

THE TOWN OF COLUMBUS

Quarterly Newsletter



JULY 2016

The Columbus Town Hall requires significant repairs that voters have indicated they would rather not fund.

On April 4 and 5, the Columbus Town Board hosted a straw poll, asking voters whether to spend up to \$300,000 to make major repairs to the building, which has been closed since last year.

By a vote of 61 to 28, voters opted not to spend this sum – a number that two engineering firms set as a minimum to address the Town Hall's sagging foundation and related problems.

A month later, at the May meeting held in the train depot, several people asked that the Town Hall be repaired. Former Town Board member Robert Huot proposed forming a not-for-profit organization to acquire, renovate and repurpose the building, perhaps as a museum.

Mr. Huot (607-847-8124) is seeking Town residents and others to serve on the board of this organization. It is critical that citizens establish how the building will be used: suggestions are welcome!

In other news, the Town has learned our equalization rate will remain at 100 percent over the next year, a benefit when paying school and county taxes.

Our Highway Department has a new full-time motorized equipment operator, Brandon Kuhn of South New Berlin.

Our highway roller has reached the end of its useful life. We will rent one this summer and provide to replace the machine in the 2017 budget.

The Planning Board, which is working on a survey of concerns in Town to help guide local officials, is seeking a new member. If interested, please call Town Clerk Brenda Weidman (847-8891).

Plans are underway for Columbus Day 2016, to be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 8 in Norton Park.

Johnson Farms will again present our popular tractor pull. This year's artists are quilter Linda Foote of New Berlin and metal sculptor Jason Schultz of Albany.

Jane Prohaska (847-8635) and Marsha Guzewich (674-4094), our Park Committee, are seeking donations for the Quarter Social, a highlight of the afternoon.

For Town news between newsletters, a good place to start is our website: www.columbusny.us. Town Board meetings are held in the courtroom at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday; Planning Board meetings, same place, at 7 p.m. third Thursday.

***If you have questions, please contact a Board member
or call the Town Clerk at 607-847-8891.***