Olean Times Herald

One of the tasks I do as historian is "limited" genealogy requests. Recently I was trying to locate the burial of a former resident in a copy of an old Sexton log. It was very interesting to read the cause of death for some of our ancestors, here are a few:

*Disuse of brain; female weakness; debility of age; brain fever; protrect (unreadable) sore throat; dropsy; found apoplectic paralytic insensible; inflammation of bowels and dropsy on brain; died in a fit.*

In no way do I mean any disrespect for our loved ones who have passed. However some of the reasons are strange.

To read more of our town's history visit the museum and read the old news from *the Northern Allegany Observer*.

## A Glance Back...

The following article was in the issue of the *Northern Allegany Observer*.

From October 20, 1911:

*The inhabitants of Arkport numbering about 600 are making arrangements to incorporate as a village and install a waterworks system.*

Same date under Wiscoy:

*There is no school in the senior department of our school this week on account of potato digging and harvesting beans.*

From October 27, 1911 under Fox Hill:

*A.B. Towner drew a pumpkin from his cornfield one day last week which weighed 39 pounds. Can someone beat it?*

Same date under Wiscoy:

*F. B. Reynolds & Sons hardware store at Rossburg was burglarized Tuesday night and about \$50 worth of revolvers were stolen, besides a large number of razors, jackknives and numerous other articles. The burglars effected an entrance by cutting the glass from one of the front windows.*

Same date under Dutch Hill:

*The young people of the neighborhood spent Hallowe'en with Walter McMurtry! A hunt for the fortune which the old witch had hidden throughout the rooms made a jolly time for all the hunters. Games and a lunch finished the good time.*

*Northern Allegany Observer* November 10, 1911, under Mills Mills:

*Miss Clara Hildreth wishes to thank her cousin, Oscar Hildreth, of Newark, South Dakota, for a Hartz Mountain, Germany, canary bird, a singer that he sent her recently.*

Same date under Wiscoy:

*While A. R. Mills was in Fillmore Tuesday, his housekeeper vacated his home with what she could find that she could carry away, including money belonging to him and his son Balfour. She was caught and the articles recovered at Portageville.*

Same date under Home News in Brief:

*Frank Doolittle recently gathered a pumpkin from his cornfield that weighs 54 pounds. He says that Mr. A. B. Towner can see it by coming to his place, and he will sell him some seeds from it so he can raise "some good pumpkins." [Mr. Towner recently harvested a pumpkin that weighed 39 pounds. Ed.*

From December 1, 1911 under Allen:

*L.A. Doolittle and Galen Bennett set telephone poles from the cheese factory to E. Lester's and also placed a telephone in the house on Monday.*

Same date under Wants, For Sale, Etc:

*For Sale or Rent – The Railroad House, Fillmore, N.Y. Good location for eating house. Adjacent to depot and business part of town. A. W. Lane, Fillmore, N.Y.*