

THE TOWN OF COLUMBUS

Quarterly Newsletter



MARCH 2016

The Columbus Town Board has a new member, Marsha Guzewich, joining Jane Prohaska, Pam Weidman, Roger Adams, and Tom Grace. We plan to send letters to the public periodically, in addition to posting useful information (contacts, assessment links, agendas, minutes, park reservations, etc.) on the Town's website: www.columbusny.us .

We meet in the courtroom on the second Thursday of every month, starting at 7 p.m. Our Planning Board (Wells Horton, Kay Winton, Judy Lowe, Ralph Scalzo and Dan Avolio) meets in the courtroom on the third Thursday, also starting at 7.

Columbus remains in good financial condition, with an equalization rate of 100 percent. Our likely increased costs in the next couple of years may be offset by increases in PILOT payments and assessment gains. The bottom line is that the tax rate should not rise, barring a significant expense.

We have a new town justice, Michael Anson, whose office telephone number is 607-847-9970.

Progress continues on the Train Depot in Norton Park. Donated to the Town in 2011 by Chobani, the Depot has a new roof, electric service and the hardwood floor has been cleaned and sanded, making this an attractive warm weather venue.

A new fire call-out system has been installed in the garage-office-courtroom with the aid of a \$4,000 grant from the NYS Office of Court Administration. If the system detects excessive smoke or heat, it directly dials Chenango County dispatch.

The Town Hall has been closed for nearly a year because of a failed foundation and dry-rotted beams. Last year, the Town retained the Chazen Companies, engineers, to propose repairs. Their report, posted on the Town website, outlines a three-phase plan.

Phase One, snow bracing to prevent collapse, was completed in February.

Before proceeding with the rest of the project to make the building structurally sound, the Town Board will poll resident voters. Please Vote either **Monday, April 4**, or **Tuesday, April 5**. Both days, a ballot box will be set up in the Town Courtroom from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The ballot will read: "Do you favor having the Town of Columbus spend up to \$300,000 to repair the Town Hall?"

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