

ROCHESTER REPORTER

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Meetings & Events

Sept. 19, 9:30 am, Youth Comm. Board, Community Center

Sept. 19, 7:30 pm, Fire Comm. Board, Accord Fire House

Sept. 26, 4:30 pm, Town Audit Mtg.

Sept. 26, 6 pm, Town Board workshop with Tom Shepstone

Oct. 3, 7:30 pm, Fire Comm. Board, Accord Fire House

Oct. 4, 7 pm, Town Board, Town Hall

Oct. 8, Columbus Day, Town Offices closed.

Oct. 9, 7 pm, Zon'g Bd. of Appeals, Town Hall

Oct. 9, 7 pm, Public Hearing: Zoning & Subdivision Code Revisions, Accord Fire Hall

Oct. 11, 7 pm, Environ. Commission, Town Hall

Citizens Speak Up on New Zoning Laws *Crowds offer Suggestions, Criticism, Praise*

With the Accord fire-house packed to capacity for two recent public hearings — on August 23rd and before the regular meeting of the Town

ings, and about a dozen residents speak of its potential benefits. Following the Sept. 6th session, the Board moved to continue the hearing process,

scheduling the next meeting for **Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.** at the Accord Fire Hall.

The subject of discussion is a series of

better prepare Rochester to meet increasing issues of development, conservation of open space and water resources, job growth, affordable housing, and more.



Residents prepare for the Public Hearing

Board on Sept. 6 — dozens of Rochester's property owners and residents were vocal about perceived problems and benefits of a proposed new Zoning and Subdivision Law (the first major revision of the existing law in decades).

The board members heard approximately 35-40 people express concerns about various aspects of the new Code, some making their voices heard at both meet-



laws and regulations drafted by a bipartisan volunteer committee of Town residents and property owners who worked during the last two years, through some 40 meetings, on the project. It is believed by the drafting committee that the proposed changes will

Bus Purchase Approved


Acting on Councilman Santosky's recommendation, the Town Board voted to pay \$2,500 for a replacement (pre-owned) 60-seat bus for Youth Program jaunts youngsters are provided with during the year. The diesel vehicle has a modest 140,000 miles on it and needs "only some little fixes," the Board heard. It will replace a dilapidated

long-used bus, which, says a woman who was recently aboard, "has a terrible smell inside." That bus will be sold once the new bus goes into service.



Old Oil Tanks , Out They Go!

By unanimous vote, the Town Board accepted a bid — the only bid received — of \$20,898 to facilitate the removal of underground bulk oil storage tanks at both the Transfer Station and the Town Hall. The bid also includes removal of the above-ground collection tank at the Transfer Station for recycled oil, a service the

Town will no longer provide. The old buried

tanks, have to be removed for the Town to be in compliance with DEC regulations relating to bulk fuel storage. "We have no choice, we have to do it," said Supervisor Duke.

The bid also includes funds to allow for the cleanup of any oil-contaminated earth, if such is found when the tanks are unearthed. The needed funds for the project will come from the Town's contingency line.

\$2,500 Grant To Youth Dept.

The Town budget was amended to include acceptance of a grant of \$2,500 for educational supplies for the Youth Department. The grant was arranged by NYS Sen John Bonacic.

HERITAGE DAY

Be There for the Arts, Crafts, Music!

Another wonderful "Heritage Day" in the Town of Rochester will be held on Saturday, October 6th between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Main Street, Accord. ADMISSION & PARKING ARE FREE!

Spearheaded by Friends of Historic Rochester, the day-long series of events and activities will begin with a PANCAKE BREAKFAST prepared by the Fire Company at the Accord Fire Hall from 8-11 a.m. Activities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be concentrated at the Museum grounds, 12 Main Street, Accord. Lunch food will be available for purchase.

As was the case last year, the entire Main Street will be "dressed up" with fall flowers, pumpkins, etc., as well as signage and old photographs along the street explaining the history of each property.

A new feature this year will be the GATHERING OF LOCAL AUTHORS with their publications on local history, which they will be signing and offering for sale. Other NEW ATTRACTIONS are goat-keeping, cheese-making and woodcarving. Returning favorites include displays and demonstrations such as beekeeping, blacksmithing, candle dipping, antique cars and farm machinery.

The Annual Art Show under the Tent has evolved this year into ARTS AND

CRAFTS SHOW AND SALES, featuring artists and artisans from the area.

Visitors on October 6th will have access to MUSEUM displays, old maps, and local history files, including information on over 250 of the historic properties in the Town. Two "picture walls" in the Museum are covered with 8x10 enlargements of old postcards and photographs of old-time sights, families, and events. Upstairs will be guided genealogical research using the extensive resources of the Eleanor Rosakranse Genealogical Collection, and of a computer data bank which is focused directly on Town of Rochester and Ulster County families. Available for purchase at the Museum will be local history materials, books, etc.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT will be continuing throughout the day, including our home-town bagpiper, Dorothy Sommer, whose band won 1st place in U.S. competition and 3rd in the world on a recent trip to England.

Additionally, as part of Heritage Day 2007, the newly refurbished PALENTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM, located on Palentown Rd. about 1/4 mile from the Sundown Rd. intersection, will be open to visitors.

For further information on any of the aspects of Heritage Day 2007, please call (845)626-7104 or (845)687-9998.

School Tax Relief?

Middle-Class STAR Program Gives Rebates

At the Sept. 6 Town Board meeting, Assessor Sharon Hornbeck provided information on the new 2007 "Middle-class STAR" rebate program. The auxiliary program (the initials stand for "School Tax Relief") gives homeowners a benefit in the form of a property tax rebate.

There are two types of rebates: One goes to homeowners who

get the basic STAR exemption on their property tax bill; the other is for seniors (65+) who qualify for the Enhanced STAR. If you're in the first category, you must apply for the Middle-Class STAR before Nov. 30. You should receive an application in the mail. It will have a Code number to use when you mail the application or apply online. Seniors with an Enhanced STAR do not have to apply; the checks are automatically mailed.

\$350-\$465 Back. The rebate check is in addition to any tax relief

homeowners receive as a reduction of their school tax bills under basic or Enhanced STAR. At present, Ms. Hornbeck said, the *basic* STAR program rebates are set in accordance with the 2005 combined incomes of resident property owners and their spouses: Owners in the Rondout School District with income to \$90,000 qualify for a rebate of \$465.95; at \$90,000 to \$150,000, the rebate falls to \$349.47. For full information, contact NYS tax department, 877-678-2769 or online.